

Distinctiveness

A. Enhanced Access To Socially And Economically Disadvantaged Sections

In accordance with the articulated vision and mission of the University, it has quickly adapted to the rapid changes necessitated by the reforms, both in economic and educational spheres and contributed to the achievement of the nation's educational policy goals i.e. increased access to market oriented quality education while ensuring equity. A unique scheme for extending financial assistance from University generated funds with an average annual budget of around Rs 2 crores, to students belonging to economically weaker sections was introduced to ensure that the students from disadvantaged social and economic backgrounds are not deprived of educational opportunities. This is in addition to scholarship schemes funded by the government agencies. GGSIP University is among very few public universities which have become self-reliant within a short span of 5 years of its establishment.

Additional resources have also been generated by efficient use of educational infrastructure through continuous education and executive training programmes. It is noteworthy to mention that 25% of the fee paid by the students of GGSIPU is channelized to the Delhi Government Higher Education Fund which is used for promoting access and equal opportunities to the students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

B. Campus Bio-Diversity and Sustainability Practice

University's Dwarka campus, spread over 60+ acres, is a complex peri-urban area adjacent to Najafgarh drain surrounded by compensatory plantation, agricultural fields and natural vegetation spread. The civil and architectural designs and the construction practices followed were consistent with various environment friendly approaches and conservation practices viz; solid waste recycling, rain water harvesting, sewage water treatment, recycling for waste water for air-conditioning & horticulture, use of solar energy. landscaping, restricted vehicular movement and providing for pedestrian walk ways etc.

The University laid thrust on operating in a sustainable way with minimal environmental impact. Around 20% area is left wild and native wild species are being allowed to grow and survive. The environmental commitments include protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The university was landscaped with selected indigenous and exotic tree species, shrubs, and herbs. Repeated plantations were done year after year and green spaces are developed. Various native keystone plants are planted to revitalize the area. Fruiting trees like *Ficus benghalensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Ficus benjamina*, *Ficus virens*, *Morus alba*, *Melia azaderach*, *Azadirachta indica*, , *Syzigium cumini*, *Mimusops elengi*,

Terminalia arjuna, *Putranjiva roxburghii*, *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Ficus amplissima*, *Zizyphus mauritiana*, *Moringa oelifera*, *Kigelia pinnata*, support many residential and migratory avian diversity like Alexandrine parakeets, Rose ringed parakeets, Asian Koel, Yellow footed Green Pigeon, Red vented Common Hawk cuckoo, Brown headed Barbet, Coppersmith barbet, Indian Grey Hornbill, Common myna, Bank Myna, Rufous Treepie, House Crow, Large Grey Babbler, Jungle Babbler. Some granivores like Scaly-breasted and Silver-billed Munias as well as house sparrows could be seen in the campus natural wild patches, which are abundant with grasses like *Sacchrum officinale*, *Panicum sp.*, *Pennisetum glaucum* etc.

A fruit garden includes trees like *Phyllanthus embillica*, *Manilkara zapota*, *Punica granatum*, *Prunus persica* and many citrus fruit species. Many seasonal flowering plants provide sources of nectar and pollen as well as suitable nesting habitats thus enhancing the pollinator diversity as well. Various nectariferous tree species like *Erythrina variegata*, *Spathodea campanulata*, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Callistemon viminalis*, *Tecoma stans*, *Albizia lebeck*, *Calliandra haematocephala*, *Moringa oelifera* attracts mostly sunbirds, butterflies and honeybees. It also harbors separate garden for rare, endangered and threatened plant species.

These efforts yielded results and now the campus harbors more than 100 species of avian fauna and sustains a wide range of floral and faunal species alongside human presence thus providing positive aesthetic benefits and psychological well-being to students and staff.

The ecosystem supports a diverse range of insects, which attract birds and animals. The campus supports wildlife and is a home to over 50 species of **spiders**, 3 species of **Amphibians**, 40 species of **lepidopterans** (butterflies and moths), 14 species of **Reptiles** and 6 species of **Mammals** including 3 species of **Bats**.

New and Rare spiders from Campus include *Aegyrodes bonadea*, *Stenaelurillus jagannathae*, *Thomisus unidentatus*. Among Mammals, *Scotophilus kuhlii* is a new find (New report for Delhi as well as range extension in North India.)

It is worth mentioning that 110 species of **Birds** recorded from Campus and identified as *Birding Hotspot* by *eBird.com*. This year, stood 2nd in Campus Bird Count as Institutional Campus in Delhi on 20th Feb. 2022.

These endeavors have nurtured a number of young enthusiastic conservationists who have published a book entitled 'Wings of Dwarka' on the birds based on the first hand observation in and around campus green spaces, emphasizing the necessity of preserving and maintaining natural wild flora and fauna. The University campus also

provide for an exceptional opportunity for biodiversity research, conservation and education, as well as connecting the residents and students with nature.

C. Educational Development in NCR Region (Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh) through Distinct Model

The winds of economic changes introduced in 1990's, started touching various sectors of economy. The liberated entrepreneurial potential that was unleashed required great impetus in the form of trained human resources with knowledge and skills compatible with the market and knowledge economy. The University was mandated to primarily focus on technical and professional education with participation and active collaboration of public spirited private trusts/societies willing to invest funds and expanding educational opportunities and increased access to quality education.

GGSIU can proudly cherish playing a significant role in the setting up of number of institutes offering technical and professional courses in and around Delhi. It is uniquely positioned as the only State University which has the status of affiliating university. The jurisdiction for granting affiliation extends to the entire National Capital Region of Delhi comprising areas which are part of neighboring states like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and University has accorded affiliation to many institutes with the concurrence/NOC from respective states. It reflects the popularity of programmes offered by the University among the students of other states and is a testimony to the contribution made for educational development of entire NCR aside NCT of Delhi.