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## Green Narratives in Academic Gardens: Implementing Sustainability in Universities

Rupali Satsangi\*, J K Verma\*\*, and Prem Kumar Kalra\*\*\*

Sustainability is increasingly becoming a central focus on college campuses. Numerous prospective students evaluate their choices based on the extent of sustainable practices their desired institutions embrace. The belief that sustainable initiatives are inherently complex is frequently misleading; in truth, many actions can be as straightforward as choosing a reusable water bottle over a plastic one. More comprehensive endeavors, such as establishing and nurturing a campus garden, can further advance sustainability efforts. This article examines the concept of sustainability, its advantages, its significance within higher education, and strategies for its implementation and promotion.

Sustainability fundamentally represents a social vision aiming to prioritise productive work, adequate comfort and security, a clean and safe environment, good health, and opportunities for personal growth. Embracing a sustainability mindset signifies a lifestyle choice where education is crucial in fostering environmental consciousness. It highlights the influence of both individuals and communities on nature and climate.

Sustainable practices are gaining traction across college and university campuses, enhancing the quality of life within the campus and adjacent communities. This approach addresses energy use, economic stability, community welfare, and technological progress. Sustainable living creates a lively, empathetic, innovative, and adaptable atmosphere for learning, working, and living in, especially on campuses committed to integrating sustainability throughout their planning, educational programs, and extracurricular activities.

For many students, environmental protection might not be their primary concern. However, the local ecosystem is affected by the habits of those residing in it, which also holds for college and university settings. Given their substantial student populations, university campuses often generate more waste than other residential types.

Although the notion of sustainability is relatively recent, its origins can be traced back to movements focused on social justice, conservation, and international cooperation. By the late twentieth

\*Professor, Department of Economics, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, ((Deemed-to-be University)), Dayalbagh, Agra- 282005 Uttar Pradesh. E-mail: drupalisatsangi@dei.ac.in

\*\*Head, Department of English, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, (Deemed-to-be University), Dayalbagh, Agra- 282005 Uttar Pradesh. E-mail: drpremkalra@gmail.com

\*\*\*Former Director, IIT Jodhpur. Presently, Senior Director, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, ((Deemed-to-be University)), Dayalbagh, Agra-282005 Uttar Pradesh. E-mail: drpremkalra@gmail.com

