

# **KISHORE BHARATI BHAGINI NIVEDITA COLLEGE (CO-ED)**

## **DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

### **GEOGRAPHY HONOURS SEMESTER – I AND III**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT: RABINDRA SAROVAR PARK**

##### **Introduction**

The geography honours students of our college who are studying in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> semester geography honours (session 2024-25) have surveyed the Rabindra Sarovar Park on 29/01/2025, a prominent urban park in Kolkata and made an Environmental Assessment Report of the park through questionnaire as well as a cleanliness assessment was also done. This park serves as a valuable green space for the city's residents and visitors. The park, named after the iconic Rabindranath Tagore, is an essential recreational, cultural, and ecological hub within the urban landscape. However, as urbanization intensifies and environmental concerns grow, it is crucial to assess the environmental impact of this park and identify strategies to enhance sustainability and visitor experience. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Rabindra Sarovar Park through this questionnaire explores various facets of park management, including its ecological importance, visitor satisfaction, and sustainability practices. The goal is to harness insights from the community to promote better management practices, mitigate environmental degradation, and make the park a more sustainable and enjoyable place for everyone.

##### **Methodology**

To assess the current environmental impact of Rabindra Sarovar Park, a comprehensive questionnaire was designed and distributed to park visitors. The questionnaire aimed to collect data on visitors' park usage patterns, environmental concerns, and perceptions of park facilities. By analysing this data, the report intends to draw conclusions regarding the park's environmental impact and offer recommendations for improvement.

The survey included questions on the frequency of visits, preferred activities, cleanliness, waste management, accessibility, safety, and suggestions for enhancing the park's environmental sustainability. A total of 80 responses were collected over a period of one day, ensuring a diverse representation of park visitors.

##### **Survey Analysis and Key Findings**

###### **1. Visitor Frequency and Activities**

###### **Q1: How often do you visit the park?**

- **Once a week:** 35%
- **Once a month:** 40%
- **Rarely:** 15%
- **Never:** 10%

Most respondents visit the park on a regular basis, with 75% of visitors coming at least once a month. This frequent usage indicates the park's significance as a recreational and social space, particularly for those living nearby.

###### **Q2: What activities do you enjoy at the park?**

- **Leisure:** 40%
- **Jogging:** 30%
- **Walking:** 20%
- **Cycling:** 5%

- **Nature Watching:** 3%
- **Birdwatching:** 2%

The majority of visitors enjoy leisure activities, such as strolling or relaxing in the park. Jogging and walking are the next most popular activities, showing that the park serves as a fitness resource for the local community. These insights suggest that the park should continue to foster spaces that cater to both relaxation and physical activity.

## **2. Cleanliness and Maintenance**

### **Q3: How would you rate the cleanliness of the park?**

- **Excellent:** 10%
- **Good:** 40%
- **Average:** 35%
- **Poor:** 10%
- **Very Poor:** 5%

The majority of respondents rated the cleanliness of the park as either good or average. This indicates that while the park is generally well-maintained, there is room for improvement, particularly in terms of waste management and cleaning schedules. The 25% of respondents who rated the park as either poor or very poor in cleanliness highlight the need for immediate attention to waste management and sanitation.

### **Q10: Are there enough trash bins in the park?**

- **Yes:** 60%
- **No:** 40%

While 60% of visitors felt that there were enough trash bins, 40% disagreed, indicating that some areas within the park may not be adequately equipped for waste disposal. Increasing the number and visibility of trash bins, especially near popular areas and walking paths, could address this issue.

## **3. Accessibility and Visitor Experience**

### **Q5: Do you think the park is accessible to all individuals?**

- **Yes:** 90%
- **No:** 10%

A majority of visitors believe that the park is accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. However, the 10% who disagreed may have experienced physical barriers such as uneven pathways, limited wheelchair access, or inadequate seating in certain areas. Accessibility features could be improved by adding ramps, accessible restrooms, and clear signage for visitors with special needs.

### **Q7: Would you like to see more seating areas in the park?**

- **Yes:** 70%
- **No:** 30%

There is a significant demand for additional seating in the park, especially for visitors who wish to relax and enjoy the surroundings. More seating areas could help enhance the park's visitor experience and cater to groups, families, and elderly visitors who prefer comfort during their visits.

## **4. Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability**

### **Q8: How important is it for the park to have recycling bins?**

- **Very important:** 60%
- **Important:** 30%
- **Not important:** 10%

The overwhelming majority of respondents agree that recycling bins are essential for promoting environmental sustainability within the park. This is a clear indicator that visitors are conscious of waste disposal and are willing to engage in environmentally responsible behaviour. The park could improve its environmental footprint by introducing more visible recycling stations and encouraging visitors to segregate their waste.

### **Q13: What are your suggestions for reducing waste in the park?**

- More frequent trash collection and better waste segregation.

- Introduction of compost bins for organic waste.
- Educational campaigns to raise awareness about waste reduction.

Visitors have indicated that more proactive waste management, including better segregation of waste and composting initiatives, would be beneficial. Establishing these measures could significantly reduce the park's environmental impact and promote sustainability.

## **5. Educational Programs and Community Engagement**

### **Q14: Should the park have more educational programs about environmental conservation?**

- **Yes:** 85%
- **No:** 15%

There is a strong demand for educational initiatives that promote environmental conservation within the park. Respondents believe that more educational programs, such as workshops, talks, or nature walks, would not only enhance the park's role as an educational space but also foster a deeper connection between the community and the environment.

### **Q19: How do you stay informed about park events and programs?**

- **Website:** 35%
- **Social media:** 30%
- **Email:** 20%
- **Newsletters:** 10%
- **Word of mouth:** 5%

Digital platforms like social media and the park's website are the most common channels through which visitors learn about park events. Expanding the park's digital presence and using these platforms to promote sustainability programs, educational events, and environmental initiatives could further engage the community.

## **6. Sustainability and Single-Use Plastics**

### **Q18: Do you think the park should ban single-use plastics?**

- **Yes:** 90%
- **No:** 10%

There is overwhelming support for a ban on single-use plastics in the park. This would not only reduce litter but also align with global sustainability efforts. Implementing such a ban would enhance the park's image as an eco-friendly space and encourage visitors to adopt more sustainable practices.

## **Key Recommendations for Improving the Park's Environmental Impact**

Based on the findings of this survey, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the environmental sustainability and visitor experience at Rabindra Sarovar Park:

### **1. Improve Waste Management Practices:**

- Increase the number of trash and recycling bins throughout the park, especially near seating areas, walking paths, and other high-traffic zones.
- Implement a waste segregation system, with separate bins for recyclables, organic waste, and general waste.
- Introduce composting bins for organic waste to promote sustainability and reduce landfill usage.
- Organize regular clean-up drives to engage the community in maintaining the park's cleanliness.

### **2. Enhance Accessibility and Visitor Comfort:**

- Add more seating areas and shaded spots to accommodate visitors who wish to relax and enjoy the park.
- Improve accessibility for differently-abled visitors by installing ramps, accessible pathways, and ADA-compliant restrooms.
- Ensure that signage is clear and visible, helping visitors navigate the park with ease.

### **3. Promote Educational and Environmental Programs:**

- Increase the number of environmental education programs, such as nature walks, workshops, and talks on biodiversity and conservation.
  - Collaborate with local schools, universities, and NGOs to organize environmental awareness campaigns and sustainability initiatives within the park.
4. **Ban Single-Use Plastics:**
- Introduce a ban on single-use plastics, such as plastic bottles, bags, and straws, within the park.
  - Promote the use of reusable alternatives (e.g., metal water bottles, cloth bags) and provide eco-friendly alternatives at park kiosks.
  - Educate visitors about the environmental impact of plastic waste and encourage them to bring their own reusable containers.
5. **Improve Digital Communication:**
- Enhance the park's website and social media presence to share updates on events, sustainability programs, and educational initiatives.
  - Use digital platforms to promote the park's commitment to sustainability and encourage visitors to follow eco-friendly practices during their visits.
6. **Increase Visitor Engagement:**
- Organize more cultural and recreational events to attract a wider range of visitors and engage the local community.
  - Create spaces within the park that cater to diverse activities, such as art exhibitions, music performances, or eco-friendly festivals.

## **Conclusion**

Rabindra Sarovar Park plays a vital role in the city's green infrastructure, providing a space for relaxation, recreation, and environmental education. However, as urbanization increases and environmental challenges grow, it is essential to adopt practices that promote sustainability and enhance the park's ecological footprint.

The findings from this Environmental Impact Assessment highlight several areas of improvement, including waste management, accessibility, educational programming, and sustainability practices. By implementing the recommended measures, Rabindra Sarovar Park can not only enhance its visitor experience but also set an example for sustainable urban park management.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that Rabindra Sarovar Park remains a cherished green space for generations to come, balancing ecological conservation with community enjoyment.



## PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SURVEY













