JATINDRA RAJENDRA MAHAVIDYALAYA

Amtala, Murshidabad – 742121

GREEN REPORT

FOR THE ACADEMIC PERIOD OF JULY, 2018 - JUNE, 2023

In connection with environmental consciousness, this is an exclusive report for the necessary assessment and wellbeing of our institution.

Prior to presenting this report on environmental sustainability facilitated by our academic institution, it is necessary to emphasize that Jatindra-Rajendra Mahavidyalaya is situated in a remote area of Murshidabad district where villagers are mostly associated with cultivation and reside in the BPL category. Consequently, the students who belong to this socio-economic background and dwell in the surrounding area of Amtala are well habituated with greenery and accustomed to the livelihood of villagers which is primarily dependent on nature. Hence, in pursuance of ensuring environment friendly measures on the campus, the college has utilized the experiences of these students and their achievements in forging them to effectuate a "clean campus, green campus" initiative.

Massive environmental degradation is a global concern in the 21st century. Ozone layer depletion, global warming, rapid climate change, resource exhaustion, loss of biodiverse ecosystems and the threat of increasing occurrences of natural calamities are some of the many challenges facing the human civilization today. The major causes behind this alarming phenomenon are deforestation, urbanization, unchecked pollution, exploitation of natural resources and population explosion. In this acute critical period, it is a requisite need of the hour to reconsider our actions and take adequate steps to resist further damage and decay of our environment. As charity begins at home, the college fraternity is dedicated to ensure environment friendly measures on the campus for eventually bringing about an optimistic outlook about environmental sustainability not just within but even beyond the premises of the college.

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1. "Go Green": Evoking Environmental Consciousness:

- a) Our institution epitomizes the beauty and bounty of nature as its sprawling campus is adorned by lush greenery and a beautiful garden. In order to preserve this natural bounty by keeping it clean, the N.S.S Unit of the college puts in utmost efforts to develop environmental consciousness. It organizes plantation and cleanliness drives at regular intervals; observes and celebrates "Briksha Ropan" not just as a basic event but primarily as an essential part of our culture which believes that nature too needs to be nurtured.
- b) There is a Nature Club in our college to generate environmental consciousness and engage in various extension activities in this regard.
- c) There are display boards banning smoking and the use of plastic to promote an environment friendly campus.
- d) Waste generated on a daily basis gets disposed manually by dumping in dustbins placed all over the college campus.
- e) Walking and cycling are mostly availed to reduce the harmful impact of vehicle emissions and the college authority has strictly designated a particular day in every month to prohibit the entry of vehicles on the campus, turning it into a no-noise zone for that day.
- f) Our college promotes eco-friendly equipment to reduce pollution by utilizing the Kirloskar Green Generator on the campus.
- g) To restrict the misuse of water especially for drinking purpose, the college administration has been instrumental in installing "SAJAL DHARA" Project of the Government of West Bengal.

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- h) To facilitate the effective use of an alternative source of energy solar energy solar power has been installed on the campus.
- The promotion and use of paper bags and ceramic cups have been adopted by the i) teaching and non-teaching fraternity of the college to encourage the ban of plastic. Paper is regularly recycled and leaves scattered on the campus are put to use as fertilizers for kitchen gardening. The students of various departments have followed the examples set by their respective teachers and considerably reduced the use of products made of plastic on the campus.
- i) Regular community development programmes ("Jol Dhoro Jol Bhoro", a Government initiative to save water; Jalangi river cleanliness drive, including the villagers), special camps and celebration of days of national and global significance (like World Environment Day and World Nature Conservation Day) have been organized by the active volunteers of N.S.S during this period and their outcomes have been welcoming and desirable in all aspects.
- k) Besides, various seminars, invited lectures, essay writing competitions and debates on environmental issues have been organized by the different departments and committees of the institution to disseminate seminal ideas regarding the challenges in preserving our environment and ways to overcome them.

2. Health, Hygiene and Sanitation: A Correlation

a) Universal access to proper hygiene and safe sanitation is a fundamental human right. Yet, millions of people in India still lack knowledge about basic hygiene and are denied accessibility to clean and sound sanitation facilities, thereby leading to dire consequences in relation to health, healing and overall well-being. Improving sanitation and hygiene conditions for vulnerable communities can make a significant impact on public health and empower individuals to lead healthier lives. For instance, access to proper sanitation facilities reduces the spread of waterborne diseases and improves ATTESTED overall community health. Most importantly, availability of adequate sanitary measures

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enables in securing human dignity, especially for the female section of the society, enabling them to live with privacy and respect. To put it in a nutshell, improved hygiene practices lead to reduced general illnesses and increased productivity, contributing to economic development. Hence the primary agenda of our institution has been to spread knowledge and create awareness among our students about the fundamentals of hygiene and sanitation so that they can in turn contribute to the well being of our society by disseminating these ideas and ideals among the commoners.

- b) The outbreak of dengue fever is a menace in regions like Amtala which is located in the Nowda CD Block of Murshidabad. Each year, up to 400 million people are infected by the dengue virus worldwide, approximately 100 million people get sick from this infection and around 40,000 humans die from severe dengue. In view of this alarming social concern, the N.S.S volunteers of our college have organized dengue awareness campaigns in different areas of Amtala on several occasions during the academic session 2019-20. They have conducted hygiene awareness sessions, empowering communities with life-saving knowledge and information, ensured basic sanitation supplies and distributed hygiene kits (mosquito nets have been delivered at regular intervals to the economically burdened families) among the socially vulnerable inhabitants of this region. They have also arranged cleanliness drives both within the college and beyond the campus (for example, on the shores of Jalangi river) to make people aware of the importance of handling waste responsibly and exemplified ways of achieving this goal as a prerequisite towards a cleaner and greener environment. The N.S.S volunteers also played a pivotal role in fostering awareness among the rural population of Amtala during the outbreak of Covid-19 by distributing masks and sanitizers among them and acquainting them with ways of combating this highly infectious disease.
- c) There is no denying the fact that a lot of diseases can be traced back to unhygienic conditions and irresponsible waste disposal. Swachh Bharat Mission, the world's largest sanitation initiative was launched by the Prime Minister of India in 2014 to achieve an Open Defecation Free India by October 2, 2019, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. To pay
 ^{ED} homage to our national hero and this governmental scheme, the college fraternity

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Nature, Environment and Campus Development Cell Convener J.R. Mahavióyalaya ensures regular cleanliness campaigns on the campus; facilitates cleaning of all toilets, classrooms, departments and restrooms on a daily basis; organizes awareness programmes and campaigns related to health, hygiene and sanitation; encourages the use of eco-friendly items and cautiously regulates waste generation and disposal within the college premises.

d) The college campus exudes the essence of collective well-being and environmental sustainability by its impeccable bearing, embellished by soothing greenery and beautiful flowers, and has encouraged students to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation practices for a healthier lifestyle and wholesome living. The stakeholders have actively participated in cleanliness programmes, planted trees, disposed waste materials in dustbins and enthusiastically attended lecture sessions on hygiene and sanitation.

3. Promotion of Eco-friendly Behavior:

- a) As pollutants are plaguing our planet and adversely impacting qualities of life, health, productivity, and general welfare, our institution has generated environmental consciousness and concern by adapting the following practice to check pollution on the college campus.
- b) Plastic free campus has been initiated by banning the entry of single use plastics.
- c) Noise pollution impacts millions of people on a daily basis. The most common health problem it causes is Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). Exposure to loud noise can also cause high blood pressure, heart disease, sleep disturbances, and stress. These health problems can affect all age groups, especially children. Accordingly, to cope with this invisible danger, a particular day is observed as a "No Vehicle Day" every single month on the college campus to reduce the effect of noise pollution.
- d) Passenger vehicles are also a major air pollution contributor, producing significant amounts of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and other sources of pollution which
 ATTESTED includes ozone, particulate matter, and other smog-forming emissions. With a typical

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Nature, Environment and Campus Development Cell Convener J-R Mahavióyalaya passenger vehicle emitting almost five metric tons of carbon dioxide a year from burning fuel, biking drains fuel consumption. Hence no motor bikes or other vehicles powered by fossil fuels are allowed within the purview of the college on at least a stipulated day of every month and students and staff of the institution willingly concur with this practice to contribute to environmental conservation.

e) More students are adopting this practice on other days as well. A significant shift towards preferring walking and cycling as viable and active modes of transport has been noticed in the consequent days. Thereby problems ensuing from current transport patterns – including emissions of air pollutants, greenhouse gases and noise; traffic injuries; and limited opportunities for physical activity and use of public space – have been positively addressed by carrying out this practice on a core level.

4. Effective Waste Disposal and Management:

a) It is important but challenging to consider an integrated system in assessing and improving the sustainability of waste management. Effective "Waste Management" involves the practice of "5Rs" – 'R'efuse (saying no to things that are not necessary, such as single-use plastics or excessive packaging), 'R'educe (emphasizing the importance of minimizing the amount of waste generated by using fewer resources and being more conscious of consumption.), 'R'euse (instead of disposing of items after a single use, considering finding ways to reuse them, involving repurposing items or using durable goods that have a longer lifespan), 'R'epurpose (giving items a new purpose or use, extending their lifespan, and reducing waste) and 'R'ecycle (processing used materials into new products, reducing the need for raw materials, and lowering their overall environmental impact). The waste hierarchy consolidates them to the "3 Rs" – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – which classify waste management strategies according to their desirability in terms of waste minimization. The waste hierarchy is the bedrock of most waste minimization strategies and our institution has embraced the set of principles that guide efforts to reduce the environmental impact of waste.

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- b) The following measures have been taken by the college administration to ensure effective waste disposal and management:
 - Liquid Waste Management litter from washrooms and canteen are collected in the safety tank of the college.
 - E-Waste Management the E-waste generated from the office section, library and other departments of the college is collected and stored in a separate room and not thrown away outside the campus.
 - Solid Waste Management Empty toners, cartridge etc. are refilled as far as practicable. Outdated, non-functional desktops and other electronic items are kept intact since scrap cannot be heedlessly discarded from the campus to ensure their safe recycling. Besides, old monitors, CPUs of computers, etc. are repaired and reused. Dustbins are kept in every corner of the college for the purpose of garbage disposal.
 - Bio-degradable Waste Management Biodegradable waste such as waste generated from kitchen, leaves shed from trees and waste papers are disposed in pits for facilitating their conversion into bio-compost. This compost is consequently utilized as manure in the garden adorning our college.
- c) Stakeholders have been motivated to always use dustbins for disposing of garbage. Paper recycling has been adopted as an effective technology by mostly students for turning waste paper into reusable paper products like folders, penholders, envelopes, etc. Regular use of bio-manure has improved the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil and the overall soil structure, air circulation and water retention capacity of the soil used for gardening in our college.

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5. "Say No to Tobacco": Evoking Awareness and Resistance:

- a) The Member States of the World Health Organization designated "World No Tobacco Day" in 1987 to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the scale of death and disease it causes. A year later, in 1988, Resolution WHA42.19 was passed, calling for the observation of "World No Tobacco Day" every year on 31 May. The pressing need to raise public awareness about the consumption of products containing tobacco compelled such an action. Tobacco contains nicotine, the ingredient that can lead to addiction. Nicotine acts in the brain by stimulating the adrenal glands to release the hormone, epinephrine (adrenaline), and increases levels of the chemical messenger, dopamine. Consequently, tobacco smoking can lead to lung cancer, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. It also increases the risk of heart disease, which can cause stroke or heart attack. Smoking has also been linked to other cancers, leukemia, cataracts, and pneumonia. Likewise, smokeless tobacco increases the risk of cancer, especially mouth cancers. Hence, to resist an outbreak of diseases stimulated by tobacco consumption, our institution has taken the following measures.
- b) As an imperative social obligation and moral responsibility, our college observes the "World No Tobacco Day" every year on 31st May.
- c) Educational seminars and awareness campaigns are held throughout the year to elucidate the lethal effects of tobacco consumption. Particular emphasis has been made on the adverse impact of tobacco on oral health which leads to poor oral health, bad taste and breath, periodontal disease, dental caries, oral ulcers, and oral cancers.
- d) Significantly, it has been perceived that adolescents are more vulnerable to start smoking and become addicted to nicotine because they go through rapid hormonal and cognitive changes during their adolescence period and are also influenced by cultural, social, familial, and behavioral factors. Hence the teaching faculty of our institution counsels and exhorts students in the wake of their teens about the negative consequences of smoking so that morbidities, mortalities, oral and systematic health inequalities resulting

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from smoking can be prevented at an early age.

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- e) The entire college campus has been declared as a "No Tobacco Zone" through display boards, banners and wall magazines to discourage stakeholders from getting addicted to tobacco. CCTV surveillance further ensures that tobacco in any form is not consumed inside the premises of our college; if any such case is still reported, the defaulter is penalized.
- f) The college campus exemplifies the success of this practice by its peerless appearance, devoid of any tobacco stains caused by the action of spitting. There have been no reported cases of tobacco consumption on the college campus as well due to the mentoring sessions by teachers and strict surveillance carried out by the college administration through the installation of CCTVs in every corner of the college. Students have in turn reached out to their immediate and extended families to quit the ill habit of tobacco consumption.

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