

Sustainability at APS Damana

By *Mrs. Anurita Koul*



At the [Army Public School Damana](#), sustainability is envisioned not merely as an environmental concept but rather as a strategic approach of developing [responsible, innovative, compassionate and solution-oriented learners](#).

The school aims to create an ecosystem where children learn to understand real-world challenges, experiment with possible solutions and take collective responsibility for building a sustainable future. This vision is closely aligned with the principles of [NEP 2020](#), [experiential learning](#), [competency-based education](#), [inclusion](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

A significant initiative in this direction is the establishment of the “[Brimming Minds Room](#)”, envisioned as a dynamic experiential

learning and innovation space. The room provides children with opportunities to move beyond textbook-based learning and engage in [hands-on exploration](#), [experimentation](#), [tinkering](#), [creative problem-solving](#) and [collaborative learning](#). Students are encouraged to observe, question, investigate, design, create and reflect, thereby transforming the classroom from a space of instruction into a space of discovery.

The Brimming Minds Room facilitate activities such as [STEM experiments](#), [mathematical puzzles](#), [model-making](#), [coding](#), [tinkering](#), [recycled-material projects](#), [environmental investigations](#) and [simple prototypes](#). Real-life challenges are presented to students, for example, [how can we reduce water wastage?](#) [how can we minimise classroom waste?](#) [how can](#)

renewable energy be used? thereby encouraging children to brainstorm, experiment and develop practical solutions.

A key feature of the initiative is participation of every child. Inclusive development means ensuring that every learner, irrespective of academic ability, learning style or individual need, has a meaningful role. Activities are therefore designed with varied levels of participation, allowing children to contribute as designers, experimenters, artists, researchers, presenters, observers, recorders or team leaders. This build confidence, communication, collaboration and a sense of belonging while ensuring that no child remains a passive learner.

To strengthen environmental responsibility, APS Damana also established a “Green Brigade”, comprising student volunteers who act as young ambassadors of sustainability. The Green Brigade spearhead multiple initiatives such as waste segregation, plastic reduction, water conservation, energy conservation, plantation and biodiversity awareness, cleanliness drives and responsible consumption.

Students do not merely participate in campaigns but also monitor, document and communicate sustainable practices across the school community.

The Green Brigade also collaborate with the Brimming Minds Room to develop “Green

Innovations”, where students transform environmental problems into creative projects and prototypes. Initiatives such as “Waste to Wonder,” “Save Every Drop,” “One Child–One Green Action” and “Energy Watch” make sustainability an everyday practice rather than an occasional activity.

The school’s existing initiatives such as the Sensory Park, BALA, JADUI PITARA, ATL activities, experiential learning practices and SDG-linked projects further complement this vision. Learning can extend beyond classrooms into the school environment, enabling children to observe biodiversity, understand natural resources and connect scientific concepts with everyday life.

Thus, the Brimming Minds Room and Green Brigade together can become powerful sustainability pathways at APS Damana, where one is for nurturing ideas and innovation, whilst the other is cultivating responsibility and action.

The ultimate objective is to create a school culture where science inspires curiosity, innovation creates solutions, inclusion ensures participation and sustainability become a shared way of life.

At APS Damana, the pathway is therefore clear: every child thinks, every mind creates, every hand contributes and every action makes a difference.

Mrs Anurita Koul

Headmistress, Army Public School, Damana, Jammu and Kashmir