



**M. R. Desai Arts and E. E. Laher Kosadiya Commerce College,
Chikhli, Dist. Navsari
Managed by Vimal Uchchar Kelavani Trust, Chikhli.
Affiliated to Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat**

Institutional Best Practice:

Tree Planting and Maintenance on Chikhli Highway Dividers

1. Title:

Tree Planting and Maintenance on Chikhli Highway Dividers

2. Objectives:

- To increase green cover along the Chikhli highway.
- To promote environmental awareness and responsibility among students and the local community.
- To contribute to reducing air pollution and improving local biodiversity.
- To create a pleasant and visually appealing environment along the highway.

3. Context:

Shri M R Desai Arts & E E Laher Kosadiya Commerce College, in alignment with its commitment to environmental sustainability, has implemented a best practice initiative focused on planting and maintaining trees along the dividers from the college to the Chikhli highway. This initiative not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the area but also contributes to ecological balance and environmental conservation.

4. Practice:

Implementation Plan:

1. Planning and Coordination:

- **Initial Assessment:** Conduct an assessment of the highway dividers to determine suitable spots for planting.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborate with local municipal authorities for necessary permissions and support.
- **Selection of Species:** Choose native and hardy tree species that are well-suited to the local climate and soil conditions.

2. Tree Planting:

- **Preparation:** Prepare the soil and planting spots along the dividers.
- **Planting Event:** Organize a tree planting event involving students, faculty, and community members.
- **Planting Process:** Ensure proper planting techniques are followed to enhance the survival rate of the saplings.

3. Maintenance:

- **Regular Watering:** Establish a watering schedule, especially during dry seasons, to ensure the saplings receive adequate water.
- **Weeding and Mulching:** Perform regular weeding and mulching to protect the saplings from weeds and retain soil moisture.
- **Pruning and Care:** Prune the trees as needed to promote healthy growth and remove any damaged or diseased branches.
- **Monitoring:** Set up a monitoring system to track the growth and health of the trees.

4. Community Engagement:

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct awareness campaigns and workshops on the importance of trees and environmental conservation.
- **Student Involvement:** Involve students in the maintenance activities to instill a sense of responsibility and ownership.
 - **Planting Activities:** Students actively participate in the tree planting events, working in teams to plant saplings along the highway dividers.
 - **Maintenance Tasks:** Students are involved in regular watering, weeding, and mulching activities. They follow a schedule to ensure the saplings are well-cared for.
 - **Educational Workshops:** Students attend workshops on proper planting techniques, tree care, and the environmental benefits of trees.
 - **Monitoring and Reporting:** Students help monitor the health and growth of the trees, keeping detailed records and reporting any issues to faculty supervisors.

5. Evidence of Success:

- **Environmental Benefits:** The trees help in reducing air pollution, providing shade, and supporting local wildlife. They contribute to lowering the urban heat island effect and improving air quality.
- **Aesthetic Improvement:** The green cover along the highway dividers enhances the visual appeal of the area, creating a more pleasant environment for commuters and pedestrians.
- **Educational Value:** The initiative serves as a practical educational tool for students, teaching them about the importance of environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- **Community Involvement:** Engaging the community fosters a collective sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation, strengthening community bonds.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Problems Encountered:

- Limited resources for extensive tree maintenance and care.
- Ensuring consistent participation from students and faculty.

Resources Required:

- Financial support for purchasing saplings, soil, and maintenance supplies.
- Tools and equipment for planting and maintenance activities.
- Training programs for students and faculty involved in the initiative.

7. Notes:

The tree planting and maintenance initiative along the Chikhli highway dividers is a testament to College's dedication to environmental sustainability. This best practice not only contributes to ecological balance and aesthetic improvement but also serves as an educational and community-building exercise. **By involving students, faculty, and local residents, the initiative promotes a culture of environmental responsibility and ensures the long-term success of the project.**







