

VIVEKANAND EDUCATION SOCIETY'S
COLLEGE OF ARTS , SCIENCE & COMMERCE

REPORT ON A WORKSHOP ON 'INNOVATIVE HOME COMPOSTING'

VESASC NAAC Criteria 7 had organised a Workshop on “ Innovative Home Composting” on 11th August 2015 in the Forum Hall as part of an environmental awareness initiative. Mr.Jayant Joshi was the resource person for the workshop. A social awareness drive was carried out in the neighbouring buildings of Sindhi Society by Committee Members Prof. Sunita Sherifani, Prof Santhini Nair, Prof. Varsha Ahuja, Prof. Pooja Jagasia and Prof. Minal Parab, a day prior to the program.

The workshop was inaugurated at 11: 30 am by Principal Dr. Jayashree Phadnis along with the Guest speaker and other invited guests by the lighting of lamp, which was in tradition with VES culture. A brief introduction about the workshop and significance of environmental cleanliness was given by the host of the program Mr.Sachin Bhandarkar. This was followed by the rendition of a theme song, by music teacher Mr.Santosh More and his group of students,thanking the Creator for the splendours of Nature .

This was followed by a welcome address by Principal Phadnis . She welcomed all the special invitees, which included Shri. Amar Asrani, Management representative and Trustee, BMC Corporator Mr.Mahadev Shivgan and several invitees from housing societies from Chembur and Vashi. In her opening address,Principal Phadnis brought out the significance of Home Composting as need of the hour, highlighting on the serious problem of garbage dumping in Mumbai and achieving the dream of a truly Clean Mumbai.

This was followed by a well illustrated PPT presentation on ‘Status of Dumping grounds in Mumbai’ by Miss. Richa Shah, an M.Sc Microbiology student, where she shared her experiences during her visit to Deonar Dumping Ground in connection with her research work.She highlighted the plights of the dumping grounds in Mumbai which have long crossed their saturation status and are still being used to dispose the solid wastes generated in the metropolis.

Prof. Varsha Ahuja introduced the speaker of the day – Mr. Jayant Joshi, as a crusader for controlling the pollution levels of the twin cities of Mumbai and Thane .

Mr.Joshi began the workshop with National Geographic Documentary titled “10 most polluted countries of the World”,wherein the audience were pained to know that our country ranked as the most ugliest country in the world in terms of environmental cleanliness. This was followed by a ppt presentation on division of waste and waste types, where he stressed upon the impact of improper waste disposal methods followed in our country and the need for segregating dry and wet wastes at the household level. He also discussed the cost factor in waste disposal and brought in some striking facts like the city of Mumbai generates on an average 630 gms of waste per family per day. He also explained programmes like Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission and National Zero Garbage Drive.

Then Mr. Joshi demonstrated his invention of Composting Basket named – “Kacchra Khanari Basket.” It is a novel innovation where microbial cultures are used to decompose domestic wet garbage. He demonstrated the composting process and discussed merits of using the basket in domestic kitchens and also gave the precautions to be followed while using the basket for composting purposes. The demo session was thoroughly appreciated by the enthusiastic audience, who had several questions on the innovative technique ,all of which was appropriately tackled by Mr.Joshi.

This session was followed by Prize distribution for the poster competition on environmental related issues, which was organised in the previous week for all students of VESASC.

Prof. Santhini Nair next gave a PPT on ‘Zero Waste Campus - A VES Initiative’,wherein she acquainted the audience with the solid waste disposal program undertaken by the institute,as a collaborative exercise,under the guidance of Ms. Rashmi Joshi belonging to Stree Mukti Sanghatana,an NGO ,in partnership with UNDP,United Nations Development Program. The audience was enthralled to learn that all the garden and canteen wastes generated from the entire campus was not being sent outside the campus and being managed by this project in - house and was continuously generating valuable compost for the gardens of VES institutes.

This was followed by a path breaking pledge taking ceremony wherein Principal Phadnis led all in the audience in pledging towards doing their individual bit for reducing the wastes they generate and being responsible for disposal of the wet wastes to a great extent and contributing towards a cleaner environment .

Prof Malay Shah proposed a vote of thanks and the program ended with the National Anthem.



Mr. Jayant Joshi demonstrating the kitchen waste compost to the audience



Poster Competition Winner Receiving Certificate from Shri Amar Asraniji (left) and BMC Corporator Mr. Mahadev Shivgan



Organizing Team of the Workshop with Resource Person