

Minutes of the IQAC Meeting of 9 January 2020 with Environmentalists

The IQAC and the Environmental Cell had convened a joint meeting with Environmentalists, Dr. Santanu Chacraverti, President, Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action, Kolkata and Dr. Debapriya Mukherjee, former Senior Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board. The Programme Officer of our NSS unit, Dr. Sanghamitra Mukherjee, was also invited. The two experts after making a preliminary survey made the following recommendations which they feel need to be met before the college applies for Green Audit next year:

1. Maximum use of the resources within the college campus for improving environmental sustainability.
2. Green waste to be recycled and reused by composting it. Since its nitrogen content is high it can be added to soil for sustained supply of nutrient. The pits dug to store green waste must be kept moist during summer.
3. Keep an annual record of how much waste is produced and how are they disposed.
4. Channelizing human excreta in selective pits to make manures using plant-available nutrients such as phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients such as sulphur.
5. Use of organic pest repellents instead of synthetic pesticides.
6. Sell non-biodegradable waste only to authorized buyers (authorized by state pollution control board). Take receipts from them.
7. Disposal of waste in a segregated way: bio-and non-biodegradable and bio-medical (sanitary napkin and bandage, gauze). More information on how to dispose of sanitary napkins having plastic inside them will come later. Incinerators are used in the college. They come in-built with the vending machines. Many companies collect bio-medical waste but at a huge cost.
8. Water bodies to be salvaged as much as possible. In order to ensure that they remain functional, their surface and sides should be given a coating of clayey mud, and shrubs should be relocated. This will ensure that the water does not drain away too quickly.
9. Prepare a GIS map and pit map and upload it on the website. Geography department can help preparing them.
10. Make it a No-Waste Campus. Check canteen garbage and monitor wastage. Involve the students. Check what the canteen does with unsold food – is it thrown away in ways that contradict the environmental guidelines.
11. Save-Water campus. Check the source of water: bore well or municipality. Maximum reuse of water: bathing water and water used for cleaning kitchen vegetables and fruits. It can be drained to ponds and used for gardening etc. Keep a record of the hours to fill the tank and when it becomes empty. The frequency with

- which the pump is switched on to fill the reservoir must also be documented. Keep the record of the sewage plan of the college and the mechanism it has.
12. Rainwater harvesting is very important. Use a civil engineer to measure the roofs, estimate how much rainwater deposits per year, and build pipes to drain and store the rain-water.
 13. Trees, plants, shrubs, herbs should be identified. Tree felling should be done with due permission. When invasive roots are causing a problem they can be cut out instead of tree-felling.
 14. Measure what proportion of energy demands of the college and the hostel are served by renewable energy sources and plan how this can be increased. Rooms should be set up to maximise the use of sunlight. The bare minimum is to switch off lights and fans when not required.
 15. Ask students if they have suggestions about green campus, so that they feel they are real stakeholders in the process. There is a need to motivate the teachers too and all the stakeholders if the programme of campus greening is to be taken seriously. There should be a holistic approach to save the environment.


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10/01/2020


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10/01/2020