

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Student Community Collaboration Project



ESTD : 1978

SDG focus

- ☒ Goal 4 - Quality education
- ☒ Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- ☒ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

What did you do?

Dispur College, Guwahati, Assam, India has taken an impactful step toward promoting sustainability in education by adopting four under-resourced schools in and around Guwahati. This initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 4 – Quality Education** and **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**. The

college has not only focused on academic support but also contributed to the holistic development of students by addressing health, nutrition, and basic infrastructure needs.

Schools Adopted:

The following schools were adopted by Dispur College as part of this initiative:

1. **Praggyotish L.P. School**, Islampur, Guwahati, Assam, India
2. **Gurunanak L.P. School**, Islampur, Guwahati, Assam, India
3. **Maghuapara L.P. School**, Pamohi, Kamrup Metro, Assam, India
4. **Purbanchal Hindi M.E. School**, Kachari Basti, Guwahati, Assam, India

These schools cater to children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and often struggle with limited educational and infrastructural resources.



Image: The Principal, faculty members and the student volunteers from Dispur College are teaching basic subjects, helping the students of adopted school with homework, and conducting fun learning activities.

Objective of the Initiative

The primary objectives of the initiative are:

1. To embed sustainability and inclusivity into the educational ecosystem of marginalized communities.
2. To provide material support and academic assistance to underserved schoolchildren.
3. To encourage experiential learning and civic engagement among Dispur College students.
4. To foster a community-based model of sustainable development through education.

Key Activities Undertaken

1. Distribution of Essential Resources:

- **School Uniforms:** Provided to promote equality and school attendance.
- **Books and School Bags:** Ensured that children had access to necessary learning materials.
- **Nutritional Support:** Distribution of packaged food items during school visits to address issues of malnutrition.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Supplies such as floor mats, whiteboards, and classroom essentials were donated to improve learning conditions.

2. Health Check-Up Camps:

- Organized health screening camps for students of the adopted schools.
- Basic health parameters such as height, weight, vision, and oral hygiene were checked.
- Awareness was created on personal hygiene and preventive healthcare practices.

3. Academic Engagement:

- Regular visits by faculty members and student volunteers from Dispur College to teach basic subjects, help with homework, and conduct fun learning activities.
- Special attention was given to foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

4. Community Interaction and Awareness Drives:

- Meetings with school staff and parents to promote the importance of continuous education.
- Efforts to discourage early dropout and encourage girl child education.

What were the benefits and outcomes?

Impact of the Initiative

- **Improved Attendance and Participation:** The provision of resources and interactive teaching methods led to greater enthusiasm among students and increased school attendance.
- **Boost in Student Confidence:** Receiving uniforms and school bags gave students a sense of belonging and dignity.
- **Strengthened College-Community Relationships:** The initiative brought Dispur College closer to the local community, fostering mutual trust and collaboration.
- **Enhanced Civic Responsibility Among College Students:** Participation in teaching and outreach activities helped Dispur College students develop a deeper understanding of social issues and sustainability.

What barriers or challenges did you encounter in embedding sustainability into your learning and teaching practice and how did you overcome them?

Challenges Faced

- **Limited Infrastructure in Schools:** Inadequate facilities sometimes hindered effective teaching and learning.
- **Irregular Student Attendance:** Economic and social challenges at home affected student regularity.
- **Resource Constraints:** Continued support requires more consistent funding and external partnerships.
- **Logistical Issues:** Transportation and time management for regular visits posed difficulties for student and faculty volunteers.

Conclusions

Dispur College's adoption of these four schools stands as a model for sustainable educational intervention at the grassroots level. By blending academic knowledge with social outreach, the initiative not only uplifts marginalized students but also instils a sense of civic duty in college students. This effort contributes to building a more equitable and sustainable educational framework in Assam.