



Office of the Principal  
গুৱাহাটী মহাবিদ্যালয়  
**GUWAHATI COLLEGE**

Recognised under UGC 2 (f) and 12 (B)  
[ Reaccredited by NAAC with B Grade (CGPA 2.62) in 2015 ]

Ref. No. ....

Date 10/11/22...

**Best Practice-I**

1. Title of the Practice

Creating a lush green environment in the campus

2. Objective of the practice

We live in a geological time that has often been characterized by experts as the Anthropocene. We all need to take corrective measures for the very survival of the human race. The college believes that educational institutions are among the best forums to spread such a message in society. A green campus will sensitize the young mind to the difference that a green environment makes to the quality of human life. We are driven by a deep conviction that we need to create an institution where the students would learn as much from the books as from the natural environment surrounding them.

3. The context

Our college is situated in the industrial area of a rather crowded city. The student of a city-based college is bound to feel a bit cramped for space. Moreover, the level of temperature continues to rise with the passage of time, making classroom activities an almost unbearable exercise for both students and teachers during the summer season. It is in this context that the college attempts to address the challenge of building an alternative atmosphere in which the students feel themselves to be in contact with nature. The academic community needs to have some space of its own, away from the heat and dust of an average Indian city. This is a challenging task considering the fact that the college doesn't have enough land. We are trying to make the best of whatever land resources exist at our disposal.

4. The practice

Guwahati College has continued to develop an sustained and environment friendly campus. We have added quite a large number of new trees and shrubs to the already impressive array of evergreen and seasonal plants in the college campus. It has almost become a tradition in the college to celebrate any important day in the calendar (for example Independence Day, Republic



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Day, World Environment Day, College Foundation Day etc.) by planting saplings in the campus. The cumulative effect of all these attempts is there for all to see. The lush green environment of its campus continues to be the distinguishing characteristic of Guwahati College. Our determination to keep the college campus green has been well reflected in our careful maintenance of the botanical garden in the college in spite of constraints of space. The Botany department has conducted a fresh green audit in the campus. The green audit has helped us in knowing and recording the scientific names, local names and the respective roles of the different trees and shrubs.

The threat to our environment has become an important component of Indian Higher Education syllabi across campuses. In establishing Shantiniketan, Rabindranath Tagore showed long ago the need to nurture the delicate relationship between human and natural realms of existence. Man's neglect of the environment has had a disastrous impact on a global scale; the young mind needs to be taught ways of sustaining a Green Earth. This knowledge cannot come from the textbook in the classroom alone, we need to create a natural ambience for that. The college believes in the general drift of the following statement by Tagore made long ago, though he spoke of school children here: "The human mind is in the embryo stage in childhood and school boys should live in surroundings which protect them from all disturbing forces. To acquire strength by absorbing knowledge both consciously and unconsciously should be their soul aim, and their environment should be adapted to this purpose." Unfortunately, the wisdom that these words contain is often lost on those who build institutions of higher learning in crowded Indian cities. Guwahati College aspires to be an exception to this.

The biggest roadblock faced by Guwahati College in this regard is the limited land resources at its disposal. Financial constraints stand in the way a of acquiring a second campus for the college in an ideal location in the outskirts of the city.

#### 5. Evidence of success

Any visitor to Guwahati College is likely to be impressed by its lush green environment. When we started off, we set ourselves a target of raising the green coverage of the campus to 40% of the total area. We have fallen short of that target, but we continue to work in that direction. There is enough evidence to prove the considerable success of our concerted efforts in this regard. Few other colleges in the city can boast of such a green campus, making the student free from all kinds of claustrophobic feelings associated with other city-based colleges. Further development of the medium-size playground within the college campus has always been an important part of our green campus related agenda. The college fraternity are able to organise many of their programmes under an open sky in green surroundings. Formal recognition of our efforts in this



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regard has come with the declaration of the Guwahati College Eco Club as one of the best College Eco Clubs in the state.

The positive change that our efforts in this regard has brought shows that a green campus creates a student friendly ambience in which they can imbibe lessons in maintaining the balance between man and nature. Such lessons picked up *naturally* are bound to spill over the boundaries of the college campus and get assimilated in a larger audience.

6. Problems encountered and resources required

It is only natural that those who established the college in 1964 did not think about the proper utilisation of space back then. The sprawling, not so well planned, buildings of the college have created quite a few problems today. A college situated in a crowded city cannot have the luxury of possessing large size land property. Moreover, our access to many RET plants is limited. We need to develop our knowledge of local plants and their properties further, and this knowledge needs to spill over the confines of the Botany department and reach the general student community.

An amount may be earmarked for giving a fresh boost to this green initiative, financial constraints often stand in our way. Outside agencies need to be roped in here in this regard. Experts from outside the college may also be roped in for adding to our limited knowledge of the flora of our state; we need to know which plants are suitable for the campus of an institution of higher learning.

7. Notes

This particular best practice needs to be implemented in all our city based colleges. Two important points are to be noted in this context:

- (1) While constructing new buildings in the campus maximum care should be taken to leave enough free space inside the total college area. Experience has taught us that the presence of open space is conducive to intensive study and learning.
- (2) Growing medicinal plants in the campus may be a source of both knowledge and resource generation for our institutions of higher learning.

  
Principal  
Guwahati College  
Guwahati-21

Principal,  
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**Best Practice II**

1. Title of the Practice

Organizing programmes in memory of deceased colleagues

2. Objective of the Practice.

As the college approaches the 60<sup>th</sup> year of its existence, we feel the absence of quite a few of our esteemed colleagues who are no more among us. We organize programmes in the college on three specific days to remember with gratitude their immense contribution to the college. Such programmes are intended to inculcate a sense of tradition in the students of the present generation. At the same time, mere remembrance or nostalgia is not enough for the students. Memorial lectures on relevant topics are organized on these occasions for the benefit of the students.

3. The Context.

The hard and sincere labour of many academicians has been at work behind whatever success we have achieved as an educational institution. During the College's journey since its establishment in 1964, we have lost quite a few of our colleagues. We celebrate three separate days as Arts Day, Science Day and Commerce Day in memory of three such distinguished teachers. We usually use these occasions to invite guest speakers to the college to deliver the memorial lectures. The most challenging issue in this regard is the maintenance of the proper balance between honouring some of our dead colleagues whom most of our present students have never met and the needs of the present generation. What makes things easy for us in this regard is the fact that all the three teachers whose memory we celebrate on an annual basis were known figures in the field of education in the state. The students can easily relate to the role they played in the growth and development of Guwahati College.

4. The Practice.

Every year we organise different programmes (Most often memorial lectures) in the hallowed memory of the following three deceased colleagues of ours: Dr. Rajendra Kumar Mazumdar of the History Department, Dr. Abdur Rahim of the Chemistry Department and Dr. Apurba Kumar Das of the Commerce stream of the college. The particular day dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mazumdar is celebrated as the Arts Day, Dr. Rahim is remembered on the Science Day and Dr. Apurba Kumar das's contribution is recalled on the Commerce Day. The topics of the lectures are fixed in consultation with the students, keeping in mind their academic needs. The students also take part in the other non-academic/cultural programmes on those three days. What is unique about celebrating the memory of deceased colleagues is the balance we maintain between tradition and modernity, between a sense of the past and the need to address the requirements of the present—a balance that many educational institutions lack. As the names Arts Day, Science Day and Commerce Day suggest, the programmes are meant to benefit the students of all the three streams in which courses are offered in the college. The college would have loved to invite guest speakers for such occasions from outside the state, but financial constraints force us to select them from inside our own state. Moreover, it is really difficult to dedicate three full days to such programmes in the midst of a year-long heavy academic schedule. In spite of such limitations, the college has been successful in organizing the celebration of these three days in a meaningful way. We are all grateful to Dr. Abdur Rahim's family for providing substantial financial help to celebrate the Science Day in his memory. The Guwahati College Teachers' Unit provides the required funds for the programmes of the other two days. The college plans to celebrate at least one of these days outside the campus in the future in the presence of a much larger audience. As we do not have any auditorium in the college, such programmes are often carried out in the open space available inside the college campus. This open-air celebration gives the occasions an air of festivity.



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5. Evidence of Success

The programmes organised as part of Arts Day, Science Day and Commerce Day have more or less produced the desired impact on the students of the College. The academic programmes, particularly the memorial lectures, have helped them immensely because the topics chosen for such lectures are somehow related to their courses of study. This ultimately gets reflected in their better academic performance, both inside and outside the university examination system. Such programmes are bound to have a positive impact on the overall academic environment of an educational institute. Our students get a chance to interact with the guest speakers and experts on such occasions and this experience enhances their own level of confidence. One of the positive outcomes of hosting such programmes is the warm friendship and mutual respect among the teachers and students of the college. Building on the success on this front so far, we plan to print all the future guest lectures delivered on such occasions. We also plan to invite scholars/artistes from our neighbouring states like Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura to address and interact with our students. The results produced so far through this best practice indicate that we need to set new benchmarks in this regard for the benefit of our students, including those who come to us from the neighbouring states of the North East.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required.

There are primarily two major problems that we face while implementing this best practice. With the semester system in place, it is quite difficult to allot three full days to this type of celebration. The academic calendar followed by the university has little free space for such day-long programmes. So, we end up by cutting down on the number of hours allotted to such programmes. They can hardly be called day-long programmes. We face the problem of the lack of financial resources in organising such programmes. Dr. Abdur Rahim's family has provided an amount to the college for running the programmes in his memory. The Arts Day and Commerce Day are celebrated by the Guwahati College Teachers' Unit spending money from out of its limited financial resources. This explains why we are not able to celebrate these occasions on a grander scale by inviting multiple speakers and artistes.

The lack of a proper auditorium in the campus continues to be a major hindrance in this regard. However, the large open-air area inside the college campus more than compensates this limitation.

  
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Guwahati-21

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