



Criterion 7 - Institution Values and Best Practices

Key Indicator - 7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

QLM 7.3.1 - Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words.

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Plastic Waste Recycling

Collection Stage: To begin the 'Shoonya cycle', student volunteers visit multiple residential societies, schools, and slum areas around the vicinity of the college in the Dahisar - Mira-road suburbs in order to create awareness regarding waste segregation and the perils of irresponsible waste disposal through street plays. The residents are then instructed on how to segregate plastic waste from other types. These visits take place multiple times over a time period to ensure that residents take the movement seriously and start to segregate the waste they generate in their unit. Specialized bins to collect plastic waste are also installed in these areas. These bins are also produced in the institute itself by the student volunteers out of recycled plastic waste. The residents contact the volunteer team when the bin is close to full, and the volunteers set out to collect the recyclable plastic waste. These bins are then emptied, and the contents are brought to the college for the next step.

Creating awareness through street plays



Door to door collection of waste



Rshyl

Principal

Shoonya Rath: E-Vehicle for dry waste collection



Making and Use of Shoonya Bins



Collection of waste by placing Shoonya Bins at various places



Segregating Stage: After the plastic is collected, it is brought to the institute in the 'shoonya vehicle' that is a zero-emission electric vehicle by the student volunteers for the crucial stages of segregation and cleaning. The students segregate the collected plastic waste by its colour as well as its thickness. In total, the plastic is divided into seven categories as per the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) - International Resin Identification Coding System



Principal

The Segregation Stage



Shredding Stage: The segregated plastic is put through a shredder according to color by the volunteers. The students repeat the process till the plastic is pulverized into a fine powder. This step ensures efficiency in the melting of the plastic waste and saves electrical energy as well.

The Shredding Stage



Principal
Principal

Injecting and Moulding Stage: The plastic powder is fed to an injection and moulding machine which melts the plastic and casts into desired shapes by the volunteers.

The Moulding and Injecting Stage



Finishing Stage: The recycled products are then finished by hand. The product is separated from its mould and filed to do away with any imperfections by the student volunteers. Several products like keychains, coasters, ear-rings and pendants are produced from this recycled plastic. As of now, about 10,000 tons of plastic have been recycled and prevented from being discarded in dumping grounds by the students.

The Finishing Stage

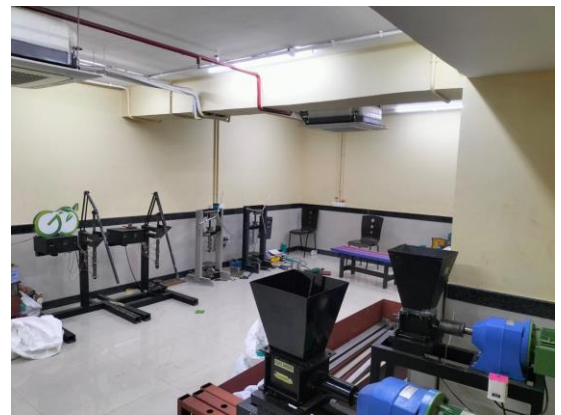


Rshyl
Principal

Shoonya Lab

All the above stages are performed in a specially designed 'shoonya lab' that has been established within the campus itself. It has been aptly dubbed as 'a lab where ideas turn into tangible products.' It is also worth mentioning that all the mentioned stages are executed by the student volunteers itself. The lab has been carefully designed to incorporate innovative ideas and turn them into products leaving behind 'zero carbon footprint'.

Shoonya Lab



Rsingh

Principal

Finished Product

Finished Products

Some of the finished products of the recycling



Resign

Principal

Achievements

Award from UNICEF for increasing awareness regarding waste segregation



Awards from Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation for beach cleaning and waste segregation



Principal