

Criteria 5

Best Practices, Innovation, and Institution Distinctiveness

5.2 Special Initiatives Taken for:

(i) Energy Conservation/use of solar energy

The old girl's hostel has been equipped with a solar geyser system, a significant step towards improving energy efficiency, decreasing electricity consumption, and promoting sustainability. This installation not only enhances the facilities available to the hostel residents but also demonstrates the institution's dedication to implementing renewable energy solutions. The system, requiring minimal maintenance and boasting a long lifespan, has a profound impact on the energy consumption of the hostel.



(ii) Solid Waste Segregation /Management

- a. The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of Vallabh College Mandi launched the 'To Heal Mother Suket' campaign from 27 November 2023 to 4 December 2023. To ensure

a coordinated effort, 100 volunteers and local authorities, including municipal bodies and environmental agencies, participated in this campaign. The team successfully collected 15 tones of plastic waste. This effort was crucial for mitigating environmental degradation and promoting a safer and cleaner Suketi region.



- b. For the convenience of our students and staff, we have placed dustbins for different waste categories (dry and wet waste) in the girls' toilets, staff toilets, girls' hostel, library, and canteen area. Additionally, marked dustbins are placed in the girls' toilets to dispose of sanitary pads and newspaper sheets. Students are encouraged to wrap the used pads before disposing of them, making waste disposal simple and responsible. This process ensures that waste is disposed of in a hygienic and accountable manner, contributing to the commitment of our institution to responsible waste management.



(iii) Rain Water Harvesting

Our college has implemented a rainwater harvesting system with two major units. The first one is a 1,000-liter capacity tank installed at the entrance of the new girls' hostel. This tank collects rainwater from the roof and channels it into the tank for future use. This initiative is part of our commitment to promoting sustainable water usage and addressing water scarcity.

In addition to this, we have initiated an experimental project involving a second rainwater harvesting unit installed near the main entrance gate of the college. This unit is designed as a low-cost water harvesting system aimed at conserving water efficiently without significant financial investment. The system features a 4x6-foot cavity with a depth of approximately 5 feet. Inside this cavity, we have lined the base with a plastic sheet to prevent water seepage, ensuring that the collected rainwater can be retained for longer periods.



This low-cost harvesting system is an innovative approach designed not only to conserve water but also to demonstrate a sustainable and economical solution for water management. The unit serves as a practical example of how small-scale rainwater harvesting can be implemented with minimal resources. Our plan is to monitor the performance of this system over time, with the aim of refining the design and exploring its potential to be scaled up for broader use across the campus or in other local institutions.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to environmental sustainability and resource management, with the added goal of raising awareness about water conservation among students and staff. Through these efforts, we hope to contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.

(iv) Plastic-free Campus

- a. The Eco club of the college organized a plastic-free campus campaign to reduce plastic within the college premises. It was organized on 24 March 2024, and students were assigned different areas to collect plastic waste. The students searched for plastic waste like wrappers, bottles and plastic bags. The Drive was successful, as much plastic was removed from the campus.



(v) Blood Donation Camps

- a. The Yuva Tourism Club of the college organized a blood donation camp on 21 March 2024, at the Department of Tours and Travels, Vallabh Government College Mandi. Almost twenty-three students and five teachers donated their blood; twenty-eight blood units were collected during this camp. The camp aimed to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation, foster community service, and help save the lives of needy patients.



b. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) Air Wing and Army Wing of Vallabh Government College Mandi participated in the National Cadet Corps Raising Day at Kullu on 29 November 2023 and donated blood at Regional Hospital Kullu. 31 Air and Army Wing Cadets and Flying Officer Dr. Chaman Premi actively participated in the celebrations. They contributed to the blood donation drive, showcasing their commitment to social responsibility and service to the nation. Dr Chaman Premi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, made history by donating blood for the nineteenth time.



(vi) Adoption of village/ educational institution

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the college adopted the village panchayat Bharun in Mandi in 2023 as part of its social responsibility and community outreach program. The adoption of the panchayat by the NSS unit of the college aims to address critical issues in the area, such as education, health, sanitation, and the environment, promoting overall development in collaboration with the village community.



- a. The NSS unit of the college organized a health camp on 3 January 2024 in collaboration with the Rotary Club Mandi at Village Panchayat Bhraun. The camp provided free medical check-ups for the villagers and students from the local primary school while promoting health awareness, focusing on women's health. Around 30 villagers, including students, benefited from the free medical services and lessons on nutrition for children.



**Principal
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