



Be Keen to Make the Earth Green

Country: India

School: Delhi Public School, Nadergul

Participants: 120 teachers and 2500 students.



When school started in 2016, 80 per cent of the land was barren, not having any vegetation. Even the neighbouring village was almost barren. As a result, one could experience a dry region, hot weather and a lack of biodiversity. These effects have adverse impacts on the health and functioning of ecosystems and consequently on the well beings of the community.



It was a huge project which was implemented after planning all strategies and taking into account, all challenges which might be faced.

The school took up this as a challenge and formed multiple groups of both teachers and students. Students started finding ways to make the school premises green. It has been observed that plants brought variation in temperature, and increase in biodiversity, which restored ecological balance. Within a short span of five years, the school has planted around 3000 trees. Initiative of school have also motivated others to emulate the same.

Many educational objectives motivated the project. They wanted to reinforce the school curriculum (e.g. Science, Environmental science, Maths). One of the main interests was to give children first-hand experience with nature and gardening and, to enhance their knowledge of the nutritional aspects of vegetables and fruits. The project was also made to encourage children to acquire attitudes of cooperation, responsibility, self-confidence, motivation, and the value of teamwork. Besides these educational objectives were environmental aims. They wanted to improve the school environment and protect the soil while creating a positive attitude towards the environment. They also wanted students to understand diverse ecosystems and develop a sense of caring and nurturing nature.

The project engaged many people within the school, as well as the police department, the Horticulture Department, GHMC, and parents to name a few. Members from these departments participated or took part in the annual tree plantation programme conducted by the school. They donated plants which helped to attract butterflies and insects. The school was also audited for its green initiatives by the Horticulture department.



All the projects have been designed to be implemented at the school level. They were part of the curriculum and hobby clubs. All teachers and students were involved as per their interests. Students donated saplings to the government school and jointly planted the saplings. The plantation was done by members of the department of police, the honourable ex-mayor of Hyderabad, grandparents, the education minister, and the honourable speaker of the Telangana state. A bunch of five medicinal plants was given to each child for planting at home. In coordination with the Confederation of Indian Industries, a barren patch of land was adopted by the school to increase the green cover. The pre-primary students received pencils with seeds to plant in a pot after using the pencils.

To get everyone in the school involved, a committee of Green Crusaders (including the school administration, staff, teachers, and students) was made. The Green crusaders were responsible for over 4000 trees planted in the campus and flowering plants to attract insects. Each class made bird-feeders and water baths for the birds. Students initiated an organic vegetable garden in the campus and planted the seeds to form "Eco-School". All the plant waste was used to make compost. The waste from the carpenter's workshop and the coconut seller was used as mulch to conserve the topsoil. The produce of the herbal garden was sold to school teachers and parents. Finally, The Green Crusaders conducted campaigns involving parents and other stakeholders highlighting the importance of trees. Many parents took up the campaign and signed the green pledge stickers.



Working on this project has shown to influence the social and emotional development of students. Children are taking more responsibility and willingness to do hands-on work and see the outcome (Learning by Doing). Gardening taught children to take new risks, thereby extending their experiences and abilities. They also developed their gardening skills. The whole project helped them to practice co-operation and patience. They expanded their ways of thinking, curiosity, creativity and critical thinking. The students have realised the importance of plants in their surroundings. Students, teachers, and families were educated about the importance of growing trees and sustaining the ecosystem. It has become a habit among the students that on their birthdays they will donate a sapling to the school.

"I am Nikhila from grade X. Yesterday was my special day, My Birthday. I was so excited. I brought chocolates to distribute among my classmates and teachers. When I went to our Principal madam to give chocolate, she suggested me to donate a sapling to the school instead of chocolate. After talking to her, I realised that what better way to celebrate a birthday than by gifting a life as a sapling? This initiative taken by our school is able to develop a sense of responsibility towards nature and help to increase biodiversity. "

- Nikhila, grade X

