Title of the Practice-

1. "College Medicinal Garden: Caring for Community"

2. Objectives of the Practice

- The medicinal garden aims to address rising disease cases in rural areas with limited access to doctors and medicines.

- By cultivating medicinal plants, the garden provides a sustainable, affordable healthcare solution for the local community, particularly the poor.

- The initiative promotes a greener environment and educates the community on the benefits of medicinal plants, fostering wellness and self-sufficiency.

3. The Context

- The garden helps students with health issues affecting their studies by providing access to medicinal herbs.

- It educates students on the properties and uses of these herbs, encouraging a sustainable, natural lifestyle.

- The garden features rare herbs, enriching the community's medicinal resources.

- The college aims to spread awareness beyond its campus to guardians of students and the broader community, promoting herbal remedies and fostering a healthier, resilient population.

4. The Practice

- Established on January 25th, 2014, and inaugurated by Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, the garden was a collaborative effort by college faculty, students, and staff.

- Initially, local herbs like *Amlaki*, *Kalmegh*, and *Tulsi* were cultivated, later expanding to rare herbs like *Darcini*, *Elach*, and *Ashwagandha*.

- The garden faced challenges due to the local dry and hot climate, requiring replanting and special care for some herbs.

- It has become integral to environmental science and geography studies, providing practical insights into herbal biodiversity and cultivation.

- The garden fosters environmental awareness, encouraging students to appreciate and conserve natural resources, serving as a living laboratory for studying herbal medicine and ecological balance.

5. Evidence of Success

- Over ten years, the garden has successfully raised awareness about medicinal herbs among students and the local community.

- There is a noticeable shift towards herbal remedies for minor ailments, reflecting growing confidence in traditional medicinal practices.

- While the garden has achieved significant awareness and adoption, there is potential for broader community engagement and impact.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Challenges include finding suitable land and creating optimal growing conditions, often requiring soil improvement, irrigation, and greenhouses.

- Acquiring diverse medicinal plant species involves collaboration with botanical experts, nurseries, and educational institutions.

- Ongoing maintenance demands skilled gardeners, volunteers, and educators for planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting.

- Adequate funding is essential for resources, educational programs, and workshops to raise awareness among students and the community.

7. Notes (Optional)

- Colleges with unused land can benefit from establishing a medicinal garden, promoting health, sustainability, and environmental stewardship.

- Emphasizing maintenance and student involvement is crucial to engage students and foster community sustainability.

- Structured educational programs and community outreach initiatives can maximize impact and awareness, involving nearby schools and institutions.

- Promoting institutional values like biodiversity, sustainable living, and environmental consciousness enriches academic learning and cultivates responsibility towards community well-being and conservation.

Title of the Practice-

2."Campus Embrace: Sacred Folk Deity"

2.*Objective of the Practice*:

- The college aims to honor community traditions by celebrating the local deity on campus.

- This deity has been worshipped by students' families long before the college was established.

- Celebrations on campus dignify their folk culture and foster connections with the local community.

- These events attract local people to the campus, promoting interest in college matters and awareness of their children's education.

- It encourages community support for the college's development and upliftment.

3. *The Context*:

- The college works to prevent the abolishment of local deity places, preserving community history, lifestyle, and culture.

- Promoting terracotta horse offerings to Bhairav preserves the rich folk art of terracotta.

- Celebrations foster connections among teachers, students, guardians, and local people, promoting brotherhood and reducing social differences.

- Regular engagement with the college raises awareness about higher education and opportunities, especially among scheduled castes and backward classes.

- Thoughtful planning and inclusive practices are required for successful cultural preservation and community engagement.

4. *Uniqueness in Higher Education*:

- The college's participation in local deity worship is unique in Indian higher education.

- Higher education is increasingly recognizing the importance of local history and culture.

- Engaging in local deity worship connects students deeply with their community, enriching their understanding of folk literature, art, social sciences, and anthropology.

- It bridges the gap between academic learning and practical community engagement, providing students firsthand experience in cultural preservation.

- This holistic approach broadens educational experience and fosters a sense of belonging and responsibility towards local heritage.

5.*Overcoming Constraints*:

 - Initially, some local community members were hesitant about large-scale celebrations on campus, fearing disruption to academic activities.

 - Ongoing dialogue and negotiation between the college administration, faculty, students, and local community leaders addressed these concerns.

 - Emphasizing the educational and cultural benefits of the practice assured stakeholders.

 - The college organized celebrations to minimize impact on academics while maximizing community involvement.

 - This approach secured local community support and enhanced the college's reputation as a cultural exchange and community development hub.

Measurable Success:

 - *Building Bonds*: Faculty, students, and local people have developed strong bonds through regular interactions during celebrations, fostering mutual understanding and community cohesion.

 - *Increased Engagement*: Local community members are more involved in college activities and contribute to its development.

 - *Preservation of Folk Art*: The practice revitalized local folk art, such as terracotta horse offerings, ensuring its continuity.

 - *Student Participation*: Students gain firsthand experience of local traditions and cultural practices, enriching their educational experience.

6. *Resource Requirements*:

 - Large gatherings like the Poush Sankranti celebration can strain college infrastructure.

 - Investment in a separate modern kitchen, dedicated water system, and communal dining hall is needed.

 - Promoting a folk fair requires resources for stalls, space for artisans, and logistical support.

7. *Community Bonds and Cultural Preservation*:

   - Encouraging local deity worship on campus builds strong community bonds and preserves local culture.

   - Colleges should invest in infrastructure for rituals and community events, ensuring smooth integration with academic activities.

   - This fosters mutual respect and supports cultural heritage, benefiting both the institution and local community relations.