



Project Final Report

Name of the Organization: Eco Narratives

Submission Date: 31.01.2025

Project Information

The study focused on Eco Narratives that harnessed the power of artistic expression to elevate voices, foster empathy, and drive action on climate change and climate justice through diverse artistic mediums, including visual arts, storytelling, film, music, and performance. The main objective of this project was to leverage artistic expression as a powerful tool for amplifying voices, catalyzing action, and advocating for climate justice through meaningful engagement and collaboration, aiming to build a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for all in the face of climate change. Therefore, the project catalyzed systemic change by advocating for practices and actions that prioritized environmental sustainability, social equity, and human rights. It amplified voices and promoted dialogue, fostering a culture of resilience, empathy, and collective responsibility. This emphasis on collective responsibility engages stakeholders in the project's mission, fostering a sense of commitment and shared purpose towards building a more just and sustainable world for current and future generations.

Start and end date of the project: August 2024 to December 2024

Targeted participants of the project:

Target Participants of this project were marginalized people and students of primary schools of Gangarampur Union.

Location of the project: Gongarampur Union, Botiaghata, Khulna, Bangladesh

Objective of the Project (Write down in bullet points)

Goal:

- To leverage artistic expression as a powerful tool for amplifying voices, catalyzing action, and advocating for climate justice through meaningful engagement and collaboration towards building a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for all

Specific Objectives:

- To raise awareness and understanding among audiences, highlighting the human dimension of climate change and inspiring collective action
- To promoting climate justice movement by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and frontline activists to advocate for equitable solutions

Measuring the progress of the project

Activities	Objective	Outcome
Beneficiary and Follow-Up Survey	To evaluate the understanding and perceptions of climate change among community members.	Data was collected from 200 households within targeted communities. The findings indicated a predominant lack of awareness regarding climate change. Following the educational interventions, a comparative follow-up survey revealed a measurable increase in the participants' awareness, suggesting the effectiveness of subsequent initiatives.
Community Workshops	To educate community members about climate change, its impacts, and climate justice.	A series of eight workshops were organized, attracting over 353 participants. These workshops employed interactive sessions, discussions, and hands-on activities aimed at enhancing comprehension and fostering active engagement with the subject matter of climate change and climate justice.
Public Exhibitions and Events	<p>To use drama and performances to convey climate messages and engage the community.</p> <p>To showcase artistic works created by community members and raise awareness about climate issues</p>	A short drama was developed and performed, focusing on the impacts of climate change and the importance of adopting sustainable practices. The performances garnered positive reception, successfully engaging the community. Several art exhibitions were organized, featuring an array of paintings, photographs, and crafts, which attracted over 400 attendees, including community leaders and local residents.
Promoting Sustainable Products	To promote sustainable products and practices among community members.	Demonstrations on hydroponic vegetable growing techniques, circular economy principles, and nature-based solutions were conducted, alongside the distribution of cloth and jute bags as

		alternatives to plastic. Participants exhibited a strong interest in integrating these sustainable practices into their daily lives.
Capacity Building and Skill Development	To build capacity in nature-based solutions, circular economy, and hydroponic agriculture.	Comprehensive training programs were conducted, resulting in the successful completion of sessions by 150 participants. These programs equipped participants with practical skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable agricultural practices and economic development.
School Programs and Youth Engagement	To engage young people and integrate climate education into school	Climate-themed activities, storytelling sessions, and drawing competitions were introduced. This initiative reached over 121 students, thereby fostering a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals.
Digital Platforms and Media Campaigns	To make a video documentary of the project	This documentary highlights key activities and includes testimonials from participants, providing insight into the project's effectiveness. The video has been disseminated across various social media platforms, receiving positive feedback from the community, thus expanding the reach of the project's messages.

Narrate the achievement of your project according to your project objectives

Goal Achievement:

The project successfully leveraged artistic expression as a transformative tool to amplify voices, catalyze action, and advocate for climate justice. Through storytelling, stage dramas, and visual arts, the project fostered meaningful engagement and collaboration, empowering communities to share their experiences and perspectives. These activities not only highlighted the human dimensions of climate change but also inspired collective efforts towards a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future.

Objective 1: To raise awareness and understanding among audiences, highlighting the human dimension of climate change and inspiring collective action.

The project reached over 400 individuals through workshops, public exhibitions, and performances, raising awareness about the impacts of climate change. By presenting the struggles and resilience of affected communities through art, the project effectively connected audiences to the human stories behind climate data, motivating them to participate in collective actions like tree-planting and community-led sustainability initiatives.

Objective 2: To promote the climate justice movement by amplifying the voices of marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and frontline activists to advocate for equitable solutions.

Artistic workshops provided marginalized communities a platform to express their lived experiences of climate change, which were showcased in public exhibitions and gained media attention. Stories from indigenous and frontline activists were amplified, promoting their inclusion in climate dialogues. These efforts sparked discussions about equitable solutions and strengthened the climate justice movement by centering the voices of those most affected.

People reached			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people reached directly through project interventions. 			
Event/Activities	Number of people reached		Total
	Women	Men	
Community Workshops Capacity Development Initiatives	201	152	353
Public Exhibitions and Events	150	250	400
School Programs and Youth Engagement	50	71	121
Total	401	473	874
Total number of people reached directly: Eight Hundreds and seventy four(Women and Men)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people reached through social media (On particular awareness-raising issues) 			
Posting date in social media	Number of people reached (Viewer)	Social media Link (FB/YouTube)	
26.12.2024	467	https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BWv41UNxy/	
Total	467		
Total number of people reached (social media): Four hundrdes and sixty seven (Women and Men)			

Based on these above objectives which one is more relevant to your project? How do your project objectives and activities achieve this objective? (Maximum 200 words)

The most relevant objective to our project is **Objective 1: Create an enabling environment and foster individuals to enhance their knowledge of climate change issues and develop their problem-solving skills.**

Our project aimed to raise awareness and understanding of climate change through artistic expression, engaging communities personally. We began with a baseline survey for needs assessment, which identified key climate-related issues, particularly in coastal areas, allowing us to tailor the project effectively.

We organized workshops to educate community members on climate change impacts and sustainable practices, providing a platform for learning and developing problem-solving skills, such as implementing nature-based solutions and circular economy practices.

Public exhibitions and events played a key role in raising awareness creatively. We created climate-themed short dramas and performances, which helped convey complex climate issues in an engaging way. Art shows further showcased the community’s artistic responses to climate change.

To promote sustainability, we introduced initiatives like hydroponic agriculture and sustainable products, including cloth and jute bags. We also partnered with schools to integrate Eco Narratives into their curriculum, fostering climate education among students.

Finally, a video documentary captured the project's impact, extending its reach through digital platforms and media campaigns, sharing knowledge and lessons learned with a broader audience.

Skills/Capacity

What new skills/capacity you have developed?

1. Community Engagement & Facilitation – Effectively conducting workshops and storytelling sessions with marginalized communities, indigenous peoples, and youth to amplify their voices on climate justice.

2. Artistic Advocacy & Storytelling – Utilizing creative mediums such as visual art, photography, and performances to communicate climate issues and inspire action.

3. Project Management – Strengthening my ability to plan, organize, and execute large-scale initiatives, including coordinating workshops, exhibitions, and public events.

4. Survey & Data Collection – Designing and implementing beneficiary surveys to assess community perspectives and measure project impact.

5. Public Speaking & Presentation – Leading interactive sessions, presenting climate justice narratives, and engaging audiences effectively.

6. Capacity Building & Skill Development – Training youth and community members on creative storytelling methods to empower them as climate advocates.

7. Networking & Collaboration – Expanding partnerships with local organizations, artists, and activists to build a stronger climate action movement.

8. Sustainable Product Promotion – Encouraging eco-friendly practices and supporting artisans by promoting sustainable products at exhibitions and events.

9. School Programs & Youth Engagement – Organizing climate education initiatives for primary school children, making complex environmental issues accessible and engaging.

What knowledge or skills do you think would have improved your project?

1. Advanced Community Engagement Techniques: While the project successfully engaged community members through workshops and events, having advanced community engagement techniques could have enhanced participation and impact. Skills in conflict resolution, cultural sensitivity, and participatory methods would help in addressing diverse community dynamics and ensuring inclusive engagement. Training in these techniques would enable project facilitators to better understand and navigate community power structures, address potential conflicts, and create a more inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued.

2. Digital Storytelling and Multimedia Production: The project included the creation of a video documentary and various forms of artistic expression. Advanced skills in digital storytelling and multimedia production, such as video editing, graphic design, and social media management, could have enhanced the quality and reach of these outputs. With stronger digital storytelling skills, the project could produce more compelling and professional content, increasing its impact and engagement on digital platforms. This would also facilitate better documentation and dissemination of project activities and outcomes.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for Climate Projects: Effective monitoring and evaluation are crucial for assessing the impact of climate action projects and informing future initiatives. Specific knowledge in M&E methodologies tailored to climate and environmental projects would improve the project's ability to measure success and identify areas for improvement. Training in M&E would enable the project team to develop robust indicators, collect and analyze data systematically, and produce comprehensive reports that demonstrate the project's impact and effectiveness. This would also aid in securing future funding and support by showcasing the project's achievements and lessons learned.

“Lesson-learned” of the project

The "Eco Narratives" project has provided valuable insights into community engagement and climate action. One key lesson learned is the importance of building trust within the community. Early involvement of local leaders and influencers proved crucial in gaining acceptance and participation. Flexibility and adaptability were also vital, as logistic challenges and weather-related disruptions required us to be proactive and prepared with alternative plans. Another significant lesson was the power of storytelling and artistic expression in conveying complex climate issues. These methods resonated deeply with the community, fostering greater understanding and commitment to climate action. Additionally, continuous engagement and open communication helped maintain momentum and address concerns promptly. Financial management emerged as a critical area, underscoring the need for efficient budgeting and creative fundraising strategies to sustain project activities. Furthermore, hands-on demonstrations and education were essential in overcoming resistance to new sustainable practices, highlighting the importance of practical, relatable examples to encourage adoption.

Overall, the project reinforced the value of a holistic, inclusive approach that integrates cultural sensitivity, local partnerships, and ongoing dialogue to effectively address climate change and promote sustainability within communities.

What are the challenges/Risks you faced during the project activities? How you overcome/minimize those challenges?

1. Community Engagement Challenges:

Gaining the trust and active participation of community members was initially challenging, particularly in areas with diverse cultural backgrounds and varying levels of awareness about climate change.

Mitigation Strategies:

- **Building Trust:** We engaged local leaders and influencers early in the project to act as ambassadors. Their endorsement helped in gaining the community's trust.
- **Inclusive Approach:** We ensured that all community members, including marginalized groups, were invited to participate in the workshops and activities. This was done through targeted outreach and personalized invitations.
- **Continuous Engagement:** We maintained ongoing communication with the community through regular meetings and feedback sessions, which helped in building sustained engagement and addressing concerns promptly.

2. Logistic Shortages

Logistic issues such as the availability of transportation, materials, and venue arrangements often posed significant challenges, especially in remote or rural areas.

Mitigation Strategies:

- **Local Sourcing:** Wherever possible, we sourced materials locally to reduce transportation needs and costs. This also supported local businesses and fostered community goodwill.
- **Efficient Planning:** We developed detailed logistic plans well in advance of each activity, including contingency plans for potential disruptions.
- **Partnerships:** We partnered with local organizations and businesses to leverage their resources and infrastructure, such as Union Parisad for workshops and events.

Selected best 5/6 pictures of the project intervention

Photo-1: Drawing



Photo-2: Story telling



Photo-3: Drama



Photo-4: Art Exhibition

