Best Practice I – The Botany garden – Vatika

1. Title of the Practice:

To highlight the importance of Institutional Garden green spaces in Urban Biodiversity conservation.

2. Objectives of the practice:

• To document and monitor the diversity of flora and fauna found in campus and botany garden in particular.

• To inculcate interests among students and faculty on understanding urban biodiversity and its conservation by developing small gardens in an urban environment.

3. The context:

Generally, the student and faculty tend to spend very less amount of time in observing the flora and fauna and have a very shallow understanding about ecosystem services rendered by such small urban landscapes. Many lawns and spick and span surroundings are good and fail services rendered by small things like even leaf litter.

4. The practice:

• Development of theme-based garden in the botanical garden. the stakeholders feel to understand the ecosystem and

• Steps were taken to prevent down cutting of trees as they help in taking care of carbon footprints of the campus by sequestering them in their biomass.

• Name boards for plants around the campus to generate interest among students in knowing the diversity around them by their common name.

• Post graduate students are encouraged to do research projects every academic year to monitor and keep interest going among the students for monitoring and conservation.

• In order to carry out effective recycling of garden wastes, manure pits have been designed in the garden for enrich the garden soil with natural organic leaf litter manure.

5. Evidence of Success:

• Revived interest among the student community for basic sciences like botany, Zoology and Environmental Sciences.

• Effective recycling of garden litter for natural organic leaf litter manure.

• Two post graduate thesis are transcribed as an outcome based on the student's interest in campus flora.

• Small student projects being undertaken by students as part of the regular PG curriculum.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

• Lack of nursery staff for the effective implementation of the new concepts. • Lack of resource to increase to bring the extension activities.