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A Summary Green Audit of Puthimari College Campus

Puthimari College at Someswar in Kamrup(Rural) district of Assam is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river at a distance of 36 km from Guwahati. Established in 1981 and affiliated to Gauhati University, this premier liberal arts college of the region has a predominantly rural setting with a campus sprawled over 12 acres of land, 60-70% of which are covered by greenery comprising trees, plants and grasses. The large variety of tree species available in the campus ranges from medicinal and fruit bearing trees to decorative and ornamental ones. The total number of trees presently stands around two hundred. All of these are of indigenous origin and part of traditional use for local communities; however many of these are fast becoming rarer by the day and hence, the need for their conservation and popularization. Except for the build-up areas housing different college and hostel buildings, campus roads and parking lots, the rest of the areas are covered by vegetation comprising trees, plants, leaves and grasses that support a range of local and migratory birds, small mammals, insects and butterflies. The flower garden and rows of trees on the road side and at other strategic locations in the campus, maintained with adequate care and protection, seem to have added to the overall richness of the environmental quality of the campus. The campus is well maintained in terms of generation and disposal of wastes with garbage collection bins placed in various places and their proper disposal at regular intervals. Considerable awareness has been generated in this regard among the students, employees and the public living in the neighbourhood. The campus has already been declared as a plastic free zone. Provision of potable drinking water, adequate maintenance of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in the working, eating and living areas including the canteen, hostels, toilets are other aspects that have contributed towards better environmental management of the college campus. Special provisions are made in the campus to make it user-friendly and safe for the female students as well as physically challenged persons. The new thrust being put by the college authority on harnessing 'green energy' from solar power systems for the campus will further enhance the environmental quality of the campus and its surrounding areas. All told, it may be summarized in the end that the college maintains its campus in an environmentally sound ambiance with a well managed ecosystem within the available geographical space and utilizing limited resources.

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