

Government Degree College Kaffota
District Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh
Ranking of Government Colleges in HP

**Criterion 5 Best Practices, Innovation and
Institution Distinctiveness**

**Key Indicator 5.3 Social Impact of Extension
Activities:(On the basis of Community Feedback)**

Metric 5.3 Three Extension Activities



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RANKING FRAMEWORK

5. BEST PRACTICES, INNOVATION AND INSTITUTION DISTINCTIVENESS

5.3. Social Impact of Extension Activities (On the basis of Community Feedback)

5.3.1. Awareness program on disaster management in association with Giriganga Cultural group of Department of Information and Public Relations

Awareness program has been organized at main market Kaffota by the students of the college and Giriganga Cultural Group under the Department of Information and Public Relation on disaster management and get the local people aware about the safe building construction, landslides, earthquake, flash floods. A nukkad natak was performed at the main market Kaffota and message on safety norms on disaster management have been delivered to the people surrounded there.



Figure 1: Newsclip

5.3.2. Amrit-Dhara — Student-Led Rejuvenation and Stewardship of Traditional Himalayan Springs

“**Amrit-Dhara**” (meaning *life-giving water source*) is a student-driven initiative that revives the traditional Himalayan practice of spring conservation through community participation and experiential learning. It redefines education as **ecological citizenship**, fostering a renewed relationship between people and their natural water heritage while empowering students as custodians of local ecosystems.

i. Objectives

The initiative aims to:

- Identify, map, and document traditional Himalayan springs (dharas, bawris, naulas) and create a digital “Water Heritage Directory.”
- Rejuvenate degraded water sources through cleaning, desilting, catchment protection, and groundwater recharge.
- Promote sustainable water conservation practices rooted in indigenous knowledge systems.
- Encourage long-term stewardship and community ownership of water resources.
- Provide experiential learning through field-based environmental studies and scientific monitoring.
- Strengthen community participation and college–society linkages.
- Raise awareness about water conservation, hygiene, and climate impacts on springs.
- Integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern environmental education.
- Contribute to SDGs: **SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.

ii. The Context

The Trans-Giri region of Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, is heavily dependent on natural springs for drinking water, agriculture, and daily life. However, climate change, deforestation, and neglect of traditional maintenance practices have led to the depletion and contamination of these vital water sources.

Recognizing water scarcity as a critical regional challenge, Government Degree College Kaffota launched *Amrit-Dhara* under its NSS and Eco-Club. The initiative leverages the close connection students have with their native villages,

transforming them into active agents of change. It integrates academic knowledge with real-world environmental action, particularly in a fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

iii. The Practice

The initiative follows a **structured “Adopt-a-Spring” model**, implemented through NSS, Eco-Club, faculty, and community partnerships.

a. Spring Mapping and Documentation:

Students use GPS-enabled tools and field surveys to record location, discharge, condition, and usage of springs within nearby villages, creating a maintained “Spring Register.”

b. Adopt-a-Spring Approach:

Student teams adopt specific springs each semester in collaboration with Panchayats and local elders, ensuring continuity and accountability.

c. Rejuvenation and Catchment Restoration:

Activities include desilting, waste removal, restoration of traditional structures, plantation of native species (e.g., Ban Oak, Rhododendron), and creation of contour trenches to improve recharge.

d. Water Quality Monitoring:

Basic testing (pH, turbidity, etc.) is conducted, and findings are shared with local authorities and communities through “Spring Health Report Cards.”

e. Community Awareness and Water Literacy:

Students organize nukkad natak, rallies, and discussions in local dialects to promote conservation, hygiene, and sustainable water use.

f. Community Partnerships:

Springs are co-managed with Panchayats, elders, and local stakeholders, integrating indigenous ecological practices and collective responsibility.

g. Documentation and Academic Integration:

Students maintain records, photographs, and reports, linking fieldwork with academic learning in environmental studies and geography.

iv. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

a. Problems Encountered:

- Difficult terrain and seasonal accessibility challenges.
- Climate variability affecting restoration outcomes and data consistency.
- Initial community scepticism and occasional socio-cultural barriers.
- Ensuring long-term maintenance and continuity beyond student cycles.
- Damage to restored structures due to extreme weather conditions.

b. Resources Required:

- Minimal annual budget (~₹15,000–20,000) for tools, saplings, transport, and awareness materials.
- Basic equipment: gloves, desilting tools, GPS/mobile apps, and water testing kits.
- Faculty mentorship and NSS/Eco-Club coordination.
- Collaboration with Panchayats, Forest Department, and Jal Shakti Department for technical support.
- Access to basic digital tools (GIS/mapping applications) for documentation and analysis.

v. Notes (Optional)

Amrit-Dhara is a **low-cost, sustainable, and replicable best practice** tailored to the Himalayan tribal context. It transforms students into environmental stewards while reviving traditional water wisdom and strengthening community resilience.

The initiative aligns with **NEP 2020**, promotes experiential learning, and contributes to national and global sustainability goals. It also exemplifies social extension by positioning the college as a **solution provider** for local environmental challenges.

Future Directions:

- Development of a GIS-based **Spring Atlas** of the region.
- Collaboration with the **District Jal Shakti Mission** for integrated water management.
- Establishment of a **Water Heritage Learning Corner** on campus.
- Creation of a **Spring Stewardship Network** involving alumni and nearby villages for sustained impact.

Report:

A Natural water resource has been cleaned in nearby village Kando, which can be used by people of nearby village and differ animals. Team of students of Govt. Degree college visited to the nearby Kando village cleaned the “Bawdi” a nature water resource there.



Figure 2: Cleaning and Maintaining Natural Water Resource near Kando Village



Figure 3

5.3.3. Rally and Nukkad Natak at Market Kaffota in Collaboration with Vyapar Mandal Kaffota and Police Post Kaffota

A rally on followed by Nukkad Natak with Vyapar Mandal Kaffota in the Main market Kaffota. It is an awareness program for the local people of the area about the health hygiene and cleanliness in the surrounding area. Students tried to

inform the people of the area through cleanliness and health by rally and Nukkad natak about.



Figure 4: Nukkad Natak