

PALAASH- BHARATI COLLEGE ECOCLUB

2015-16

The Bharati College Ecoclub contributes towards the creation of a greener city and nation. It seeks to foster an understanding of our own roles in the total environment, and to increase the environmental awareness of the Bharati community.

2015 was an important year. The Ecoclub got a new name: *Palaash*. The bright orange flame of the flowers reflects the passion which our students feel for the environment. Possessing a cultural significance across several faiths- *Palaash* is a symbol of an enlightened state of being as well as the arrival of spring. Indeed, to constantly renew ourselves and our surroundings through the acquisition and application of knowledge is a fundamental credo of *Palaash*- the Bharati College Ecoclub.

To provide students with an experience of ecologically managing the immediate environment, the Eco Club has divided them into various groups- each responsible for one aspect: Water, Electricity, Garbage collection Environmental awareness and Cleanliness.

Another important and ongoing activity of the Eco Club is the conversion of the horticultural and canteen waste of the College into compost without the use of chemicals. The compost is stored in hand made cloth/jute bags made by the students out of left over material.

As part of GreenFun 2015- the annual ecoclub festival- a talk on "Revisiting Ecofeminism" by Dr. Jaishree Pillai, Associate Professor of Political Science, Miranda House was organized on 1 April, 2015. The talk was followed by several student centric events including a Poster making Competition and a Create from Waste contest.

Tree plantation exercises are also conducted on a regular basis. Many students are personally committed to taking care of the newly planted trees. This year- Sanrakshan 2015- a tree plantation drive sponsored by Shri Sanjay Puri, was organized on 14th August 2015. Student also took an oath to practice conservation in their personal lives.

A small beginning towards the construction of a herbal garden in the college was also made. Faculty and student members of *Palaash* attended a workshop on this issue in Shivaji College, Delhi University.

On the 10th of October, 2015, *Palaash* organized a talk cum discussion on the topic "Unethical Medical Practices." Dr. Jaishree Gupta, President, Consumers India was the speaker. It was any eye opening session for students and faculty alike.

A poster making competition was organized by *Palaash* on 11 February, 2016. There were two topics around which the students had to base their posters. "The 3 Rs- Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle" and "Loss of Biodiversity" Cash prizes were given to the winners. Certificates for participation were also awarded.

A GREEN College is what we aspire Bharati College to represent and *Palaash* will continue to strive for it in the years to come.

2016-17

PALAASH- BHARATI COLLEGE ECOCLUB

Palaash- the Bharati College Ecoclub has the mandate of enhancing the ecological knowledge of the Bharati community and deepening their understanding of the linkages between the environment and human existence. In that spirit, the Ecoclub undertakes various activities throughout the year to fulfill this mission.

This year our Green Campaign started with a Tree Plantation drive on 12th August, 2016 organized in collaboration with the NCC Unit of the College and the Department of Environment, GNCT. Mr. Sanjay Puri of *Sanrakshan* was instrumental in providing the plants.

On 23rd August, 2016, the Ecoclub organized a series of simultaneous competitions- Poster making, Create from Waste and Nature Photography for students of the first, second and third years respectively. Ms Anuradha Masand from Nirmal Chhaya was the external judge for the event. It was heartening to see the creativity on display.

Green Fun- the annual festival of *Palaash* is an extremely popular inter-college event. This year too, the festival saw widespread participation from different colleges of Delhi. The theme chosen for 2016 was '*Nature in Art*'. The festival was ushered in by a spectacular lecture- demo by Jaya Mehta- noted Odissi dancer who brought out the different representations of nature in Indian classical dance. The enthusiasm of the students resulted in an impromptu workshop in which Ms Mehta taught students some of the *mudras* symbolizing nature. Staying with the same theme, the next day, Saroj Jha and Mamta Jha – award winning Madhubani artistes- led a lecture cum workshop on Madhubani painting in which they talked about the close connections between the environment and art. The salad making competition was a huge hit with everyone. The variety and different flavours on display attracted many to take a tempting bite.

As part of a Pre- Diwali Awareness Campaign, *Palaash* organized a No Cracker Anti Pollution Awareness Drive on 27th October, 2016. Students prepared posters and placards which were put to good use in the Rally. A pledge to ensure a pollution free Diwali was also undertaken by the Bharati community. Further, a Nukkad Natak on the theme was also organized. As part of the Outreach Programme of the Ecoclub- Nirmal Chhaya – a Children Home for Girls- was invited to set up stalls of handmade eco products. Aashirwad Educational Society – an NGO which works with mentally and physically challenged children also put up stalls and put on sale the eco friendly products crafted by these children. The volunteers of the Ecoclub packed the organic compost prepared in the College in cloth bags sewn by them. The product was put on sale and was instantly sold.

A Japanese delegation visited the College on 30th November, 2016. *Palaash* was actively involved in the display of Create from Waste products made by the students.

Palaash also has an understanding with Nirmal Chhaya under the Life Connects Initiative for Girls Facing Abuse and Neglect. The programme involves campaigning through creative means to encourage volunteering amongst students. In this context, our students have taken the lead and often work with the residents of Nirmal Chhaya.

The ongoing activities of the Ecoclub continue to be Rainwater Harvesting and segregation of garbage and the use of horticultural and canteen waste to make our own organic compost.

In the future, we propose to undertake the plantation of such flora which could act as anti-pollutants in an effort to improve the campus air quality. However, we also have to work towards being more vigilant in preserving and nurturing the existing green cover of the College.

2017-18

Palaash- the Bharati College ecoclub continued to work towards environmental conservation and the promotion of eco-friendly best practices. Some notable activities are as follows:

Palaash has the responsibility of looking after the Rainwater harvesting system of the College. Members of the society were responsible for ensuring the regular cleaning of the pits. Further, as per the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) mandating the updation of the RWH systems across campuses, *Palaash* members are currently actively involved in implementing the new systems.

A Workshop on “Understanding and Conservation of Energy Resources” was organized in association with the Department of Environmental Studies on 25th October, 2017. Eminent speakers such as Professor Radhey Shyam from the Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi and Dr. Priyanka Kaushal from TERI spoke in the well-attended Workshop which was extremely informative and thought provoking.

A presentation on Solar Energy was organized for the benefit of students. The resource person was a young researcher who patiently explained the advantages of adopting solar energy.

The annual Inter College Festival – Green Fun- was once again organized successfully on 23rd March, 2018. The theme this year was “Developing an Effective Waste Management and Disposal Policy for Cities.” While all the competitive events were closely fought, the photography contest- “Shutter Up” was especially remarkable for the almost professional finesse of many of the entries.

2018-19

Green fun fest of Palash Eco club was held on 7th February 2019 at Seminar room, Theatre room and Foyer area of Bharati College, C-4 Janakpuri, Delhi. The activities included Inter College Quiz, Music and Salad making competition and a Pottery workshop. .

Environmental Awareness and Training plays a significant role in encouraging and enhancing people’s participation in different activities on conservation, protection, preservation and

management of the environment and its components which is essential for achieving sustainable development. Eco club is one of the important activity clubs of any educational institution. The need of the hour is to create an environment friendly generation for the survival of human being alongwith nature. It is necessary to sensitize them towards nature.

Vision:

The club will be committed towards raising social awareness regarding environmental issues and changing students' attitude towards the environment by enlisting their active participation in club's activities.

Mission

To get the students actively involved in environmental matters and to develop their interest over environmental issues

To exert value oriented efforts for a safer atmosphere, thus creating awareness towards the three 'R's-reuse, reduce and recycle of natural resources for its conservation

To inculcate proper attitude with regard to environment and its conservation through action-based programmes like biocomposting, plantation, etc

To enhance students participation in protecting the micro environment.

To implement efficient solid waste management.

To reduce the use of plastic in the community.

To forge ties with the community on ecological problems and conservation.

Committee Members 2018-19

Dr Anupama Mahajan (Convenor)

Miss Sobhna Sinha

Dr Sahaj Badhwa

Dr Priyambada Patri

Dr Rashmi Kumari

Dr Shailesh Kumar

The Palaash consists of 21 eco-club members. The name of the eco-club is "Palash".The activities undertaken by the eco-club regarding the environmental awareness are exceptional. The following

activities have been accomplished by this College in a well determined manner. 1. Rain Water Harvesting plant is already existing in the college. The conserved water is used for recharging purpose in rainy season. To improve the ground water level Rain Pits and Bore well recharging maintained by students and gardeners. Waste water comes from the hand wash is used to College garden. 2. Segregated Waste Disposal done in two separate pits for Bio-Degradable and non-BioDegradable waste for bio-composting unit. The compost is used in the College garden. The important activities accomplished during 2018-19 are as follows:

Plantation Drive:

Palaash has initiated a small step to create and develop awareness and a sense of ecological environment among our students. It is also a noble responsibility to inculcate the benefits of raising plantation, kitchen garden etc in a student's mind and to take different biodiversity improvement measures through different activities of our eco-club.

This idea was encouraged and enhanced by the Principal. A plantation programme was conducted in the College on 1st October 2018 with a NGO Sankrakhan. The students and the teachers of the Eco-Club along with the principal planted different kinds of saplings outside the school campus. Green fun-fest of Ecoclub 'Palaash' was held on 7th February, 2019 with Inter College competition (Quiz, music, salad making) along with a pottery workshop. The theme was based on importance of Earth 'Call of the Earth'.

Quiz competition

A quiz competition was conducted by the Eco Club of our College with a motive to create awareness regarding the conservation of soil. Excessive misuse of soil not only results in food crisis but also affects our environment adversely. Therefore in order to create awareness about the present scenario among the budding minds, this quiz was conducted. The theme of the quiz was-"Call of the Earth". About 40 students from different Colleges participated in the quiz with great zeal and enthusiasm. The competition included 3 rounds. Only 10 students got qualified for the second round. It was a neck to neck competition. The winners of the competition are-

SONG: MOTHER EARTH During the celebration of Green fest, of our College, the students presented beautiful song in music competition praising Mother Earth and the resources that it

provides to human beings. The students from different Colleges enthusiastically participated in the instrumental performance as they presented their love towards Mother Earth. Each and every word of the song conveyed the bond between human and earth. The winners of the competition are:

Salad making competition An inter-college salad making competition was held during green fun and the students enthusiastically participated in the activity. They gave the message to save and conserve mother Earth by stop using plastic, saving paper, etc. The winners got the cash award and they are

Pottery workshop Two artisans were invited to do pottery workshop on the green fun day. Such activities help the students to inculcate values and life skills. Overall it was an interesting and informative experience. The students were fully engrossed in the activity and went back with an enriching experience.

COMPOSTING ACTIVITY Eco club of Bharati College organised an activity of composting on 5th Feb 2019, with an NGO Living farm who gave demonstration to the girls about the biocomposting and its importance involving the students, teachers and gardeners. Students were given the demonstration of how to make organic manure. This was done to promote organic farming, which is very beneficial for not only environment but also human and animal health. Students were also made to understand that using chemicals makes environment and water polluted.

Workshop on safe food A workshop on 'safe food' was conducted under 'Bhoomika' organised by an NGO, Living farms on 1st November 2018 at Bharati College with Ecoclub members. The students were shown short film followed by an interactive session wherein impacts of use of fertilisers and pesticides in modern agriculture was discussed. The students, teachers were also sensitised towards the negative impact of junk food. It was a knowledgeable and fun filled activity for our students. The seeds of Coriander, bottle guard, Lady's finger, pumpkin were sown along with saplings of green chillies, brinjal by the participants who would be working towards developing a organic kitchen garden at their home.

2019-2020

It organised a composting session in the college and students learnt the basics of composting and how they can easily do it at their homes.

Few weeks later it organized a session on sustainable menstruation taken by students of IGDTUW under their project called "Projectmeno" and inspired students to switch to biodegradable pads or try menstrual cups instead. Two of our volunteers through that workshop switched to Menstrual cups immediately after attending the workshop.

On November 17, 2019 we took composting to a society in Rajendra Place, organised a common session on composting and waste segregation and then visited households to explain what composting is, how can they do it at their homes and made them sign a pledge!

Last but not the least, PALAASH organised it's annual fest "Green Dreams - 2020" in a befitting manner on 20th February, 2020

The highlights of the fest were variegated competitions and eco-friendly stalls that were completely arranged with keeping the theme in mind. All the organisers and team members of the eco-club were also taking care of the fact that the fest should be organised with zero-waste policy.

The competition included "Salad-making competition" - where students participated to show their skills of making healthy and tasty salads. Many students from different colleges participated in a good number. "Environment Tambola" - where students were tested on the basis of their knowledge about the Environment but in a fun-twisted manner by asking questions through the game of Tambola. Students thoroughly enjoyed the game and played with full enthusiasm. "Plogging" - where students were encouraged to involve in a health run along with picking up trash on the roads, this activity gave the message of 'clean environment with cleaner streets'.

Participants of this activity collected a total of 8 sacks of waste from the streets.

Along with these fun-activities "Green Dreams" also arranged some amazing stalls in partnership with different NGOs like "ARA India" - which had beautiful canvas bags of all sorts for girls, and "Goonj" which came with a unique idea of novel exchange and sold second hand novels, which inspired a lot of young readers in the college. The fest also had a stall for "Menstrual Cups" by the famous brand "Sirona". Many other stalls for bamboo straws, clothes, accessories, food and beverages were also arranged.

This year's Eco-club fest was a very good example of how the younger generation wants to see the world

with more sustainable goods and showed that we do have some good alternatives for our daily-use items. We dream for a Cleaner India, a Greener India.