



सत्यमेव जयते



जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ।।

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Action Towards
Sustainability



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Young Leader for Change 2013

The Journey Toward

JAGRUTI

An Eco Club Initiative for Dadra and Nagar Haveli

by

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What is the local environmental problem I am working on?



- Owing to pollution created by industrial activities, vehicular pollution and human pressure on forests- The region around Dudhani, once rich in forest cover, has depleted drastically
- The level of Biological Oxygen Demand (indicates the pollution level in water bodies) in Damanganga River is much higher than the desired limit resulting in mass death of aquatic organisms

- The problem is compounded by a lack of awareness of the need to do something.
- Two-thirds of the total population of DNH relies on agriculture and forests for their livelihood but is oblivious of the need to conserve the environment.
- It is, therefore, crucial to devise a programme to reverse the environment degradation, while simultaneously considering the socio- economic conditions in the region.

What is my action project?

- Title: *Jugruti* *An Eco Club Initiative in Dadra and Nagar Haveli*
- Objectives:
 - Evaluate the current status of Environment Education in all upper primary schools of Dadra and Nagar Haveli
 - Devise a module to set up a system of Eco Clubs that carry out locally relevant activities, field trips and creative learning in order to instil responsibility in each child towards the environment and make each school's carbon footprint and handprint equal
 - To Create 20 Model Eco Club Schools within the four zones of the Union Territories that act as both motivation and inspiration for the remaining others.
 - To display the progress of these 20 schools at the end of 6 months at an exposition

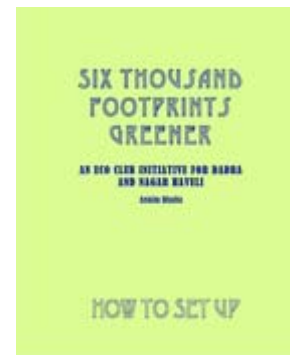
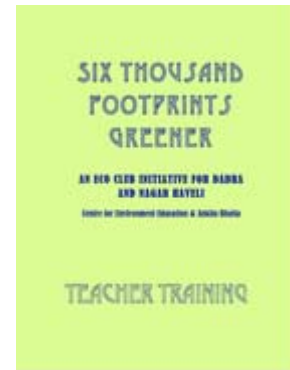
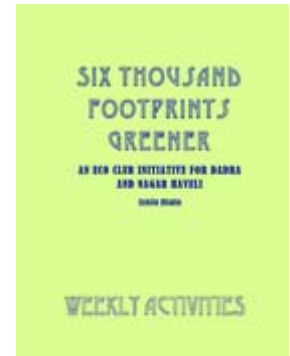
The Journey toward Jagruti



What are the steps in the implementing of my project?

- After the Initial analysis of the current project,
- Division of 122 schools into four zones,
- Assign each school a zone coordinator and cluster resource coordinator
- Allow each Principal to assign two teachers who will lead the Eco Club. List to be provided to zone coordinator
- Drafting and publishing the Eco Club manuals with specific local relevant topics
- Conduction of Teacher Training for all Eco Club teachers through the CEE

The Goal is to now initiate the activities within the drafted Manual and work towards ensuring the success and quality of the 20 Role Model Schools



Working Towards the Goal

In the upcoming 5 months, the goal is to -

- Analyze and decide upon the 20 Role Model Schools, evenly distributed across the 4 zones
- Arrange for a meeting of these 20 Role Model Cluster Resource coordinators(RMCRC) and the Director of Education in order to ameliorate the institutional Mechanism within Jugruti's framework
- Initiate eco club activities in all schools
- Begin training of the RMCRC with the CEE's Green Teacher Diploma Programme
- Draft a mid-semester report of the progress
- Present each Model School's progress at equalizing their Carbon Footprint and Handprint at an exposition

What are the challenges I anticipate in the process?

- *Knowing that this is an ambitious project spread over a pretty large scale, I know that keeping myself motivated despite shortcomings in the process of it's culmination has been and will continue to be the greatest challenge*
- *Additionally working with a community with a culture and language so different to that I personally deem wanted may also at times create a problem*
- *However, ultimately, the the highs and lows, the successes and failures are inevitable and an integral part of this entire learning experience*

What are the kinds of resources I will be able to gather while doing this project?

This project is being carried out with the help and support of several individuals and groups:

- Mr. Krishan Kumar, Director of Education, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, is the key officer guiding this project.
- Mr. Umesh Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer, Dadra & Nagar Haveli District Panchayat, under whom all primary and upper primary schools function.
- The resources and officials of the Centre for Environment Education, the best source for added funding, materials for activities, and guidebooks.
- Teachers from Upper primary schools of Dadra & Nagar Haveli who have and continue to give their opinions on what is doable, relevant and important especially Mr. Paritosh V. Shukla (Teacher Govt. High School Dokmardi)

Stipend provided under the National Green Corps Eco Club Framework Around 300 large industrial units in the territory are proposed to be tapped to fund the project, and provide buses for field trips, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. The Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, specifically the Education Department has been exceedingly helpful and has agreed to fund all balance resources required for the project.



When will I say my project is a success?

- In addition to the monthly newsletter for each zone, the Education Department proposes to organize an exposition fair for the 20 Role Model Schools to share their learning and accomplishments through the project.
- Not only will the schools get encouragement from each other, but it would also provide a platform to present each school's individual success in their attempt to become carbon neutral.
- Additionally the success of each eco club will be measured by the progress at equalizing the school's Carbon Footprint and Handprint



As a personal goal, I will consider myself to have succeeded if through the course of the academic year, I am able to see a change in the physical conditions of the schools, and the attitude of students towards conservation of environment

How do I plan to take my action forward after the project is over?

- This project is devised for all 122 upper primary schools in the territory.
- Each school will have an Eco Club comprised of around 50 students across classes VI to VIII, under the supervision of two teachers each.
- Hence, the project will bring into its fold 6100 students and 244 teachers with the objective of transforming them from “passive onlookers” to “active stakeholders” towards conservation of the environment in the next few years
- Within the next 5 months the goal of the project is to ensure and strengthen the core through the 20 role model schools however, this project will branch for much longer and much further than just that
- By virtue of it’s mechanism, in the next one- two years, it is intended to spread consciousness among all 6000 families (i.e. around 30,000 persons) in all 72 villages and urban areas of the Union Territory and not just within the 20 Role Model Schools

Ultimately, Jagruti also aims at developing a mechanism through which students of Upper Primary schools can interact and teach students in Primary Schools



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See the details of my action project at:
www.paryavaranmitra.in