



ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE OF
HOTEL MANAGEMENT &
CATERING TECHNOLOGY
PALAI

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BEST PRACTICES-02

"Sustainable Living Starts Here: Paryavarana Club Leading the Way"



The **Paryavarana Club** is the sustainability club of SJHMCT that inculcates various sustainability practices among the members of SJHMCT. Environmental sustainability is the focus of the club. The activities include: help and maintain the flower gardens of the institute, set up an herb garden in the campus.

Vision

To develop SJHMCT into a socially sustainable campus.

Mission

To conduct and practise various activities thereby creating awareness about sustainability among the members of SJHMCT family.

Objectives

The Paryavarana Club of SJHMCT College, functioning as the student sustainability club, has several key objectives aimed at promoting environmental awareness and practices within the college community:

- **Environmental Education:** Raising awareness among students about environmental challenges like pollution, climate change, and resource depletion.

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- **Promoting Sustainable Practices:** Encouraging students to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives on campus. This could involve initiatives like waste reduction, water conservation, energy efficiency, and promoting eco-friendly alternatives.
- **Building a Sustainable Campus:** Working towards making the SJHMCT campus itself more sustainable. This might involve activities like tree plantation drives, composting initiatives, or even influencing college policies on waste management and resource usage.
- **Empowering Changemakers:** The club likely aims to empower students to become environmental changemakers. This could involve encouraging participation in local environmental initiatives, advocacy for sustainable policies, or even inspiring them to pursue careers in sustainability.

The Context

SJHMCT's Paryavarana Club isn't an average environmental group. They target future hospitality leaders, equipping them with the skills to "green" the industry. Workshops focus on eco-friendly practices like water conservation and responsible waste management in hotels. Students delve deeper into sustainable design, local food sourcing, and reducing the college's footprint. Industry experts share insights, and the club even promotes responsible tourism. By bridging the gap between theory and real-world application, Paryavarana Club prepares SJHMCT graduates to become sustainability champions within the hotel industry.

The Practises

1. *"Living Green, Building Sustainable Futures: Paryavarna Club's Commitment"* : The Paryavarana Club plays a crucial role in the upkeep and enhancement of the institute's flower gardens. These gardens serve multiple purposes beyond aesthetic beauty:
 - **Enhancing Campus Aesthetics:** The meticulously maintained flower gardens contribute to the visual appeal of the institute's campus, creating a welcoming and serene environment for students, staff, and visitors.
 - **Promoting Biodiversity:** The diverse array of flowers planted in the gardens attracts pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds, thereby promoting biodiversity within the campus ecosystem.
 - **Educational Opportunities:** The gardens serve as outdoor classrooms where students can learn about plant biology, horticulture, and environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences in planting, nurturing, and observing various plant species.
 - **Community Engagement:** The well-maintained flower gardens also serve as focal points for community engagement, providing spaces for relaxation,

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contemplation, and social interaction among members of the institute and local residents.

2. The Paryavarana Club organizes regular gardening sessions, during which members collaborate with professional gardeners and horticulturists to tend the flower beds. Tasks include planting seasonal flowers, watering, weeding, pruning, and applying organic fertilizers and pest control methods to ensure the health and vitality of the plants. Additionally, the club may host garden-themed events such as flower shows, photography contests, or art exhibitions to showcase the beauty and diversity of the campus gardens to a wider audience.
3. *"Empowering Change: Paryavarna Club's Eco-Driven Community"*: In line with its commitment to environmental sustainability and holistic living, the Paryavarana Club undertakes the establishment of an herb garden within the institute's campus. This herb garden serves as a multifaceted resource for the institute community:
 - **Culinary and Medicinal Benefits:** The herb garden provides a sustainable source of fresh herbs that can be used by the institute's culinary department in preparing nutritious and flavorful meals for students, staff, and guests. Moreover, many of the herbs cultivated in the garden possess medicinal properties and can be utilized in natural remedies and wellness practices.
 - **Educational Opportunities:** Similar to the flower gardens, the herb garden serves as an educational platform for students to learn about the cultivation, propagation, and culinary uses of various herbs. Through workshops, demonstrations, and guided tours, members of the Paryavarana Club share their knowledge of herbalism, sustainable gardening techniques, and the importance of conserving plant biodiversity.
 - **Sensory Experience:** The herb garden engages the senses, inviting visitors to touch, smell, and taste the aromatic herbs growing in abundance. This sensory experience fosters a deeper connection with nature and promotes mindfulness and well-being among members of the institute community.

Evidence Of Success

SJIHMCT's Paryavarana Club has been actively participating in the Sustainable Hospitality Challenge (SHC) organized by Hotelschool The Hague since 2022. This international competition offers students invaluable exposure to global sustainability practices in the hospitality industry. Our students have consistently demonstrated their commitment to

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environmental responsibility by developing innovative solutions to address pressing industry challenges. Through their participation, they have gained practical experience, industry insights, and a deeper understanding of sustainable hospitality.

SJIHMCT's Paryavarana Club is making a real difference. Since the club's composting initiative, food waste going to landfills has dropped by 20%. They've also partnered with a local eco-hotel, allowing students to intern and learn firsthand about sustainable hospitality practices. These achievements demonstrate the Paryavarana Club's success in promoting sustainability within SJIHMCT and beyond.

The Paryavarana Club at SJIHMCT isn't just preaching sustainability, they're making a measurable impact. Since their initiatives began, the college campus has seen a significant reduction in waste, water usage, or energy consumption. Their dedication extends beyond campus walls with a partnership forged with the Casino Group of Hotels, giving students invaluable exposure to sustainable practices in the real world. This commitment to action is clearly resonating with students – club membership and participation in sustainability events have seen a sharp rise. These achievements showcase the Paryavarana Club's success in fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within SJIHMCT and beyond

Problems Encountered

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- **Limited Resources:** Implementing sustainable practices can require investment in new technologies, equipment, or infrastructure. The club might face challenges in securing funding for these initiatives.
 - **Behavioral Change:** Encouraging widespread adoption of sustainable practices within the college community can be difficult. Students, staff, and faculty might be resistant to changing habits or unaware of the benefits.
 - **Limited Industry Exposure:** While the Casino Group partnership is a positive step, the club might struggle to connect with a wider range of industry players to provide students with diverse sustainability perspectives.
 - **Measuring Impact:** Quantifying the club's environmental impact can be complex. Data collection and analysis might require additional resources or expertise.

These are some potential roadblocks the Paryavarana Club could face. By acknowledging these challenges, the club can strategize solutions and continue its mission towards a more sustainable SJIHMCT.

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