Environmental Friendly Practices and Efforts

The college makes special efforts to instil environmental awareness amongst its students. We firmly believe that environmental awareness must lead to environmental action. The following activities were undertaken to reduce our ecological footprints:

**Ecological Audits:** Environmental Audits examine how an institution is utilising resources. Under the Green Steps Initiative, four audits - Energy, Water, Air and Waste - were conducted in the year 2014-15. Each audit was conducted over a period of two weeks. Audits help us use our resources better and map our consumption and wastage. In the energy audit, the volunteers audited the sources of energy, the consumption of energy and explored ways in which this resource can be saved. In the water audit, volunteers studied the water use, the sources of water and suggested ways of water conservation, the importance of sanitation facilities. In the waste audit, volunteers mapped the amount and type of waste generated, areas of concentration of waste and offered ways and means to reduce it by segregation, recycling and reuse. In the air audit, volunteers studied the commuting habits of college students, and surveyed the tree cover of the college and ventilation facilities. The observations of all the audits were compiled into a report and submitted to the college along with immediate and long-term suggestions to increase the environment-friendliness of the college.

**Eco Friendly College/Departmental Fests since 2010:** Every year Fergusson College celebrates departmental fests in the month of December. For the last four years we have been popularizing green practices by encouraging each department to reduce their consumption, use more eco-friendly alternatives and ensure that the waste they generate is properly disposed. Every department was given guidelines regarding usage of paper, plastic etc before the fest. Volunteers monitored and made observations whether the departments are following the guidelines or not. This has made significant difference and students are learning to be eco literate.

**Participation in Eco Friendly Ganesh Visarjan since 2010:** This is jointly organised by KKPKP, SWaCH, ECO-EXIST and PMC with the objective of creating awareness about the ecological damage caused to the rivers by immersing the Ganesh idols in them. Devotees are requested to immerse the idols in the tanks provided by the PMC. The nirmalya collected is either converted into compost or organic colours for holi. Every year our students participate in large numbers.

**Zero Waste Campus Model (2011-12)** undertaken as a part of UGC’s CPE (XI Plan) Programme with the objective of creating a model that is environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially meaningful. The thrust was on segregating waste at source - sorting dry waste and sending it for recycling; composting wet waste and proper disposal of e –waste.

**E – Waste Awareness Campaign and Collection Drive since 2012:** E – waste is hazardous to the environment and health of people and it needs to be recycled and disposed in appropriate ways. A two day awareness campaign is organized and a large quantity of e- waste is collected and sent off for further recycling and disposal.

**Say No To Plastic Drive (September 18, 2014)**

The 'Say-No-To-Plastic' Drive was conducted on 18th. A rally was conducted to spread awareness about the harmful effects of plastic, which all the volunteers of Social Outreach attended. It was followed by screening of some short films about alternatives to plastic. Also, there were counters where a making paper bag was taught to people and where alternatives to plastic were displayed.
Workshops/Seminars/Guest Lectures

1. A People’s Symposium of Climate Justice (29.9.2009) jointly organised by Fergusson College and NCAS (National Centre for Advocacy Studies). The panelists were Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Prof. Vijay Paranjpye and Prof. Sanjeev Ghotge.

2. Issues of solid waste management in Pune (August 18, 2010) Shabana Diler & Kailash Yesge of SWaCH (India’s first cooperative of waste collectors).


4. “Environment Status Report of Pune – a Critical Analysis” and “Participatory Budgeting” Avinash Madhale and Isabel of Centre for Environment Education gave a power point presentation on the little known ESR of Pune. (Feb. 8, 2012)


6. Three Day Puppet Making Workshop” by Tim and Noah of CYDA using throwaway materials. (July 2011)

7. “With Love from Marketers to Us” by Rifat and Deepa of Open Space (July 20, 2012)

8. “Globalization- Problems and Alternatives” by Dr. Aseem Shrivastava and Mr. Ashish Kothari of environmental NGO Kalpavirksha. (August 8, 2012)


Street Plays:

- *Paniless Panipur* dealing with issues of privatization of water.
- *Gaon Chodab Nahin* deals with the tribal displacement due to developmental projects.
- *Vikas ki rail* questions the model of development vikas ki rail ya vinash ki rail.

Observing/Celebrating Days:

**Hiroshima & Nagasaki Day** (August 6 & 9 2010 and August 6 & 9 2011): This occasion is used to discuss and debate the issue of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. Poster exhibitions, street plays, film screening and debates/discussions are a part of the programme.

**Human Rights Week: “Environment and Human Rights”** (Dec.3 – 10, 2010): The focus was on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. The poster exhibition & street play were taken to 5 different city colleges.

**International Peace Day: Sustainable Development for a Sustainable Future** (September 21, 2012): In the context of the UNCSD Rio+20 Conference 2012, the theme chosen for observance of the International Peace Day was “Sustainable development for a sustainable future”.

**Coming Home to Gandhi** (January 30, 2012) & **Relevance of Gandhi – Some Stories of Hope** (January 30, 2013): Gandhi has been an inspiration for several environmental movements and for building alternative sustainable models of development. This was depicted through posters.

**Participation in Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival -2014** (Jan 18 & 20, 2014): As a part of this festival we had a lecture by Nityanand Jayraman on “Confronting Garbage Crisis in India” on January 18, 2014 at Fergusson College. A conference on “Understanding the E –Waste Management” had experts speaking on the subject. Students’ presentations, film screenings and poster exhibition were also a part of the programme.

**Waste Fest (January 19, 2015)**

This was jointly organised by the environmental sciences department, Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival and the Social Outreach department. The Waste Fest included a rally
with two huge puppets dancing to the tune of the waste band. Students carried placards, sang songs and shouted slogans. There was a lot of vim and vigour in the rally. Everyone gathered at Kimaya to witness the fun filled events like a Waste Band (musical band out of waste material), Waste Fashion Show (Clothes designed out of waste to spread awareness of the effects of waste), Streetplay (on the issue of segregation), Garbage Musical (Skit to promote proposal disposal of waste). It was received with a lot of enthusiasm. The atmosphere was carnivalesque!

Visit to model village Hiware Bazar - a model village (September 4, 2010) This is situated in a rain shadow region. Under the leadership of Popartrao Pawar, the village experienced significant transformation especially in the area of water conservation.

Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development’s Rio + 20 India Certification Programme (January – March, 2013): This is a short term certificate course. 36 students successfully completed this course.

Screening of Environmental Films and Documentaries: We have a collection of about 50 environmental documentary films which are screened and discussed on regular intervals.

Environmental Exercises / Games: Ten environmental games and exercises taken from Centre for Environment Education Manuals were conducted with great success. These include situational analysis, simulation exercises and case studies.

Zero waste model
Dry waste segregated
Eco-friendly fests-2013

Let’s together, work for a sustainable future!

Eco-friendly fests-2013

Eco-friendly fests-2013

Waste Fest