

### **Title of the Study:**

EVOLVING A MODEL FOR ECONOMICALLY VIABLE GREEN SCHOOL

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### **Findings:**

Today's education must respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by preparing young generations to deal with big sustainability challenges related to climate change, loss of biodiversity, natural resource depletion resulting in negative consequences on human health and livelihood. The vision of Green Schools is to create a culture of sustainability which can empower learners — “to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity”. (UNESCO, 2014, p. 12 & (UNESCO, 2016a, p. 9). The objective of Green School is to provide education for sustainable development, which is transformative and holistic in nature addressing all four dimensions, namely - learning content, its pedagogy, the learning environment, and the outcomes. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) does not only incorporate content areas relevant for the 21st century, such as waste management, water use and management, biodiversity, energy use and conservation, and others into the curriculum; it also creates democratic, participative, and learner-centered teaching- learning settings. Engaging the head, heart, and hands of the learners is the premise of quality education, and only through such approaches development of the key competencies crucial for promoting sustainable development are possible. More and more schools are adopting the ‘Whole-School Approach’ to achieve this goal, which means embedding 'green' in every aspect of school culture – governance, teaching and learning, community partnerships, facilities and operations. The researcher studied manuals, guidebooks, case studies, reports and similar other nineteen resources on green schools from across the world, and analysed the qualitative data based on the principles of framework analysis, to identify the best strategies on the themes of Energy, Food, Water, Waste, and Biodiversity. Further using the Whole School Approach, and the themes identified, a thematic framework was prepared, and tools were developed for the primary data collection from a sample of government schools of Delhi NCR region. The results present a model that can be adopted by schools in India to embark on the journey towards sustainable development.