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Building the Future: Transforming Libraries
for Sustainability through Capacity Building

Chief Editors
Dr. O. N. Chaubey & Dr. Pardeep Rai

Editors
Dr. Dharam Kumar
Dr. Abhijeet Sinha
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Singh

Theme 4: Green Partnership and Collaboration

Academic Libraries' Community Engagement Initiative For Sustainability: A Study on the Selected College Libraries of Golaghat District, Assam

Sanam Das
Librarian, B. Borooah College, Guwahati, Assam

Imran Hussain
Librarian, Doomdooma College, Tinsukia, Assam

Smita Chetia
Librarian, Sarupathar College, Golaghat, Assam

ABSTRACT: This study explores the role of academic libraries in fostering community engagement programs for sustainability in Golaghat district, Assam. It emphasizes the vital responsibility of libraries to provide equal access to information and knowledge, transcending beyond the campus community to serve a broader population. The literature review underscores the transformative potential of library extension services and examines global initiatives aligning with Sustainable Development Goals. Employing a descriptive study approach, the research analyzes major sustainability engagement programs adopted by academic libraries, revealing a positive trend in community participation. Findings indicate widespread awareness and active involvement in eco-friendly initiatives, particularly in seven out of eleven college libraries. While a majority perceives their participation positively, significant challenges such as financial constraints, limited collaboration, and insufficient support underscore the need for strategic interventions. The study contributes valuable insights into the strengths and challenges faced by academic libraries, highlighting their pivotal role in community well-being and sustainable development.

1. Introduction

History has repeatedly proven that society requires "trained minds" to address present problems, identify future ones, and create the foundation for creativity. When it comes to several responsibilities for the welfare of humanity, no other institution has ever received as much recognition as the library. Since libraries retain written records of human history and knowledge, they support educational progress and contribute to social, cultural, political, economic, and recreational transformations. However, it is the library's responsibility to ensure that the intended users receive the necessary information which would include not only the campus community but also a much broader community.

Academic libraries are a crucial part of the formal education system, which spans from primary school to university. These libraries share similar responsibilities in