



BOARD for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT through EDUCATION

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Menace of Plastic - Community Participation to Overcome

Abstract: The project aims to address the growing problem of plastic waste and pollution through community participation and awareness. The project will involve educating the community about the harmful effects of plastic waste on the environment and encouraging them to adopt sustainable practices to reduce plastic use and properly dispose of plastic waste. The project will also include initiatives to recycle and upcycle plastic waste to minimize its negative impact on the environment.

Objectives:

1. To raise awareness about the negative impact of plastic waste on the environment
2. To encourage the community to adopt sustainable practices to reduce plastic use and properly dispose of plastic waste
3. To implement recycling and upcycling initiatives to reduce plastic waste pollution
4. To promote community participation in plastic waste reduction and management

Methodology:

1. Conduct research on plastic waste pollution and its impact on the environment
2. Organize awareness campaigns and community workshops to educate the community about the harmful effects of plastic waste and sustainable practices
3. Implement plastic waste reduction and management initiatives such as community plastic collection drives, recycling programs, and upcycling workshops
4. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the initiatives and provide regular feedback to the community
5. Collaborate with local authorities and organizations to maximize impact and sustainability of the project

Deliverables:

1. Educational materials and workshops on plastic waste reduction and management
2. Implementation of plastic waste reduction and management initiatives
3. Regular progress reports on the effectiveness of the initiatives and community participation
4. Recommendations for long-term sustainability and improvement of the project

Timeline:

1. Research and planning: 1 Week
2. Awareness campaigns and community workshops: 2 Weeks
3. Implementation of plastic waste reduction and management initiatives: 2 Weeks
4. Monitoring and evaluation: 2 Weeks

Budget:

1. Educational materials and workshops:
2. Plastic waste reduction and management initiatives:
3. Monitoring and evaluation:
4. Miscellaneous expenses:

Risks:

1. Lack of community participation and support
2. Limited availability of recycling and upcycling resources
3. Inadequate funding for the project

Mitigation Strategies:

1. Engage with community leaders and organizations to promote the project and encourage community participation
2. Explore alternative resources for recycling and upcycling such as community partnerships or crowdfunding campaigns
3. Develop a detailed budget plan and seek additional funding sources such as grants or sponsorships.

General Information on Plastics, ways and means to avoid plastic by public**Statistics on Plastics:**

1. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, about 8 million tons of plastic waste end up in our oceans every year.
2. The World Economic Forum estimates that by 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by weight.
3. The average American generates about 4.4 pounds of trash per day, with around 12% of that being plastic.
4. In the U.S. alone, only about 9% of plastic is actually recycled.
5. Plastic takes hundreds of years to break down, with some types of plastic taking over 1,000 years.

Ways and Means to Avoid Plastic:

1. Bring your own reusable bags, water bottles, and containers to reduce the need for single-use plastics.
2. Use reusable straws made from metal, bamboo, or glass instead of single-use plastic straws.
3. Avoid buying products with excessive plastic packaging or choose products with eco-friendly packaging.
4. Use cloth napkins instead of disposable paper napkins.
5. Choose to buy in bulk instead of individually packaged items.
6. Buy secondhand items instead of new ones, as the production of new items often involves plastic packaging.
7. Avoid using disposable plastic utensils and plates at home and during events.
8. Participate in local recycling programs and properly dispose of plastic waste to prevent it from entering the environment.
9. Support legislation and organizations that promote plastic waste reduction and management.
10. Educate others on the importance of reducing plastic use and proper waste management.

By following these practices, individuals can make a significant impact on reducing plastic waste and pollution in their communities and beyond.

Best practices at Educational Institutions, Home, Office, Public Places, Industries to avoid plastic

Best practices to avoid plastic in different settings are as follows:

1. Educational Institutions:

- Encourage students to use reusable water bottles and provide water refill stations on campus.
- Reduce the use of single-use plastics in cafeterias by using reusable plates, cups, and utensils.
- Provide recycling bins throughout the campus to properly dispose of plastic waste.
- Promote eco-friendly practices in the curriculum to educate students on the importance of reducing plastic waste.

2. Home:

- Use reusable bags and containers for shopping and storage.
- Avoid using plastic wrap and use reusable food storage containers or beeswax wraps instead.

- Choose products with minimal or eco-friendly packaging.
- Avoid using disposable plastic utensils and plates and opt for reusable ones instead.
- Use reusable water bottles and coffee cups.

3. Office:

- Use reusable coffee mugs and water bottles in the workplace.
- Implement recycling programs and provide recycling bins throughout the office.
- Encourage employees to bring their own lunch in reusable containers instead of using single-use plastics.
- Use eco-friendly or minimal packaging for office supplies.

4. Public Places:

- Provide public water fountains and refill stations to encourage the use of reusable water bottles.
- Reduce the use of single-use plastics in public events and gatherings.
- Provide recycling bins in public areas for proper disposal of plastic waste.
- Encourage the use of reusable bags and containers in shopping areas.

5. Industries:

- Use eco-friendly or biodegradable packaging materials for products.
- Reduce the use of single-use plastics in production and packaging.
- Develop recycling programs for plastic waste generated during production.
- Encourage suppliers and partners to reduce plastic waste and promote eco-friendly practices.

By implementing these practices, individuals, educational institutions, offices, public places, and industries can effectively reduce their plastic waste and contribute to a more sustainable future.

AWARENESS – Abuse of Plastic

The Background: In this age of plastics, life without plastic becomes handicapped. Packing materials, roofings, carry bags, so many household items like buckets, decorative items, trays, fans etc are made up of plastics. It finds use in Agricultural sector also, which is vast in its reach throughout India, especially Rural India. The ease of use, lightness, durability and cheapness has made it popular among the masses.

The Problem: All the above benefits notwithstanding, the environmental hazard it poses has become alarming.

1) The flooding of Mumbai city causing huge losses of life and property is a bright example in this regard. Choking of the drainage system by the thrown out carry poly bags was responsible for this.

2) The non-biodegradable property of plastics is another concern. Piles of disposed plastic materials can be seen in dumping yards for years together. Eating of these plastics by stray cattle makes the innocent, ignorant, poor animals to suffer from many ailments in their alimentary canal or even death. Plastics are finding their way into water bodies causing threat to life of aquatic animals.

3) Incineration of plastic also leads to environmental pollution, global warming. So it is also not possible to destroy the disposed off plastics through Incineration.

The Solution: Since use of plastic is inevitable in this modern age, complete banning of plastics is impossible. The environmentalists have suggested the 4-R principle.

This involves the guidelines for proper plastic use as

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover waste”.

The 4-R rule provides an environmentally friendly approach for managing waste and waste streams. It is used to recover the products and it is a step towards the conservation of environment.

i) **Reduce:** We should reduce the use of non-biodegradable compounds that are harmful to us.

Example: Instead of using polythene bags we should give preference to paper or jute or cloth bags. Bamboo baskets, containers made of palm leaves, earthen pots can be very good substitute for plastics.

(ii) **Reuse:** We should reuse the materials instead of dumping them.

Example: Plastic bags can be reused to make decorative things.

(iii) **Recycle:** Non-biodegradable materials should be subjected to the recycling process.

Example: Many packaging materials made of polymers can be recycled.

(iv) **Recovery:** If the waste remains after it is been reused and recycled, can be used to generate energy at our waste-energy plants, then is known as Recovery.