International Journal of Applied Social Science
Volume 6 (4), April (2019) : 895-898
Received : 13.02.2019; Revised : 27.02.2019; Accepted : 13.03.2019

RESEARCH ARTICLE
ISSN : 2394-1405 (Print)

SNDTWU: A Step Towards Sustainability

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ABSTRACT

This paper titled "SNDTWU: A Step Towards Sustainability". Is an attempt to draw attention of students and staffs of SNDT WU towards converting the existing campus into sustainable one. To make people of SNDT aware of some very important steps which we can adopt in our daily life to make our campus Eco friendly. Recently SNDT WU having completed its 100 glorious years and has stepped into another one so as a proud and responsible stakeholders, we focused to make our campus a better place where education and environment can go together hand in hand.

Key Words : Green University, Sustainable campus, Eco friendly materials, Green campus

INTRODUCTION

Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University is a women's university in the city of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. The University was started by Maharshi Karve at Pune campus with 5 widows way back in 1916 and has completed 100 years. The main aim of the university is to educate the women. The university has grown since then and having 3 campuses, 2 in Mumbai and 1 in pune, It has many affiliate colleges in all over India. The SNDT Women's university recently having completed 100 glorious years and has stepped into another one, Now as a responsible stakeholder of the campus we look forward to becoming a "green university" by becoming more sustainable and how you can get involved in environmental issues as a student or as a staff. It is become essential for university to account on environmental issues.

Now a days everyone pretty clued up on what can be done to help build a more sustainable and environmentally friendly society. On personal level, we know we should recycle, limit our energy use and do our best to buy products from sustainable sources.

Meaning of campus:

The word campus originates from the Latin "field" and was used in the 18th century to define the open space or plain within a college or university was situated.

In 2008, the U.S. green building council (USGBC) launched its green campus campaign as a way to acknowledge the integral role of campus communities in accelerating the sustainability movement. A green campus focuses on more than the life cycle of buildings, ground and infrastructures. It encourages research, promotes advocacy efforts, develops curriculum and supports academic and mission based goals that further sustainability on campus.

> Sustainability – Sustainability promotes meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
>
> Source: The United Nations 1983 Bruntland Commission

Agencies who gives green certification-

1. USGBC
2. LEED

USGBC :

Founded in 1993, USGBC is a nonprofit community

How to cite this Article: Srivstava, Harshita and Bhatnagar, Archana (2019). SNDTWU: A Step Towards Sustainability. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.,* **6** (4) : 895-898.

of leaders working to make green buildings and communities available to everyone within a generation, USGBC works towards its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building certification program, green building planning and implementation support , robust educational offerings and publications, research, a nationwide network of chapters, affiliated and student groups, the annual green build international conference and expo and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities.

Understanding its responsibility as a leader in advocating for green buildings and communities, USGBC is committed to working with college and universities to help create campuses that serves as a model of sustainably and provides students an opportunity to live and learn in places that showcases the success of the integrated approaches to green campus planning and implementation.

LEED :

In 2002, USGBC established the LEED green building certification program as a way to define the measure green building. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification program, providing third party verification that measures how well a building or community performs across the metrics that matters most.

- Impact of land
- Energy savings
- Water efficiency
- CO_2 emission reductions
- Improved indoor environmental quality.

LEED provides building owners and operators a concise framework for identifying the implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operation, and maintenance solutions. It was developed through a board consensus process that included nonprofit organizations, government agencies, architects, engineers, developers , builders, product manufacturers and other industry leaders.

Benefits of Green Campus:

There are many benefits of having a green campus-

Benefits to environment:

- Negative impact on environment of the campus can be identified so action plan can be set to improve it.
- Can save resources.
- Better waste management practice

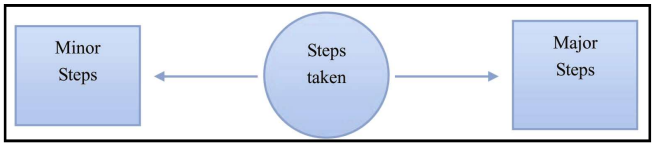
Benefits to SNDT Campus:

- Can create a "GREEN ARMY" which includes students and staff who will meet and take care of campus environment.
- Good publicity of the campus in neighborhood for a noble cause.

Benefits to Students:

- Development of new research skills among students like- developing action plan, setting targets, investigation etc.
- Improvement in learning outcomes.

Steps taken for making a Campus Green:



Small /Minor Steps:

"Small steps can make a big wonder" in our surroundings there are hundreds of daily routine work if we do small changes I them they can make a big difference. These small changes we can implement in our daily life that take a little to no time or efforts and can actually save a lot of money. Adopting eco- friendly approaches in daily life doesn't have to be difficult. With the following small steps as a responsible student we can make a positive change in our environment.

1. Make a habit to switch off your electronic appliances, lights, fans, power off your computers, laptops and mobile charger at night or when you are not using them r you're about to leave the room/ class room. In return your electrical bill will pay you a big "Thank You".
2. Go healthy take a walk – instead of driving a car and going to gym for burning your extra fat try to take a walk. Stop using autorishkaw, car and motorbikes in your campus or for shorter distance. In order to this we can save our fossil fuel and in other hand give a healthy lifestyle to our body and cleaner environment to our next generation.
3. Start carpooling for a long distance.
4. Planting trees – we all have one special day in a

year once that is our birth day so take a pledge to plant a tree and taking care of that instead of wasting money in materialistic things.

5. Don't be a shopaholic – many of us are very fond of shopping and buying things impulsively. Don't get easily attracted to products and packaging's. Buy what you actually needed. Purchasing only must needed items you are not only going green but you are kind enough towards your wallets

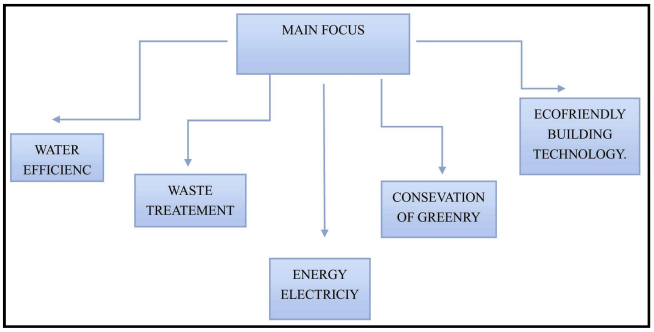
6. Minimize the use of plastic bags in campus and motivate staff and students to start fresh with khadi/ jute bags. Always carry your recyclable bags while shopping or in daily use.

7. Avoid using disposable: try to maintain maximum distance with all non-recyclable, plastic disposable utensils. With a little effort we can easily find recyclable nontoxic pattal plates made of plant leaves for our parties and fun. In this way we can introduce some small scale industries to our main stream line.

8. Buy Green and support better brands: make a habit to check the details of every brand before buying the product. It is very easy to find environmentally responsible brands. You have to be aware of symbols showing recyclable, reusable, toxin free items that are not tested on animals. It will make a small difference to you but a big one to our environment.

Big/ Major Steps:

In the process of becoming more environment friendly as a responsible educational institute SNDT WU focusing on.



1. Create awareness to promote environment sustainability in campus area.
2. Organizing expert talks about environmental issues.
3. Encouraging research activities in the field of environment and for that department of family resource management introduced a course on environmental studies and energy management in the teaching curriculum.
4. **Converting our conventional lights into solar lights**:
   Benefits –a. will be able to minimize the electricity bill.
   b. Reduce our dependency on conventional energy.
   c. Save our environment from burning fossil fuel.
5. **Rain water harvesting plant and recycling of water** –
   Benefits- a. for gardening purpose
   b. For swiping ,mopping and cleaning purpose.
   c. In the low-flow toilet flush.
6. Bio Gas Plant:
   Benefits- A. recycle of bio waste of SNDT campus like food waste leafs and garden waste and ill able to produce gas for cooking purpose in campus canteen, hostel mess and nutrition cooking lab.
   Residue of plant can be used as manure for gardening.
7. In the process of conserving greenery SNDT campus has set a garden full of medicinal plants.
8. In the terms of green building concept we as a responsible citizen decided to use only eco-friendly building materials like eco-friendly paints, ply's, solutions etc.

Conclusion:

Green campus is a place where environment and education both can go hand in hand. In other words we can say that green campus is an educational society which provides higher education of students and simultaneously work for betterment of improving energy efficiency, improving quality of environment, resource conservation and creating healthy and green living pattern.

Going green in a campus is a bundle of efforts to set up environmentally conscious practices in educational institutions. Its aim is to decease the impact of ecological footprints by applying the principles of sustainability at

every level of campus functioning.

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