

Best Practice – I- Green Sustainability Project

Objectives

As an integral part of the University's quality sustenance and management, the green sustainability components were marked right from the inception of the University which has subsequently made it a place of serenity with greenery not only in terms of shady trees and gardens but also the University has shown its concern about the increasing global degradation and depletion of natural resources. The main objective of this project is to protect the global ecological integrity with its green movement which has now been assimilated by the students, faculty and other stakeholders attached to the University.

The Context

The Green Sustainability Project in CIHTS has been implemented in context of the environmental sustainability involving all stakeholders of the University with their participation in environmental management which contributes immensely to their academic and psycho-social development individually as well as contributing to protect the environment in the global context. The project provides students with a richer experience through intervention of nature and its components which are considered as the core objectives of education.

Focused on the dynamic connection between humans and the natural world, the Green sustainability Project has been realized in context of helping all stakeholders to create a better relationship with the ecosystem. It also generates a strong sense of place and awareness of the surroundings that allow all the stakeholders to become enlightened to institute's sustainable philosophy. This project enhances the campus atmosphere towards our long term goal of sustainability for generations to come.

The Practice

The project of **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** at CIHTS was taken up with an objective to improve the environment and public health. The treated water is used for irrigation and other purposes which reduce the withdrawal of underground water and consumption of electricity.

This project has been prepared and acted upon by the empaneled Architect & Consultant, Government of India with the cost around Rs. 42.33 Lacs.

The Water Recharging System Project under the rain-water recharging mission of CIHTS was taken up with the purpose to uplift the ground water level by

compensating the water being withdrawn through tube-wells. Thus, it fulfils the nation's objectives of sustainable water uses. Keeping in mind the Government mandate i.e for more than 2000 sq. mt. campus area, Water Recharging System must be provided, an integrated water recharging system has been developed. To our great satisfaction, the level of the ground water has arisen significantly.

The Botanical Assessment was undertaken to procure the data of various plants and trees in context of their present status and further requirements for their sustenance and maintenance. Comprehensive assessments of perennial plants, winter seasonal flowering plants and summer seasonal flowering plants were undertaken.

Furthermore, action was also taken to immediately remove and replace 152 nos. of hazardous plants mostly of Dumb cane/ Dieffenbachia varieties.

CIHTS also runs a medicinal herbal farm located in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh. The farm sits on five and a half acres at an elevation of 4,200 meters. Many rare and endangered species of plants of the Himalayas are under threat from improper harvesting practices and development. In this way, Tibetan medical practitioners are playing an important role in plant conservation. The plants are carefully cultivated and harvested by the project staff ensuring quality and sustainability. In the future, there is the hope that the development of herbal crops can contribute to the socio-economic welfare of the regional communities.

The De-Compost Pit has been initiated in the campus with the attached plan of **Vermin Culture** in progress. The vermin culture has been initiated with the following objectives:

- Utilization of vermin culture for minimizing environmental pollution and to provide good organic fertilizer to our plants.
- Earthworms are capable of accumulating toxic and reduce mainly metal agrochemicals. Moreover, the presence of earthworm indicates soil fertility
- Dried earthworms are used as medicine for the treatment of wound, piles, chronic boils, sore throat, jaundice etc.
- Earthworms prevent soil erosion. Thus, increasing its water holding capacity.

Evidence of Success

The success of the Green Sustainability project in the campus is evident mainly through all the praise it receives from its visitors. The institution is visited by people from all over the world. All the visitors praise the greenery and cleanliness of the campus. Another success is that the temperature inside the campus is always 2-3 degrees less than outside. Also, because of the greenery, a wide variety of birds can be found inside the campus, which is a clear indicator of a healthy

atmosphere. The institution has received many awards and accolades for its floral plants. Recently the institute received the Swachh Survekshan award three times in a row for its cleanliness and greenery. The water recharging system has led to significant increase in the ground water level. It also facilitates the maximum usage of rain water which would otherwise go to waste. Also, the quality and fertility of the soil has greatly improved because of the water recharging system.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The main problem the institute faces in the Green Sustainability project is to find skilled workers with the proper knowledge for which the Institute has to make lots of efforts in hiring professional persons and to keep them without regular budgetary source. A botanical assessment was needed to assess and collect the information of all the plants and trees in the institution. It was found that 152 nos. of hazardous plants mostly of Dumb cane / Dieffenbachia varieties were also present inside the premises. These were removed and discarded with proper care. All these plants were replaced by floral and other useful plants.

The Botanical assessment undertaken was funded from the institute's internal resources. The project cost of the Sewage Treatment Plant of Rs. 42.33 lakh was paid from the institute's budgeted funds. Also the medicinal herbal farm in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh was initially sponsored by National Medical Plant Board of New Delhi is now completely funded by the institute.

Best Practice – II- Research Work in CIHTS: A Milestone in Buddhology & Tibetology

Objectives

An enormous amount of Ancient Indian literature of Buddhism and other various disciplines were translated into Tibetan from Sanskrit. But unfortunately, most of the original Sanskrit texts lost in course of time. This great treasure of knowledge mandates rigorous research endeavors to restore them into Sanskrit from Tibetan versions and make them available into other languages like Hindi and English. Unpublished MSSs, another treasure, is to be brought out with thorough research. Creation of dictionaries of general and technical natures are part of the exercise. The research works in CIHTS is carried out as envisaged in the objectives of the University which makes a deep impact on revival of ancient Nalanda tradition and on modern system of knowledge and society.

The Context

The great tradition of the knowledge and wisdom of ancient Nalanda, Vikramshila and Tkshashila went to Tibet with huge amount of literatures translated along with the teaching transmission and practices. This legacy is one of the world's greatest treasure but preserved only in Tibetan as most of the original Sanskrit texts lost in course of time, particularly during the Chinese invasion. Hence, it was envisioned to restore the lost treatises of Buddhist philosophy, epistemology, logic, metaphysics, psychology, science of mind, medicine, arts and many others into Sanskrit from Tibetan sources and translate them into modern languages for general people. This also includes researches on unpublished rare MSSs which are critically edited and creation of lexicons of various nature. This knowledge system is still extremely relevant today as it reveals the realities of mind and matter comprehensively at a very high level. The legacy of Nalanda is very significant for India and for the rest of world as it has the potentials to benefit the entire humanity.

The Practice

The University undertakes research works with high level of scholarship in Indology, Buddhology, Tibetology, Sanskrit and various other languages with expertise in ancient Indian scripts in the case of research on MMSs applying modern research methodology.

The practices of the five research departments:

Restoration Department

This department Restores the important lost works of the great ancient Indian masters like Nagarjuna, Aryadeva etc. of Nalanda and others. The restoration work is a tedious work which needs expertise in at least two languages, command on the subject and scripts. It is done with meticulous efforts to regain the originality of the text of the author with thorough research on his other works, in terms of vocabulary, style etc. So far around 90 works have been restored. This is the only place in the world, where such works are done.

Translation Department

The Translation Department is also an important constituent of the Research Departments which engages itself in the translation of works of canonical texts of both ancient Indian and Tibetan masters thus making them available to wide range of readers from scholars to students and from practitioners to public. The translation and the restoration works are accomplished with thorough study and research on the text, content, author and related materials providing a complete information.

Rare Buddhist Texts Research Department (RBTRD)

A major portion of the ancient Buddhist texts in Sanskrit had been lost in India but some portion of this lost treasure still exist in Nepal and Tibet. The Rare Buddhist Texts Research Department conducts research on the hitherto unpublished Buddhist Tantric manuscripts written in various scripts and prepares critical editions of the Sanskrit texts along with their Tibetan translations with a thorough study and research.

Dictionary Department

When Mahayana Buddhism and Tibetan studies, began to gain popularity around the world, there was no comprehensive dictionary of Tibetan to Sanskrit. Hence CIHTS along its project of restoration of the lost Sanskrit treatises, launched the project of comprehensive dictionary of Tibetan to Sanskrit which took more than a decade to complete. Finally, sixteen hefty volumes come out in 2005. Many technical dictionaries are being compiled and are about to be published.

Center for Tibetan Literature

Tibet has a huge corpus or literature covering a wide range of areas. The Center established in 2009 is the first of its kind devoted to studies and researches exclusively on Tibetan literature. Its first priority is to write a comprehensive history of Tibetan literature. The draft in four bulky volumes are brought before the scholars for comments. It has been producing other important literary works.

Evidence of Success

The research work of the University has been globally acclaimed with the increasing demand of its research publications worldwide. The restored works have special significance in the context of revival of ancient treatises of Nalanda and other seats of learnings. Multifaceted translations, meticulous works on MSSs, compilation of various kinds of dictionaries and works on Tibetan literature have become exemplars. Most of the works are cited and referred widely by the scholars of Buddhism and Tibetan studies around the world. The dictionary is widely used by the scholars and students of Mahayana studies around the world.

The following series including the research works by the research departments of the University have been published as on date with a marked evidence of success:

Sl. No.	Research Series	Titles Published
01.	Bibliotheca Indo-Tibetica Series	85
02.	The Dalai Lama Tibeto-Indological Series	37
03.	Samyak Vak Series	17
04.	Samyak Vak Special Series	10
05.	Lecture Series	04
06.	The Rare Buddhist text Series	36
07.	Avalokitesvara Series	07
08.	Miscellaneous Series	35
09.	Tibeto-Mongolian Series	01
10.	“Dhīh”: A Rare Buddhist Texts Research Journal	60 Volumes
11.	Kosh Series (Dictionary)	18 Volumes
12.	Neyartha-Nitartha Series	08
	Total	320

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Lack of infrastructural and more manpower support required for such an important research work of national and international significance is the major obstacle faced by the university. The publications can be projected on international platforms for much wider distribution maintaining international standards, which is currently not possible with financial constraints.