



"Success Stories"

Eco-Schools Programme India





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Developed By

Eco-Schools Programme India



Acknowledgement

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. As a national institution, CEE's mandate is to promote environmental awareness nationwide. CEE develops innovative programmes and educational material and builds capacity in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). From the very beginning, schools and the school system have been at the centre of a major part of CEE's programmes. It is committed to ensuring that Environmental Education (EE) leads to action for sustainable development. It undertakes field projects that demonstrate and validate the role education can play in sustainable development. The journey of school programmes of the Centre at the national level started in 1985 through the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) of the MoEFCC, Government of India. The centre develops, coordinates and conducts a number of educational programmes for schools, in both formal and non-formal streams of education.

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Credits

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Special Thanks

We wish to thank all of the educators who participated in the Eco-Schools Programme India and are currently working to preserve this planet while also drawing inspiration from the well-conducted programme. A special thanks to the following teachers & schools who participated and submitted their success story:-

- Kinjal Doshi - Universal High School, Malad, Maharashtra
- Sital Patro – Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka, Delhi
- Aruna Roy – Douglas Memorial Higher Secondary School, West Bengal
- Lulua Hussain – Gajera Global School, Surat, Gujarat
- Nishu Khanna – Little Flower Public Senior Secondary School, New Delhi
- Neha Tandon – Delhi Public School, Bangalore East
- Nikath – Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills, Telangana
- Sirisha K. – Delhi Public School, Nacharam, Telangana
- Chetna Bhardwaj – Delhi Public School, Nadergul, Telangana
- Swati Gupta – Nand Vidhya Niketan School, Jamnagar, Gujarat
- Shalika Banu – Fathima Central Senior Secondary School, Tamilnadu
- Pagadala Bhavani – Pallavi Model School, Alwal, Telangana
- Kusumlata – Little Flower Public School, Yamuna Vihar, New Delhi
- Akanksha Vats – Little Flower International School, New Delhi
- Meenakshi Khushu – Shree Vasishtha Vidhyalaya, Surat, Gujarat
- Gavarna Mistry – The Shri Ram Universal School, Palava, Maharashtra
- Shwetha LT – GJR International School, Bangalore
- Nitin Patil – Gajera Vidyabhavan Sachin, Gujarat
- Areeba Syed – East Point School, Delhi
- Renuka Rawat – ASN Senior Secondary School, Delhi

Photo Credit: Teacher Coordinators from above mentioned schools

About Organizations

Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) was established in 1981, and is one of the world's largest environmental education organisations, with over 100 member organisations in 81 countries. With 40 years of impactful experience in ESD, FEE's new strategic plan - GAIA 20:30 - prioritises climate action across all five programmes to address the urgent threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. FEE runs five educational programmes, Eco-Schools, Learning About Forests and Young Reporters for the Environment, which empower young people to create an environmentally conscious world through a solution-based approach. Green Key and Blue Flag programmes are globally recognized for promoting sustainable business practices and the protection of natural resources.

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About Programme

Eco-Schools Programme is an International Sustainable School Campus Programme run by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in over 73 countries and is being implemented by the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in India. Centre for Environment Education is a Centre of Excellence in Environment Education and Education for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Eco-Schools Programme India is a part of the larger global sustainable programme, which promotes Environment Education and awareness about sustainable development issues in schools, particularly by engaging students from classes 1-5. Over the last 8 years, the programme has widened its reach and scope, and is now active in more than 150 schools nationwide. The Eco-schools Programme India envisages that the students in Private and government schools will be able to gain knowledge, develop skills and values which could translate into environmentally responsible behaviour, leading to positive Handprint actions. The programme is being implemented through Seven-steps Methodology which was originally introduced 25 years ago in a pilot project of Denmark. The Seven-step process is a basic framework that guides an Eco-School to plan and implement the learning journey. They are the 'means' to bring about change by active involvement of young people through a rigorous pedagogical process.

Eco-Schools Programme India

Universal High School has been very keen on developing a challenging outlook in the young minds, that sustainability can be accomplished by bringing everyone together with the right perspective towards nature and maintaining this for our future generations. The students of classes 1-2 were taught in many interesting and innovative ways about their chosen theme of "Water". The school organized a One-Act Play in order to better convey the issues of the water crisis. The students gave a stellar performance through the virtual play exhibiting the water crisis faced by different countries across the globe including India.

Talking about unique approaches, the school also organized a Virtual Tour during the covid-19 pandemic. Through the wonders of virtual reality, this programme did a virtual tour of India, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa by educating on the water crisis existing in these countries. A close-up tour of rivers like the Ganga and the Nile displayed the gravity of this crisis.

Through this activity-based learning approach that involved the use of different art forms to convey the message of Water Conservation as sprouted through the learning pedagogy of the Eco-Schools programme.

**"Divided by intelligence,
united by crisis."**

Eco-Schools Programme India

Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka, is a flourishing and vibrant co-educational senior secondary school that has established itself as a successful and thriving educational community. The students of Bal Bharati Public School displayed earnest interest for the activities organised by its school as part of the sustainable Eco-Schools Programme. One such act of dedication was an inordinate and honest attempt by a student who took upon an ambitious challenge of going zero waste. Calling it "A Day Without Any Waste" Starting from basic composting of kitchen waste to trying out package free hygiene products, his journey of trying to reduce plastic waste is no less than inspiring. These activities displayed earnest dedication towards switching to a plastic free lifestyle.

This task based approach to minimise wastage under the main theme of "Waste" under the Eco-Schools programme helped in furthering the sustainable experiment approach of the programme.



**"Be a part of solution,
not the pollution."**

Eco-Schools Programme India

The school organised an Eco-Camp in 2022 for the members of their eco-club committee “Vanaspati” working towards the Eco-Schools Programme. The children of the “Vanaspati (Eco-club)” also collaborated with the “SDG-The Reality” club members of classes 6-12. It included various fun activities such as yoga, nature walk, poster making and an environmental documentary to educate the children about leading environmental issues. An interesting approach like Eco-camp inculcates the values of community based learning and combined action. The eco-club also focused on showcasing their achievements and work on their social media handles.

The club also conducted informative surveys about waste, energy and biodiversity from parents, students and teachers to understand the level of understanding on such topics. This unique camp based approach to enhance the knowledge of SDGs as postulated by the Eco Schools programme is an indication of the successful implementation of the programme.

**“Save Water, Stay Healthy,
Avoid adversity and Preserve
Biodiversity”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

Gajera Global School had planned to do an awareness campaign about environmental education, community biodiversity, healthy food in urban culture, wetland and forest conservation. It contributes by enhancing the knowledge of parents, learners, healthcare and farmer's community to build a sustainable environment in and around themselves. The school organised a 3-day workshop called the "Environment Meet 2022" on the themes of biodiversity and reforming nutrition-based agriculture. This meet was designed to generate awareness among various areas like biodiversity loss, forest conservation, curriculum linked environmental education and urban farming to engage a mass of people in environment related activities and create a reform among farmers for nutrition based organic agriculture. The enduring meet discussing the use of farming which has less nutrient loss also has a question and answer session at the end to provide further clarity on the topic. The approach to enhance the knowledge spread of biodiversity and healthy living in a combined format aligns perfectly with the interlinking of the main themes of the Eco-Schools programme.

**"Think, Plan, Act, Execute,
Promote and Encourage."**

Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of class 1-2 of this school engaged in innovative and fun learning activities to learn about waste. They used waste materials like bangles, matchstick, wool to make charkhas and chasmas (spectacles) showcasing the principles and the accessories of Mahatma Gandhi. They even went a step ahead and constructed Lord Ganesha with the use of waste materials for the occasion of Diwali.

The students even came up with creative songs about germs and furthered their knowledge on the theme of healthy living. These action based activities suggest that how these kids have been converted their activities under positive handprint actions through Eco-Schools Programme.



**“ Nature is green treasure,
it gives all the pleasure.”**

Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of DPS Bangalore East worked tirelessly on the theme of waste and waste management. Furthering their efforts they started raising awareness in class and at assemblies. They even started appointing litter monitors to advise students not to drop litter and installing more bins or moving existing ones to problem areas. Delhi Public School, Bangalore East integrated the litter plan into the curriculum in the following activity based ideas. Students created posters and composed poems based on litter management.

The involvement of art and music accelerated the process of conveying the message of waste management. An art display was created using litter which could be recycled showcasing the variety of uses of waste rather than ending up in dumping grounds. By creating the visual and creative use of different art forms to percolate the awareness around the theme of Waste, the school imbibed the unique activity based learning pedagogy of the Eco-Schools Programme.



**“Understand your waste,
regulate your trash!”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

Students at ASN Sr. Secondary Public School in Delhi are taking a proactive approach to Waste Management where students conduct waste audits, record consumption patterns, and design solutions to manage waste at home. MLP (Multi-layer plastic) collection drive involving collection of single-use MLP from households and its responsible disposal in collaboration with Safari Bank of India was practised by the school.

ASN has also successfully mentored 32 schools of Delhi NCR under Mega Litter-less Drive. "ASN Speaks for Sustainability" (podcast was created by students to spread awareness about the importance of driving. The school has made provisions for keeping deposited MLPs, the collection from September to December was 11,862. Through this initiative, students learnt about the importance of the waste management by participating in Eco-Schools Programme.



**"Don't be a litter bug, help
to keep a community clean."**

Eco-Schools Programme India

Erase your E-waste was the theme of class 4-5. Students had taken the initiative to talk about the importance of e-waste with their families, friends, and the community as a whole. They were also in charge of collecting E-waste and depositing it in the school's E-waste container. They also created posters to disseminate the E-erase and E-waste message. These posters were placed across the school grounds and buildings. As a result, the school's endeavour to handle the challenges for the litter less campaign was a success.



“E-erase your E-waste!”

Eco-Schools Programme India

For the theme of Healthy Living, the students of East Point school developed a comic strip on personal hygiene. It helped in creating dialogues and enhancing the writing skills of the students. They learnt about taking care of the body and personal hygiene and developing self-awareness and harmony towards their life by keeping the body healthy and hygienic.

Students learned about a healthy lifestyle and how to take care of their personal hygiene through the Eco-Schools Programme.



**“Eager to save the Earth,
aiming to make it worth.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

On the occasion of World Pulses Day on February 10th as declared by the United Nations, the day was celebrated to highlight the importance of pulses as a global food and its numerous benefits. The Learners of Gajera Global School celebrated the day by discussing the significance of pulses in a vegetarian diet, a step closer to a sustainable diet. They even adopted nicknames for themselves with the names of the pulses and acted out their benefits and nutritional value, prevalence, and their ways of identification. Another objective of the entire exercise was to make learners aware of the English names of the food like chickpeas, kidney beans etc.

This session further expanded their knowledge on the theme of healthy living. Adopting the theme of healthy living under the Eco-Schools Programme with special focus on innovative methods for a sustainable diet, the motive of fun learning methods through the programme was achieved.

**“Think, Plan, Act, Execute,
Promote and Encourage”**

Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of Delhi Public School, Nacharam worked endlessly on the theme of Biodiversity. As biodiversity is aiming up to be a major concern because of the effects of climate change leading to major biodiversity loss, it became essential to adopt steps to conserve the bountiful biodiversity around us. It helped in developing a sense of compassion for the flora and fauna around them.

The school carried out the concept of birthday garden by donating the plants on such occasions. Students conducted assemblies to create awareness at peer level for the purpose of establishing the Birthday Garden. By adapting this activity under Eco-Schools Programme, Students of Delhi Public School, Nacharam were able to develop some specific skills such as observational skills, analytical and speaking skills, etc.



**“Biodiversity is the key
so we all can live in a glee.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

Working on the theme of Healthy Living, the students of DPS, Mahendra Hills performed many activities to inculcate that habit. They prepared Energy bites which have a combination of protein, good carbs, healthy fats, and are high in fibres. Also, energy bites are portable, so they are the perfect healthy on-the-go snack. The main objectives at this stage are to arouse curiosity about the world (natural environment, artefacts and people) and have the child engage in exploratory and hands-on activities that lead to the development of basic cognitive and psychomotor skills.

Furthermore, the students also made their own DIY masks at home promoting safety during the covid-19 pandemic.



**“Healthy mind, Healthy
Body, Healthy Life.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

At Delhi Public School, Nacharam, Students have implemented such activities which can develop their sense of compassion towards nature and students have learnt the key concepts of Ethnobotany-benefits of medicinal plants through research and discussions. During this research, Students interacted with their parents/grandparents/neighbours to know about the traditional benefits of common medicinal plants. Students found out the various scientific benefits of common medicinal plants from internet journals. Identified the herbs in the garden at school/home and encouraged to grow common medicinal plants to get their benefits for a healthy living too.

The progress was monitored by an increase of the number of plants in their garden, survey forms on the inclusion of the medicinal plants in their daily diet, submission of documents on the benefits of consumption and changes observed with respect to health.



**“The healing comes
from nature!”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

Delhi Public School Mahendra Hills aimed to enable learners' to explore new and innovative techniques to save our green planet. FoodScaping through vertical columns for cultivating local food produce in India. The gardening is linked to the curriculum doing case study on the plants and students also performed certain research based activities.

The gardening is linked to the curriculum doing case study on the plants and students also performed certain research-based activities wherein they learnt to make organic manure with vegetable waste. By developing Vertical Garden-Food scaping, they created awareness among the learners about the importance of and relying on the organic food taste.



**“Green Wall is a
new style statement.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

Students of Delhi Public School, Nadergul conducted inspection of Food from grade 1-3 and conducted a survey with the help of teachers. In the survey, they found numerous food habits of children such as eating packed lunches, lack of awareness, eating junk food, etc. For the solution, they shared the knowledge regarding pure and impure food and its ill effects. The kids had then pledged to eat healthy and consume less junk food. Awareness drives were also conducted during assembly. Students also created posters, infographics and videos for the awareness.

They also arranged a 'Snacks break Program' wherein students gained the habit of eating vegetables and fruits during break. In a positive result after the survey, consumption of junk food has been reduced by appx. 45%.



“Eat right, be bright!”

Eco-Schools Programme India

The young minds of Nand Vidya Niketan displayed great action during the course of their thrust to transition to sustainable methods.

A girl named Saanvi Jain from this school wanted to celebrate Christmas by decorating a Christmas Tree but she was against buying a new Plastic Christmas Tree. So, she decided to buy a Natural Tree and decorated it using the previous year's decorative items and made some more decorative items from the waste materials. She also made a display board saying "Let's Promise Not to trash the future: Reduce and Reuse" above her Christmas Tree. Seeing that other children also got influenced and bought Natural Trees instead of Plastic Trees. A small initiative by her made all the difference.

Such an act of change by the students of Nand Vidya Niketan signifies the importance of community-based action as propagated by the Eco-Schools programme.



**“Enable, Empower
and Educate.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India



Fathima Central Sr. Secondary School and its students were very instrumental in implementing the themes for our sustainable school programme and added their own unique touch to it. The young enthusiastic lot took numerous measures to make their school sustainable. Starting with Vermicomposting, the students collected kitchen waste and food waste and created a natural fertiliser with the help of earthworms. The students then distributed this compost to the farmers in their surrounding areas and it greatly helped increase the fertility of their soil. A very noble initiative from the school was to innovate its own style of "Farmlit Cultivation" resulting due to the increasing crop failure for farmers and subsequent farmer deaths. These cultivations require less water, no soil and give a high yield. The students even created their own miniature farmlit cultivation and grew tomatoes, paddy and distributed and sold the produce to their parents and even ventured on the streets, thus engaging entrepreneurial skills.

The distinctive and out of the box approach of the school to move one step ahead and help out the farmers' community through efforts by their devoted students goes on to show their understanding of the learning approach of the Eco-Schools Programme.

"Turn your spoil into soil."



Eco-Schools Programme India

Pallavi Model School, Alwal has recognized the importance and endeavoured to design activities giving exposure to its students about Nature conservation and waste management. A series of activities were conducted to highlight this concept. Segregation of waste and steps to reduce, recycle and reuse the waste materials were some of the critical steps taken. A compost pit was built to demonstrate the process of biological decomposition of waste and the useful by-products it yields. Creative events like making paper bags, toys from waste material and dance/skit programs highlighting the dangers of plastic usage were organised. Awareness marches and rallies to highlight the need for responsible conduct of festivities was also undertaken.



“Zero waste, Go green!”

A new-age concept to shed light on waste management, Pallavi Model School took a unique step by organising a Fashion Show, like none other, to spread awareness on managing waste. The students dressed up in outfits that were upcycled from waste and wore sashes headlining the concepts of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Set apart from the ordinary, Pallavi Model School showed a model example of taking the unique and activity based learning pedagogy of the Eco Schools programme and applying it in the form of out-of-the box activities for their students.

Eco-Schools Programme India

Little Flower Public School, Yamuna Vihar The students of Little Flower Public School worked in strikingly unique ways on the theme of Waste. They connected a plain subject of waste management with the art of music and made musical instruments from plastic bottles as a part of their best out of waste activity. They made instruments named Maraca and Banjo. Maraca is a percussion instrument in the form of a gourd-shaped container filled with dried beans or similar objects and played usually in pairs, by being shaken. A banjo is a stringed instrument of the guitar family, with a round open-backed soundbox of parchment stretched over a metal hoop.

The special yet new linkage between music and waste as pertained by Little Flower Public School, showed their wonderful implementation of the major themes of the Eco-Schools Programme.

**“3C’s : co-exist sustainably,
Conserve resource and
Care for earth responsibly ”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

The young minds of Gajera Vidyabhavan enterprise inculcated different ways of making their school campus sustainable. One such effort was the "Petro Kero Gas". It is a petrol kerosene gas model made by students in order to use our liquid fuel such as petrol and kerosene to their maximum efficiency with least pollution, by their complete combustion.

The young learners of Gajera school decided to clear litter from their neighbouring school areas. The students got the support from the local community, mentors, and local businesses and got everyone together for a massive clean-up. The success was outstanding and the school managed to collect enough plastic bottles to make a beautiful hanging garden on the school campus. The local community also helped them by donating bottles and wood for the frames.

The experimental model of learning on the theme of Energy is a testament to the great understanding of the objectives and expectations of the Eco-Schools Programme.

**"Energy is Monergy
Let us save it!"**

Eco-Schools Programme India

The management of Delhi Public School - Nadergul, to understand the extent of the problem and to suggest appropriate waste management methods selected 20 students as Eco Warriors from Grade 3-5. They conducted a survey about waste areas like disposal of plastic bags, kitchen waste disposal and proper disposal of waste in the open along with the reuse of waste.

With the majority of the respondents not having enough awareness about the proper waste disposal, the students decided to spread awareness in the form of informative videos, pledge taking for reducing plastic use. They even conducted several workshops on waste management and reuse of waste material by organising the best out of waste competitions. Through this combined action by the students, it has empowered them to gather more responsibility in taking care of their own learning place. These concerted efforts working on the theme of "Waste" further helped strengthen the objectives of the Eco-Schools Programme.



**"Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
at DPS, Nadergul."**



Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of GJR International school, as a part of the Litter Less Campaign instigated a variety of measures to implement waste management in their campus. Students did a "litter survey" at their home to find out about their waste items. They recycled a few common dry wastes like milk cartons, newspapers and grocery bags. They made pen stands, carton pots and photo frames out of that and named that activity as "Best out of Waste". Students also researched and made a poster of BBMP's rule of categorised waste in Bangalore

Some students created compost from the leftover vegetable wastes. And later, they used those compost for fertilising their balcony plants.



"Our niche, our eco-system"

Eco-Schools Programme India

Little Flower International School selected 3 themes to embed the activities in the curriculum: Energy, Waste and Healthy Living. The activities are embedded in such a way that they coincide with the syllabus of EVS, Science and Social Studies. The students get rewarding opportunities to apply their knowledge of the content and project it in the best possible and creative form. As part of the Waste theme the students tried using unique waste items to complete the activity of best out of waste. They used waste pistachio shells and made wall hangings out of it in different creative ways, thus widening their imagination of what all can be done with food waste.

They also made concerted efforts to celebrate festivals like Christmas in an eco-friendly zero waste manner. They used worn out and used plates and created a beautiful Christmas tree using figments of their wide fascination.

Working on the theme of Energy, the bright bunch of class 3,4 and 5 made a solar oven, thus learning about the benefits of using renewable energy sources and also exploring non-traditional methods of cooking food.



**“Divided by intelligence,
united by crisis.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of Shree Vashishta Vidhyalaya prepared a skit on “Save Jungle Saves Life”. From the skit, students understood the importance of trees and how to save them. Protecting trees is necessary for us in different ways and will help restore the balance in a disturbed ecosystem. Through the skit, the teachers taught the children that forest serves as a natural habitat of numerous animal species and it is the lungs of the planet housing us.

For the thematic area of Biodiversity, the students tried to combine their cultural and linguistic heritage in the best out of waste activity and ended up making beautiful dandiya out of kitchen and classroom waste. Through this activity, the students learnt how to connect their culture with the theme of living in an eco-friendly manner.

Using the adroit features of art along with implementing their chosen themes, Shree Vashishta Vidhyalaya displayed great knowledge of the pedagogy of the Eco-Schools Programme.

**“We should stop over
consumption and wastage
of resources.”**



Eco-Schools Programme India

The students of The Shri Ram Universal School displayed great enthusiasm and grit taking on the Eco-Schools Programme. The main objective of the workshop was to make students aware that they can easily make their own natural colours with the available household materials. The students used flowers, leaves, turmeric powder, besan, multani mitti to make their own eco-friendly colour. The students were explained about the ill effects of the artificial colours and the harmful chemicals present in it.

Students enjoyed making the colours with beetroot, spinach, rose and turmeric. The school also organised a workshop on the topic of Seed Bomb with a famous wildlife photographer. Students followed simple instructions - they took three portions of mud, one portion of a compost in a bowl, and dry mixed it. The Shri Ram Universal School made great strides by interlinking their chosen themes and implementing an element of fun in the activities applied which agreeably corresponds to the approach of the Eco-Schools Programme.

“With Eco bricks we can secure plastic to build our green visions and ignite regenerative transitions.”

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*Increase your Handprint,
Decrease your Footprint!*

