



Bharatiya Bhatke Vimukt Vikas va Sanshodhan Sanstha's
YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
SATARA, MAHARASHTRA
Affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur

BEST PRACTICE 2016-17

BEST PRACTICE #1

TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES

1. The context

YCSSW is a student-centered institution. Here, students are encouraged to participate in various activities throughout the year. We believe the students must get an opportunity to prepare themselves for the challenging career roles in future. Thus, they are encouraged to conceptualize, coordinate, manage and carry out different activities at the institute. Students are motivated to take various responsibilities during the execution of any programme. All these activities help them to sharpen their leadership, coordination, and managerial skills, and improve their decision-making capabilities and team building skills.

As a step ahead, since 2016-17 YCSSW decided to involve students in all the academic committees. First time ever, one student from each class was taken up based on students' choice, to be the member of these committees. To add another feather, it was also decided that the members of Students Council will attend meetings of staff council every week.

2. Objectives of the Practice:

1. The main purpose of this is, the Students council will acts as an interface between the management, the faculty, and students.
2. Through such meetings, it would be possible to reach to the needs of students by removing barriers of communication.
3. Immediate redressal of issues pertaining to students would be possible.

Students are provided with wide experiential exposure at YCSSW making it memorable and rewarding for every student. In this practice, members of student council are invited to attend weekly staff council meeting. Here, the staff and student representatives discuss

on issues pertaining to all students like, facilities in the college- from toilet to CCTV, welfare of the students, activities related to college and student, etc. Other issues discussed are attendance of students, their performance in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Obstacles: Initially it was not easy for the students to tell or discuss the issues freely. But, later, once they gained confidence, they shared the matters easily.

3. Impact:

This practice has helped the institute to understand the needs and problems of the students, for which immediate action could be initiated. On the other hand, students now feel responsible for their own welfare and betterment.

YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, SATARA

BEST PRACTICES

MASS PUBLIC AWARENESS (Yearly Activity) ABOUT

The United Nations Decade of Biodiversity (2016-17_

At UN World Heritage Site_ KAAS Plateau-Valley of Flowers



Organized by

YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Jakatwadi, Satara-415002, Maharashtra, India

REPORT ON MASS PUBLIC AWARENESS ON

UNITED NATION DECADE OF BIODIVERSITY AT KAAS PLATEAU

**REPORT ON MASS PUBLIC AWARENESS ON
UNITED NATION DECADE OF BIODIVERSITY AT KAAS PLATEAU**



1. About United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

The United Nations General Assembly had declared **2011–20** as the **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity** (Resolution 65/161 with a shared vision of “Taking effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication.

The UN Decade on Biodiversity serves to support and promote the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which were adopted at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD, in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010. Throughout the UN Decade on Biodiversity, governments are encouraged to develop, implement and communicate the results of national strategies for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

Nations, Non Govt. Organizations and Environment lovers has been part of this initiative. Since Yashwantrao Chavan School of Social Work is the only school of Social Work in this region, we made an effort to systematically engage our students in observing **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**. Our faculty Dr.Pnakaj Das wrote an email to secretariat of Convention of Biological Diversity which is in Montreal, Canada. On 22 September, 2012 we got approval from CBD to conduct activities as a part of CBD.

Email response from Secretariat, Convention of Biological Diversity, Canada

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Pankaj : Read Mail [\[Back to Search Results\]](#)
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From: UN Biodiversity <unbiodiversity@cbd.int> | [Add to Address book](#) | [This is spam](#)
To: "dspankaj@rediffmail.com" <dspankaj@rediffmail.com>
Subject: Re: Requesting to add our event in worldwide celebrations map of Protecting Bio Diversity
Date: Sat, 22 Sep 2012 01:28:40 IST
Note: To help protect your privacy, images from this message have been blocked. [View images](#) | [What is this?](#)

Dear Pankaj K Das,

Thank you for your email and for your interest in the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.

We have successfully added your event to our website. You can view the new posting at <http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/country/?country=in>

To become a UNDB partner, please refer to <http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/participate/partner/> to learn what kind of commitment we expect from your part.

Please keep us updated about your activities and send us your materials so we can share them with the rest of the world! As the Decade unfolds, more and more resources will be available on our website www.cbd.int/2011-2020/media.

We invite you, your colleagues and friends to become fans of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 on Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNBiodiversity. It will be one more way to reach as many people as possible.

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We will, from time to time, keep in touch with you through email to update you on the latest UNDB activities. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if we can do anything else.

Best wishes from Montreal

Ms. Sara-Ann Amaya

Administrative Clerk

sara-ann.amaya@cbd.int

Direct: +1-514-287-6689

Main: +1-514-288-2220 ext.328

Fax: +1-514-288-6588

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800

Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9 CANADA, www.cbd.int

2. About KAAS Plateau

Kaas plateau is wonderful, eye-catching creation of nature nestled in Sahyadri Hill range of Western Ghat(22 Km from Satara city). It has significant ecological as well as tourism value. In the month of August and September, the whole plateau looks like a carpet of flowers coloured with various shades of green, yellow, pink, purple etc. Due to this it attracts lakhs of tourists, scientists and nature lovers. The value of Kaas is noticed not only at state level but also globally.



Kaas got the tag of World Natural Heritage Site in June 2012 by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) & this brought Kaas plateau in limelight. In recent years the Popularity of Kaas Plateau has increased many folds and the increase in numbers of tourists have resulted in a direct or indirect impact on its bio-diversity. The lack of proper guidelines and limited patrolling by the forest department is causing a tremendous stress to this fragile ecosystem. Without any proper regulation and control, Kaas has unfortunately turned into a picnic spot, with rowdy tourists plucking and trampling flowers, parking vehicles on the plateau, littering garbage and creating a mess.

3. YCSSW Intervention

One of the requirements for the nomination of **World Natural Heritage sites** is to be successful is engaging the local communities, creating awareness and capacity building efforts for the natural conservation and comprehending the ecosystem values for the sustainable development.

Since 2012, **YCSSW** is strategically engaging students and local community members in raising awareness and action about Biodiversity conservation at Kaas plateau.

Activities include:

- Public Awareness Lectures for Tourists
- Poster Presentation on Bio-Diversity of KAAS Plateau by 50 Professional Social Workers
- Cleaning of waste materials, plastic bags from the flowering site of KAAS Plateau
- Distribution of UN Decade of Biodiversity stickers to bus/car drivers
- Suggesting better mechanism to protect KAAS Plateau

These activities have created a sense of responsibility among students as well as tourist. Now they behave properly and do no harm to the Heritage site.

Even though UN Decade of Biodiversity observation ended in Year 2020, we at YCSSW will continue to create awareness every year at KAAS Plateau.

Dr. Pankaj K Das
Assistant professor
YCSSW, Satara





