

**RAMAKRISHNA MISSION SIKSHANAMANDIRA**

(A NCTE recognized Govt. Aided (WB) Autonomous Post-Graduate College under University of Calcutta)  
 College with Potential for Excellence (CPE), College of Teacher Education (CTE) &  
 Swami Vivekananda Centre for Multidisciplinary Research in Educational Studies



(033)2654-6081/9281/1635



rkmsmc@gmail.com, rkmsm@rediffmail.com



www.rkmsm.org

Belur Math, Howrah - 711 202, West Bengal

# Two Best Institutional Practices:

## *Title of the Practice: Robust Infrastructure*

### 1. Objective of the Practice:

The term 'infrastructure' itself connotes the meaning of a pedestal onto which the entire system is contingent. In terms of academics, we come to mean by the word 'infrastructure' both the physical and digital components of an institute. Therefore, outwardly the infrastructural setup of an institution serves many purposes of our student teachers. However, to provide our stakeholders with the best quality of infrastructure, we are dedicated to keeping it robust.

### 2. The Context:

In the age of unprecedented technological progress, keeping an updated infrastructure is a challenge to any academic institution. Since the ambience of an environment affects our cognition, practice and attitude, we at Sikshanamandira are committed to upholding the state-of-the-art infrastructure before our student teachers. If we break the word 'Sikshanamandira', we find that two morphemes come out – 'sikshan' and 'mandira'. Therefore, learning-teaching takes place in a temple (mandira). We have ascribed the status of a temple to our college where learning and teaching are worshipped.

In this particular context driven by the ideologies of Swami Vivekananda, we at Sikshanamandira aspire to facilitate learning and teaching within a robust infrastructure.

### 3. The Practice:

To delineate our infrastructure in concrete terms, we split it into two parts. They are physical and digital. Under these two dimensions, further elaboration of each is discussed below.

#### Physical Infrastructure:

- At Sikshanamandira, almost all the classrooms and resource rooms are ICT enabled. Each room has a computer, speaker, mike and overhead projectors.
- In our college, all method subjects have separate resource rooms which are rich in Learning Teaching Materials and equipment.
- We have a state-of-the-art language laboratory with many modern apparatuses like the Sanako Lab 100 Hundred Language Lab System (30 students).
- We have a resourceful Psychology lab. Currently, the lab has 77 paper pencil tests and 23 apparatuses. All of them are used for learning-teaching purposes.

Sikshanamandira currently possesses two Computer Lab with 100 & 50 computers respectively. These labs are used for conducting computer related practical classes and holding





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different government competitive exams in CBT mode as well. Besides, we have a research room with 10 computers for the M.Phil & Ph.D. scholars. All together Sikshanamandira currently possesses more than 250 computers.

- We have a Computer kiosk where 20 computers with high speed internet connectivity serve the needs of our students 18×7 hours.

- We have a common library on the first floor and J.J.Goodwin research library on the third floor. Currently, our research library has 2026 books along with 82 M.Phil. dissertations. To enhance the quality of our research work, we have subscriptions of 16 reputed research journals in the field of social sciences.

- Our general library is RFID enabled. It also has an auto issue-return system. It has 21629 books along with 375 M.Ed. dissertations. Besides, our general library also caters to the needs of inclusive education. 281 Braille books have been stacked in our general library to serve that purpose. In addition, our general library has 10 computers and our research library has 2 computers exclusively for students' use.

- We at Sikshanamandira provide our research scholars with well furnished rooms. Besides, all these rooms have high speed (1 Gbps) internet enabled computers.

- We have an exquisite conference room with the latest technological equipment for holding offline-online blended meetings.

- Our Nivedita Conference room (with 70 seats) serves the purpose of holding different international and national seminars, workshops.

- We have separate cubicles for our faculty members with personal computers and high-speed internet.

- Since our educational system is residential, we have a hostel for our student teachers within the close precinct of our college.

- We have a gymnasium with updated machines.

- We have an airconditioned study zone adjacent to our general library on the first floor.

- We have a virtual classroom which is rapidly utilised for imparting teacher education in order to reflect the objectives embedded in NMEICT.

- We have a dedicated vehicle parking for our college staff, a bicycle stand for our students and a demarcated area for parking vehicles for outsiders.

- We have a canteen with all the required facilities for cooking and a water purifier on the first floor exclusively for our college staff.

- We provide our students with safe drinking water purifiers in the college and the college hostel as well.

- We have a playground for volleyball and another playground for football.

- We also have indoor game facilities like carrom, chess and table tennis etc.

- We have a music room with different musical instruments like harmonium, tabla, sitar etc.

- We also have a large yoga room on the third floor for practising yoga.

- To serve the purpose of inclusive education, we have lifts, ramps, wheelchairs for physically challenged students. Besides, we also have braille plates at the entrance of every classroom which is convenient for our visually challenged students.

- We provide our teaching and non teaching staff with well maintained quarters adjacent to our college premises so that they can live with their families. In addition, we have bachelor's quarters for the bachelor employees within the college campus with all the essential amenities.





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## Digital Infrastructure:

The Following components come within the purview of digital infrastructure:

- We have two dedicated servers with firewalls. It is maintained by a technical staff regularly to avoid any technical glitches.
  - Around the entire campus of our college and hostel, 60 IP based CCTV cameras are functioning 24×7 hours.
  - Currently we provide high speed internet which is given to us by Alliance and Jio with the speed of 1 GBPS within our campus. In addition to this, our entire college campus and hostel is Wi-Fi-enabled.
  - We have high speed LAN connectivity.
  - Our faculty members are continually engaged in developing various learning modules from the curriculum which are uploaded in the college LMS and Moodle page of the college website.
  - We have a library management system integrated with our website. The search engine of the cloud based software is helpful to navigate the status and position of books (with stack numbers) even remotely.
- 16 functional Biometric attendance tracking systems have been installed throughout the classrooms, hostel and other academic facilities.

## 4. Evidence of Success:

For maintaining such a robust infrastructure in Sikshanamandira with a residential set-up, we have been able to perform various activities 24\*7 hours. This residential set-up has blessed us with an opportunity to increase our instructional hours for our trainee-teachers in addition to the scheduled routine time for the best possible curricular transactions. Since our teachers are provided staff quarters adjacent to the college, our trainee teachers receive counselling and mentoring any time they require. We have also been able to adjust working hours as per our needs just because of this residential set-up which simultaneously caters to the needs of staff with families and bachelors with their quarters. Regarding the ICT based infrastructure, Sikshanamandira has nurtured the habit of using ICT components into our trainee-teachers in such a way that they have been successful in using them in their respective workstations. Our general library and research library with print and e-resources have provided our students with the scope of cracking different national and state level competitive exams consistently.

## 5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

We are currently facing a huge number of staff shortages to maintain such a robust infrastructure. The paucity of funds is also one of the problems, which creates a burdensome scenario on maintaining our present campus.

We need financial grants and staff in order to keep our robust infrastructure intact in future also.



*(Handwritten Signature)*

Swami Vidyamritananda  
Principal (Offg.)

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“Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.”

Ramakrishna Mission Sikshanamandira  
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## *Title of the Practice: Green Initiative*

### 1. Objectives of the Practice:

“Look after the land and the land will look after you, destroy the land and it will destroy you” is an aboriginal proverb. Therefore, we at Sikshanamandira strive to teach our student teachers the very motto highlighted in the stated proverb. Through performing different activities, we demonstrate our love for mother nature and also engage our student teachers in several programs. We believe that if we can train our student teachers for adopting green initiatives, they will keep and spread this inculcation in their future institutes where they join as a teacher. For us, this may preserve sustainable development. This also ensures that we save our natural habitat from the clutches of various hazardous perils at the larger level. To that cherished objective, we aspire to move.

### 2. The Context:

Whenever we look at our modern society, we observe a massive decline in the awareness of common people regarding environmental issues. It remains missing in our daily context. But stealthily nature is forcing us to embrace unexpected natural hazards willy-nilly. This has just taken place rampantly due to our indiscriminate deforestation, destruction of nature at the expense of cramped urbanisation and sundry other petty motives to exploit nature. This has wreaked havoc on our bio-diversity, which in turn interrogates our so-called institutional education at large.

Hence, we at Sikshanamandira strive to attenuate the ever-increasing unconsciousness and inhumane attitude towards mother nature and engage our different stakeholders in adopting green initiatives as much as possible.

### 3. The Practice:

Round the academic year, we adopt such an initiative through different modes. They are generally manoeuvred through curricular and co-curricular activities, on campus initiatives and extension activities. An elucidation of these activities is furthered below.

#### ❖ Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities:

Under the curricular dimension, we assign our students different projects on environmental issues to zero in on the flora and fauna, biodiversity indexing and species richness. Students are encouraged to take these projects with sufficient zeal. Under the co-curricular activities, organisation of different seminars and workshops, observance of Earth Day, River Day, World Environment Day, Van Mahotsav, Ocean Day and Water Day are conducted every year. This has helped us spread awareness among our different stakeholders.





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## On-Campus Initiatives:

We at Sikshanamandira keep abreast of many on-campus initiatives. This like the curricular and co-curricular activities also bears testimony to our endeavour to retain our campus verdant. Some of them are enumerated below.

- We have been maintaining a very rich and diversified built-in green area within the confines of our campus. We have a total land of 1.475 acres. Out of this, we have utilised 13852.18 Sq. feet for maintaining greenery within our campus.
- Regarding waste management, we have such a system that we can easily segregate the solid waste of biodegradable at the level of disposal. For handling liquid waste management, we have an interconnected drainage system within our campus. This drainage system is properly handled by our staff in order to prevent it from having unnecessary blockages or accumulation of stinking water.
- We have also been perpetuating our practice of taking out the best from the biodegradable items. For this, we have pits where we convert vegetable peels, cow-dung, leaf litter, kitchen waste etc. like biodegradables into vermicompost and manure that again are used for flower gardens and kitchen gardens.
- Although Sikshanamandira is situated very close to the river Ganga, we have also constructed a rainwater harvesting system in our campus for storing and using rainwater for gardening, fish keeping and cleaning purposes. Currently we have a tank of 4088.70 litres capacity for preservation of rainwater and utilisation of that water for gardening, fishery and cleaning purposes.
- The utilisation of renewable sources of energy is evident in maintaining the rooftop solar water heater in our hostel, which cuts short our excessive consumption of electricity. These solar water heaters are used for providing hostellers with hot water throughout the year.
- We at Sikshanamandira maintain a 'Charaka Uddyan' - an Ayurvedic Plant Garden' where we have many medicinal plants. This provides an opportunity for the student-teachers to better know the various plants of medicinal values spread around us and their proper use.
- Currently we meet about 90% (2700 kwh) of our energy consumption via rooftop solar panels installed on the college building.
- The electricity supplied to our campus by CESE is generated from burning fossil-fuels. To further reduce the consumption of electricity in our campus and thereby reducing the carbon footprint and educating the student-teachers about the importance of conserving energy, we have switched from conventional lights to energy saving LED lights.
- To preserve the quality of soil in our campus, we prioritise the use of manure and biofertilizers over chemical fertilisers. This in the long run ensures a sustainable development.
- One captivating quality that Sikshanamandira possesses is its ceaseless services to the different avian species. To metamorphose our abstract relation into a concrete one with the avian world, we cultivate sunflowers whose yellowish presence in summer enthralls the attention of different types of birds. We receive their footfalls in legions. We also provide water and shelter to the thirsty animals during summer in order to protect them from the scorching sun rays.

Thus, with the help of the aforesaid on-campus initiatives, it is still possible for us to orient our student teachers towards caring for mother nature. In future, they will carry this inculcation to their students and workstations also.

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## Extension Activities:

Among the extension activities, we hold our arrangements for sapling distribution in collaboration with Howrah Joutha Parivesh Mancha and some organisations of North 24 parganas every year. Besides, awareness camps are also organised to increase sentience among the common men to embrace the axiomatic truth- 'one tree, one life'. To contribute to the essence of sustainable development, we also organise awareness camps for sewage workers. Through holding these camps, we attempt to instil in them a sense of maintaining proper health and hygiene. Both the intrinsic and extrinsic hygiene are inevitable to maintain equilibrium in our nature.

## 4. Evidence of Success:

With these initiatives, we have been successful in receiving a recognition certificate from the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education in 2020. Apart from this, our trainee-teachers are inspired by our green initiatives in a way that inspires them to take part in other organisations and in their respective workstations to uphold their zeal for green initiatives and different environmental activities. Besides, our alumni association also performs different activities throughout the year to fulfil our green initiatives where the passed-out students become our active alumni members and enthusiastically perform sapling distribution, plantation programs towards our cherished go-green initiatives.

## 5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

We have three major problems. These are inadequate spaces, paucity of funds and poor perception of common men about environmental issues. That today's indiscriminate use of natural resources may lead our future generations to a state of bankruptcy is absent in their thinking. Many find these issues disparaging. To convince others of these seminal issues is definitely a herculean task for us.

In order to work on these issues at the larger level, we need financial aid to augment our endeavors.

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