



ARULMIGU PALANIANDAVAR ARTS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, PALANI (Autonomous)

Nationally Re-accredited with B++ by NAAC in 3rd Cycle

Affiliated to Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal)

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BEST PRACTICE

Title of the Practice:

Stop Single Use Plastics & Save One Earth – Our Earth

Objectives of the Practice:

As per fundamental duties enshrined in Part-IV of Constitution of India, it is a fundamental duty of all “to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures”. But the worst damage is being done to the earth due to plastic pollution caused by single-use plastics.

Being aware of the increasing adverse results of using SUP, Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani has come forward with the noble motive of

- Preventing and combating plastic pollution in the campus
- Creating awareness on SUP among public
- Substituting with eco-friendly alternates

The Context

The benefits of plastics are undeniable. Plastic is cheap, light and easy to make. These benefits of plastic make it so convenient in our day-to-day lives. The positive contribution of plastics in our lives cannot be denied. Thanks to plastics, countless lives have been saved in the health sector. The growth of clean energy from wind turbines and solar panels has been greatly facilitated. Safe food storage has been revolutionized. These are some examples but the list is endless.

The problem has arisen with the emergence of SUP. The discarded plastic within a few minutes of its first use, gives rise to “throw away” culture, leading to plastic pollution of unimaginable magnitude in our environment.

Palani is a holy town, endowed with natural geographical abundance of hills and rivers. Multitudes of pilgrims throng the place every year. It is sure SUP will slide in and cause damage to the environment.

The Practice

Understanding that the curriculum-extension interface has an educational value, especially in rural India, Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani, with all its servicing units such as NSS, YRC, RRC, NCC, Women Cell and the Associations has been working along with the rural society to promote them at all levels. Realizing the fast growing menace by the Single Use Plastics, the college has launched a mass scheme titled 'APAC – END SUP'. The volunteers have taken two resolutions.

- Let us practice ban on SUP in our campus before instructing others
- Let us instruct not by words but action of removing the plastic waste
- Let us introduce alternate products to SUP
- Let everyone use his own non-plastic eco-friendly bags

Inside college Activities:

The college campus is litter-free and plastic-free. Core values regarding environment imbibed by the students are

- banning all plastic products
- using alternate non-plastic products
- conserving the greenery around
- saving the water resources and
- safeguarding the flora and fauna

Schemes and programmes to actualize these good practices are

- Preparing and disseminating seed balls
- Giving training in preparing the alternatives to single use plastics
- Planting saplings inside the campus Carrying out research projects on the related content
- Nurturing organic seeds and herbal plants
- Preparing and selling non-plastic products in the college carnivals and
- Discharging the concept of 'Ban Plastics' through cultural programmes.

The institution adheres to

Zero Waste Policy: <http://apacwomen.ac.in/pdf/policies/7.pdf>

Green Campus Policy: <http://apacwomen.ac.in/pdf/policies/2.pdf>

This enables to sustain the core values with the coordination and cooperation of the student community.

Outside College Activities:

Outreach programmes conducted by the college are –

- Door-to-door campaigns
- Spreading message through Street dramas, skits, Villupaattu etc
- Conducting Mass Rallies
- Sharing Special Lecture on “Perils of Plastics” in other educational institutions
- Participating in Tree Plantation Drives
- Removing Juniflora and Parthenium Plants to save earth
- Pledge Taking on “Say No to Plastics”
- Displaying Hazardous Single Use Plastics and their Alternatives

Highlights of Ban Plastics Drive:

- 500 students and 35 staff participated in World Record Making attempt of planting 6,00,000 trees in Edaiyakkotti by Govt. of Tamil Nadu and planted 6000 plants in an hour.
- 2200 students and 100 staff took part in the Mass Rally on ‘Meendum manjappai’ in Palnai Town, covering 4 kilometres
- 2200 students prepared seed balls and disseminated among school children and passengers in bus stations and railway stations
- 100 NCC cadets and 50 sports players volunteered in Plastic Removal Campaign, conducted by the Dindigul District Collector

Evidence of Success

The college has secured the District Green Champion Award for the year 2020 – 2021, awarded by Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education and Ministry of Education. Milestones of APAC – END SUP in the recent past are -

- Students participated / presented papers / done projects on the theme “Earth / Environment / Ecology: 1098
- Student - led campaigns undertaken by the college for creating awareness on plastic ban, outside the college premises: 38
- Student - led campaigns undertaken by the college for creating awareness on plastic ban and its importance, inside the college premises: 33
- Events / Activities Conducted on the theme ‘SUP Reduction’ in Environment Day and Earth day Celebrations: 36

- Cleaning up Activities Conducted in Public Places: 22; Quantity of Plastic Collected: 118.500 Kgs
- Cleaning up Activities Conducted inside College: 09; Quantity of Plastic Collected: 6.55 Kgs
- Awards / Certificates of Appreciation won for plastic/ waste management practices/ initiatives: 34

The college has won the ‘Meendum Manjappai Award” and a cash prize of Rs. 5,00,000/-, awarded by the Ministry of Climate and Environmental Science, Stae Government of Tamil Nadu in 2022.

The thought of ‘Stop SUP’ has been aroused in the minds of people of the locality.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Social awareness and public education are very important for inculcating behavioural change in plastic usage. Palani is a town Panchayat with its floating population, arising out of the visiting pilgrims. So, stability in adopting the practice of Ban Plastics is a challenging task to the awareness creators. Much of the plastic produced currently is meant for single-use and is discarded within a few minutes of its first use, giving rise to what is called a “throw away” culture. Bringing in behavioural change is limited.

The students of the college prepare Alternate Traditional bags to distribute to the society. But the service is expensive.

The students of Zoology produce Bio-plastic utensils, out of corn waste. This is an experimental study and practising it needs enlarged laboratory facilities and investment.

Resources Required:

Every village needs a recycling unit for plastic waste management. Till then, disposal of the collected plastic waste is hazardous.

Notes

The Cells, Associations, Units and Forums of Arulmigu Palaniandavar Arts College for Women, Palani have taken up the sole mission of ‘Protecting the One Earth – Our earth from SUP (Single Use Plastics)’. The behavioural change among the student community is quite visible and evident. It is every individual’s responsibility to accelerate collective action to solve the climate crisis through groundbreaking science, inspiring media, and an innovative approach to climate philanthropy. The solutions for the climate crisis

already exist, and the latest science led by One Earth shows we can achieve the critical goal through our three pillars of collective action:

- A just transition to 100% renewable energy;
- Protection and restoration of half of the world's lands and oceans

"The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed." says Mahatma Gandhi, the World's early environmentalist in vision and practice. Let us follow his foot prints.

Link to Documents: <http://apacwomen.ac.in/pdf/naac/BP01.pdf>

Website Link: <https://www.apacwomen.ac.in/page/best-practices->



A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'A. P. J.'.

PRINCIPAL
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