

## **BEST PRACTICE -2**

### **1. Title of the practice:** Preservation of Important Plant species

#### **Objectives:**

- a. To develop medicinal plant garden
- b. To preserve locally rare medicinal plant species.
- c. Seed preservation of locally available crop plants.
- d. To enhance interest among students towards gardening.
- e. To impart practical knowledge of cultivation of medicinal plants.

#### **Context:**

Abhayapuri College is located in the middle of the Abhayapuri town, a historic place once ruled by the Bijni estate. The Abhayapuri town was established by the queen Abhayeswari, who was one of the pioneers of nature conservation in the entire region of southern Assam. On her direct supervision, a massive plantation of Indian Mast tree, locally known as 'Devdaru' (Scientific name: *Polyalthia longifolia*) was planted during her reign. Due to the presence of the tree species, the town is also known as 'Devdaru nagari'. The entire area of Abhayapuri is surrounded by several protected areas, like Bamungaon reserve forest in the North side, Kakoijana reserve forest is located in the North West side. Malegarh and Singimari forest hills are in the Southern part of Abhayapuri. All the forests are habitats of several species of animals and plants including critically endangered Golden langur. Kujia, Mora kujia and Koiya are the rivers flowing near Abhayapuri.

Abhayapuri college has been trying to influence the entire student community of the college including teaching and non teaching staff to protect the local natural resources through activities like awareness programmes, plantation etc. Therefore, it has chosen the conservation of important local plant species as its best practice. Among them, the medicinal plant species are given special consideration for their immense potential for human well being.

#### **The practice:**

The Botany department of the college has been taking the initiative to identify and collect locally important medicinal plants. The students have been involved in the process of collection. The Abhayapuri college environment cell has also been playing a proactive role of awareness on plantation in the college campus. The college has also implemented a few projects regarding preservation cum plantation of important plant species with the

help of other agencies. The beautification of the college campus has also been managed with such initiatives.

**Evidence of Success:**

About 100 different species of plants are grown on the college campus. Some of the important medicinal plants are- Neem, Arjun, Indian bullet tree, Elephant apple, Amla, etc.

Establishment of Medicinal and Aromatic plant garden in the Kedarnath campus at Bamungaon.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

**Problems:** Limited resources in terms of finance and manpower.

**Resource required:** Water supply facility, full time gardener