

# GREEN MISSION

An Institutional Initiative for a Green and Sustainable Campus



## Green Mission

The Green Mission envisages the practice of combining environment-friendly activities with green academics. It involves the promotion of environmental culture and development of new paradigms for creating sustainable solutions.

### **Objectives of the Practice:**

1. To promote the Global agenda of “Save our planet”
2. To conserve the resources and to create a conducive environment for the future generation
3. To increase the green core and to balance the carbon emission rate
4. To imbibe a spirit of environmental consciousness and urge for protection of nature.

### **Context:**

The campus is blessed with green vegetation and varied habitats like ponds, grasslands and paddy fields. The vegetation in and around the campus is dominated by varieties of flora and fauna. The avifaunal diversity of the campus is well recognized. The green mission focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the existing green environment of the institution. This is achieved by promoting the active participation of the students in programmes related to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. It envisages a holistic view of greening that extends beyond tree planting. The college has implemented the

project “Clean and green Campus” as part of the green mission, it focuses on solid waste management, management of landscaping, energy conservation, water conservation, water quality control and air quality control.

### **The Practice:**

Eco-friendly environment is maintained by planting trees and reducing the use of plastic in day-to-day life to promote a “Clean and Green Campus”. The NSS unit, Forestry club and the Radio MACFAST are actively supporting the green practices through various awareness programmes. An ample number of trees, plants and attractive vines on the campus act as rich sources of oxygen. The institute is maintaining a herbal garden of more than 300 species with financial support obtained from National Medicinal Plant Board. The institute also promotes the usage of organic fertilizers on and outside campus through the ‘Jaivam’ farming awareness programme initiated by the Government of Kerala and coordinated by the NSS unit. To highlight environmental promotional activities, one hour in a week is specifically earmarked as “Green hour” in the curriculum. Every Thursday, this session of one hour is organized as follows: 20 minutes for keynote message, 20 minutes for presentation of new plans and goals, 10 minutes for discussions on environmental issues, and 10 minutes for review. The institution has the practice of conducting an Environmental and Green audit to identify environmental compliances and implementation gaps for corrective actions. As part of the Go-Green praxis, the college has installed a 30-cubic meter biogas plant on the campus in 2007. The well maintained and actively functioning solar power plant is used as an alternative source of electricity.

### **Evidence of success:**

The institution succeeded in infusing the spirit of environmental consciousness among the students, teaching and non-teaching staff through green mission practices. The college has adopted the policy of using alternative energy resources such as solar power and biogas for its daily requirements. The cooking gas used in the common kitchen is availed from the biogas plant of the campus. The solar power plant of the institution is hand-holding with Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) with a wheeling to the grid agreement. The Institute has an effective system for disposal of wastes, purchase and supply of eco-friendly materials such as pen, file folders, sensor-based LED lamps and introduction of the effective recycling process.

The plastic-free campaign encouraged the students to avoid the use of bottled waters and motivated them to use stainless steel bottles and glasses. The mission resulted in reducing the number of one-time usage plastics on and around the campus. The community radio of the college, Radio MACFAST 90.4 is awarded 'Harithamudra' from the Government of Kerala for its programme 'Krishi Jaalakom'. The green mission helped in enriching the flora and fauna at the campus. The institution is a home place to 140 different species of birds, 77 species of butterflies and around 310 species of plants including red-listed varieties. The campus was recognized by the 'Bird Count India', an informal partnership of organizations and groups working together to increase our collective knowledge about bird distributions and populations.

They announced the institution as the 3rd Best Biodiversity campus in Kerala and 10th in India in 2019. The energy and green audits report lauded the success in energy conservation through the systematic usage of renewable energy resources. The report also certifies that the campus is carbon negative. It shows the efficacy of the CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation plans adopted

by the institute. Rainwater harvesting and the well-recharge system implemented on the campus have successfully contributed to flawless water management on the campus.

### **Problems encountered and resources required:**

Even though the green mission was a great success, the institution could not attain the zero plastic status because of the usage of plastic pens, folders, carry bags, bottles etc. inside the campus. Moreover, the restrictions and lockdown due to COVID-19 during the time span from 2019 March to date drastically affected all the green mission activities. The institution has already implemented the usage of renewable energy resources such as biogas, solar power plant etc., but 100% replacement of current energy source is not yet achieved. In the present situation, we require solar panels with enhanced capacity to meet the increasing need and more biogas plants to increase gas production.

# MACFAST KNOWLEDGE SCHEME

*An Initiative to Create a Knowledge Society through Knowledge  
Dissemination*



Best Practice

## **MACFAST KNOWLEDGE SCHEME (MAKS)**

As a social responsibility programme of the college, MAKS is initiated in 2012 to identify the potential and skillset of students at the school level. It is a programme intended to create a knowledge society through knowledge dissemination using the academic potential of this college and is continuing as one of the best practices. This scheme aims at enhancing the skill set of the students and training them to identify their potential and inherent talents. It also aims at sharing information among the students and to make them competent for appearing for competitive examinations. This scheme is a revelation to the students to make them aware of the opportunities for higher levels of learning and employment.

### **Objectives of the Practice:**

- 1.To identify the inherent potential and talents of the high school students and to encourage them to achieve higher academic goals.
- 2.To provide proper orientation to the students to make them competent and responsible citizens of the society.
- 3.To create a positive attitude and confidence among students for higher levels of achievement.
- 4.To provide career guidance and a career orientation by improving their communication and soft skills.

## **The Context:**

The purpose of education is not only imparting knowledge but also encouraging every individual to work for self-development and social growth. In order to cope with the emerging challenges and increasing competition, it needs a focused approach and a knowledge-oriented paradigm of development. To equip the students to face the challenges, an intensive effort is vital. A comprehensive approach to fulfilling the notion ‘catch them young’ plays a key role in this arena of knowledge dissemination. Right education, right knowledge, the right attitude, enhanced motivation and training from the school level itself is very significant for achieving the full potential of a student.

MACFAST Knowledge Scheme (MAKS) is an endeavour to identify, train and develop the young generation for self and social development. This scheme thrives to identify creative minds, unveiling diverse opportunities and leading them to their desired dreams through appropriate activities. It develops a value system to impart the right knowledge, the right vision, a positive spirit of competition, the courage of conviction and unwavering commitment to excellence. With an intention to provide requirements of knowledge in diverse sectors of career, MAKS envisages providing ample opportunities for career growth and individual development.

## **The Practice:**

For the implementation of MAKS, schools from the neighbouring districts of Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Kottayam and Alappuzha are selected. Students from standard 7 to standard 10 of these schools are given continuous training for four years during the Onam and Christmas



holidays and during the summer vacations. These training are arranged as residential programmes. The main activities in MAKS are given below:

- \* Identification of talented students belonging to backward/marginalized classes from the selected schools.
- \* Assessing the aptitude of the students.
- \* Inform the students about the scholarships and other schemes available for them.
- \* Providing effective training for skill development and preparing them for competitive examinations.
- \* Create social consciousness among students.

### ***Selection Process:***

The selected schools are visited by the coordinator MAKS and the Station Director RADIO MCFAST 90.4 to give awareness about the scheme to the teachers and students. A list of interested candidates is forwarded by the teachers of each school along with the application of the candidates. A written test is conducted as part of the selection process. Both multiple-choice and descriptive types of questions are included in the question paper set for the test. The question paper is divided into different sections for judging the aptitude, numerical ability and language skills of the students. Those who are qualified in the written test are called for a personal interview. Based on their performance in the written test and the personal interview the candidates are finally selected and are enrolled in the MAKS of the college.

### ***Training:***

The college has an in-house training team with faculty members who are rendering their services voluntarily. The syllabus and study materials for different subjects are prepared by the team and training and workshops are organized at regular intervals. The classes are pre-scheduled and are engaged by eminent faculty members of the college and invited experts from different fields. Close association with students, continuous quality up-gradation, feedback mechanisms, training and development exercises, need- based workshops etc. are the salient features of MAKS. The programme also focuses on the improvement of communication skills and personality development. The information regarding MAKS is communicated through letters, tele-calling, Radio MACFAST 90.4 and other ICT media. The performance of the students is evaluated by conducting examinations at regular intervals. MAKS intends to judiciously combine theoretical inputs with experiential learning. The programme is designed to inculcate a strong social orientation and competencies for personal development.

### **Evidence of Success:**

The success and effectiveness of the programme are evaluated through the learner's reactions, behaviour and achievements. The feedback from the learners helped in evaluating the success of this scheme. A clear change in intellectual abilities, perceptions, social commitments and behaviour pattern is visible in the students of MAKS from the second year onward as compared to their peers in the home schools. The track history of the learners shows their growth in aptitude, communication, creative skills and improvement in examination results. They become more goal-oriented,

focused and enthusiastic to help others and to undertake responsibilities for the completion of the tasks assigned to them. Consecutive improvement in results is also evidence of success.

### **Problems Encountered:**

To establish a working relationship with the schools and school children is not an easy task. As the duration of the programme is more than four years with contact classes arranged only during holidays and summer vacations, without affecting their regular studies. It is difficult to ensure continuous participation in all classes by the candidates. Moreover, the full cooperation and zeal of the parents is a vital factor for the success of this programme. As the classes are on holidays, and annual vacations their family get-together and vacation plans may be affected.

This programme is planned and executed as a residential programme for not less than 180 contact hours in a year, hence the personal needs of all student candidates including their food and accommodation have to be arranged. Cultural and entertainment activities scheduled in the programme requires additional efforts from the organizers. As it is a CSR programme, timely arrangement of financial requirements is also a constraint to the college. The availability of experts in different fields of study is also a problem encountered by the institution. Proper evaluation of the knowledge up-gradation of the candidate is also a matter to be addressed.