



SREE VIDYADHI RAJA NSS COLLEGE, VAZHOOR

(Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University. Accredited by NAAC with B Grade)

BEST PRACTICE



(Office) : 0481 2950252
(Principal) : 0481 2950082



www.svrnsscollege.com
info@svrnsscollege.com



Theerthapadapuram,
Vazhoor, Kottayam, Kerala,
India. PIN 686505

Goals

It was the institutions' policy to promote eco-friendly practices and as a part of it, Akshatha – an all-round waste management system was put into practice. It was an all-round waste management practice for two reasons. One, Akshatha was different from regular on campus eco-friendly practices because it was focused on taking eco-friendly methods on and off campus as well. Faculties and students were instructed to be active participants in waste management and reduction in the campus, at their homes and in the nearby locality. Second reason was that Akshatha gave equal importance to all kinds of wastes including food waste, plastic, solid waste, E- waste etc.

1. **Creating Awareness.** Our students and faculties were taught to properly segregate the waste materials based on their properties. This would make it easier to transport the wastes, process them and dispose them scientifically.
2. **Taking active role.** Instead of teaching the importance of waste management, our institution could provide an opportunity to the students to be active participants in it. Thus, our students could directly experience being a part of redefining their environmental culture and thereby improve human well-being and ensuring a balanced ecosystem.
3. **Total Participation.** We had similar programs in the previous years too but they all came under the activities of specific clubs or related departments. Drawback of such programs was the limited participation and thereby limited impact. Through Akshatha, everyone- Students and Faculties alike- could be brought under one initiative.
4. **Waste reduction.** Traditionally, our institution like every other with over a thousand students, added more waste to the total eco system than we could remove from it. Akshatha was a largescale program and therefore ensured that we prevented ourselves from adding more wastes and at the same time removed more wastes from the ecosystem.
5. **The greatest success of Akshatha was the involvement of the local community.** Apart from the college and households of our students and faculties, we could also reach out to the houses in our locality. The resulting community participation was amazing.

The Context

The campus of SVR NSS Vazhoor is in the lush green background of a village and our management was always keen on maintaining its greenery. But like any other institution hosting over a thousand people every day, we also had to take measures to keep our wastes in check. In the recent years, involvement of more and more technology in the running of the institution had the negative side of increasing the initial waste production. On the top of this list was the increase in the quantity of E-waste. A similar increase in the quantity of plastic waste was also becoming a concern. These along with the usual solid and bio degradable waste needed immediate attention and thus the Akshatha program was launched as the best practice of the institution. Initial studies of the program clearly identified that the college was the end point and changes had to be made from the initial point if there was to be any success. So the program was decided to reduce the creation of waste from the initial points like homes and also to manage the waste materials that make their way into our campus. With the success of the program, we could contribute to better waste disposal as well as less waste production.

The Practice

Akshatha- the waste management practice of the college was implemented through the active involvement and participation of teaching and non-teaching staff, students and NSS. Various programs at different levels were organized with the objective of creating a waste free campus.

To ensure the effective implementation of the program, a committee of representatives of staff and students was formed. Our students and faculties needed to be taught to properly segregate and handle the waste materials based on their properties. NSS took initiative in giving awareness about the negative impacts of solid waste especially plastic waste to the college community. This would make it easier to process them and dispose them efficiently. Overall cleaning of the campus was a priority and areas which were very badly littered were identified for intense cleaning work in the coming days. Places prone to random and accidental waste disposal were identified and garbage bins were placed at such places depending on the type of wastes. For example, area near

the canteen required bins that collect food wastes but areas near the store and the play grounds required more bins to collect plastic.

The plastic waste collected from the campus and houses of students and staff, was handed over to the Haritha Karmasena of Vazhoor Gramapanchayath from 2018-19 onwards. Department of Mathematics volunteered to oversee the project alongside Haritha Karmasena. Swatchata survey was undertaken Vazhoor Grama Panchayath wards. The survey provided valuable data for identifying areas more prone to garbage disposal. It also helped us to focus on issues relating to waste management that require special and immediate attention. As part of "Clean campus, Green Campus" program, a compost pit and covering shed was constructed in the college with the help of NSS volunteers, giving a major boost to the bio-waste management facility in the campus. The collected biodegradable waste was put to proper use with the construction of a bio-gas plant near the canteen. Akshatha- waste management practice of college pursued its effective excursion to be 'pure and neat' through years. In 2019-20, Nature club in association with Department of Botany conducted a campaign against usage of plastic. Pamphlets were distributed among the vendors and public as a part of awareness program in the students march from college campus to Kodungoor. Students explained the demerits of plastic and possible alternatives to the people. Newspaper bags made by students were also distributed which can serve as a substitute for plastic to some extent. As part of campus cleaning programme degree and PG students of Economics department cleaned college premises. The commerce department has also initiated their VET course as Origami Paper pen making to motivate students to reduce the use of plastic ball pens. The Department of Mathematics marked its role by declaring the area around the department as Plastic free corner. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Pushkala Devi, Panchayat President. The non-reusable plastics in the department and its premises are handled with utmost care till date by staff and student community. The segregation and disposal of garbage has become a daily routine of the students and faculty. Newly joined students and staff were targeted to follow the values raised by Akshatha on and off the campus. This task was well accomplished by the NSS volunteers who initiated awareness program for the freshers at the department as well as the college level. The garbage bins, compost pits are all maintained well which enabled them to cope easily with the theme of "Clean campus,

Green Campus". The college community was promoted to bring their eatables in reusable steel containers so as to reduce wastes as well as to avoid health issues related with wrapping food materials in polythene/plastic foils. The students were trained Cloth bag making as part of VET Courses in Chemistry department. The fabric painted cloth bags were distributed in the science exhibition at physics department. This might have encouraged the college community to reduce the dependence on plastic bags. Also in December 2020, with an aim to reduce plastic and to recreate it into an aesthetic one, Department of English organized a program "Beauty and the Waste".

Electronic waste was a great challenge of our digitally expanding world and we need to create awareness among the students about its impact to ensure that they realize the seriousness of the issue. An e waste management proposal was submitted to the principal at the initiation of Department of Physics. E waste clinic was included in science exhibition organized as part of National Science Day. A survey on the awareness of E-waste for the students was conducted and it showed that most of our students and even some of our faculties had little knowledge on how to deal with E- waste. Therefore, an awareness programme on E-waste- Issues and challenges was organized. Mr. Raju, Assistant Director of Thanal (NGO) delivered an excellent lecture on the topic. As part of continuing awareness programmes and extending it to the local people a documentary by students of department of Physics is released in the year 2020-21. E-waste audit for each department and office was done and a collection drive was conducted including collection of plastic wastes. Collected E-waste shall be handed over to a certified recycler. Later, on 14th January 2021, the public speaker, Ms Laure, Auroville consulting, Pondicherry, shared her life style and experiences through an invited talk "Zero Waste". Like all other programs under Akshatha, the E-waste management programme too will be extended more and more to our local community.

The waste management practice of the college was being realized through the active involvement and participation of teaching and non-teaching staff, students, NSS and NCC.

Evidence of Success

Akshatha's success is evident from the reformed glimpse of the campus premises itself. There is no random waste disposal within the campus now. Waste materials are dumped only in the space provided and that too in the bins allotted for each type of waste. A new culture of reduce, reuse and recycle has become the usual way of life for each and everyone in the campus. The program has not only succeeded in managing the waste materials in the college, it has also stepped forward by ensuring less initial waste production and disposal. A constant link is maintained with the Vazhoor gramapanchayat through the involvement of Haritha Karma Sena in the removal of waste. Moreover, the active participation of students in maintaining an ecofriendly green campus has become a part and parcel of our daily campus life.

Problems Encountered

1. The most serious issue is regarding the infrastructure and funding of the programs. Such a largescale project that involves wide participation, seminars, campaigns, surveys and requiring equipment has monetary requirements beyond the capacity of our regular funding. The initial run was successful due to the voluntary monetary aid from the part of our faculties and staff. But for a successful long run, a dependable funding is essential.
2. Storage of the collected plastic and E-waste till the hand over to the collection center. Unlike bio waste, plastic and e-waste needs to be handed over to certified recyclers. This can only be done after collecting a large quantity of the said materials. Safe storage of these materials till they can be safely handed over remains a headache.
3. Improper segregation of waste in the beginning stage created problems. This was efficiently dealt with inside the campus but it still remains a problem within houses.

Various glimpses of Akshatha





