

7.2.1 Best Practices

I. Vertical Gardening

A garden wall is a vertical greening typology, where a vertical build structure is intentionally covered with leaves, flowers and vegetation. A vertical garden is a technique used to grow plants on a vertically suspended panel by using hydroponics. This unique structure can either be free standing or attached to a wall. As well as being a beautiful, space saving and a sustainable addition to our cities, vertical gardens are natural air filters that helps to create a cleaner environment.

In addition, the entire process is organic with *COMPOSTING* being done inhouse, to avoid harmful chemicals. For this, students collect vegetable waste and process it in buckets under the guidance of the College gardener. The opportunity to get this exclusive experience is given in turns to students of all streams and all standards.

- Objective of the practice

With the view to beautify the college campus with the given challenge of limited space and to purify the polluted air, the management has taken the unique step to erect a vertical garden. It does not just look great, but also provides a range of environmental benefits.

- Context

Studies have shown that the surface of vertical garden can be up to 10 degrees cooler because it absorbs the heat from the sunrays and slows down air movement. The improved and cooler air benefits the students and staff members. This space saving and a sustainable addition in the college is a natural air filter which even metabolize harmful toxins like carbon monoxide, benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene, creating a healthier environment for all stake holders. Besides, inhouse composting not only eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers but also helps in making students environmentally aware.

- The Practice

The plants in the gardens take the carbon dioxide out of the air and replace it with oxygen. Burhani college has built a splendid and beautiful vertical garden with a recycling waterfall in the year 2019-20. South Mumbai is a place where scarcity of land prevails in every corner. And vertical gardening could help in tackling this scarcity.

- Evidence of Success

The improved and cooler air and a visibly enchanting view have been welcomed and appreciated by everyone who has experienced it. Beautification of the surroundings, water management, optimum use of space and purer air have all been achieved by this one step of vertical gardening.

- Problem encountered and resources required

The cost of the vertical gardening project and requirement of skilled manpower were challenges that were overcome by the exemplary willpower of the Burhani college management.

II. Drive for economized use of paper

- Objective of the practice:
As a part of environmental concern Burhani College promotes lesser usage of paper.
- Context:
College believes in “Save Paper, Save Trees, Save Earth”
- The Practice:
Two-sided printing of documents is mandatory at the College. Students and staff are motivated for e-communication and exchange of soft copy.
- Evidence of success:
Noticeable reduction in usage of paper at College
- Problems encountered and resources required:
Lack of required infrastructure and technical skills with students.
University norms of submission of projects in hard copy form.
University norms of conducting examinations involve a lot of paper work.
Increased usage of electricity and internet which resulted in increased cost and other environmental issues.