

## **Institutional Distinctiveness**

### **Go Green Initiative**

St. Thomas College of Teacher Education Pala, Kerala was established in 1957 with the prime objective of preparing efficient committed teachers who are intellectually competent, morally upright, psychologically integrated, and socially committed for service in the emerging world scenario of education. The vision of the college is *Enlightenment, Excellence and Service through Divine illumination*. The year 2019-20 was an eventful one, though the latter part was caught in the grips of Covid 19.

The 'Go Green' initiative is one area in which the college has been able to perform in a distinctive manner during the academic year. Despite the semi urban locality and limitations of space, the college maintains a clean and green environment in its campus. The college has a lush lawn, bordered by flowering plants, well maintained by the staff and students. The college strives to maintain effective waste management and keeping the campus plastic free.

- An active 'Nature Club' and 'Green Protocol Samithi' function in the college. The students are active members of the club. The 'Nature Club' under the guidance of the supervising teacher, conducted programmes on environmental consciousness, sustainable development, as part of the observance of 'World Environmental Day'. They also organized campus cleaning programmes as part of Gandhi Jayanthi Day observance. Students, faculty, and staff actively participated in the cleaning programme. An oath on 'environmental conservation' was taken by students, faculty, and staff of the college on the occasion. The Green Protocol Samithi organized campus cleaning programmes at regular intervals in the campus. During the COVID times, the 'Samithi' called for cleaning of one's own premises as the students were restricted to their respective homes. Students and faculty posted photos and videos of their cleaning work in the college whats app group.
- To convey the message of 'The need to protect and conserve Nature and attaining self-reliance in food', vegetable seeds and saplings were distributed to students and faculty under the auspices of the Green Protocol Samithi. Students were encouraged to maintain a kitchen garden at home and grow the vegetable needed by their family and share their products with their neighbours. Students and faculty wholeheartedly partook in the drive. They posted the pictures of their farming enterprise in their college whats app group and won the appreciation of all.
- The 'Go Green' initiative of the college got a boost by the Vocational Education Nai Talim Experiential Learning (VENTEL) webinars for teacher educators and thereafter for student teachers of the college by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education, Hyderabad (MGNCRE). Under the VENTEL guidance, the students at the college were divided into four groups under a mentor teacher. Each of the groups conducted programmes to go forward with the 'Green initiative'. The students also prepared informative videos on techniques of preparing vermi compost, budding, pruning, etc. One of the groups did micro farming in their homes. The college even hosted a webinar on organic farming for the local community with local resource persons.