



গড়গাঁও মহাবিদ্যালয়  
GARGAON COLLEGE

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# BEST PRACTICES

## 2019-24

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# BEST PRACTICE REPORT ON ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION

## Objective

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Gargaon and its adjoining areas of Sivasagar and Charaideo District of Assam, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. However, the region faces environmental challenges. Sivasagar has several industries, including tea processing, oil extraction, and small-scale manufacturing. These industries contribute to air and water pollution through the release of harmful chemicals and effluents. The district's agricultural activities, particularly the use of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as urban wastes lead to runoff that contaminates local water bodies. Keeping in view the environmental sensitivity of the issue, the Gargaon College administration emphasizes the need for environmental preservation initiatives.



## CONTEXTS & CHALLENGES

### Brief description of the contexts & challenges

For effective designing and implementing environmental conservation projects following contexts need to be considered:

#### 1. Ecological Context

**Biodiversity:** Understanding the local ecosystem including various flora and fauna, endangered species is crucial for protecting biodiversity.

**Land Use & Water Resources:** Projects must consider land-use patterns; water resource

management and their impact on local habitats agricultural, forest, and wetland areas.

## 2. Socio-Economic Context

**Community Dependence & Education and Awareness:** Projects should involve community participation and educational initiatives to raise awareness on use of traditional knowledge and conservation practices for their livelihoods (e.g., agriculture, fishing, and forestry).

## 3. Cultural Context

**Historical Sites:** Conservation projects must ensure that they do not negatively impact historical sites.

## 4. Environmental Challenges

**Climate Change, Pollution & Deforestations:** The impacts of climate change, like erratic rainfall and flooding, pollution from various sources and rapid deforestations must be considered in project design.



## What We Do

### Green Initiatives by the College






To sustain biodiversity, different Cells and Units of the College organise several tree planting initiatives on the college campus and in the nearby communities. This initiative promotes an environmentally friendly atmosphere within the institute by providing pure air and raising awareness among the people. The planting programme comprises a variety of beautiful and therapeutic wild plant species native to the area. In addition, there is periodical review of the list of trees planted in the garden, records are kept, and scientific names are assigned to the trees. While carrying out the different activities within the campus, environmental awareness and sustainability is promoted amongst students and staff. World Environment Day is enthusiastically celebrated with the objective of not just making the campus greener but towards a greener planet.

## Biodiversity Park

Gargaon College maintains three Biodiversity Parks to collect, cultivate and preserve a wide range of plants, animals, birds, snakes and other species. Different types of species provide richness to the biodiversity of the region. Since the garden has a huge number of plants, seasonal fruits so several birds, animals are attracted towards this. In addition to these, the parks provide ecological resources to the students for practical and applied purposes.

## Organic Garden

To popularise the concept of sustainable agriculture practices, Gargaon College has developed an organic agriculture model at the college campus. The total area of the organic garden is about one bigha. Parallely, the college has initiated another green project i.e. leaf compost projects at the campus. These two projects are interlinked with each other. All the leaf compost produced through the 11 numbers of leaf compost plants is directly used in the organic garden. Different cultivation methods are developed against different vegetables and demonstrated accordingly among the students. Additionally, some local farmers used to visit the garden to give some advice on different techniques of farming. Agriculture diversification is a kind of farming method through which the risk in agriculture production is reduced and stabilises farm income. Additionally, nutritional security is also achieved through agricultural diversification as it is concentrated on different high-value-added farm crops. Therefore, through the concept of organic garden, the concept of agricultural diversification is developed and demonstrated among the students about the concept of agricultural diversification. In most cases, the vegetables of the garden are used to supply the girls' and boys' hostels of the college.

Green Energy	Plastic Management	Green Initiatives	Organic Garden	Biodiversity
				

*For detailed reports click here:*



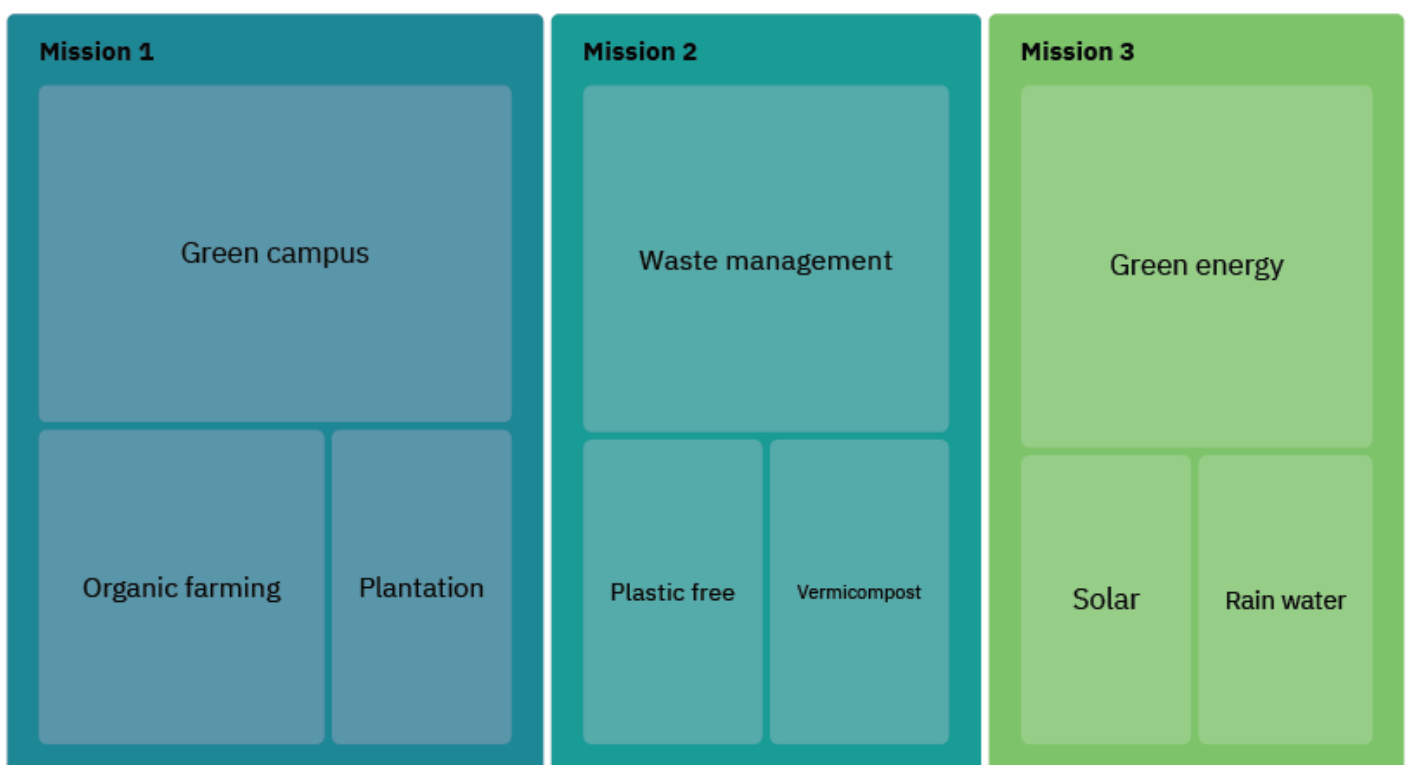


# EVIDENCES OF SUCCESS

Green Campus Mission transformed institute campus and its surrounding historical sites into a sustainable, eco-friendly environment. Organized more than 50 tree-plantation events involving students and faculty. Established in-campus community gardens in more than 1 bigha area within institute premise that promote organic farming practices and serve as applied educational tools. Arranged around 45 environmental awareness programs in college and adjoining areas. The project outcome resulted in around 10% increase in green cover and biodiversity.

Waste Management Mission implemented a waste management system that promotes segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and conserve water resources on campus. As a part of the mission, 12 vermicompost units were installed for biodegradable wastes. The institute campus was enhanced to plastic free zone by installing 2 plastic bottle banks for effective plastic recycling practices. Awareness programs were organized to promote responsible water usage among students and staff. The mission also promoted the use of sustainable materials in construction and renovation projects on campus.

Green Energy Mission enhanced the upgradation and maintenance of solar panels on campus buildings, installation of 2 rainwater harvesting units (2000 liters each) as well as installation of 2 biogas units for utilization of nonconventional energy and reduce carbon footprint.







## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED & RESOURCES REQUIRED

**Problems encountered while implementing environment conservation missions are as follows:**

**Constraints in availability of ingredients** required for developing green technologies and infrastructure such as vermicomposting and biogas projects.

**Stakeholder engagement:** Insufficient understanding among staff and students regarding organic farming and waste management system poses a challenge in initial implementations.

**Infrastructure Limitations:** Lack of biodegradable and nonbiodegradable waste collection system poses a challenge for initiation of waste management practices.

**Technology integration:** Existing buildings required significant reconstructions to meet sustainability standards for new green technologies to integrate well with existing systems

**Waste management:** Changing waste disposal habits among students and staff is often difficult.

**Resources required while implementing environment conservation missions are as follows:**

Organic seeds, and fertilizers were prerequisite for organic farming. Biofertilizers and sufficient supply of cow dungs were necessary for vermicomposting and biogas plants. Building plastic bottle banks and biodegradable waste collection units were required for waste management practices.



# BEST PRACTICE REPORT ON GENDER EQUITY

## Objective

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The Gender Equity Program at Gargaon College aims to promote an inclusive and equitable environment for all students, regardless of gender. The key objectives of the program include:

1. **Academic equity:** To ensure equal educational opportunities for boys and girls.
2. **Social equity:** To empower female students and marginalized gender groups by providing resource and supports.
3. **Political equity:** To increased representation of women in leadership roles, adopting more equitable policies and programs, addressing the unique challenges faced by women in the institution.
4. **Economic equity:** To promote gender equity boosting local economies and employment.



## CONTEXTS & CHALLENGES

### Brief description of the contexts & challenges

For effective designing and implementing gender equity programs following contexts and challenges need to be considered:

#### 1. Demographics and Socio-Economic Background

Sibsagar District has a diverse population, predominantly composed of various ethnic and tribal communities. The district's economy is primarily agrarian, with many families relying on agriculture

and related activities. Women in this region often have limited access to resources, education, and healthcare, which hinders their economic participation and decision-making power.

## **2. Challenges related to Cultural Norms and Gender Stereotypes**

Deeply ingrained cultural beliefs and traditional gender roles often restrict women's participation in public life. These norms can lead to discrimination and violence against women, discouraging them from pursuing education or employment.

## **3. Limited Access to Education and Resources**

While there are improvements in female literacy rates, access to quality education remains uneven, particularly in rural areas. Economic barriers and household responsibilities often force girls to drop out of school.



## **What We Do**

### **Academic equity**

The aim is to foster a critical understanding of key issues of gender equity through curriculum syllabus, highlighting the strategies for women's empowerment, and also bring gender equity in teaching as well as students' education, upgrading facilities such as hostels and provide scholarships for meritorious girls.

### **Social equity**

At Gargaon College, we are committed to fostering a culture of equality and unity. We understand that significant transformations often begin with small, yet powerful, steps. To this end, we have implemented uniform dress code for all our students; encouraged active inclusion of women in diverse spheres is essential for fostering gender equity and empowering women, hosting a variety of health and awareness programs like World AIDS Day and No Tobacco Day, alongside organizing blood donation camps; provided different leave facilities, entrepreneurship workshops and soft skill programs. Women hold influential positions in the student union, serving as professors in charge of




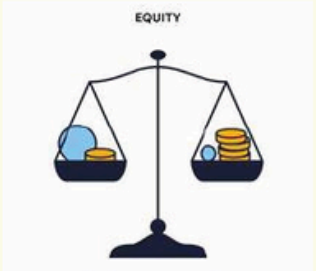


key portfolios. They are integral members of the research committee, driving innovation and scholarly excellence.

## Political equity

Annually, the institution conducts students' union elections, empowering young leaders to experience governance firsthand. This initiative not only cultivates political awareness but also instills a sense of responsibility and democratic values among the student body. College is committed towards involvement of student representatives from all communities, gender and social categories in students' union. The women faculty members actively participate in the democratic process, taking on critical roles such as Presiding Officers, Polling Agents, Master Trainers, and Material In-charges during national and state elections.

## Economic equity

Gargaon College recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship in shaping innovative minds. The institute organizes hands-on training programs to equip students with technical skills and fosters an entrepreneurial mindset for socioeconomic development of different sections of society.

Academic Equity	Social Equity	Political Equity	Economic Equity
			



## EVIDENCES OF SUCCESS

With its comprehensive range of disciplines, the college sees a robust enrollment each year, reflecting its reputation as a leading institution. The gender distribution among both students and faculty is commendable, showcasing the college's commitment to inclusivity and equality. This balance contributes to a dynamic academic environment, fostering a culture of mutual respect and

intellectual growth. The institute has organized 5 workshops and contributed 14 research articles in conferences and seminars; 11 research publications; 6 books towards gender equity.

Gargaon College offers a comprehensive hostel facility for 165 female students, ensuring a comfortable and conducive living environment. The hostel is equipped with essential amenities including a consistent electricity supply, access to clean drinking water, divyagan-friendly toilet, and a well-stocked library.



## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED & RESOURCES REQUIRED

**In the initial phase, we had to overcome the following problems while implementing Gender equity programs:**

### 1. Cultural Resistance

- **Traditional Norms:** prevalence of traditional views regarding gender roles, leading to resistance against the concept of gender equity.

### 2. Health issues

- **Limited Awareness:** Many students and staff members lack awareness about gender related health issues, making it challenging to effectively implement the equity programs.

### 1. Limited Participation and Engagement

- **Low Student Involvement:** Student engagement in gender equity activities was minimal in different events such as sports, excursions, internships, partly due to apathy or a lack of interest.

### 2. Institutional Support

- **Resource Allocation:** Limited funding and resources limited the scope and reach of gender equity programs.

### 3. Safety and Reporting Issues

- **Fear of Retaliation:** Students and staff were often hesitant to report gender-based issues due to fears of retaliation or stigmatization.

*For detailed reports click here:*

