**Awareness and Initiative of Greeneries in Educational Institution**

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**Abstract:**

Green initiatives have taken hub in almost every public talk. It is also a new innovation and best practice. We populace pay attention to those talks but we dither to follow those ideas to safe guard the greenery. The Educational Institutions at present focus mainly on Green Initiatives. A fresh and healthy atmosphere serves successful learning and it provides encouraging learning atmosphere. This paper highlights about the green initiatives that are engaged by the Educational Institution with the aid of collected data.

**Keywords:** Green Initiatives, Sustainability, Higher Education, UGC-NAAC

“The natural environment sustains the life of all beings universally.” – Dalai Lama

The Educational Institutions should make awareness to their students to take care of the environment. More time and life of future generations are almost revolves around the Educational Institution. Many technological developments have replaced the man-made to machine-made. Greenery places are replaced with huge big tall buildings. Water resources are polluted. Not only water but also the air, we breathe are also polluted. Natural things are destroyed and they are recreated in the artificial manner. This paper highlights about the green initiative that are taken by the Educational Institution with the help of collected data.

Nature is being imitated and adapted by the human beings. More people spend their early morning life with meditation to connect themselves with nature. As Dr. Edward D Wilson says, “Nature holds the key to our aesthetic, intellectual, cognitive and spiritual satisfaction.” The people who connect wholeheartedly with nature achieved more. They gain more power from the universe. When we people starts to hate or destroy nature, automatically, the same process can also be repeated by nature itself. We people often forget the benefits of greeneries and walk lavishly by cutting the plants and constructing buildings. Not only buildings but also the technological development centres.

Green initiatives have taken centre stage in almost every environmental and in public talks. It is also a new innovation and best practice. We people hear those talks but we hesitate to follow those ideas to safe guard the greenery. The Educational Institutions at present focus mainly on Green Initiatives. They have taken a powerful step to inculcate the minds of the youngsters with the best practices to increase the greeneries by planting in multitude. Innovations can bloom in a developing world with limited resources only when the Educational Institutions play a vital role in preparing students to meet the sustainability change of the future.

Though the Institution can’t plough arcs of greeneries, they can plant few saplings inside and around the campus. At present, agricultural fields are vanishing slowly. They can develop botanical gardens and they can teach them about how to grow plants in their personal space. This eco initiative should be implemented in the campus of the educational institution. By doing so, they can create awareness on protecting and maintaining the environmental initiatives. To maintain safe and healthy environment and to live and work peacefully, the institutions must have greeneries. A clean and healthy environment serves effective learning and it provides favourable learning environment.

Green initiatives must be a continuous process. It must be sustainable eco initiative implemented in the every institutional campus. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony that permit and fulfil the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations. Green initiatives are challenging and require determination and a long term commitment on the part of the entire campus community. These efforts can yield significant paybacks.

Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Educational Institutions. There are 37 Universities, 552 Engineering Colleges, 566 Arts & Science Colleges and ample number of Schools. Major part of the population unites under young student community. The very powerful community are students; they stand together for the wellness of the nation and the universe. Best known fact for the above statement is that they stood against the injustice on the law of *Jalikattu* to preserve and to grow our Tamil Culture. As Abdul Kalam rightly opines, “All Birds find shelter during a rain. But Eagle avoids rain by flying above the Clouds. Problems are common, but attitude makes the difference.” With their protest they proved the society that they can clean the wrongdoings that happen in this world. So, we need to trust and believe them.

Beyond achieving their ambition they should plan to decorate the world with greeneries. We should teach in a way that they need to grow as a human with humanity, love, and responsibility about the world and the nature. As Tom Mann says, “The future of the world belongs to the youth of the world, and it is from the youth and not from the old that the fire of life will warm and enlighten the world. It is your privilege to breathe the breath of life into the dry bones of many around you.” So, we can speak about the green initiatives to them and we can help them to implement it. It is the duty of every higher educational institution to spread awareness on eco initiatives.

**Data Collection:**

The survey is meant to analyse the green initiatives taken using the collected data. The survey is circulated among the staff from various educational institutions to understand their knowledge and activities based on the topic. To get the response from the Educational Institution, survey is carried out using questionnaire as a tool. The survey questionnaire is circulated among the institution with the help of Google Forms and circulated various part of Tamil Nadu. In total, fifty responses have been taken for this analysis. The questionnaire is Green Initiatives based on UGC-NAAC criterion. Set of five questions has been prescribed for the responders along with their personal data. In which, the responders are recommended to answer all the five questions and that has been mentioned as required.

Table 1.1: Responses received from the respondents

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Questions** | **Always** | **Sometimes** | **Rarely** | **Never** | **Total** |
|  | Do you use water in the proper manner without wasting?  | 44 | 4 | 2 | - | 50 |
|  | Do you conserve energy in the right manner? | 43 | 6 | 1 | - | 50 |
|  | Do you manage the waste in the good order? | 45 | 5 | - | - | 50 |
|  | Do you dispose and handle e-waste in the apt way? | 40 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 50 |
|  | Do you work on the Green area development? | 42 | 5 | 3 | - | 50 |

Figure 1.1: Responses received from the respondents

Figure 1.1 clearly exposes that most of the Educational Institutions are Eco friendly. This is because of the criterion that has been added in the NAAC or by MHRD. Even though there are various parameters regarding the greenery initiatives, the study particularly covered the parameters like Water management, Energy Conservation, Waste management, E-waste management and Green area management. Institutions extensively push for the betterment of the greenery by collecting reports with high focus on the sustainability. Institutions are made to be the long term agent of change catalyst for social and political action by giving more spotlights on learning.

Educational institution develops natural as well as artificial greenery in order to beautify their campus appearance. Though they plant more trees and preserve the natural resources, the golden old practices are shifting as per the modern trends. Golden days of olden education taught their lessons by feeding the nature love and essence. Young student community comes around their educational institution with their barefoot to connect themselves with nature. They climb trees and play hide and seek along with nature. But now, it’s the exact opposite, the muddy areas are covered with beautifying cement stones. They play by climbing and hiding on the walls and terrace. The institution must develop some urge and thirst for the plants and natural surroundings to lead a healthy and happy life.

**Implementation of Sustainable Eco Initiatives:**

By realizing the need of responsibilities towards environment, NAAC under UGC has aided the concept of environment audit in accreditation methodologies of universities and colleges. It is also mandatory to submit the green audit report every year to the UGC. This audit is one kind of professional approach towards a responsible way in utilising economic, financial, social and environmental resources. It can add value to the management approaches being taken by the college and is a way of identifying, evaluating and managing environmental risks. There is a scope for further improvement particularly in relation to waste, energy and water management. Assessment is the most important part in sustainable initiatives. It should be done continuously. It can be annual, biannual or quarterly depends on its need.

Some of the green initiatives implemented in the various higher education institutions are:

1. Rain water harvesting
2. Plastic free campus
3. Sewage treatment plants
4. Roof –Top solar power plants
5. Paperless communication
6. Car pooling
7. Use of bicycles
8. Campus farming
9. Carbon foot print analysis
10. Vermicompost pits
11. Vehicle free day
12. Pollution free campus
13. Use of LED, CFL bulbs

Apart from the above mentioned list, large number of rallies and campaigns are organized for creating awareness and developing good habits among students. Road shows and wall paper exhibitions are organised in villages to create environmental awareness.

Awareness for greeneries is essential for any higher educational institutions. To increase student’s knowledge and consciousness regarding the issues need to be incorporated in the curriculum. Moreover, we can educate for environmentally responsible citizens. Maintaining and having gardens are becoming a growing trend at higher educational institutions. The implementation of green initiatives differs in rural and urban areas. The students from rural areas have vast area for cultivation. It depends on the availability of lands. The rural residents have adequate opportunities to be exposed to nature. In contrast, the students from urban areas have limited space for cultivation. They can go for indoor gardens, vertical gardens, and terrace gardens to activate their love towards nature. It can be suitable in the cities which has small roof-top. ‘Vehicle free day’ can be organised to save the fuel and to avoid the environmental pollution. Students and staff members should be encouraged to use bicycles, pedestrian-friendly roads. Green auditing course can be made mandatory for the students. To conclude, proper initiatives must be taken for gathering reports with compulsory continuous assessment. Try to spread the values and natural vibes to give rebirth to the natural surrounding with vast number of greeneries.

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