

## **Greening the Campus: Tactics for Plastic Reduction and Greenery Preservation**

### **Context:**

Dr. V. S. Krishna Government Degree College(A) with its green oasis in the middle of the city, is like heaven in the midst of the concrete jungle. It is filled with diverse flora and fauna, making it a lush green environment for an enhanced learning experience. Haritha Krishna Eco-Club takes focus on campus-specific plantation drives, to foster a culture of environmental stewardship within the academic community while contributing to broader conservation efforts.

### **Objectives:**

- To reduce carbon footprint and boost oxygen levels through sustainable practices.
- To reduce pollution and maintain ecological equilibrium.
- To augment greenery by planting indigenous species and aesthetically pleasing plants.
- To endorse waste management and recycling of solid waste collected on the campus to foster green campus initiatives and achieve the goals of **BACK TO NATURE**.

### **Practice:**

#### **1. Green Campus Campaign:**

##### **A. Me and my plant (MAMP):**

Haritha Krishna, Eco-Club has initiated a Flagship practice known as **Me And My Plant (MAMP)** where student teams maintain garden blocks.

- B.** Plantation drives are organized on the campus regularly to enhance greenery. The Alumni and Walkers Club generously donated plants.
- C. Low cost and No waste maintenance of campus gardens with organic manures and pesticides-like** Vermicompost, organic/biofertilizers like Jeevamrut, *Azolla* and organic pesticides like Neemastra are prepared using natural materials.
- D. Mulching** is done in the garden using pieces of wet cardboard, and dry leaves to conserve moisture and prevent plant loss due to wilting.

**2. Campus Beautification (Haritha Blooms) and Nurturing varietal gardens of** campus such as botanical garden, vegetable, fruit, medicinal, xerophytic garden, Aqua Blooms, Sundara Haritha, Parimala Haritha, Butterfly Bliss, Hanging Greens, Green Ascents, and Vertical Vistas are being maintained.

**3. Maintaining mosquito-repellent plants in the garden** reduces the need for chemical insect repellents.

**4. Rakhis are tied to heritage trees as a part of the conservation and** a promise to protect them.

5. Haitha Krishna Club has a unique practice of collecting used pens under the **Ink to Eco programme** as a means of sustainable waste management. The **Plastic Patrol Programme (PPP)** has been initiated by placing a DROP box at accessible points.

**6. Implementing a practice of providing indoor plants to all departments in the college.**

**7. Gifting saplings to guests and resource persons.**

**8. Green Volunteers of Haritha Krishna write and edit the Haritha Mitra Magazine.**

**9. Engaging students in the preparation and dissemination of seed balls.**

**10. Solid Waste segregation**

**11. Reclaiming wastelands** for productive use.

**Resources Required to implement the practice:**

Financial resources are essential for the effective implementation of the program. Coordination with external agencies is also crucial to facilitate the execution of the practice. Follow-up of student participation and regular motivation is a must.

**Outcomes**

1. Regular maintenance of the gardens enhanced aesthetic appeal and created a visually pleasant environment for studying.
2. With the use of organic fertilizers, pesticides and water management techniques, the cost of maintenance is drastically reduced.

**3.** Me and My Plant(MAMP) has created an impact on students to develop bonds with college.