

## **7.2.1 Best Practice I**

### **1. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE**

**The Green Desert: Initiatives Towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

### **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRACTICE (100 Words)**

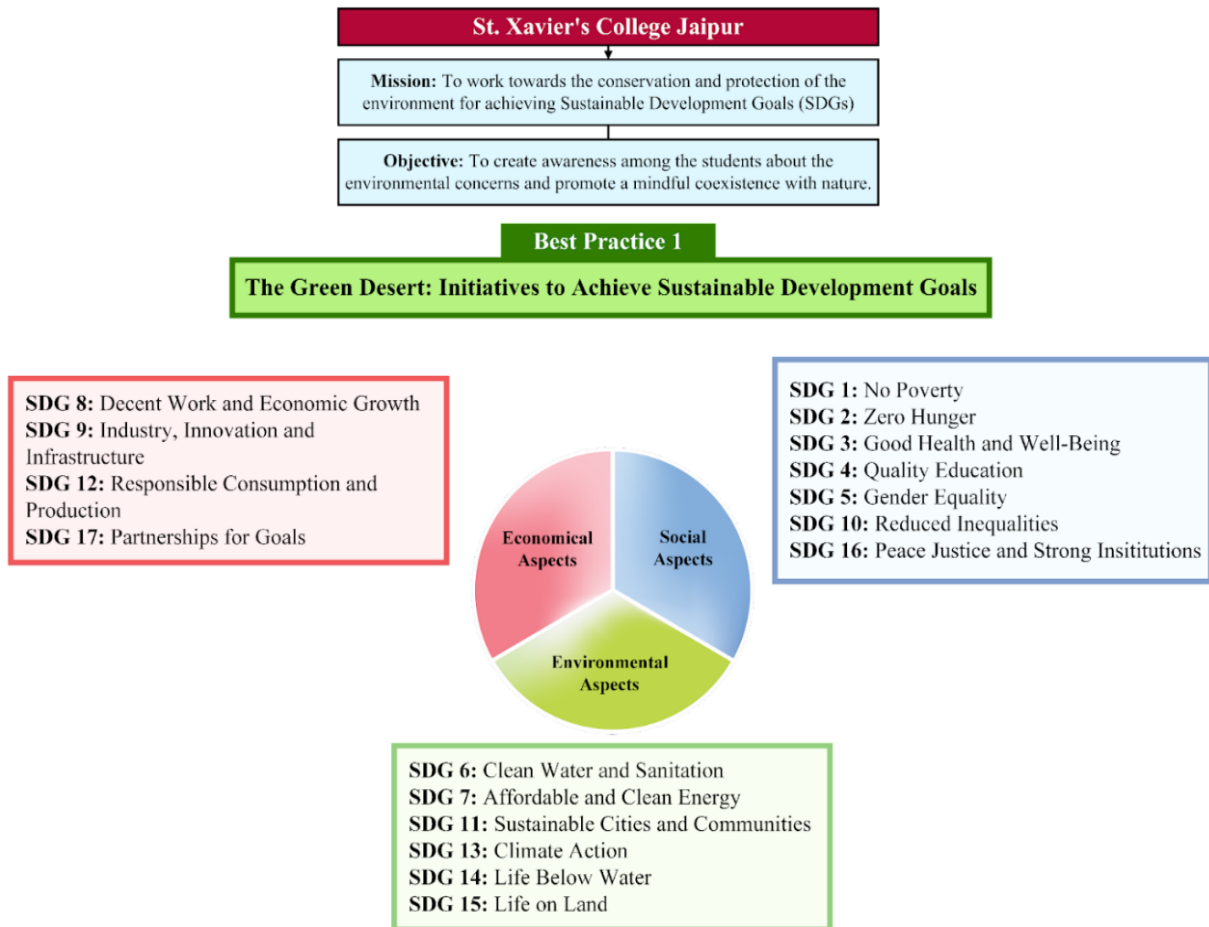
In tune with the Jesuit mission of “Caring for the Common Home” and “Healing the Broken World”, the college aims to nurture the Desert through its green initiatives:

- College promotes **sustainable development** through **community engagement** and **investment** in local resources.
- All campus activities reflect the institution's deep concern for accomplishing **SDGs** thereby ensuring **to nurture the environment in a holistic manner**.
- To **safeguard the ecosystems** in and around institution.
- To **increase awareness** for encouraging **environmental stewardship, education, and innovation**.
- To **build a unified community** celebrating diversity and **promoting inclusivity** following the mantra “*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*”

### **3. THE CONTEXT (150 Words)**

## St. Xavier's College Jaipur

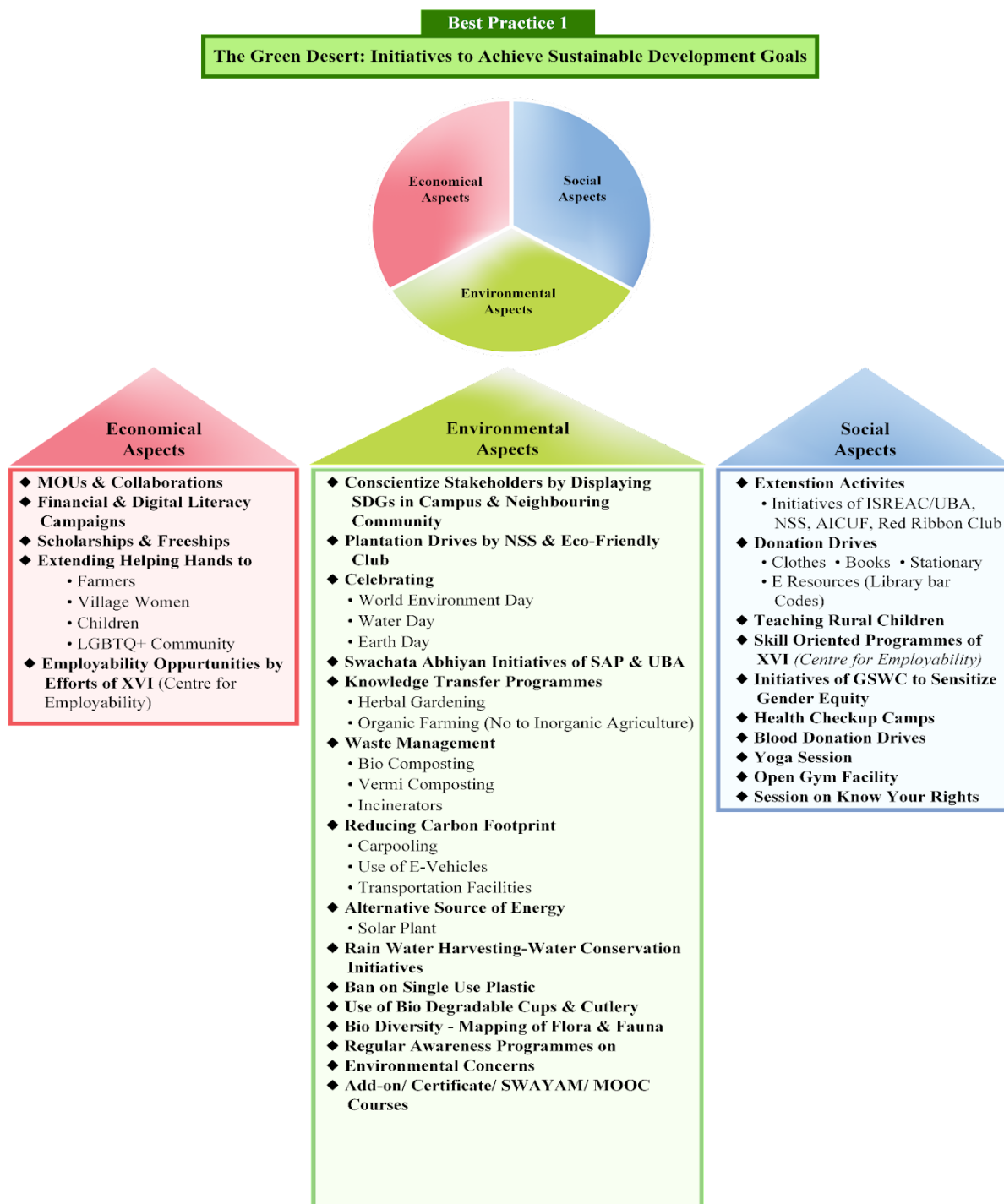
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- The college, being **passionate about environment and sustainability**, focuses on realizing the SDGs-2030 outlined by United Nations Organization in 2015.
- In today's global landscape, the intertwining **environmental, social, and economic aspects** play a pivotal role in **shaping sustainable development**.
- **Environmentally**, there is a growing awareness for responsible **resource management, reducing carbon footprint, and conservation of biodiversity**.
- **Socially**, there is an emphasis on promoting awareness about **transgender communities, social justice**, and ensuring **equitable access** to resources and opportunities.
- On the **Economic front**, **fostering a robust and resilient economic environment** that balances growth with social and environmental responsibility is the foremost objective of **creating entrepreneurs and skilled human resources**.
- The management recognizes the **interdependence of sustainability** with **social and economic factors** which is crucial for formulating policies and practices that drive positive change. It strives to foster a **harmonious equilibrium** between **environmental sustainability, social well-being, and economic prosperity**.

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**4. THE PRACTICE (400 Words)**



- **SDGs** as outlined by **United Nations** and embraced by college are **implemented proactively in college and in five UBA adopted villages.**
- **Social, Economic, and Environmental facets** are aligned with our **mission:** “To work towards the conservation and protection of the environment for achieving SDGs.”

- SXCJ is part of NASA-sponsored – **GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Programme** from **2019**, fostering scientific knowledge and environmental education.
- Annual Multi-disciplinary International Conferences are organized recognizing the critical role SDGs play in promoting sustainability:
  - **"Evolving Ecological Concerns: Transgressions, Transitions, and Transformation"**, 24-25 February 2023
  - **"Emerging New World Order in the Post-Pandemic Scenario"**, 18-19 February 2022
  - **"The Dimensions of Pandemic: COVID-19 Crisis"**, 11-12 February 2021
  - **"Rethink, Restrict, Restructure and Reinvent: The Sustainable Development Perspective"**, 7-8 February 2020
- College undertakes following initiatives **targeting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation)**:
  - ❖ **Plantation campaigns**, celebrates **World Environment Day, Water Day, and Earth Day**.
  - ❖ **ISO 14001:2015 Certified** for its Environmental Management Systems.
  - ❖ CGD Inspection Group conducted **Green Audit**.
  - ❖ Conscientizes stakeholders by **displaying SDGs** in the campus.
  - ❖ **Rainwater Harvesting through a well and a canal** within and around drought prone neighbourhood, makes every drop count.
  - ❖ **Recharges underground water levels through lawns allowing rainwater to percolate**.
  - ❖ **Organic farming and herbal gardening with farmers** as part of **Knowledge Transfer Programme**.
  - ❖ Transformed the **once-barren landscape into an oasis** enabling **sybiotic co-existence of flora and fauna through cultivation** of approximately **4000 varieties of flora (120 plant species)**, **attracting a diverse fauna of 30 distinct species**.
  - ❖ Controls pests through **Traditional Light Trap Method** and **organic pesticides**.

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- ❖ Waste segregation and disposal using eco-friendly ways through **bio-composting, vermicomposting, and Incinerator.**
- College **shifted** from conventional to **Solar Energy** (300 KW). It uses **auto sensor lights and pumps** and provides **Electric Charging Points** for E-Vehicles (SDG 7).
- **Initiatives of UBA and Department of English** support **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, by **teaching rural children** and **donating books.**
- **Fundraising campaigns**, aiding **college support staff** during **medical emergencies or their children's weddings** (SDGs 1 & 2).
- **NSS/NCC** organize **Yoga Weeks, Blood Donation and Health Camps** on campus and in adopted villages (SDG 3).
- **GSWC, AICUF and UBA** promote **gender equality, inclusivity**, giving **equal opportunities** to all (SDG 5 & 10).
- **Financial Literacy Campaigns** and **grants** for deserving students (SDG 8).

#### EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS (200 Words)

- **Silver Tree**, a **sustainable startup** founded by St. Xavier's College Jaipur's alumnus **Yash Garg (BBA Batch 2017-20)**, exemplifies the fusion of environmental responsibility and entrepreneurial ingenuity. Through innovative processes, it repurposes plastic waste into functional furniture pieces, dustbins, rooftop sheets, interlocking tiles etc.
- The college experienced a remarkable transition in terms of greenery from 2020 to 2023 which included **strategic landscaping, tree-planting initiatives, organic farming, water conservation projects and solar energy plants.** It is now a veritable **Green Desert.**
- Initiatives such as **car-pooling**, and promotion of **E-Vehicles** have significantly reduced the **carbon footprint.**
- **Promoting Inclusivity: Quality education**, as outlined in **SDG 4**, is manifested through **comprehensive academic programmes** developing critical thinking and innovation. **Access to e-library** for schools in nearby villages through **QR codes** promotes **inclusive education** and offering **scholarships ensures education accessibility for all** contributing to **SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**
- **Promoting Gender Equality:** The college demonstrated dedicated to promoting **gender equality** by **empowering women** through leadership programmes and initiatives, aligned

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with **SDG 10** and **SDG 16**. The **health and well-being initiatives** contribute to **SDG 3** through health awareness campaigns and other programmes.

- **Biodegradable waste** is transformed into **nutrient-rich compost**, fostering tree growth and environmental sustainability.
- **Alternate Source of Energy:** The College initiated efforts to support **SDG 7** by commissioning a **300 kW on-grid solar power station**. Using clean **solar energy** for electricity generation significantly **reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**.

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED (150 Words)**

- **Extreme Weather Conditions:** Extreme weather conditions, including extreme heat and cold, pose **challenges to the implementation of green initiatives** as they adversely impact infrastructure development, organic farming, and water resources. During the summer season, **sandstorms** cover solar panels with dust, necessitating use of water for effective cleaning, resulting in the decrease of **groundwater level** and this is a pressing challenge.
- **Risks of Forest Fires and Flooding:** The oxygen-rich zone on campus faces the **risk of forest fires** during the months of **intense heat**. Nevtta Dam, which is located close to the college poses a **potential risk of flooding** during monsoon.
- **Lack of Support and Collaboration:** Lack of support in getting CSR funding for environment related projects and initiatives is yet another challenge.
- **Extended Urbanization:** The **development of townships** around the college is a challenge in terms of pollution control.

**5. NOTES (150 Words)**

- The attainment of SDGs would be possible if all educational institutions constantly work together.
- The shifting of the campus from an urban area to a rural location helped the college in its objective of promoting SDGs.
- The principal's endeavour in authoring **Go Green for Environmental Sustainability** (Taylor & Francis Group published in 2021) showcases his **dedication and passion** to the cause and helped in **increasing awareness** about the environment globally.

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- The collaborations of the college with other institutions helped in promoting SDGs, despite the **challenges posed by the industrialization and urbanization** in its vicinity.
- Publishing **SDGs** in the newsletter and **college** calendar and displaying them on the campus has aided in spreading awareness about the SDGs.

This initiative is a **perfect example** of how small initiatives **can change the world** and **lead to a sustainable future**.