Best Practice – 1

1. Title: Promote environmental sustainability and raise awareness on critical social issues

2. Objective:

The objective of GGDC Lalgarh is to foster a sense of community responsibility, promote environmental sustainability, and raise awareness on critical social issues. Through active participation in community-centric programs, the college aims to develop holistic individuals who contribute to the welfare of society and the environment.

3. The Context:

GGDC Lalgarh is situated in a remote and rugged area where access to resources and infrastructural facilities is limited. Despite these challenges, the college has adopted a proactive approach to engage with the local community through regular environmental and social awareness initiatives. These initiatives are largely spearheaded by the college's National Service Scheme (NSS) unit, which works under the guidance of the college authorities to make a meaningful impact on both the students and the local community.

4. The Practice:

GGDC Lalgarh consistently implements a range of community outreach and environmental activities. The major initiatives include:

- **Garbage Cleaning Drives**: Regular clean-up activities are conducted to keep the campus and the local area clean and instill in students a habit of cleanliness and responsibility. These include drives to remove all plastic waste from the campus and reduce its future use.
- **Tree Plantation**: The college organizes tree planting programs to contribute to environmental sustainability and create and maintain green spaces in the campus.
- **Awareness Programs**:
  - **Tobacco Prevention**: Programs are held to educate students and the local community about the dangers of tobacco consumption and to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle.
  - **Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Prevention**: In today's digital age, the college conducts awareness sessions on safeguarding personal information and preventing cyber crimes, especially targeting youth.

These activities are designed not only to educate but also to engage students in hands-on social responsibility projects.

Garbage Cleaning Drives

Tree Plantation Program Drive

Tobacco Prevention Programe

AIDS Awareness Programe

Cyber Security and Awareness Programe
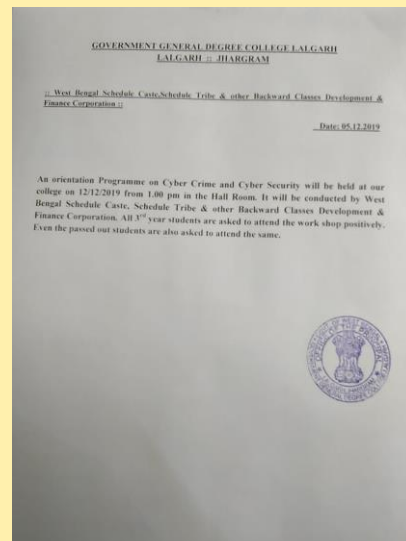
5. Evidence of Success:

The college's sustained efforts have yielded several positive outcomes:

- **Community Participation**: There has been increasing involvement of local residents in the programs, reflecting the community's growing awareness and engagement in social and environmental issues.
- **Environmental Impact**: Regular tree plantation drives have led to visible greening of the college campus, improving the overall environment.
- **Behavioral Change**: The awareness campaigns on tobacco prevention have contributed to reducing the prevalence of tobacco use among students and the local community.
- **Digital Safety Awareness**: The cyber security sessions have improved the understanding of safe online practices among students, reducing the number of cyber crime incidents. These campaigns have also been extremely useful for the local people, a vast majority of whom are still coming to terms with advanced technology, and are vulnerable to such threats.

6.Problems Encountered:

Despite the positive outcomes, the college has faced several challenges in implementing these practices:

- **Remote Location**: The rugged terrain and lack of infrastructure often make it difficult to access materials and external support for these programs.
- **Limited Resources**: Being located in a rural area, the college has limited financial and human resources to support its various initiatives.
- **Community Hesitancy**: Initially, the local community was hesitant to participate in the programs, requiring sustained efforts to build trust and collaboration.

7. Resources Required:

The success of these initiatives requires a combination of the following resources:

- **Financial Support**: To conduct awareness programs and procure materials such as cleaning equipment and saplings for tree plantation.
- **Human Resources**: Active participation from students, faculty, and community members is crucial for carrying out large-scale activities.
- **Technical Support**: Experts are needed for delivering awareness sessions, especially on specialized topics like cyber security.
- **Transportation**: Adequate transportation facilities are essential for accessing remote areas and bringing necessary materials for various initiatives.

GGDC Lalgarh continues to exemplify how institutions in remote regions can take leadership in community development and environmental sustainability through dedicated and resourceful efforts.