

# **Best Practice 1**

## **The Title: Mother Tongue to Other Tongue and the Dissemination of Dravidian Genius**

### **Objectives of the Practice**

Dravidian University Act 1997 envisages on the development of Dravidian languages including Tribal languages, literature, culture and dissemination of knowledge. In tune with this set guideline Dravidian University has established *Anusrijana* (Translation Bureau) and *Prasaaranga* (Publication Wing) to undertake translations and publications to all the major languages including English to introduce the genius of Dravidian Culture to the rest of the world. *Anusrijana* is to translate the canonical texts from Dravidian languages and to publish them through *Prasaranga*. *Prasaaranga* publishes quality research works by various eminent writers and runs Journals.

### **The Context**

The University intends to incorporate the Dravidian component in all the courses of Humanities and Social Sciences. Non-availability of classical texts and Print material related to Oral traditions and unwritten Dravidian Languages is a serious limitation. Hence, the University felt that there is a need to get the texts printed and translated. The historic mission started in 2007 resulted in the publication of 28 books, which include the unpublished manuscripts. In addition to publication of books on encyclopaedias, monographs, glossaries, descriptive studies, folk literature, culture, history, philosophy, religion, anthropology, sociology and political science published books related to popular science, and daily household activities are also published.

### **The Practice**

To unveil unity in Dravidian culture, *Anusrijana* had taken up translations among Dravidian languages extensively. The University strongly believes that national integrity will be achieved only through emotional integrity and cultural unity. Translation of works among Dravidian languages such as Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and Tulu will be taken up along with English. One standard book in one language will be translated into other language and vice versa, thereby facilitating knowledge transfer from one language to another language. The University through interaction with scholars working in Dravidian languages identifies the scholarly manuscripts and gets them edited, prepares press copies and publishes. If manuscripts are relevant and useful for other Dravidian languages also, the university gets them translated into those languages. *Anusrijana* identifies the canonical works in other languages to transform that genius to the rest of the world and searches for competent bilingual scholars and translators who could undertake the translation. It endeavours to find out the quality research works done in other Universities/institutions on various Dravidian languages/literature/oral-literature and contacts the researchers to get the permission from him/her and from the University concerned. As the motto of the Dravidian University is to bring out only quality research work, the manuscript collected by the above process are sent to two experts in the field. If the manuscript is recommended by them, immediately the editorial wing undertakes preparation of press copies and sends them for printing. In this entire process the teachers are involved actively. The best manuscripts of the Dravidian University teachers are also considered for publications.

## **Evidence of Success**

As the books published by **Prasaaraanga** reflect quality content, it has won appreciation from the academic community throughout the country. Reputed scholars like V.I. Subramonyam, V.A.K. Ranga Rao, Bh. Krishna Murti, C. Narayana Reddy, P.S. Subrahmanyam and Iravatam Mahadevan paid rich comments on publications on different occasions. The eminent scholars like Prof. Bh.Krishna Murti and Prof. P.S. Subrahmanyam got their works published through Prasaaraanga. The world renowned American scholar Prof. Andres Sjoberg has sent her manuscript 'Dravidian Language and Culture' for publication to prasaaraanga. All these are testimony for the quality content of the publications.

To familiarize Tribal-lore and culture to the rest of the world, under *Tribal Series* **Prasaaraanga** published monographs on *Myasabedas* (Karnataka); *Bairas* (Karnataka); *Medas* (Karnataka); *Kattunaicken* (Kerala Tribes Series); *Adiyan* (Kerala); *Irula* (Kerala Tribes Series); *Kanikkar* (Kerala Tribes Series); *Aranadan* (Kerala Tribes Series); and *Kunubis: Marati Nayaka* (Karnataka Tribes). The books like: *Koraga Grammar*, *A Comparative Grammar of the Gondi Dialects*, *Descriptive Grammar of the Kui Language* are the other notable titles and *Pre and Proto-Historic Andhra Pradesh upto 500 B.C.* was published in collaboration with A.P. History Congress.

So far **Prasaaraanga** has published 281 books in six languages, which include 70 translations works (English - 23, Telugu - 12, Kannada - 18, Tulu - 1, Tamil - 11 and Malayalam - 5). Dravidian University proudly declares that it is the only University which has published 12 books in Tulu language and it is the only University which was an exclusive department; Department of Tulu and Translation Studies. Dravidian University also brings out books in six languages, viz. Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Tulu and English.

Prasaaraanga also initiates various projects. Among these projects, *Vajrakosam* (Telugu-Telugu Dictionary) and Telugu *Karadeepika* which contains Telugu literature, criticism and prosody are very useful to the students who are preparing for competitive exams. Prasaaraanga was successful in bringing out good number of books on Ayurvedam, Homoeopathy medicines under the project '*Griha Saraswathi*'. In addition to this, Prasaaraanga brings out four bi-annual Journals, *Dravida Bharati* (Telugu), *Dravida Kasturi* (Kannada), *Dravida Malar* (Tamil) and *Dravida Dhvani* (Malayalam). The Journals are edited by eminent writers in all the four languages.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

There is a dearth of good translators in all major Dravidian languages. This is a limitation for further progress of the translation activity of the University. The absence of scholars with required expertise in the field of translation is also causing problems in scrutinising the manuscripts. However, the University has made considerable efforts to overcome this hurdle by conducting various seminars and workshops exclusively on translation which helped in identifying a number of translators were identified.

Selling and distribution of books is another issue that the Dravidian University has been encountering. As majority of the books published by **Prasaaraanga** are scholarly, the sales are very minimal. Though the University has limited financial resources, it is carrying forward its historic mission of disseminating Dravidian genius to the rest of the world.

## **Best Practice 2**

**Title : Water Harvesting and Green Energy Initiatives**

### **Objectives of the Practice**

To developing eco-friendly and green campus by utilisation of natural energy sources and preservation of the flora and fauna of the land, conversation of pollution free and green atmosphere and preservation of rainwater by construction of small check dams, maintaining of water bed. To use of unconventional energy, biodiversity, growing medical Plants, response to national energy policy, utilization of solar energy, contribution to the Green Economy are the other objectives. To provide the University community an ambiance that inspires them, to promote and protect natural habitats and to grow medicinal plants.

### **The Context**

When 1090 acres of land was identified for establishing the Dravidian University in 1995, it was literally a barren land with hillocks. Except a few patches of greenery here and there, much of the area was covered with bushes and weeds. In the allotted land there were no water stocks. Even the rain water was not found reserved at any place. It was found that creation of water channels was an uphill task. It was felt that the area was not conducive for establishment of an academic institution. It was realised that it could be converted into a green land, if appropriate measures are taken. Since the conversion involves great financial investment, the authorities were looking for helping hand. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) came forward to undertake greening process through afforestation by sanctioning of a recurring grant of Rs.50.00 lakhs for which, a MoU was entered with TTD and the Dravidian University campus was named as **Srinivasavanam**.

### **The practice**

The University in collaboration with TTD has initiated the project of plantation on the campus, spread over 1090 acres. Initially 75000 saplings at a cost of Rs.35.00 lakhs were planted. Now, the saplings have grown into big trees encircling and beautifying the entire campus. This process of greening has been continued for the last two decades, because of which the University campus is pollution-free.

With an intention to preserve the ancient medicinal knowledge and systems, Dravidian University has earmarked 10 acres of land on which rare medicinal plants are grown. These practices not only preserve the classical system of medicine but also useful to cure the routine

and normal health disorders. So far the University has been maintaining 4500 plants of 250 species of medicinal plants in the herbal garden.

Kuppam's climate is classified as tropical. The rainfall is very low. Water conservation and maintenance of the water-bed levels are essential to avoid drought conditions. A sump is constructed with 1.00 lakh litres capacity for collecting the rain water at major buildings and utilise the water for gardening in University Campus. In addition to this 16-major Check Dams and 6 Farm Ponds with a capacity of nearly 787 lakhs and 51 lakh litres respectively are existing on the campus. Also, 40,000 metres long contour trenches are dug for retention of run-off rain water and 35 water Soak Pits (*Inkudu Guntalu*) are provided for infiltration of rain water besides 400 rock fill dams for preservation of water and stop the soil erosion.

In tune with the National Energy Policy, Dravidian University entered into an MoU with NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF AP LTD (NREDCAP) and M/s. RICH PHYTOCARE PVT. LTD. RICH PHYTOCARE PVT. LTD has installed Roof-top Solar panels in an area 60,000 square feet, producing 430 KWP, which is more than required for the consumption of the University campus. It provides the University with the facility to follow the directions of energy audit and to avoid consumption of diesel in emergencies. The use of solar energy contributes to the green economy. Solar power is incredibly efficient with minimal maintenance and uninterrupted power supply and most importantly, solar panels have zero emission. As there won't be any power fluctuations, the electrical and electronic equipments of the campus cannot be damaged.

With the help of Green Corporation of Andhra Pradesh, Dravidian University has planted more than four thousand saplings on the campus in this year. This practice will be continued as it is initiated by the State Government. ***Vanam Manam*** programme, the recent initiative of the Andhra Pradesh State Government gave boost to the process that began two decades ago as the entire campus community involves.

### **Evidence of Success**

The initiatives that are taken in the last two decades yielded good fruits. The campus now looks like green field with all the plantations, grown up trees, natural and artificial ponds. Check dams, Soak Pits (*Inkudu Guntalu*) increased the level of water-bed. The greening process and the plantation could keep the campus free from soil erosions. Even in times of drought conditions in and around Kuppam, Dravidian University has been free from such conditions. When there are no rains in the surrounding villages of Kuppam, the campus

experiences occasional drizzling, if not rains. The levels of oxygen in the air are highly, conducive for healthy living. The survival of Golden Lichen is an indication for the measures that have been taken for creating the green campus.

### **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

As the University has not constructed a compound wall covering the entire campus the menace of cattle spoiling the saplings before they are grown up threatens the greenery. The land is full of ups and downs covered with huge boulders. Because of this, diverting the water channels to the required areas is always a tough task. Laying of the roads to the remote areas on the vast campus is also a challenge. To cross these hurdles, a lot of physical labour, technical apparatus and finances are needed.

Kuppam's climate is classified as tropical. The rainfall is very low. Water conservation and maintenance of the water-bed levels are essential to avoid drought conditions. In anticipation of drought conditions, the University has constructed more than --- small check dams on its campus, because of this measure the never faced any situation of water-scarcity. During the times of drought in and around Kuppam town, the University did not encounter water problem.

To convert the University into a meadow, it entered into an MoU with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, (TTD). In collaboration with (TTD), the University planted sapling on the entire campus, spread over 1090 acres. Initially 75000 saplings were planted. Now, these saplings beautified entire campus and made it pollution-free.

Being a land with hillocks with no plain land construction activity and always being a challenge to the administration. However the university by keeping the rocky and hilly land intact undertook the construction of almost all buildings.

In anticipation of drought conditions, the University has constructed more than --- small check dams on its campus, because of this measure the never faced any situation of water-scarcity. During the times of drought in and around Kuppam town, the University did not encounter water problem.