



सत्यमेव जयते  
गुजरात सरकार

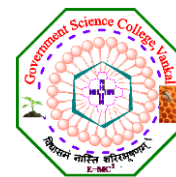
# Government Science College, Vankal

માન્યતા-શિક્ષણ વિભાગ, ગુજરાત સરકાર ઠરાવક્રમાંક: જીસીઓ/1512/ન.બા.-13/ખતા. 21/04/2012

AISHE Code - 46595

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## 7.1.3 Quality audits on environment and energy regularly undertaken by the Institution. The institutional environment and energy initiatives are confirmed through the following

### 7.1.3.4. Beyond the campus environmental promotion activities

The "Sparrow House Distribution" initiative by our college's zoology department is a commendable example of community engagement and environmental stewardship. Launched five years ago, this program has significantly impacted both the local ecosystem and the tribal communities surrounding the college campus. This activity goes beyond the traditional boundaries of campus-centric environmental promotion, extending its benefits to the broader community.

### Genesis and Objectives

The initiative was conceived by the college, driven by a keen awareness of the declining sparrow population in the region. Sparrows, once a common sight, have faced habitat loss due to urbanization and modern agricultural practices. Recognizing the importance of these birds in the ecosystem, the department set out to provide suitable nesting sites to help revive their numbers.

The primary objectives of the Sparrow House Distribution program are:

1. **Conservation:** To aid in the revival of the sparrow population by providing safe and suitable nesting sites.
2. **Community Engagement:** To involve the tribal communities in environmental conservation efforts, fostering a sense of stewardship and awareness.
3. **Education and Awareness:** To educate the local population about the importance of biodiversity and how they can contribute to its preservation.
4. **Research and Data Collection:** To gather data on sparrow populations and nesting habits for academic research and monitoring purposes.

### Implementation Strategy

The program's success was attributed to its well-structured implementation strategy, which includes several key components:

1. **Design and Production:** The zoology department designed sparrow houses that are conducive to nesting and safe from predators. These houses are made from eco-friendly materials, ensuring minimal environmental impact. The production process involves students, who gain hands-on experience in ecological craftsmanship.
2. **Distribution:** The sparrow houses are distributed to the tribal residents living around the college. The distribution process is carefully planned to cover different areas each year,

ensuring a wide reach. Each household receives a detailed guide on how to install and maintain the sparrow houses.

- 3. Community Workshops:** Regular workshops are conducted in the tribal villages to educate residents about the importance of sparrows and how to take care of the nesting houses. These workshops also cover broader topics such as local biodiversity, conservation practices, and sustainable living.

### **Impact on the Tribal Communities**

The Sparrow House Distribution program has had a profound impact on the tribal communities:

- 1. Environmental Awareness:** The program has significantly raised awareness about environmental issues among the tribal residents. Through workshops and hands-on involvement, the residents have developed a greater understanding of the importance of biodiversity and their role in its preservation.
- 2. Community Participation:** The initiative has fostered a sense of community participation and ownership. Residents take pride in their contribution to conservation efforts, leading to a stronger bond between the college and the local communities.
- 3. Educational Benefits:** Children and young adults in the tribal villages benefit from the educational aspects of the program. The workshops and interactions with zoology students and faculty have sparked interest in environmental science and conservation, potentially inspiring future careers in these fields.
- 4. Enhanced Ecosystem:** The increase in sparrow population contributes to a healthier ecosystem. Sparrows help in controlling insect populations and contribute to seed dispersal, which benefits agriculture and local flora.

### **Academic and Research Contributions**

For the college's zoology department, the Sparrow House Distribution program serves as a living laboratory:

- 1. Research Opportunities:** The program provides valuable data on sparrow behavior, nesting habits, and population dynamics. This data is used for academic research, contributing to scientific knowledge and publications.
- 2. Student Involvement:** Students actively participate in the design, production, distribution, and monitoring processes. This hands-on experience enhances their learning and provides practical skills that are invaluable in their academic and professional careers.

### **Challenges and Future Directions**

Despite its success, the Sparrow House Distribution program faces several challenges:

- 1. Scalability:** Expanding the program to cover more areas and potentially other species requires careful planning and additional resources. The department is exploring ways to scale up without compromising quality.
- 2. Behavioral Change:** While the program has raised awareness, changing long-standing habits and practices among the tribal residents takes time. Continuous education and engagement are necessary to reinforce positive behaviors.

Looking ahead, the zoology department plans to:

1. **Expand the Program:** Extend the initiative to include other bird species and wildlife that are also facing habitat challenges. This could involve creating different types of nesting boxes and habitats.
2. **Enhanced Monitoring:** Implement more sophisticated monitoring techniques, such as using technology for data collection and analysis, to gain deeper insights into the impact of the program.
3. **Community-Led Initiatives:** Empower the tribal communities to take more ownership of the program by forming local conservation groups. These groups can lead local initiatives, ensuring the program's sustainability and deeper integration into the community.

## Conclusion

The Sparrow House Distribution by the college's zoology department is a shining example of how academic institutions can extend their reach beyond campus boundaries and make a tangible difference in local communities. By addressing both ecological and social dimensions, the program not only aids in the conservation of sparrows but also enriches the lives of the tribal residents through education, awareness, and community involvement. As the program evolves, it promises to continue contributing to environmental preservation and fostering a culture of sustainability and stewardship.

## Photographs of Activity:

### Celebration of World Sparrow day in college



**Door to door distribution of sparrow house in surrounding area**



**Press Note of Activity in News Paper:**



**Press note**



## Banners Creating Awareness in Surrounding Area

