



PROJECT ZERO WASTE MH Under MH VATAVARAN

An initiative by **Change in Range**

Zero Waste MH Project has been initiated with an intention of strategizing, monitoring and continuously contributing towards a zero waste college campus in an organized manner by intensifying the use of infrastructure already in place in college and enhancing the efforts towards the same by MH Vatavaran, society for environment of Miranda House. Besides, it also aims to propagate a responsible waste management culture amongst the students of the college as thoughtful individuals and citizens and create awareness regarding the broad waste management crisis, the world in general and countries like India in specific, are facing. The project is curated to be relevant to the Post-Covid world as much as possible, where sanitation and efficient waste disposal would be of utmost importance.

During these unprecedented times, it has become imperative for us to plan most of our events and activities online and disseminate knowledge and information necessary for the development of a conservationist ethics amongst students through this medium. However, the Zero waste MH project would always be more relevant in the normal times of college functioning when there can be visible surveillance of social and ecological responsibility and a real time experience of working on proper waste management and disposal can be gained.

This document contains three sections, each listing out activities and plans which Change in Range under its Zero Waste MH Project proposes to MH Vatavaran for the Academic year 2020-21. The first section is the most emphasized one and is elaborated in detail as it is more relevant to the time when the proposal is being made. It is a list of online activities and events under Zero Waste MH project, some of which can be continued even after reopening of the college. Another section has been added with scope of improvement and development for a time when offline interaction would be possible. The third section suggests some activities and events beyond the purview of the project Zero Waste MH to MH Vatavaran, some of which can be done in collaboration with the Change in Range team.

Plan of action during the lockdown period (Online Activities and Events)

Online activities chosen here reflect our aim of creating awareness regarding the humongous waste problem and to delve deeper into understanding the issues through research and discussions. The activities suggested also intend to inculcate few sustainable habits which can be followed at home and the

results can be shared online inspiring the lot which comes across our social media pages and internet archives.

- **BLOG Project of MH Vatavaran**

The Project stresses the need for a blog of MH Vatavaran in these times when almost everything is conducted online and that too for an uncertain period of time. The blog can have archives on the history of MH Vatavaran, its past activities and notable events and can also serve as a portal for MH Vatavaran to not only connect with its volunteers but people all across.

A separate tab of its ongoing projects like the Zero Waste MH can be made where the details of the project and volunteers working under it can find place.

Researched articles and well documented reports of various activities of MH Vatavaran done under Zero Waste MH Project and besides it can be regularly posted there.

- **Study Group**

Zero Waste MH project plans to study various aspects of waste management in a detailed and organized manner through a curated curriculum. Every alternate week, a few volunteers from the group would research on a topic provided and would be responsible for preparing a well documented article together, which would be posted on the blog. Hours would be provided on the basis of how much effort has been put into the article.

A tentative list of some topics and their elaborated aspects which would be covered in alternate weeks is as under-

1. What is waste and what are its different bases of classification? How many categories can it be broadly divided into and what are the characteristics of each kind of waste?
2. What are the different kinds of recyclable wastes and to what extent can they be recycled? How are different kinds of waste recycled?
3. Scenario of waste recycling in India and the world. What are the issues faced in making waste reach recycling plants and the problems in recycling them? Different case studies can also be discussed.
4. Perfect destination for non-recyclable waste, waste to energy plants. Scenario of WTE Plants in India and Delhi in specific. Problems and the way forward.
5. Microplastics, a threat to land and oceans. Source of generation, solutions and the way forward.
6. Composting, its importance and types. How is it better than fertilizers and can they completely substitute them?

- **Quiz and awareness programs**

It would be expected from all volunteers opting for the project to read the blog posts of MH Vatavaran throughout. Every alternate week there would also be a quiz on the instagram page of MH Vatavaran from the blog post researched by the volunteers the previous week. The winner of the quiz (in case it is a volunteer of MH Vatavaran) can be provided with a bonus of half an hour! Important findings of the research on the topics can also be presented in the form of online posters and circulated in various college groups for awareness purposes.

- **GBM for discussions**

A compulsory GBM exclusively for the Project would be held on Google Meet every month, where volunteers can give their feedback on the working of the project, ask queries and can suggest various activities that can be taken up. Volunteers can also put forward a topic they would like to work on for the study group.

Along with holding these activities every week, there can be some light and fun learning events which can be held on certain weeks. An archive of all volunteers who took up the same can be created on blog as well as other social media pages of MH Vatavaran. Some of these which Project Zero Waste MH proposes are-

- **ZERO BUDGET GARDENING**

Zero Budget Gardening is basically growing plants or microgreens in plastic bottles, milk packets, coconut shells, broken plastic items which would otherwise be discarded. Every household has discarded plastic bottles. Using it for planting seeds in it is one good way of sustainable living. Volunteers can send pictures of any such activity they performed in their own homes.

- **GIVE YOUR GARDEN A GOOD BREAKFAST; COFFEE GROUNDS AND EGGSHELLS ARE IDEAL FOR COMPOSTING.**

This would be taking the Waste Segregation from Home Campaign forward. Composting and efficient use of kitchen waste would be encouraged. Crushed eggshells provide calcium while coffee grounds help to add nitrogen to the soil. These browns would help plants thrive and send less waste towards landfills from home.

- **PLASTIC FREE CHALLENGE**

Plastic surrounds us like no other thing in today's world. From toothpaste tubes to soap boxes, plastic has become an inalienable part of our lives. Through this activity we try to lessen the consumption of plastic and challenges will be given to reduce its usage. Volunteers will be required to replace one seemingly inextricable plastic product from their lives and replace it with a sustainable alternative. The pictures and details of such changes can be sent to the team. A winner who would be able to replace the maximum number of plastic products can be declared by the end of the year.

- **UPCYCLE AND RECYCLE on your own.**

Volunteers can share stories and pictures of how they are reducing their water and carbon footprint and at the same time reducing the number of objects around them that qualifies as waste by responsible consumption as well as DIY upcycling and recycling techniques.

Offline Activities at the time of normal functioning of the college.

- Students opting for this project will be divided into a suitable number of groups and each group would be involved in various activities under the project. There would also be a separate team of

Hostlers who are members of MH Vatavaran who would ensure waste segregation in the hostel premises.

- One group would be involved in surveying the waste disposal system, noting down the requirements of dustbins, polybags and other problems which may arise in the proper implementation of waste segregation. The group would also be responsible for communication to the relevant channels and authorities regarding issues and requirements for smooth segregation in college, cleanliness level of dustbins and other sanitation issues.
- Another group would label dustbins and place them in the key areas of the college starting with basic segregation between dry and wet waste and gradually shifting to other categories of waste. Notices will be prepared and pasted at suitable places using upcycled sheets/cardboards. The position of different kinds of dustbins and the request for students to throw a particular kind of waste in a suitable dustbin will be circulated in different college groups through the means of online posters as well.
- Divided teams would monitor the nescafe lawns, canteen area and other important waste hubs in college in break time as well as in their free hours. Proper record of students involved in monitoring and lobbying will be maintained.
- Paper/Notebooks Collection drive would be conducted where used notebooks, paper files, newspapers and other kinds of waste paper coming from students across the college would be received. They would be stored in carton boxes placed near bank foyer, Nescafe lawns, tech park to be sent to the college paper recycling plant.
- Electronic Waste Box
E waste possesses one of the most dangerous threats to the environment and proper disposal of it is necessary. The team would be placing a box for collecting e- waste and the notice would be circulated in college.
- Communications and collaborations will be made with Miranda House Students' Union, Miranda House Hostel Students' Union and all other relevant student bodies and societies to ensure smooth conduct of the strategic segregation.
- Widespread publicity of the project will be made through different channels. The project will also take responsibility for conducting waste-related events of MH-Vatavaran, through collaborations with different societies, so that the undergoing process is widely known and acknowledged
- The project under MH-Vatavaran would also try to ensure that the various events and conclaves held in college are as sustainable as possible, by relevant communications with the societies and the bodies organizing it and by making sure that proper waste disposal is followed even by the guests of MH.

- Another group would try to ensure that different categories of wastes reach their right destination. Recyclable and Electronic waste to be sold to relevant companies and clean non-recyclable waste to be transported to Waste to Energy plants in Bawana (which is closest to the college) through suitable means.

Other Suggestions to MH Vatavaran

- (OFFLINE) Since 'Zero Waste MH' would have its roots from Change in Range, the project will also conduct discussions on waste management with different eco-clubs and student bodies of other colleges working on the waste problem, to create synergy in the process of tackling the problem. This is important as it would facilitate the non-recyclable waste disposal which constitutes the major portion of workplace waste problem and will help set-up a uniform channel of recyclable waste collection, making it viable for companies to come over and get subscribed for regular waste collection from the North Campus.
It would also provide an opportunity for different eco clubs to learn from each other and to stand up to the face of environmental crisis together.
- (ONLINE) Change in Range is holding a 'Biodiversity In Range' event in November and MH Vatavaran is invited to collaborate. The event aims to create awareness regarding biodiversity conservation by emphasizing the need for everyone to acknowledge and appreciate biodiversity around them. In the event, participants would be required to send a list of plant, animal and insect biodiversity around them along with their pictures and details which should include their scientific names, characteristics, regions where they are found, whether or not they are in any category of IUCN list etc.
- (ONLINE CUM OFFLINE) MH Vatavaran can hold cycling marathons, eco brick making competitions etc. for engaging its volunteers in the year.