



NAAC Best Practices -III

Best Practice III: “Green Warriors: Coastal Cleanup and Mangrove Conservation Drive”

Title of the Practice

“Green Warriors: Coastal Cleanup and Mangrove Conservation Drive”

Objectives of the Practice

1. To inculcate environmental responsibility among students by engaging them in coastal cleaning and mangrove conservation.
2. To safeguard biodiversity and fragile coastal ecosystems from pollution and destruction.
3. To spread awareness about the harmful effects of plastic and waste on marine life and mangroves.
4. To promote experiential learning and civic responsibility through active student participation.
5. To strengthen collaboration with NGOs and local communities for sustainable ecological protection.

The Context

The coastal belt of Navi Mumbai and Mumbai faces acute environmental challenges due to plastic pollution, unscientific waste disposal, and rampant destruction of mangroves. Mangroves serve as vital ecological buffers, protecting



against coastal erosion, floods, and climate change impacts. However, their survival is under serious threat. Recognizing this urgency, the College initiated the “**Green Warriors**” initiative, where students actively collaborate with Mangrove Marshals and Environment Life Foundation (Mangrove Soldiers) to engage in coastal clean-up and mangrove conservation drives.

The Practice

1. Student volunteers, termed as “**Green Warriors**”, undertake periodic sea-shore cleaning activities.
2. Collected waste is segregated and disposed of responsibly, with emphasis on plastic waste reduction.
3. Awareness sessions, workshops, and eco-rallies are organized to sensitize students and the community.
4. Mangrove protection and plantation drives are carried out in collaboration with environmental organizations.
5. Students act as environmental ambassadors, influencing peers and local communities to adopt eco-friendly practices.

Evidence of Success

1. Considerable quantities of waste, especially plastic, were cleared from sea shores.
2. Regeneration of small mangrove patches was observed in cleaned areas.



3. Participation of students steadily increased, indicating enhanced environmental awareness.
4. The initiative earned recognition and appreciation from Mangrove Marshals and Environment Life Foundation.
5. Positive behavioral changes among students were recorded, such as reduced plastic use and active advocacy for green practices.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Problems Encountered:

1. Unpredictable tides and harsh weather restricted activity schedules.
2. Lack of adequate protective gear posed health and safety challenges.
3. Transportation to sea shore sites was logistically demanding.
4. Initial reluctance among community members in waste management.

Resources Required:

1. Waste collection and disposal support from municipal authorities.
2. Transportation and logistical support for regular clean-up drives.
3. Continuous NGO collaboration for technical expertise and monitoring.



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Future Plans

1. To adopt a nearby mangrove patch for continuous monitoring and long-term conservation.
2. To launch a ***“Zero Plastic Campus and Community Campaign.”***
3. To integrate environmental studies with field-based projects and research on marine ecosystems.
4. To publish an annual ***“Green Warriors Report”*** documenting the impact and outreach of activities.
5. To expand partnerships with civic bodies and industries under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

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