17.4.3 Education for SDGs in the wider community

1. Outreach Programme on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Dr. Sadia Nazer, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, conducted an outreach programme on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in October 2025 at READ Foundation College, Bagh. The programme aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of safe drinking water, proper sanitation, personal hygiene, and healthy practices for disease prevention. The session emphasized the role of handwashing, hygienic habits, and maintaining a clean environment in protecting public health and promoting community well-being. Through this educational initiative, students were encouraged to adopt healthy practices in their daily lives and share WASH-related awareness within their families and communities. (Annex I)

2. Awareness Programme on Environmental Protection and Disaster Management

Dr. Rabia Shafique, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, conducted an awareness programme on **Environmental Protection and Disaster Management** at READ Foundation College, Bagh. The programme aimed to enhance awareness of environmental conservation, disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and community resilience. It highlighted the importance of protecting natural resources, managing waste responsibly, reducing environmental pollution, and understanding the impacts of climate change on communities. The session also emphasized preventive measures and preparedness strategies for natural disasters, including floods, landslides, and other climate-related hazards. Through this initiative, participants were encouraged to adopt environmentally responsible practices and develop a better understanding of disaster risks and safety measures. (Annex II)

3. Seed Distribution

Following the seed distribution initiative organized by the Departments of Botany and Environmental Sciences, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, students actively participated in growing organic vegetables at their homes and fields. Students shared photographs of their cultivated plots and growing vegetables, providing visual evidence of the implementation and impact of the initiative. This participation demonstrated students' engagement in sustainable gardening, household food production, and environmentally responsible agricultural practices. The initiative encouraged practical

application of environmental knowledge, promoted local food production, and strengthened awareness of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. (Annex III)

4. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Dr. Sami Ullah, Department of Botany, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, conducted a seminar on **"Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security."** The seminar focused on the importance of sustainable farming practices, responsible use of natural resources, soil conservation, and environmentally friendly approaches to agricultural production. It highlighted the role of organic fertilizers, efficient water management, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient agriculture in improving crop productivity and ensuring long-term food security. Participants were encouraged to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that reduce environmental degradation, conserve natural resources, and support the production of healthy and nutritious food. The seminar also emphasized the importance of climate-smart agriculture in addressing the challenges posed by climate change and strengthening the resilience of agricultural systems. (Annex IV)

5. Tree Plantation Initiatives by University Departments in Collaboration with Alkhidmat Foundation

The Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, promotes environmental sustainability through tree plantation drives organized independently by different academic departments and in collaboration with the Alkhidmat Foundation. These initiatives aim to increase green cover on campus, improve environmental quality, conserve biodiversity, and raise awareness among students and faculty about the importance of protecting the natural environment. This collaboration with the Alkhidmat Foundation further strengthens these efforts by supporting tree plantation and promoting collective action for a greener and healthier future. (Annex V)

6. Community Cleanliness Drive by WUAJ&K Students

The Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (WUAJ&K), Bagh, engaged students in a community cleanliness drive in the areas surrounding the university premises during 2025. The initiative aimed to promote environmental cleanliness, responsible waste disposal, and public awareness about maintaining a clean and healthy environment. Through student participation and community engagement, the activity encouraged civic responsibility and supported government efforts to improve sanitation, reduce environmental pollution, and promote sustainable waste management.

This initiative reflects the university's contribution to government-led environmental protection and public cleanliness objectives by mobilizing young people to participate in practical community service. It also promotes cooperation between educational institutions and local communities in creating cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable surroundings. (Annex VI)

7. First Women Software Technology Park

The establishment of the First Women Software Technology Park created an institutional platform focused on women's education, innovation, technology and industry linkages. Supported by the Government of Pakistan and PSEB, the initiative connects university education and skills development with the technology and industry ecosystem. Its emphasis on preparing women for participation in technology and innovation provides an avenue through which university knowledge and capacity-building can contribute to wider economic and technological development. (Annex VII)

8. World mental health day celebration

The Department of Psychology, Women University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Bagh, celebrated **World Mental Health Day** in collaboration with Aghosh Alkhidmat. The activity brought together students and faculty members to promote awareness of mental health and emphasize its importance for students' psychological well-being. The initiative highlighted the need to encourage open discussions about mental health, reduce stigma, and foster a supportive and inclusive environment in which students feel comfortable seeking guidance and support when needed. (Annex VIII)

9. Mental Health and Counseling Session for students of Cambridge School System, Bagh

On February 27, 2025, the Department of Allied Health Sciences, in collaboration with the Department of Psychology, organized a Mental Health and Counseling Session for students of Cambridge School System, Bagh. The session aimed to promote mental health awareness and support students in developing healthy coping strategies for everyday challenges. Key areas of discussion included stress management, emotional well-being, and the importance of recognizing and addressing mental health concerns. This outreach initiative strengthened the University's engagement with the local community by extending mental health education beyond the campus and encouraging a supportive environment for young learners. (Annex IX)

Evidence

Annex I



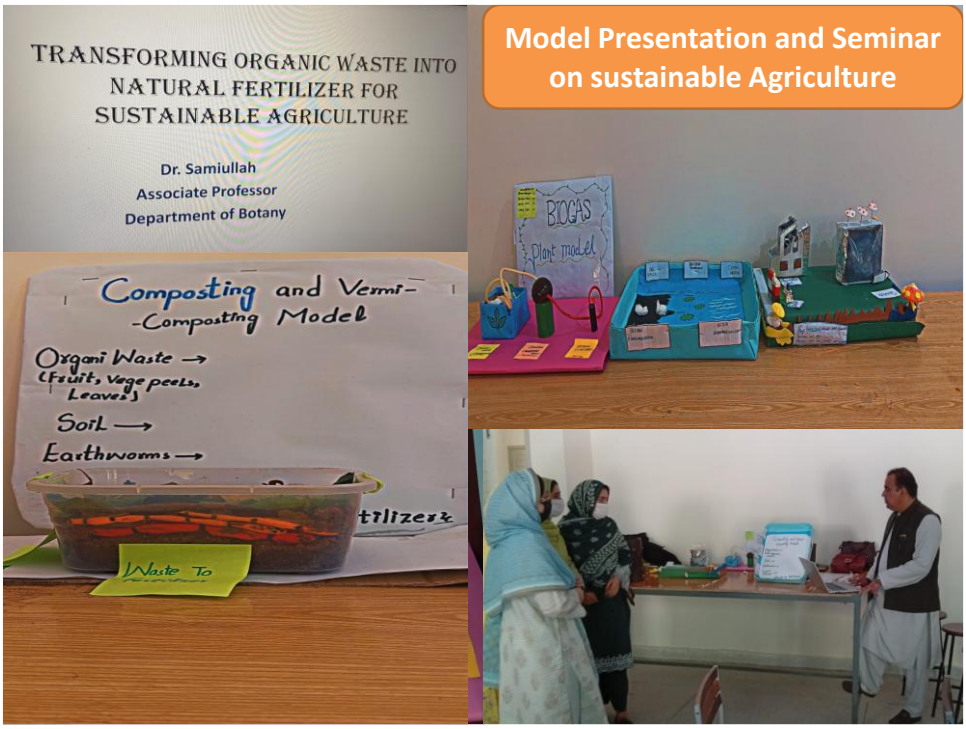
Annex II



Annex III



Annex IV



Annex V



Annex VI



Annex VII



Annex VIII



Annex IX

Mental Health outreach at Cambridge college

