

மனோன்மணியம் சுந்தரனார் பல்கலைக்கழகம், திருநெல்வேலி

MANONMANIAM SUNDARANAR UNIVERSITY (Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC) ABISHEKAPATTI, TIRUNELVELI - 627 012 TAMILNADU, INDIA

# CRITERION-VII

### INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES



## 7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

#### <u>Best Practice – 1</u>

Title: Driving Environmental Sustainability and Safety Forward

#### Context:

Our campus is uniquely positioned to study and preserve vital ecosystems near the ecologically significant Western Ghats and the Bay of Bengal. The region's resources are crucial for national development, while 14 dams within our jurisdiction impact hydrological systems and necessitate proactive management. Monitoring earth vibrations is critical because dam construction correlates with increased seismic risk. Our commitment lies in ensuring a sustainable future for the surrounding communities and the region's biodiversity.

#### **Objectives:**

- Promoting environmental sustainability and awareness through eco-friendly practices
- 2. Monitoring and mitigating seismic risks in the region's hydrological systems to ensure safety
- 3. Conducting comprehensive research and developing solutions for challenges to support national development
- 4. Addressing the identified challenges and resource needs to provide a powerboat for field initiatives

#### The Practice:

- Our Eco-Friendly Campus promotes environmental sustainability with thousands of trees, six ponds for groundwater conservation, a 1-megawatt solar power station, and a greenhouse. These facilities educate thousands of students about environmental stewardship.
- 2. Strategically situated at the edge of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Sri Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences facilitates research

on biodiversity hotspots. The centre investigates the impact of environmental changes on plant species and supports agricultural practices. Two of the top 2% of scientists globally have emerged from this vital research centre.

- The Centre for Marine Sciences and Technology is on India's vast coastline. It researches the Bay of Bengal's marine ecosystem, vital for millions of livelihoods. Two leading scientists in the top 2% globally have emerged from this centre, emphasising aquatic ecosystem research.
- 4. Our university's jurisdiction encompasses 15 and numerous check dams, making the region prone to seismic activity. An incident in Abisekapatti in 2005, where the earth swallowed a 30-foot electric pole, highlights this risk. To enhance the safety of millions in the four southern districts, our university has installed a 24/7 seismograph to monitor earthquake activity (8). A Department of Geotechnology has been established to ensure the safety of local communities.

#### **Evidence of Success:**

Six constructed ponds have increased groundwater levels

#### https://nwm.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notes%20on%20Thirunelveli%20District.pdf

while the solar power stations have spurred the adoption of renewable energy across the region

(https://environment.tn.gov.in/assets/report/Database%20on%20Energy%20Resources %20in%20Tamil%20Nadu.pdf.

Research at the CMST has identified critical marine pathogens that benefit aquaculture and discovered 18 new marine worm species (DOI: 10.1016/j.fsi.2013.12.006: 10.56557/upjoz/2022/v43i243350; DOI: 10.1128/MRA.01034-18).

The SPKCEES has identified fungal chitosan as a pest control solution for rice crops, and whole genome sequencing of earthworm species has created a valuable resource for sustainable agriculture research. These achievements highlight our commitment to a sustainable future, contributing to both local and global challenges (DOI: 10.2174/1389202923666220401095626) and Eisenia fetida

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.08.067

#### **Challenges and Resource Needs:**

Establishing a weather station in Alwarkurichi enhances research activities. Additionally, a mobile laboratory is required to elevate research standards, and the CMST needs a powerboat to further its initiatives.

#### <u>Best Practice – 2</u>

#### Title: Unlocking Potential: Introducing Student Support Initiatives

#### Context:

Pursuing higher education spanning 3 to 4 years in this region is challenging due to limited job opportunities and economic difficulties. Enrollment in arts, science, and postgraduate programmes focusing on Tamil studies must increase. Transgender individuals face obstacles in accessing higher education.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1. To increase access to higher education for talented youths facing financial constraints.
- 2. To encourage the study and preservation of Tamil by offering financial incentives
- 3. To create inclusive educational opportunities for transgender individuals and marginalised groups.
- 4. To attract bright students to the Postgraduate Diploma in Renewable Energy to develop local expertise .
- 5. To highlight success stories of beneficiaries to demonstrate the initiatives' impact.

#### The Practice:

- 1. Sundaranar Merit Scholarship: The University offers eight Master's programmes and awards the SMS to 10 top-performing students in each programme.
- 2. Bharat Ratna Dr M.G. Ramachandran Fellowship supports up to 58 postgraduates annually across various disciplines to pursue PhD.
- Despite declining interest, the university waived admission fees (3) since 2018-19 to encourage enrolment in the MA Tamil.

- 4. Southern Tamil Nadu has great potential for renewable energy like solar and wind power. The university has started a Postgraduate Diploma in Renewable Energy and provides monthly financial incentives. (3)
- 5. The University offers free education to transgender students to improve their quality of life and overcome educational challenges (4).
- Former Professor Dr E. Subramanian established an endowment fund of Rs. 5 lakhs (5) to support MSc Chemistry and D.Pharm students with monthly scholarships to encourage pharmaceutical sciences.
- Professor Murugan established Dr Rajalakshmi Endowment Scholarship, donating Rs. 5 lakhs to support two deserving Computer Science students with monthly scholarships of Rs.1000 each. (6)

#### Evidence of Success:

- 1. The fellowship programs have helped 80 (+2) students annually for the past five years, providing Rs. 2,000 per month to pursue five-year MA/MSc programmes and supporting 400 students for Rs. 16 lakhs annually. (7).
- 2. The Ramachandran Centenary Fellowship has given 290 top PhD students a monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000 for three years for the past five years and costs the university Rs. 34.8 lakhs each year (8).
- More students started studying Tamil after waiving tuition fees in 2018. The number of students in the MA Tamil program went from a few in 2017 to 20 in 2018-19 and then to 30 in 2020-21. This free tuition continued until 2022-23.
- 4. Mx Viji, a transgender student, completed PhD in Folklore in 2023. (10).
- 5. Dr. E. Subramanian Scholarship gives Rs.18000/year to the top D.Pharm and MSc Chemistry students. (5).
- 6. Dr Rajalakshmi Endowment Scholarship provides Rs.1000 monthly to two students. (6).

#### **Challenges and Resource Requirements**

 Many talented youth in the region face challenges getting a higher education due to harsh environmental conditions and financial struggles. The university wants more money to offer free college to students who are the first in their families to go to college and from families who make less than Rs.3 lakhs/year.

2. Implementing scholarships/fellowships requires financial resources. Ensuring consistent funding necessitates sustainable funding models and partnerships from the private sector.

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#### **SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS**

S.N	Document(s)	Link to the Document(s)
1	Best Practice 1	https://msuniv.ac.in/naac/criterion7/7211.pdf
2	Best Practice 2	https://msuniv.ac.in/naac/criterion7/7212.pdf