



K. L. E. SOCIETY'S  
**SHRI KADASIDDHESHWAR ARTS COLLEGE AND  
H. S. KOTAMBRI SCIENCE INSTITUTE,**  
VIDYANAGAR, HUBBALLI-580031 (Karnataka State)  
*Accredited by NAAC at 'A' grade with CGPA 3.18 in third cycle*

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## Best Practice 1

1. **Title of the Practice:** Plant Propagation

2. **Objectives of the Practice:**

- To develop the technique of plant propagation
- To create awareness about plantation programme in barren lands
- To increase greenery in and around the college campus
- To understand the importance of plant propagation.
- To know the difference between sexual and asexual propagation.
- To understand the parts of a seed.
- To study how to successfully direct seed outdoors.
- To understand and propagate stem, leaf and root cuttings
- To know the methods of grafting, layering and budding

3. **The Context:** Plant propagation is the process of producing a new plant from an existing one. It requires skills, manual dexterity and experience for success. Department of Botany has initiated to propagate the money plants (*Epipremnum aureum* or *Pothos aureus*). Students propagate money plants (*Epipremnum aureum* or *Pothos aureus*) using waste plastic cups. This creates awareness among students about the propagation and biodiversity conservation. To understand the science of why, when, and how to propagate, requires basic knowledge of plant growth and development, plant taxonomy, plant anatomy and morphology and plant physiology. Lab. Attender along with staff and students of the Botany Department, maintain and take care of preparation of saplings and plantation in the campus.

4. **The Practice:** Department of Botany carries out plant propagation programmes in the beginning of the academic year during monsoon season every year.

During summer season the students collect the dry seeds of trees like Tamarind, Mango, Neem, Jackfruit, etc for preparation of seed balls and raising the saplings. The students of botany prepare fertile soil by mixing equal proportion of sand and manure. This soil is used for seed germination in polythene

bags. The saplings thus developed from the seeds are used for plantation in open land of adopted villages and college campus.

The soil balls enclosing seeds are prepared and are dried in sunlight. These dry soil balls with seeds are called “**Seed Balls**”. These seed balls are dispersed in open lands before the onset of monsoons. During rainy season, when the seed balls absorb water, the seeds present inside start germinating utilizing the moisture in the seed balls. These germinated seeds now get established in the soil easily as the soil is wet during rainy season. The significance of using seed balls is to protect the seeds from birds and rodents during summer season.

The institutionalized practice, initiated by department of botany is the presentation of saplings of money plants (*Epipremnum aureum* or *Pothos aureus*) instead of bouquets, to the guests and resource persons visiting the institution. Lab. Attender along with staff and students of the Botany Department, maintain and take care of preparation of saplings and plantation in the campus. This practice of greeting the dignitaries with presentation of saplings is now one of the practices institutionalized. All the dignitaries appreciated this eco-friendly practice.

The institution practices plantation on specific days like World Ozone Day, Environmental day and on birthdays of all the teaching and non-teaching staff.

**5. Evidence of Success:** These kinds of habits have changed the way the students behave and move about. They become more conscious about their surroundings and maintain the plants, which have in turn created soothing green campus. Keeping the college green rich, clean & tidy is good for everyone’s health and is a result of the teamwork of the students, teachers and the menial staff. These will help the students to think about the biodiversity conservation. As a result of this practice the institution campus is lush green with matured trees and plants of medicinal values.

**6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:** The change in the Earth’s hydrologic cycle has lead to the change in the time period of various seasons. As a result of this it is very difficult to maintain and nurture the saplings. However, the institution is successful in this practice with the great efforts of the staff and students. During lockdown period of pandemic due to Covid-19 there was a problem of watering the plants in the campus but the menial staff took the risk of visiting the campus and maintaining the plants with the permission of the authorities following the SOP of lockdown.