

INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT, KOLKATA

Newsletter

Plastic Free College Campus:-

Plastic waste generation has been one of the most concerning environmental issues over decades. Plastic is widely used in our daily lives. Be it single use plastic, or PET plastic wares, the gigantic amount of waste produced by it is alarming. Every year, India produces, 3.6 lakh million tone of plastic waste alone! Other than clogging the surface, it also poses a terrible threat to marine lives. Around 88 percent of marine lives are contaminated by plastic wastes in ocean. It is not long, when we will step on a plastic with each step while walking.

Schools and colleges contributes to a large extent in the waste production. Plastic bottles, plastic packets, containers and so on. PFC or plastic free campus is an initiative adapted by numerous schools and colleges with the aim of reducing plastic wastes produced in campus, aiming at maintaining the overall ecological balance. PFC consists of several interrelated measures that schools and colleges could adapt to develop a plastic free surrounding.

-) Generating minimum plastic waste is the most initial step that institutions could take. Students, vendors and shops around the campus should be made aware of the importance of reducing plastic wastes.
-) Using paper wares and recycling paper should be normalized. Paper envelopes should be used instead of plastic packets. Recycling used paper makes the usage of paper environmentally convenient.
-) Using reusable containers and bags does make a huge difference. Students should be encouraged to carry their own cutlery, glass or eco friendly material made water bottles and food carriers. Food vendors in or around campuses should use eco friendly elements like wooden cutlery and paper plates.
-) Purified Water dispenser must be made a must so that no one is compelled to buy pet plastic made water bottles.
-) Preparing a Green Audit analyzes how much a college impacts on the environment. It not only has an eco friendly impact, but also promotes financial hold by ensuring there is reduction of unnecessary resource utilization.

Measures work only when it is believed to be working. Plastic Free Campus is ideally an potpourri of youth enthusiasm and measures. It is no rocket science but a practice to healthier environment.

BY: Ipsita Acharya

1st year, IHM KOLKATA

Pollution Prevention Opportunities:

Pollution Prevention or P2 is the most fundamental practice which not only reduces but also prevents the present-occurring pollution. P2 being the environmental-friendly method protects the environment with multiple ideas of conserving our natural resources. This practice is most economically-feasible as it costs even less than the present pollution-control ideas and technologies.

Treasuring the non-renewable resources We earthlings are blessed with the boon of having the renewable energy resources widespread to most of the geographical areas on the earth. As natural resources like fossil fuels are limited to a number of countries, switching to the usage of renewable resources in most of the fields is actually the need of the hour. Renewables such as solar power, wind energy are unlimited to every country and they can be efficiently used not just in industries but also in schools, colleges and many more public places too which

According to a study, there are 3,146 gigawatts installed in 135 countries, while 156 countries have laws regulating the renewable energy sector.

Approaches for P2

While thinking of the approaches to prevent pollution, what people can reflect at a time? One may think that it can surely be followed in the industries or in the waste management procedures.



Source: uploaded by Kibii Komen on Research Gate

But NO, pollution prevention opportunities are open to all sectors like schools, colleges, transport, industrial sectors and so on. Some approaches which can majorly be followed in the campus are:

- Switching to electric or biodiesel for the campus vehicles.
- Use of multiple-usage plastics instead of one-use plastics.
- Implementation of solar panels for every energy needs.
- Switching to "green" cleaners

Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.

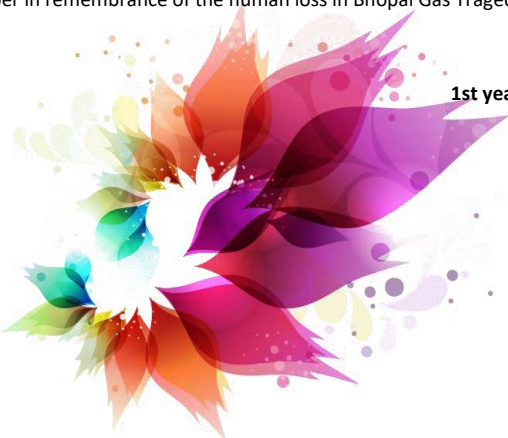
William Ruckelshaus

Awareness of P2 opportunities

The Awareness of this practice may vary from the individual level to the country level. It must be significant to every human in the nation. The government must organise more and more awareness programs and missions like our respected prime minister did by launching the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' in 2014. Mr. Modi also mentioned that 'Swachhta Abhiyan' is stimulated by patriotism and beyond politics. Our country celebrates 'National Pollution Prevention Day' on 2nd December in remembrance of the human loss in Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984.

BY: Shruty,

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INDIA - THE GOLDEN BIRD COVERED IN GRIME

When one looks up the list of the most polluted cities in the world, it is common knowledge for both New Delhi and Kolkata to pop up as number one and two on that list. Very unsurprising, yet very alarming. As I travel from my home to college and back, I deliberately make an effort to choose the cleaner route, yet, I, along with numerous others, am the one who has caused those other roads to be so dirty. It doesn't give me any pleasure to find out, that India is on the verge of becoming the most polluted country in the world. Day in, day out, we make it a point to not care, so sure that someone else will.

Well, newsflash, if you don't care, nobody does. That's right, the 'Save the Environment' protesters will throw away their placards after the parade, the scientists searching for ways to use up less resources are the ones who will end up using the most (for "research", of course) and those very parents who want to provide their children all the luxuries of life will not leave anything for their next generation. It's a fact. Unsurprising, but so very unfortunate.

It doesn't have to be so unimpressive, though. Only if we want it that way, if we want to change, if you, want to make a difference. Just think of a time when their will be no water, no electricity, no food to buy. How far does that look? A 100-200 years? Now look at statistics. As of 828 million people, or 11% of the world's population is going to bed without even one meal a day to their name. 240 million Indians don't receive electricity. There's really no need for providing statistics if people cannot understand the message they put across, the message being that we might all be starving in the next few decades. Wealth can buy food, shelter, vehicles, but what happens the day when there's nothing left to buy?

Swachh Bharat is a mere name, to give life to the idea is our job. To just keep the plastic with yourself until you find a dustbin is a step towards Swachh Bharat, to burst just five less crackers on Diwali, to walk a kilometer instead of calling the cab, to even realize you can do better, is a step towards Swachh Bharat. The choice, is yours, rather ours, to make.

BY: Shristi Arora

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THE CLEANER CELEBRATIONS

India is a country of versatile cultural and ethnic interests and this leads us to a lot of celebrations, starting from Makar Sankranti right in January till the new years' eve in chilly December, we are all occupied with bundles of festivals and social gatherings round the calendar. But the enormity of these celebrations come with a massive cost of huge waste generation. Statistics say that a single big-fat Indian wedding can leave a carbon footprint equivalent to cutting 100 odd trees and produce nearly 300kg of plastic waste and 200kg of food waste. It all doesn't end here, Eid, Diwali and Christmas and other joyous festivals too add on to this waste generation. It is hence the need of the hour to turn up for something more eco-friendly keeping up the festive spirits. Surveys have indicated that nearly 71% of festival visitors agree to the fact that this waste is extremely dangerous for us and proper waste management is to be done for the better.

There are recent cases where people have taken initiatives to make celebrations cleaner greener and better without losing its originality. Green wedding is a very popular concept coming up in gen-z minds which makes their special day unique as well as better for the planet. Idols made from clay and paper which can be dissolved in water are also a recent change seen in traditional rituals. Banning of animal sacrifices have also contributed a lot to this initiative. But spreading awareness among people is to be done first. The consciousness should be present from the grass-root level to bring a noticeable change Some small but efficient steps that can be implemented by everyone of us are-

- Installation of sensor-based taps to reduce on water wastage.
- Use of biodegradable colours, glitters and decorative items.
- Banning single-use plastic across the entire site and time-period.
- Using renewable source of energy to provide power supply.

There are a bunch of ideas if sincerely thought of. The government of India also plays an important role in this context and hand-in-hand cooperation from the authority will make the process more convenient to adapt and efficient in application. If done right, soon India is going to witness a healthy and clean environment of celebrations and this will provide a whole new dimension to the cultural diversity of the nation.

BY: Pratyasha Ghosh

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WHY IT IS OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY TO KEEP INDIA CLEAN

India won its fight for independence in 1947, and its main leader, Mahatma Gandhi, said, "Sanitation is more important than independence." He made cleanliness and good hygiene important parts of the Gandhian way of life. He wanted everyone in India to have clean water and toilets because he was sure that cleanliness was the most important thing for physical and mental health and for a healthy environment. It has to do with personal and public hygiene.

Even though we are taught from a young age to do things like wash our hands before meals, brush our teeth every day, take a bath, and wear clean clothes, most parents don't teach their children to keep public places clean. Cleanliness needs to be a part of who we are, so it's no surprise that our public spaces and societies are dirty.

Gandhiji talked a lot about cleanliness and good habits, and he pointed out that these things have a lot to do with being healthy. No one should spit or blow his nose in the streets. In some cases, the germs in the sputum are so dangerous that they spread to other people. Most developing and advanced countries make it illegal to spit on the road, throw trash on the road, or blow your nose on the road. People who spit after chewing betel leaves and tobacco don't care about how they make other people feel. We don't care about people who spit, blow their noses, or do other disgusting things. India has a lot of beautiful historic tourist spots, but instead of keeping them clean and helping tourism grow, they are ignored and kept dirty.

The current government of India is running a campaign called Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) or Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) from 2014 to 2019 to clean up the streets, roads, and infrastructure of India's cities, towns, and rural areas. The goals of Swachh Bharat include getting rid of defecating in the open by building toilets that belong to households and communities and setting up a system to track how often toilets are used. The Government of India is in charge of the mission, which aims to make India "open-defecation free" (ODF) by 2 October 2019, which is the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth. The goal of the mission is to build 90 million toilets in India's rural areas, which is expected to cost 1.96 lakh crore (US\$30 billion). The mission will also help India reach the UN's 2015 goals for "sustainable development growth" (SDG). Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially started the campaign on October 2, 2014, at Rajghat in New Delhi. It is India's biggest effort to clean up so far. It is rightly said that charity begins at home and it is utmost important to start from our home first than only we can change the society. HEAL THE WORLD MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE FOR U AND FOR ME AND THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE .", "IT ALWAYS STARTS FROM US AND A SMALL STEPS MAKES A DIFFERENCE."

BY: Vivek Kumar Chourasia

1st year, IHM KOLKATA