



## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Best Practice 1: 'Centre for Re-Use'**

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

BMSSA believes in the ideals of maintaining a green campus and promoting sustainable lifestyle. First of all, the reduction of waste generation is of primary concern in the office, library, classrooms and staff rooms. Secondly, generated waste is channelized and segregated for reusing. With the collective creative efforts, collected waste is transformed into utilitarian and aesthetic products. These products are intended towards the regular needs of the college as well as aestheticization of the college ambience. Last but not the least, to create awareness about 'repair-reuse-recycle' among the staff and students, various events are conducted which contribute to the sustenance of the practice.

#### **The Context**

As an Architectural college, a huge corpus of paper wastes of different kinds were being generated, that presented as a major ethical challenge. On the other hand, paper-based articles are required on a daily basis for meetings, lectures and other academic workshops/ presentations. The 'Centre for Re-use' was initiated to bridge the gap and several workshops and activities were organised. In this direction the major challenge was to address the—'ignorant gaze at waste'—to remove the mental blocks about re-use of neglected/ discarded things as well as the 'passive thoughtless' leanings towards frequent procurement of new articles, where there is scope of reusing the articles. Furthermore, to generate creative ideas and to encourage participation and facilitate a productive ambience, were pivotal aspects of these activities. COVID 19 scenario's challenges were successfully tackled by maintaining Standard operating procedure and by following the health guidelines/ precautions.

#### **The Practice: A Series of workshops**

Creating awareness among housekeeping staff and involving them in the workshops is the uniqueness in our practice. They are exposed to different ideas and equipped with several skill sets. One of the housekeeping staff, Subbarathnamma prepares cotton cloth washable masks for COVID19 for sale, and her additional income helps her meet her family's needs in this difficult time.

Teaching and non-teaching faculties participate in these workshops and create several utilitarian items for their own use. With the participants' interests household damaged cloth articles were bought and minor damages were repaired, some more worn out non-repairable cloths were transformed into laptop sleeves, water bottle bags, hand bags and multipurpose bags. Discarded thick sheets of their models were reused to create pen holders cum calendar.



## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Some of the discarded models and sheets were transformed into a monumental scale lively mural on the wall in Block B of the institution that has added aesthetic dimension to the wall and its immediate space.

Used plastic bottles were accumulated out of which a chandelier was created for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor corridor in A Block of our institution, some of the discarded bottles were used by students for classroom exercises to study anthropometric models and some more bottles were used to create a seating arrangement.

Old newspapers are used by the students to make models in the classroom to study design principles. Paper bags were produced for our mundane usage. Pens were produced by rolling old newspapers and discarded papers. By reusing the old portfolio sheets diary, note books, note pads, sketch pads and files/ folders were produced.

BMSSA Faculty conducted a bookbinding workshop at Kendriya Vidyalaya (Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru) and motivated (high school) kids to repair and reuse their books, and also book making out of single side used papers.

### **Evidence of Success**

The impact of these workshops can be seen in the college. One of the major accomplishments is the increasing awareness among the students, teaching and non-teaching staff. All the faculties and staff at staff rooms, office and library are re-using single side printed sheets. Computer encasement at several classrooms is produced out of reused furniture parts. Cartridge boxes are employed as dustbins. Used sanitizer bottles, spoons, pens, sheets, cardboard boxes, brushes and other day-to-day used materials are being collected at collection points and used for the workshop ('Centre for Re-use') systematically. For instance one can witness Ar. Renjin Cherian uses discarded plastic bottles to drip water to his plants at his domestic space. Our house-keeping staff also have inculcated these values, for instance, one of our housekeeping staffs Subbarathnamma produces COVID-19 masks out of cotton clothes.

Because of this awareness in the College waste generation is eventually and significantly reduced. Additionally, since the establishment of the club 'Centre for Re-use' the unavoidable waste is reused in creative ways through the workshops, classroom activities and even on day-to-day lifestyle.

In the Campus wastewater is recycled and reused for the garden, in addition, fallen green waste is collected and processed in a compost pit to form manure. Furthermore, both of which are used for gardening. The garden was awarded in 2018-19 by The Mysore Horticultural Society, Lalbagh, Bengaluru.



## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

First, to familiarize the college community with the idea of repair-reuse-recycle was the initial problem since purchasing readily available articles seems to be the ‘normalized’ pattern. This was changed by sensitizing to the repair-reuse-recycle sensibilities.

To segregate the waste, channelize and to handle it was another problem since it was a collective yet individual effort. One has to respond at the personal level with a certain degree of interest in it, so that materials will be accumulated. Segregation of materials also needs some basic idea about the possible products.

Thirdly, this type of activity finds its success only on the individual’s participation in a team effort. Additionally, creative ideas are the crucial aspect of these workshops. Each type of workshop requires different tools and basic resources, workshops dealing with needs paper cutting tools, Scissors, cutters, cutting pad, steel ruler, needle, hammer, chisel and glue. Activities dealing with cloth need sewing machines in addition.

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## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Best Practice 2: Social responsibility (Sensitizing the youth to social issues and reforms)**

#### **Objectives of the practice:**

The objective of the practice is to mould the young generation to become informed human beings who are sensitive towards the needs of the society and to create a platform for the students to explore their potential so that they know how they can contribute towards the betterment of the community. To nurture students as citizens with moral, ethical and social values they are encouraged to provide service to the people through volunteering programs and awareness events. Students and faculty work together to discharge their obligations towards the society. This enables the students to become socially responsible citizens.

#### **The context:**

The present-day educational institutions focus on providing top class education with state of the art facilities. Though the students excel in academics and graduate with high grades, they may not be fully aware of many issues related to the society, to which they can effectively contribute, either with their skills or their time. So, it is very essential for a young architect to understand the social and political issues around them. When the students take part in social camps, they can explore their capabilities and identify how they can be a resource to the society. This can be possible by sensitizing, motivating and encouraging these young minds to actively take part in social activities along with the curriculum. BMS School of Architecture as stated in its vision also states that the school pledges to instil humanist ideas and societal values in the future generation of architects.

#### **The practice:**

At the BMS school of Architecture the students and staff discuss specific problems associated with their immediate neighbourhood. They come up with a strategic plan to address a particular problem and acquire the permission from the concerned authorities to set an action plan. The school then organizes a weekend campaign/ drive involving students, teachers and non-teaching staff to achieve a set of achievable goals. The scale of the programs may range from 1-3 days involving anywhere between fifty to hundred participants based on the scale of the project.

Identified social issues which are addressed through community extension activities include lack of gender sensitivity, lack of awareness regarding health and cleanliness, unsustainable living practices due to environmental insensitivity, inadequate infrastructure in local government schools, depleting green cover in surrounding localities and vulnerabilities resulting from poverty, natural calamity etc. In the past years, the BMS School of Architecture



## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

has organized several environmental enrichments programs like Lake cleaning project, cleaning of public spaces like Dodajalla railway station, Majestic railway station, plantation drives, re-painting of several government schools in the nearby vicinity etc. Clothes donation was a special event conducted which involved collection of old clothes and blankets from students, faculty of BMSSA and donating the same to construction workers who were in need. Blood donation campaigns are organized every year in association with Red Cross Society. Sensitivity towards people who have been affected from natural calamities like floods, has been expressed and emergency relief response, an outreach activity, in collaboration with state disaster management authority was conducted to support the people from Uttara Karnataka floods. Students across all the semesters take part in the events. Students and faculties of the Institution took part in a rally, an initiative to bring awareness among people "To Vote" in the then upcoming elections. The rally began from BMSSA campus and through Doddaballapura road and reached NES at Yelahanka, where dance, spot painting and skit were performed that was successful in capturing the attention of a considerable crowd to whom the electoral awareness message was reiterated.

Senior students have always taken the initiative to help their juniors in understanding and taking forward such activities which helps in serving the society by setting good examples on their own. Some activities are aligned with Government initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan etc.

### **Evidence of success:**

This campaign at the BMS school of Architecture has motivated many of its students to participate in several other social causes apart from the college initiatives and some of them continue to take part in such activities even after they graduate from the college. Many of our faculty and students have taken-up several research topics associated with social causes for their thesis and research work which is a very significant development in recent years.

For example, during the Covid-19 lockdown, students helped various NGOs to provide basic necessities to people in need. Faculty and students have enthusiastically participated in blood donation camps. "Painting schools exercise" is an initiative that has motivated many students to work with NGOs and have contributed in various ways including designing their graphical content. Several final year students chose thesis projects that were related to social issues inspired by their participation in the social work with BMSSA. Over the years we have seen a rise in such thesis topics related to people-centric design. Additionally, faculty member Ar. Binny Johnson, Asst. Professor volunteered for "Covid warriors of BBMP" by actively collating the database of the specific ward related details.



## BMS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

### **Problems encountered:**

Initially, creating awareness among students and motivating them to participate towards social causes was a challenging task. Building trust among students and encouraging them to actively participate in the events was a major responsibility of the school. Also, the area being a developing one finding volunteering activities nearby was also a challenge. Slums and rural areas were not always receptive to effort initiation. This took some time to change, but it turned when the institution gathered some ground with consistent efforts. At BMSSA it was ensured that prior permissions were taken from the concerned authorities for each and every event. Attempts were made to engage students from all semesters in these activities. They were duly notified of the same by the event coordinators. And all the activities were conducted with careful supervision. Safety gears were provided to all its participants throughout the event.

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