

SREE NARAYANA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, MUVATTUPUZHA

BEST PRACTICE 2019-'20

Plastics have over the years become an inseparable part of human existence. Use of plastics is embedded in our day-to-day life, in everything from grocery bags and cutlery to water bottles and sandwich wraps. Over-use of plastic and improper disposal of plastic waste has turned into a major ecological issue world over, agitating the minds of national governments and environmentalists alike. Indiscriminate dumping of plastic waste in landfills, streams, rivers and the seas have greatly degraded the natural environment creating problems for the flora and fauna and even human populations. Plastics are composed of major toxic pollutants and they take a long time to degrade naturally. They cause loss of biodiversity, soil contamination and resource crunch. They also contribute to global warming.

The dangers of plastic overuse have been recognized and earnest attempts are being made to reduce their use and possibly replace with more environment-friendly materials. Several proposals have been put forward like initiating a mission to avoid single-use plastics, promoting alternative to fossil-fuel base materials, promoting 100% recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and trying to influence human behaviour concerning use of plastics. The World Environment Day celebrated on June 5 every year is an occasion to highlight the drastic effects of plastic and mobilize the citizens to tackle the menace of plastic pollution.

As part of this endeavour a grassroots campaign to regulate the use of plastic needs to be initiated. Our college is located in a small town surrounded by countryside with large areas under agriculture. A big river – the Muvattupuzha, flows through the middle of our town. There are also large water bodies in the surrounding countryside. Due to inadequacies in the waste collection and disposal system, the water bodies have become choked with plastic waste in several areas. In a small attempt towards mitigating this problem the students of our college chalked out a plan to make paper bags to replace plastic bags. Plastic bags were once considered a modern convenience. But their overuse has contributed to tons of waste being generated with no way for its proper disposal. Paper bags made of low-cost material like paper, cloth or jute can replace plastic bags. A person who had expertise in paper bag making was invited to the college to demonstrate the bag making process to a group of students. After familiarizing themselves the process, the students made a large number of paper bags of different sizes and distributed them free of cost to several shops in the vicinity of the college.





