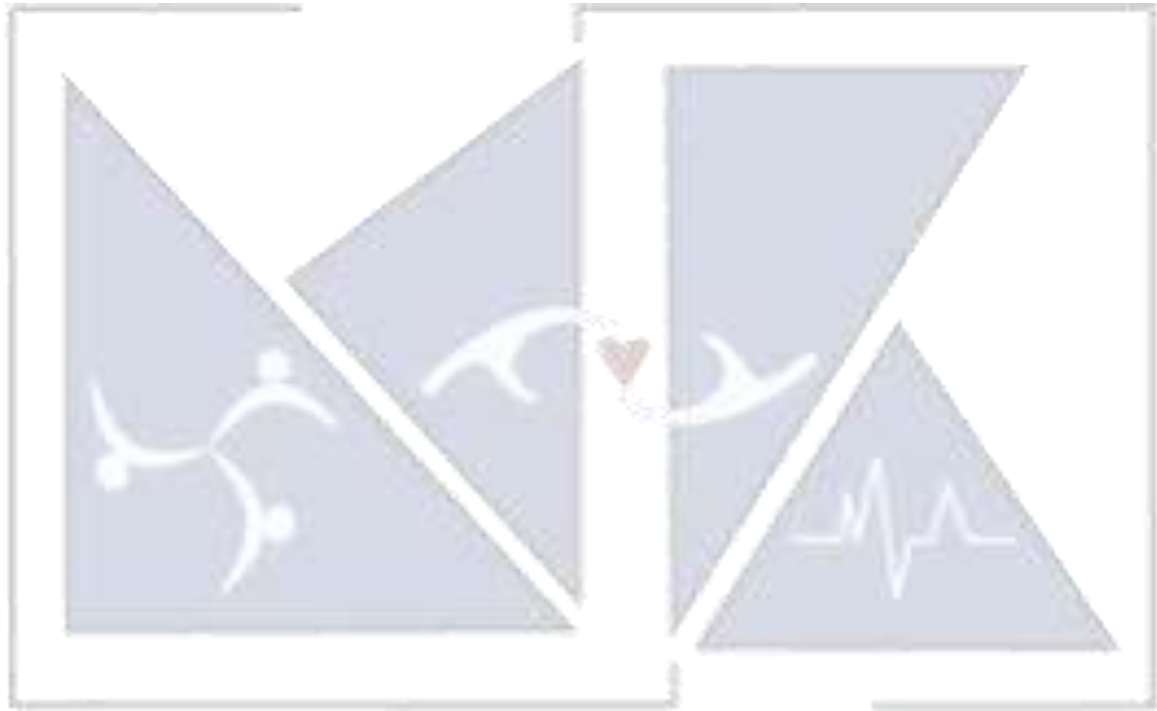


UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN (UBA)

"GREEN VILLAGES INITIATIVE: TREE PLANTATION DRIVE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY"



—Transforming Lives—

Submitted By

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INTRODUCTION

The present success story highlights the **Tree Plantation Drive undertaken by Smt. Malini Kishore Sanghvi Homoeopathic Medical College, Karjan, under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)** in the adopted villages of **Vemar, Surwada and Sambhoi**. The initiative was undertaken with the active participation of students, faculty members, the UBA team and local villagers with the broader objective of promoting environmental conservation, increasing green cover and contributing towards the development of cleaner, greener and healthier rural communities.

The activity was planned not merely as a plantation programme but as a **community-oriented environmental intervention**. During field-level interaction with villagers, the community identified an important practical challenge associated with the survival of newly planted saplings. The villagers expressed that **tree guards were necessary to protect the young plants from damage, particularly from animals and other external factors, and to ensure their proper survival and healthy growth**. This community feedback became an important component of the initiative and demonstrated the active involvement and ownership of the rural community.

Recognizing and responding to this locally identified requirement, **Dr. Hemangini Adke generously donated tree guards** for the protection of the planted saplings. This contribution provided practical support to the plantation activity and helped strengthen its sustainability by addressing one of the major challenges faced during the early growth stage of trees.

The initiative therefore represents a meaningful cycle of **community participation, identification of local needs, collaborative action and sustainable development**. Rather than limiting the intervention to planting trees, the programme emphasized the importance of protecting and nurturing them so that they can survive and provide long-term environmental benefits.

BACKGROUND OF THE INITIATIVES

The adopted villages of Vemar, Surwada and Sambhoi are rural communities where the surrounding natural environment plays an important role in the daily lives of the residents. During regular interaction with villagers and field-level visits, the importance of maintaining clean, green and healthy surroundings was recognized. Environmental degradation, reduction in vegetation, increasing temperature, dust and changing climatic conditions can affect the quality of life of rural communities. Increasing the number of trees can serve as a simple yet effective local intervention towards improving the village environment.

The UBA team therefore identified tree plantation as an activity through which students, faculty and villagers could work together towards a common environmental goal.

The initiative was based on the understanding that **planting a tree is only the first step; protecting and nurturing the tree until it becomes established is equally**

important. Therefore, community participation and protection of saplings were incorporated into the activity from the beginning.

NEED FOR THE ACTIVITY

The activity was undertaken after recognizing the need to promote environmental conservation and increase green cover in the adopted villages.

The major needs identified were:

- Increasing green cover in the villages.
- Promoting awareness regarding environmental conservation.
- Creating cleaner and healthier surroundings.
- Reducing the impact of excessive heat and dust.
- Encouraging villagers to participate in environmental protection.
- Developing a sense of ownership towards planted saplings.
- Encouraging students to understand their social and environmental responsibilities.
- Promoting sustainable development at the village level.
- Protecting newly planted saplings to improve their chances of survival and growth.

During community interaction, villagers specifically highlighted the requirement for **tree guards** because newly planted saplings could be damaged by animals, human activities or other environmental factors. This feedback was incorporated into the initiative, making the programme more responsive to the actual needs of the community.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the Tree Plantation Drive were:

1. To increase green cover in the villages.
2. To promote environmental awareness among rural communities.
3. To encourage villagers to actively participate in environmental conservation.
4. To educate students regarding social responsibility and sustainable development.
5. To encourage community ownership of planted trees.
6. To improve the surrounding village environment.
7. To create awareness regarding the ecological benefits of trees.
8. To encourage long-term protection and maintenance of planted saplings.
9. To strengthen the relationship between the educational institution and the adopted villages.
10. To develop a culture of environmental responsibility among students and community members.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The plantation activity was planned in coordination with the UBA team, faculty members, students and representatives of the adopted villages.

Before implementation, suitable plantation sites were identified after considering the availability of open spaces, accessibility, availability of water and the possibility of protecting the saplings.

The planning process included:

- Identification of suitable plantation locations.
- Interaction with villagers regarding suitable sites.
- Selection and arrangement of saplings.
- Mobilization of students and faculty members.
- Arrangement of plantation materials.
- Coordination with local community members.
- Awareness regarding the importance of tree plantation.
- Discussion regarding post-plantation care.
- Identification of the need for protection of young saplings.

The planning process emphasized that the plantation should be sustainable and that the community should remain involved even after the completion of the plantation activity.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

The Tree Plantation Drive was conducted in the UBA-adopted villages of **Vemar, Surwada and Sambhoi**.

Villegers, Authority of village and UBA team members participated actively in the plantation activity along with local villagers. Saplings were planted at identified locations with appropriate spacing and basic care measures.

The participants were guided regarding proper planting techniques, watering, protection and maintenance of the saplings.

The initiative was therefore implemented as a collaborative activity involving:

UBA Team + Villagers

This collaborative approach helped develop a sense of shared responsibility towards the planted trees.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & NEED FOR TREE GUARDS

One of the most important outcomes of the interaction with the local community was the identification of a practical challenge associated with tree plantation.

The villagers expressed that **tree guards were essential for protecting the newly planted saplings and ensuring their sustainability and healthy growth**. In the absence of adequate protection, young saplings may be damaged by grazing animals, accidental human activities or other external factors.

The demand for tree guards demonstrated that the villagers were not merely interested in plantation but were concerned about the **long-term survival and growth of the trees**.

This community feedback was given due importance by the UBA team and became an important component of the sustainability strategy.

CONTRIBUTION OF DR. HEMANGINI ADKE

In response to the community's genuine requirement, **Dr. Hemangini Adke donated tree guards for the protection of the planted saplings**.

Her contribution provided practical support for ensuring the safety and sustainability of the newly planted trees.

The provision of tree guards strengthened the overall impact of the plantation drive because it addressed one of the major challenges identified by the villagers themselves.

The contribution also demonstrated how individual support and institutional-community collaboration can convert a plantation activity into a more sustainable environmental intervention.

The initiative therefore reflected a complete cycle:

Community identified the need → UBA team recognized the concern → Tree guards were provided → Saplings received protection → Long-term survival and growth were encouraged.

This community-responsive approach is one of the significant features of the success story.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation was one of the major strengths of the initiative.

The villagers participated in the plantation activity and interacted with students and faculty members regarding environmental concerns and the care of planted saplings.

The community was encouraged to:

- Participate in plantation.
- Protect the planted saplings.
- Support regular watering.
- Avoid activities that could damage young plants.
- Maintain the cleanliness of plantation areas.
- Develop ownership towards the planted trees.
- Report damaged saplings or tree guards when required.

The villagers' request for tree guards itself demonstrated their involvement and concern regarding the future survival of the trees.

This participation helped transform the activity from an institution-led plantation programme into a **community-supported environmental initiative**.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The plantation drive was accompanied by awareness regarding the importance of trees and environmental conservation.

Participants were made aware that trees:

- Absorb carbon dioxide and contribute to oxygen production.
- Help improve air quality.
- Provide shade and reduce local heat.
- Help control soil erosion.
- Support birds, insects and other biodiversity.
- Improve the appearance of village surroundings.
- Contribute to ecological balance.
- Support long-term environmental sustainability.

The participants were also encouraged to understand that environmental conservation is a continuous process requiring collective responsibility.

ROLE OF TEAM MEMBERS

The UBA team played a key role in planning, coordination and implementation.

Their responsibilities included:

- Coordinating with the adopted villages.
- Communicating with local community members.
- Identifying appropriate plantation sites.
- Guiding students.
- Coordinating the plantation activity.
- Understanding community requirements.
- Facilitating community participation.
- Supporting environmental awareness.
- Encouraging long-term maintenance of the planted saplings.

The UBA team ensured that the activity remained aligned with the broader objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

ACTIVITY COVERAGE

LIST OF VILLAGES:

1. Vemar
2. Surwada
3. Sambhoi

TOTAL NO. OF SAPLINGS PLANTED: 50

NO. OF TREE GUARDS DONATED: 50

MEMBERS INVOLVED: UBA Team + Villagers

LONG TERM EXPECTED IMPACT

The initiative is expected to create long-term environmental and social benefits.

With appropriate protection, maintenance and community support, the planted saplings can contribute to:

- Increased green cover in the adopted villages.
- Improvement in the local micro-environment.
- Reduction of excessive heat in plantation areas.
- Improvement in air quality.
- Prevention of soil erosion.
- Improvement in the aesthetic appearance of villages.

- Creation of habitats for birds and insects.
- Increased environmental awareness.
- Greater community participation in sustainable practices.
- Development of environmentally responsible behaviour among students and young people.

The provision of tree guards is expected to further improve the possibility of sapling survival by protecting young plants during their vulnerable growth stage.

SUSTAINIBILITY OF INITIATIVES

The sustainability of the initiative was given special importance.

The UBA team recognized that the success of plantation cannot be measured only by the number of saplings planted. The actual success depends on their **survival, growth and continued care**.

The community was therefore encouraged to take responsibility for:

- Regular watering.
- Protection of saplings.
- Maintaining tree guards.
- Keeping the surrounding area clean.
- Informing the UBA team about damaged or dead saplings.
- Supporting replacement plantation wherever necessary.

The tree guards donated by **Dr. Hemangini Adke** provide an important protective measure for the newly planted saplings.

Periodic visits by the UBA team can further help in monitoring the condition of the trees and documenting their growth.

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

The activity also helped identify challenges that may affect the survival of newly planted saplings.

These include:

- Availability of adequate water during dry periods.
- Damage by grazing animals.
- Accidental damage due to human activities.
- Seasonal variations.
- Extreme weather conditions.

- Lack of regular maintenance.
- Requirement for continuous community involvement.

The interaction with villagers was particularly valuable because it helped identify the need for **tree guards as a practical solution to protect young saplings**.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

To improve the survival and sustainability of the planted trees, the following measures were emphasized:

1. Provision of suitable tree guards.
2. Donation of tree guards by **Dr. Hemangini Adke**.
3. Encouragement of regular watering.
4. Community involvement in protecting the plants.
5. Periodic monitoring of planted saplings.
6. Replacement of damaged or dead saplings wherever required.
7. Awareness among villagers regarding the importance of protecting trees.
8. Encouragement of local ownership of plantation sites.

The provision of tree guards based on the community's demand represents an important example of **need-based intervention under UBA**.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The initiative contributed to the broader objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan by bringing together the educational institution and rural community for a common environmental purpose.

It promoted:

- Community participation.
- Environmental responsibility.
- Student engagement.
- Collective action.
- Sustainable development.
- Rural–institution partnership.
- Community ownership.
- Awareness regarding environmental protection.

The activity demonstrated that meaningful rural development can begin with small, locally relevant interventions when the community is involved in identifying its needs and participating in solutions.

SUCCESS OF THE INITIATIVES

The Tree Plantation Drive was successfully conducted in the UBA-adopted villages of **Vemar, Surwada and Sambhoi** with the participation of students, faculty members and villagers.

The initiative achieved more than the physical plantation of saplings. It created an opportunity for interaction between the institution and rural communities and encouraged villagers to become active stakeholders in environmental conservation.

An important indicator of the success of the initiative was the **community's demand for tree guards**. This demonstrated that villagers were concerned not only with planting trees but also with their protection, sustainability and future growth.

The contribution of **Dr. Hemangini Adke through the donation of tree guards** provided a practical response to this community requirement and strengthened the sustainability of the activity.

The initiative therefore represents a successful example of how UBA can facilitate **participatory, need-based and sustainable rural development**.

CONCLUSIONS

The **Green Villages Initiative: Tree Plantation Drive for Environmental Sustainability** undertaken under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in the adopted villages of **Vemar, Surwada and Sambhoi** was a meaningful step towards environmental conservation and community development.

The activity brought together students, faculty members, the UBA team and local villagers with the shared objective of creating greener and healthier village surroundings. Through plantation and environmental awareness, the initiative encouraged the community to recognize the importance of trees and their contribution to ecological balance and human well-being.

A significant achievement of the initiative was the active feedback received from the villagers regarding the need for **tree guards to protect the newly planted saplings and ensure their sustainability and growth**. The donation of tree guards by **Dr. Hemangini Adke** provided valuable support in addressing this community-identified need.

The initiative highlights an important principle of sustainable development: **planting a tree is only the beginning; protecting, nurturing and ensuring its survival is what creates lasting impact**.

The success of this initiative will ultimately be reflected in the survival and healthy growth of the planted trees and the continued involvement of the community in their protection.

Through continued monitoring, community participation and future environmental activities, the institution remains committed to supporting the development of **cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable UBA-adopted villages.**

“Planting a tree creates hope; protecting it creates a sustainable future.”





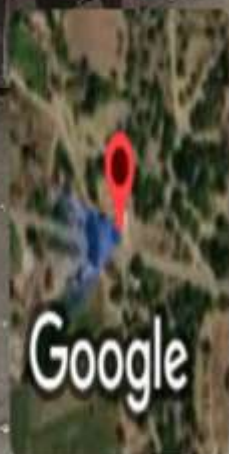








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