

Institutional Distinctiveness

Sacred Heart college Madanthyar is situated in a rural area of Belthangady Taluk. Belthangady taluk of D.K. District was considered as one of the backward taluks of district. The Catholic Board of Education established this college in the year 1982 with the objective of giving quality education at an accessible rate to the rural youths. 'Love and Service' is the motto of the institution emblazoned atop the college emblem. The institution has been successful to a great extent to impart quality education to the rural students most of whom are first generation learners.

More than 90% of our students are coming from the agricultural families. The unscientific cultivation systems and water usages were responsible for low productivity in agriculture in these areas. Belthangady taluk gets a decent rainfall every year. The last 50 years rainfall data shows that on an average this taluk was getting 4000 ml of rainfall. But during summer months (March, April, May) there was a big hue and cry regarding water scarcity. This was really a paradoxical situation. So one of our faculty members conducted a minor research project regarding this paradox. Then he continued his research work on the topic 'A critical analysis of water resource management of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka with special reference to Belthangady taluk'. University of Mysore awarded PhD Degree for this thesis. The major finding of the thesis is that, digging deeper tube wells in the taluk and the neglect of conventional water harvesting techniques are responsible for the drying up of rivers, Rivulets, ponds and wells. The thesis has given plenty of policy suggestions to solve the water scarcity problem of the taluk.

We always believe in the dictum, 'An ounce of practice is better than a ton of preaching'. So, the institution started a 'Water Literacy Club'. The club consisted of the members of NCC, NSS, Rovers and Rangers and Youth Red Cross. They were given practical training regarding digging percolation pits, Roof Water Harvesting, Drip Irrigation, Organic Farming, Prevention of Surface run off of rain water and Subsurface run off. They were made to realize that the only source of fresh water on this earth is rain and rain only. Our students of water literacy club started digging percolation pits in the campus to prevent the surface run off of rain water. Simple structures to recharge tube wells were built. Started roof water harvesting in and around the campus. They constructed check dams across the Arthila stream at strategic places. With the help of Polythene sheets and sandbags they built check dams at Moodayuru, Arthila, Shantheri, Barna, Nadje and Urasagu.

We have developed a model for roof water harvesting and recharging the ground water. This has been highly appreciated by media and the public. Students from

many colleges, Panchayath officials, agriculturists and officials from agricultural and horticultural department are visiting this place. Many students are doing project works on our integrated water management techniques. Many are benefited by the model and we have helped agriculturists to adopt these techniques.

In the year 2019 there was a serious crisis of water in the taluk and Belthangady taluk was declared as a drought prone taluk. But there was no scarcity of water in Parenky, Kukkala, Malady, Sonandooru and parts of Panakaje villages because of the efforts of our students, as has been stated in the above paragraph. The efforts were in conformity with the suggestions of the thesis. That is, the subsurface run off of rainwater can be prevented only through constructing series of check dams or vented dams. This success story made the taluk administration to conduct a study in our watershed management area. The findings of the thesis and the policy suggestions were taken up very seriously by the Taluk administration under the leadership of the local MLA. On July 9th 2019 all the government departments of Belthangady taluk jointly organized a program to create awareness regarding the integrated water resource management in the taluk. Our faculty member was the resource person. As a result Government has pumped in more than Rs.500 crores from 'Paschima Vaahini Yojane' and 'yetha Neeravari Yojane'. The result of these investments in water resource management is evident by the fact that the level of the water table has increased and there has been no shortage of water in the taluk in these years.

Government has built four vented dams across the Arthila stream where our students were constructing checkdams, at Moodayuru (50 lakhs), at Barna (1.5 Crores), at Nadge (1.5 Crores) and at Kallata near Urasagu (1.5 Crores). For the Shantheri vented dam government has supplied new wooden planks worth 4 lakhs. We consider this as a great recognition by the government towards our institution's efforts in water management. Every year our volunteers go to help the stakeholders to shut the vents of the vented dams during months of December and January and remove the planks and clean the vented dams before the onset of monsoon.

Our students are becoming water literates and are adopting these techniques in their own farms and are imparting their knowledge to other farmers. Through various awareness programs we could put across the idea of integrated water resource management in the area and the significance of area specific and ward specific researches. Because water profile in one area is not similar to that of another area. In some areas digging a well and a pond in the farm can store plenty of rainwater and can be used for at least 10 months. But this will not be successful

in some areas because of the type of the soil and the land terrain. Tube wells are necessary in some areas but proper recharging of these tube wells are necessary. All the water bodies usually gets fully recharged during monsoon season. But the depletion of water table can be prevented only by constructing series of check dams and vented dams across various rivers and streams.



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7.3.1: PORTRAY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INSTITUTION IN ONE AREA DISTINCTIVE TO ITS PRIORITY AND THRUST

Supporting Documents

| Sl. No | | Link |
|--------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Authentication by HOI | Click Here |
| 2 | Depletion of water in Belthangady Taluk | Click Here |
| 3 | Minor Research | Click Here |
| 4 | PhD Thesis | Click Here |
| 5 | Water Literacy Club | Click Here |
| 6 | Activity Reports | Click Here |
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