

## **Institutional Distinctiveness**

### ***'SABUJ SAMMILANI'***

#### **A College Promoting Environment Sustainable Initiatives**

पृथ्वी संतरणात् संतु नः पुन्या पुन्येन वातः ।

पुन्येन अध्युष्ट पुन्या पृथ्वी पुन्येन संतु नः ॥

The authority at Sammilani Mahavidyalaya believes and practices that sustainable development is achievable if and only when the environment and its ecosystem consisting of air, earth, water, plants and all components of biodiversity are protected. Therefore, its mission 'to develop a commitment among students & staff members towards the conservation of environment with a goal towards sustainable development' is observed through its flagship initiatives "***SABUJ SAMMILANI***".

Though situated amidst the hustle and bustle of the City of Kolkata, Sammilani Mahavidyalaya distinguishes itself as an abode of learning with its vast array of environment sustainable initiatives. The ideas of the 'Sabuj Sammilani' initiatives arise from its student pool – majority of them come from different parts of South 24 Parganas under Sundarban national forest. Recently, the region is witnessing fury of nature in the form of cyclones resulting in erosion of lands and eviction of the people of the soil. Since, it is a well-known fact that the reason behind the natural disaster are environmental pollution, imbalanced ecology and destruction of delicate biodiversity. Sammilani Mahavidyalaya tries to generate awareness on protection of the environment, thus their habitat, along with offering higher education of global standard with all advanced facilities and infrastructure. Because of this the percentage of student enrolment at Sammilani Mahavidyalaya is always above the state average.

In addition to providing world class teaching-learning infrastructure, resources, state-of-the-art laboratories and modern library, Sammilani Mahavidyalaya's distinctiveness comes from its initiatives to promote environment sustainability and generating awareness as listed in the table 1.

Table 1:

| Initiative                                                             | Objective                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Solar power plant                                                      | To explore renewable source of energy                          |
| LED tubes and lights                                                   | To save energy                                                 |
| Sunlight activated campus outdoor lights' auto off-on                  | To reduce misuse of energy                                     |
| Green generator                                                        | To reduce consumption of fossil fuel and environment pollution |
| Rain Water Harvesting                                                  | Water conservation                                             |
| Collecting waste water from AC machine                                 | Water conservation                                             |
| Medicinal Plants                                                       | Awareness generation on useful plant biodiversity              |
| <i>Vanamahotsab</i>                                                    | Plantation                                                     |
| Organic waste management for production of vermicompost                | Sustainable Environment                                        |
| Street dog adoption under ' <i>Vasudhaiba kutumvakam</i> ' initiatives | Biodiversity protection                                        |
| Drinking water pot for birds and pet                                   | Awareness to protect biodiversity                              |
| No Plastic zone                                                        | Environment protection                                         |
| No smoking zone                                                        | Protect the environment and health                             |
| Segregated Waste Disposal                                              | Protect the environment                                        |

1. **Solar Power Plant:** College has installed a 40 KW rooftop solar power plant in 2016 and is maintaining it through AMC. On a normal sunny day, the plant generates about 50 units of electricity which is enough to run a day. The solar power plant generation line is connected with the CESC grid such that they can buy back the excess electricity when it is holidays. In addition, the solar power plant generated electricity is deducted from the main electricity bill of CESC.
2. **LED light and tube light:** College has replaced about 71% (300 out of 424) of its conventional /CFL light with LED tubes and lights and in the process of replacing them all.
3. **Sunlight activated campus outdoor lights' auto off-on:** A light sensor activated auto switch off-on module has been installed for all the outdoor lights and signboards to reduce misuse of electricity.
4. **Green generator:** The College has installed a low emission and low fuel consuming diesel generator in case of any emergency.
5. **The Rain water Harvesting:** Rainwater is harvested from 50% of roof top. Clean rain water is stored through valves in a 5000-litre storage tank. This water is pumped out and used as potable water in the canteen, public toilet and for watering gardens. The project has been financed by the P.C. Chandra Group under its CSR.

6. **Using water from AC machines:** It's a part of a water conservation initiative. Condensed moisture from machines is collected through the vents of air condition machines as liquid water and is used in the garden and vermicompost pit.
7. **Medicinal plants:** More than thirty varieties of medicinal plants have been grown. Proper signage on the usefulness of their parts have been displayed to generate awareness on this valuable plant biodiversity.
8. **Vanomahatsob (Plantation):** The NSS organise *Vanomahatsoab* every year in which they plant saplings in and around the campus and distribute the saplings to the local people. It's an age-old practice of the college that resulted in lush green vegetation in and around the campus. Inside the campus there are trees of different sizes. All the trees are levelled with proper signage.
9. **Organic waste management for production of vermicompost:** The department of Chemistry organised a workshop on management of organic waste for production of vermicompost. A vermicompost production pit has been built for the purpose.
10. **Street dog adaptation under 'Vasudhaiba kutumvakam' initiatives:** The college has a Pet Lover's Club that adopts nearby street dogs. At present there are three such dogs well cared by all concerned.
11. **Drinking pot water for birds:** Several drinking water pots have been placed for birds during summer to protect biodiversity.
11. **No Plastic Zone:** The college is a 'No Plastic Zone'. Littering with any kind of plastic and bringing thin plastic bags (thinner than 20 micron) are prohibited.
12. **No Smoking Zone:** As per the order of the Supreme Court smoking is strictly prohibited in and around 100-meter of the campus.
13. **Segregated Waste Management System:** All kinds of waste are segregated at collection point before disposal. Dustbins of different colours have been installed at different strategic locations for collection of solid waste. There are separate lines for collection of general and hazardous liquid waste from the Chemistry laboratory. General solid waste is collected by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation daily. College has MoU with a waste collection company named M/S Redivivus Recyclers Private Limited. They collect reusable wastes like papers, cardboard, thick plastic materials and bottles, scrap metals, broken glass or laboratory glass bottles, and e-waste. For those items they pay to the college as per the existing rate.