

**LADY BRABOURNE COLLEGE**  
**(2019-20)**

**BEST PRACTICE I**

**Title: Lunch Box**

**Objectives of the Practice:** Lunch Box aims at ensuring cooked nutritious mid-day meals to the economically challenged students of the college on full working days. The institution considers it as part of its social responsibility to provide adequate nutrition to the socially and economically marginalised students so that they may carry on their academic pursuits without hindrance.

**The Context:** The Mid Day Meal scheme run by the Government of India has proved to be highly beneficial at the school level. Moreover, in the Indian context malnutrition of the girl-child is a major issue in rural as well as urban areas. As the college offers opportunities of higher education to students from all socio-economic classes, it is only natural that a section of its students who belong to the less privileged section of society, find it difficult to pay for and avail of nutritious meals in the middle of a working day. Keeping in mind the needs of these pupils, and taking the Mid Day Meal scheme as a point of reference, the college has introduced the Best Practice titled “Lunch Box”. Under the scheme underprivileged students can enroll themselves to avail of lunch during full working days.

**The Practice:** “Lunch Box” was initiated as a best practice to aid willing underprivileged students by providing them nutritious lunch free of cost. The institution has an established practice of aiding financially disadvantaged students through its Students Welfare Committee. The Committee annually calls for applications from interested students. Students are selected for financial aid on the basis of an interview and verification of supporting documents. Aid is offered in the form of waiver of tuition fees, purchase of text books and other educational equipments. However, the college has recognised the need for adequate nutrition of these students. Hence the “Lunch Box” facility has now been introduced. The scheme is being financed through the contribution of the teaching staff of the college. This is a unique endeavour in the context of higher education which aims to address the overall well being of a student, as academic progress is inextricably linked to nutritional health.

**Evidence of Success:** Lunch Box is a successfully running practice which caters to approximately 40 economically challenged students daily. The regular attendance of the students in this programme indicates its viability and success.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** Considering the nutrition profile of India, providing daily nutritious food to students is a necessary and relevant step. However, to reach out to a larger section of students requires a substantial fund which is not possible without external sponsorship. Due to limited resources the college has currently chosen only the economically marginalised students as beneficiaries of this scheme. The college hopes to extend this facility to include more candidates and is looking for options of extensive sponsorship for the same.

## BEST PRACTICE II

### **Title: People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) of Kolkata: A Case Study of Ward No 60**

**Objectives of the Practice:** National Biological Diversity Act of India (2002) mandates that local knowledge of biodiversity be registered in a national database, called the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR). So, one of the mandates of the Biodiversity Board is to prepare Biodiversity Registers not only by local people but also by school/college teachers and students. Preparation of Biodiversity Register is an attempt to realize the biodiversity at each Local level. Identification of biological resources and documentation is one of the prerequisites for the Register preparation which can lead to new discoveries and development of new commercial products, patenting of such products, equitable distribution of benefits, if any, and through this, paving the way for a new economic order in the country through biodiversity conservation. Lady Brabourne College has adopted this practice in order to document, monitor and provide information for sustainable management of local biodiversity resources.

**The Context:** PBR is a register with names of species and their distribution in a given area. It is a comprehensive data base that record people's traditional knowledge and insight of the status, uses, history, ongoing changes and forces driving these changes on the biological diversity resources of their own localities. Biodiversity registers are being prepared with the help of the local people and hence referred as People's Biodiversity Register. It provides information on the current utilization patterns of biodiversity and its economic benefits to the local people. Lady Brabourne College is acting as the environmental mentor of entire Ward Number 60 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

On behalf of the college Post Graduate Department of Geography, Lady Brabourne College has conducted sample survey of biotic resources, thrive in ward no 60, located in Kolkata Corporation area. Students of M Sc Semester II and IV of the Department of Geography, of Lady Brabourne College have done primary survey of ward No 60 in 1st week of March 2020 to prepare a PBR of the ward of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Entire work is done under the supervision of Dr Manasi De, Associate Professor Head of the Department of Geography, Lady Brabourne College.

**The Practice:** Park Circus area is located into the ward No 60, which is densely populated area of Kolkata. More than 38 of the total population is economically backward. Though it is thickly populated area but importance of this ward is high as it is furnished with different educational and health care institutions like National Medical College and Hospital, Aliah University and Lady Brabourne College.

Primary survey is undergone in that areas which are restored some of the vegetative communities, where faunal species can thrive. As a result the primary survey is conducted at Lady Brabourne college campus, hostel campus of the college, Aliah University campus and extended work is done in the adjoining Park Circus Maidan which is located into Ward No 64 of the city of Kolkata. The studies covers an area of 26,999 sq m. of ward no 60 and 39,539 sq m. area of ward no 64 of ward no 64.

Primary survey is conducted for the identification of the trees, canopy measurements, height measurements, GPS survey, and also Questionnaire survey into the local people to understand the level of perception on the importance of biodiversity, their involvement in the biodiversity conservation measures,

raring of animals and so on. Park Circus market is also surveyed to identify the nature and sources of biotic commodities (Living/ nonliving) sell everyday from the market.

**Evidence of Success:** A preliminary Report on PBR has already been submitted to the West Bengal Biodiversity Board.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

Problems are as follows:

- a) . A long period of a day the areas, studied are remained busy by the academic activities. The faunal species, those are may live in the educational campuses are flew to other areas and they are remained absent from the field study areas from morning to evening in a day. Apart from a few birds no other animal species are detected in the time of primary survey.
- b). Shortage of time to conduct the survey properly
- c). Shortage of man power
- d) Specialization is needed to identify the biotic species correctly
- e) No fund is allotted to conduct the survey properly.

**Resources Required:**

Specialized Professionals, workers and funds are necessary to conduct a survey on Peoples Biodiversity Report successfully.