

(Affiliated to the University of Rajasthan)

Botanical Gardens

Kafila IQAC HEAD St. WILERPO'S P.



Jareeda

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Introduction:

The Botanical Garden Initiative at St. Wilfred's PG College was conceived with the aim of creating an educational and immersive outdoor space that promotes learning, environmental awareness, and appreciation for nature. The initiative sought to establish a vibrant botanical garden on the college campus, offering students and the community a unique platform for experiential education and ecological engagement.

Objectives: The key objectives of the Botanical Garden Initiative were as follows:

- 1. Create an enriching environment for students to learn about various plant species, their ecological importance, and cultural significance.
- 2. Develop a sustainable green space that enhances biodiversity, supports local wildlife, and conserves native plant species.
- 3. Offer a platform for interdisciplinary learning, research, and practical application across academic disciplines.
- 4. Foster community engagement through guided tours, workshops, and events that promote environmental consciousness.

Implementation Steps:

1. Planning and Design:

- Identified an appropriate location on campus for the botanical garden.
- Designed a layout that included pathways, plant beds, seating areas, and informational signage.

2. Budgeting and Funding:

- Estimated the costs for plants, landscaping materials, infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance.
- Sourced funding through college resources, student contributions, partnerships, and grants.

3. Plant Selection and Landscaping:

- Chose a diverse range of plant species, including native, ornamental, and medicinal plants.
- Developed thematic sections within the garden to showcase different plant types and ecological concepts.

4. Infrastructure and Planting:

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- Prepared the soil and installed necessary irrigation systems.
- Engaged students and volunteers in planting activities to establish the garden.

5. Educational Programs:

- Organized guided tours, workshops, and lectures to educate students about plant biology, ecology, and conservation.
- Collaborated with academic departments to integrate garden visits into the curriculum.

6. Student Involvement:

- Formed a student-led gardening club to actively participate in garden maintenance and educational initiatives.
- Provided students with hands-on learning experiences related to horticulture, plant care, and research.

7. Community Outreach:

- Opened the botanical garden to the local community through organized events and public access.
- Hosted workshops and nature appreciation sessions to engage the wider community in environmental education.

8. Sustainability Practices:

- Incorporated eco-friendly practices such as composting, rainwater harvesting, and the use of native plants.
- Created an environment that encourages pollinators and supports local ecosystems.

Conclusion: The Botanical Garden Initiative at St. Wilfred's PG College successfully established an inspiring and educational outdoor space that transcended classroom learning. By fostering a deeper connection between students and nature, the initiative contributed to holistic education, research opportunities, and community engagement. The botanical garden's growth and impact exemplify the potential of educational institutions to create meaningful and sustainable initiatives that benefit both the campus community and the environment at large.

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Vermicomposting

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Introduction:

The vermicomposting initiative at St. Wilfred's PG College aimed to promote sustainable waste management and provide nutrient-rich compost for the college's botanical garden. This initiative engaged students in a practical and educational experience while contributing to environmental conservation.

Objectives:

The primary objectives of the vermicomposting initiative were as follows:

- Educate students about the benefits of vermicomposting and its role in sustainable waste management.
- Establish an efficient vermicomposting system on campus to process organic waste.
- Produce high-quality compost for enriching the soil in the botanical garden.
- Foster a sense of environmental responsibility and practical learning among students.

Implementation Steps:

1. Education and Awareness:

- Conducted workshops and seminars to educate students about vermicomposting and its environmental significance.
- Raised awareness about the types of waste suitable for vermicomposting and the overall process.

2. Site Selection and Bin Setup:

- Identified a suitable location on campus for the vermicomposting bins.
- Installed vermicomposting bins with proper aeration and drainage systems.

3. Worm Selection:

 Procured composting worms (red wigglers) from a local supplier to facilitate the composting process.

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4. Waste Collection and Composting Process:

- Placed designated waste collection points across the campus for organic waste.
- Students deposited organic waste regularly, maintaining a balance of nitrogen-rich and carbon-rich materials.
- Monitored and adjusted moisture levels and temperature to create optimal conditions for worm activity.

5. Monitoring and Maintenance:

• Regularly checked and maintained the vermicomposting bins to ensure the well-being of the worms and the composting process.

6. Harvesting Compost:

- Harvested nutrient-rich vermicomposting periodically as the worms processed the organic matter.
- Utilized the compost to enrich the soil in the college's botanical garden.

7. Student Involvement:

- Engaged students in various aspects of the initiative, including waste collection, bin maintenance, and compost harvesting.
- Formed a student volunteer group to actively participate in the vermicomposting activities.

8. Benefits and Outreach:

- Successfully diverted a significant amount of organic waste from landfills, reducing the college's environmental footprint.
- Produced high-quality vermicomposting that enhanced soil fertility and plant growth in the botanical garden.
- Raised awareness about sustainable waste management practices among students and the wider community.

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Conclusion:

The vermicomposting initiative at St. Wilfred's PG College exemplified a practical approach to sustainable waste management and environmental education. By involving students in the process of vermicomposting, the initiative not only contributed to the college's green initiatives but also instilled a sense of environmental responsibility and awareness among the student body. The initiative's success underscores the potential for educational institutions to lead by example in promoting eco-friendly practices and fostering a deeper connection with nature.

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