



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the Principal
Government General Degree College, Kaliganj
Debagram, Nadia – 741137
Ph: 03473-267514
Website: www.kaliganjgovtcollege.ac.in

Best practice 1

Promotion of plantation: progression from a barren to greener campus and conservation of nature in the locality

Objectives of the Practice:

- 1) To make campus beautiful.
- 2) To provide shades against harsh sunlight during summer season.
- 3) To enrich local rural biodiversity.
- 4) To help in conducting various practical experiments and examinations of science faculty by providing different kinds of live samples.
- 5) Various medicinal plants will help performing research and project works for teachers and students.
- 6) Tree plantation will help in protection and conservation of the nature and its ecosystem and also add a little initiative in global efforts against climate change and pollution.
- 7) To make teachers, students, and local people aware about their responsibility towards environment and foster sustainable development.

The Context: The college was built in 2015 on a low agricultural land with no or negligible vegetation and campus was largely empty. It is difficult for any educational institution to provide an ambient condition for successful teaching and learning in campus with only concrete buildings devoid of greenery and vegetation. It also causes difficulties in conducting practical experiments of science faculties, especially of the botany department. In this scenario, the college authority felt the importance and necessity of converting the campus from a barren to a greener one. In last few years initiatives were taken in this regard. At the same time, it was felt that the practice could prove to be very crucial and beneficial in terms of conservation of nature, ecosystems and local biodiversity, if this practice is extended to neighboring villages, and local people are included in it instead of confining it only to the college campus. Because the local population largely belongs to lower educational and socio-economic classes with farming as the main occupation, their knowledge and awareness in


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this regard are very little. Under these circumstances, considering the bigger role of higher educational institutions towards environment, society, and nation, and remembering the constitutional obligations, our college approved the promotion of this practice for extension in the neighborhood.

The practice:

Several initiatives were taken at various levels to make this practice a successful one. At first the NSS unit of the college took initiatives, and started to plant several kinds of fruit plants and large trees in the campus. Later on, the college authority with the help of teachers, students and staff started to sow seedlings of different kinds of trees during celebrations of different programmes in the college. NSS unit with the help Red Cross society planted some ornamental plants, flowering plants and medicinal plants in the campus. Though our efforts faced major difficulties during COVID-19 pandemic period when the college was completely closed, it regained its momentum after the college had reopened. Now the college campus is enriched with various fruits plants like Mango, Jackfruit, Guava, Indian jujube, Pomegranate, Malabar plum, Date palm, Indian borassus, Coconut, Tamarind, Cluster Fig, Areca palm etc; flowering and ornamental plants like Kadam, Plumeria, Indian tamarix, Trema Bougainvillea, Thuja; medicinal plants like Arjun, Neem, Indian Gooseberry, Curry tree; large trees like Spanish cherry, Teak, Indian rosewood, Mahogany, *Accacia*, Rain Tree, Fig, Bodhi Tree etc. Observing the success of our initiatives and sensing its importance, decision was taken to extend this practice to the villages of the locality. This was accomplished by the college NSS unit with the help of local administration. NSS volunteers of our college during their general working hours and observation of special weeks etc. used to visit nearby villages guided by the local administration, and plant trees and arrange awareness programmes to educate common people about the importance of tree plantation and conservation of nature and environment. The villagers were also handed over saplings of different kinds of trees during various occasions. For strengthening this practice, students were provided with seedlings of trees on regular basis to spread our efforts in their homes, villages and locality.


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Evidence of Success:

In terms of outcome there are several areas to point out. A complete green campus will not only provide canopy covers, but it will also be the shelter of various birds, snakes, mongooses, rats, frogs, squirrels, bats insects, ants, snails, leeches, and other animals. Thus, it has contributed its role in the enrichment of local biodiversity. Furthermore, it supplies various plant and animal samples which in turn help in conducting practical experiments and examinations of the botany and zoology departments of the college including preparations of the Herbarium sheet, taxonomic studies, plant anatomy, plant cytology, plant physiology, invertebrate dissections, animal cytology etc. This practice has also been proved to be beneficial in carrying out project works of botany and zoology departments. The local villages have also been benefited by this practice by increasing and creating vegetation where it is scanty. Collectively, with all of our efforts this practice would help to reduce local pollution, and to protect local ecosystem and biodiversity. It will also add to the global efforts of restoring and protecting biodiversity of this planet.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

1) Poor fund, 2) Pest and weed attack as the campus was previously an agricultural land, 3) High tension overhead electric wire in the campus, 4) Water logging poses major problem in successful survival of plants especially medicinal plants as the campus is situated in low land area, 5) During night lights from the high rise lamps of the campus and lights from vehicles running through the passing by national highway create problems in the behavior and life cycle of animals residing in the campus, 6) Poor socio-economic conditions of the local villages, little awareness of villagers and their poor participation in the programmes.


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