Best Practice I

1. Title of the practice: Women Empowerment
2. Objective of the practice: Vendigo – Sanitary napkin Vending machine were installed to ensure an effective, safe and convenient mode for any time access to sanitary napkins. The purpose is to promote safe and hygienic- sanitary practices among women and girls. The sanitary napkin vending machine brings relief to women and girls during menstrual emergencies. It creates privacy space and independence to access the napkins. Girls must get habituated to use the sanitary napkin for better health care. The college believes women sanitation to be one of the priorities towards achieving its vision and mission. In that direction, greater usage of sanitary napkins would lead to reduce health hazards
3. Context: Menstruation is increasingly being normalised in our nation. In fact, Miss World Manushi Chhillar was awarded 'Beauty with a Purpose' for her campaigns and work towards 'Project Shakti' which is about safe and affordable menstrual hygiene for the women of India. However, despite its presence in pop culture, there is a long way to go before we destigmatise the purely biological concept of menstruation. A small sanitary napkin vending machine that was inspired by a young girl's request at a 2007 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) workshop has changed life dramatically for girls in India. A sanitary napkin vending machine is a coin-operated compact machine that automatically dispenses sanitary napkins, along with a compact electric incinerator for disposal of used napkins.
4. The practice: A social taboo was observed to be attached with usage of sanitary napkins, wherein a majority of girls and women hesitate to go to medicine outlets to buy them. This results in unsafe practices and the use of unhygienic materials during their menstrual period. The college in line with "Swatch Bharat" scheme as well as the "Beti Bachao" scheme and also in line with maintenance of the hygienic needs of the female staff and students took urgent steps towards installation of the vending machine.
5. Evidence of success: Immediate access to napkins anytime of the day to meet menstrual emergencies. Self-dispensing of the napkin at the drop of coin, saves the embarrassment of seeking napkins in the peer group or from authorities. The Vendigo sanitary napkin vending machine is wall mountable and has been fixed inside the women's common room. There is no complaint of any type of harassment registered by either girl students or female staff. Due to continuous encouragement and positive atmosphere, the girl students remained ahead of boys in many exams and recognized as toppers/rank holders. The proportion of girl students' participation in various events, programmes has been considerably increased.
6. Problems encountered and resources required: The college has installed only one vending machine as of now, though it plans to install one more. However, scarcity of funds has limited budget towards this planned work.

Best Practice II

1. Title of the practice: Alternative energy usage by installation of solar cells.
2. Objectives of the practice: Renewable energy sources utilisation globally has been adopted as a means for sustainable development globally. Unsustainable patterns of energy production and consumption threaten not only human health and quality of life, but also deeply affect ecosystems and contribute to climate change. As citizens of the world community it is imperative that each one acts responsibly towards the environment while working for its conservation. As an educational institution, Raja Peary Mohan College is aware of its duty to educate the youth on the importance of conserving the environment by encouraging the adoption of a sustainable lifestyle. The College believes in teaching through practice and therefore attempts to set an example for the students by adopting and encouraging UNDP sustainable development Goals.
3. Context: The solar energy received by the earth is more than 15,000 times the world's commercial energy consumption and over 100 times the world's known coal, gas and oil reserves. And this energy is readily available during the day for anyone to tap and that too free and without any constraint. The college has installed rooftop solar panels and linked it with the existing Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC) grid system in collaboration with WBREDA. The college focuses on integrated approaches that benefit climate and development by adopting UNDP's zero-carbon, risk-informed and sustainable development objectives.
4. The practice: Under this project, in 2017, we have installed a Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic system (GRTSPV) having capacity 17.5 kWp. The Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System has been connected to an existing electricity line in our college.
5. Evidence of success: The Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic system (GRTSPV) after connection to the main line of the college has led to substantial reduction of electric consumption. The initiative thus by far may be said to reduce the carbon footprint in the nature and electric bill expenses of the college.

Problems encountered and resources required: As of now, the college has found maintenance of the solar photovoltaic cells extremely cheap and requires minimum logistic support.