

Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science





# Newsletter of Department of Zoology Volume 13 Issue 4

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# WHATS BUZZING AT THE DEPARTMENT

# INTRODUCTION

The Department of Zoology of Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts & Science (Autonomous) actively conducts Green initiative/ Environment protection initiatives by students of SEC course on waste management techniques under the guidance of Dr. Nandini Vaz Fernandes, Ms. Madhu Balekai, Ms. Tessa Vaz & Ms. Gautami Manakikar. This academic year, 2020-2021, the SEC students designed E-posters in order to create awareness on the various Waste Management techniques. The students used posters to explain about the adverse effects caused on the environment and human health by the waste generated. They also created awareness on the different sources of waste and how one can segregate and dispose the waste safely without harming the environment. They emphasized on the hazardous effect of E-waste on the environment and suggested methods of disposing the E-waste generated. The main aim of this activity was to reignite the awareness regarding the ill aspects of improper waste management. Here are some selective E-posters done by the students.

**Waste management** refers to the activities and actions adopted to manage and dispose of wastes. It can be by discarding, destroying, processing, recycling, reusing, or controlling wastes. The prime objective of waste management is to reduce the amount of unusable materials and to avert potential health and environmental hazards.



**Residential waste management:** It's a domestic waste generated in houses and apartments. The three main actions required to manage the residential wastes are **SEGREGATION, COLLECTION** and **DISPOSAL.** 



# Done by Shruti kale



### Done by Giselle Fernandes

- "The Greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." - Robert Swan INSIDE THIS ISSUE Introduction -Awareness on the various Waste 1 Awareness through E-posters on waste manage-1 Editorial note 2
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# EDITORIAL: Covid-19 and waste management

In the view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, spread of virus, cleanliness and hygiene and waste management is important issues

to look upon. The containment of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and limitations on commercial activities, mobility and manufacturing sector have significantly affected waste management. Waste management is critical to human development and health outcomes, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the COVID-19 pandemic is reported to have reduced air pollution and environmental-related noise and improved biodiversity and tourist sites, however, the impact of stay-at-home and preventive measures on waste management is alarming.

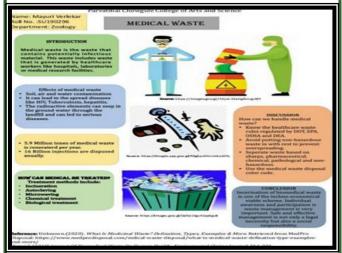
There has been increased usage of single-use products and other products like gloves, gowns, masks and other protective clothing and equipment has increase the concern of these waste management. Failure to properly manage the waste generated from health facilities and households may escalate the spread of COVID-19 via secondary transmission. And therefore one should practice good hygiene, innovate and redesign household products to improve the durability, reusability and recyclability while ensuring safe use with proper sanitization measures. Also adapt safe disposable methods which would reduce the pressure on the environment.

**E-Waste management:** E-waste are loosely discarded, surplus, obsolete, broken, electrical or electronic devices. This waste contains toxic components that are dangerous to human health and environment and therefore a proper E-waste management is necessary such as open incineration and acid-leeching.



Done by Sarha Khan

**Medical Waste management:** Medical waste is broadly classified as any item that comes into contact with body fluids. Specifically, it is any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment or immunization of humans. The most successful medical waste disposal methods are: Autoclaving, chemical disinfection, encapsulation.



# Done by Mayuri Verlekar

"Refuse what you do not need; reduce what you do need; reuse what you consume; recycle what you cannot refuse, reduce or reuse; and rot (compost) the rest." - Bea Johnson

# **Organic composting**

Organic composting mainly reduces the amount of organic waste generated. It cuts down the usage of chemical fertilizers and is used to remediate soils contaminated by hazardous waste. The students were explained the basic concept of organic composting and were given instructions on how to prepare kitchen compost effectively at home. The main aim of this activity was to encourage the students to use and promote organic composting as an ideal way of managing kitchen waste.



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### Handmade paper

As handmade papers are made from recycled papers, it is an effective method of decreasing the amount of waste generated. The use of recycled paper also re-

duces the number of trees cut down and promotes sustainable development. Handmade paper can be used to make diverse products such as bags, diaries, envelopes, packaging, office accessories and even cards. The students were given instructions on the process of handmade paper and encouraged to create various products using it. The main aim of this activity was to promote recycling paper and reduce the amount of waster generated.





# **Corona-virus pandemic- Opportunity** to learn something new

Article written by : Shanaya S Phal Desai, SYBSc The 21st century pandemic, something unexpected and most devastating event that would be remembered for centuries. A condition that took away thousands of dreams, devastated thousands of families and meeting people and moving out had a cost of our lives. Amidst this heart wrenching situation the only thing that kept people going is hope and faith that someday everything will fall back at its place. We weren't prepared for such a world where are homes would be workplaces and communication to near ones will be long distance. The only way to deal with sudden halt in our lives was re- engaging. The pandemic ensured that learning never stopped and so growth and creativity. Despite of the struggling conditions, our young minds didn't fail to lighten up and to utilize this extra hours into learning that had never occurred before. The pandemic gave us so much time to reflect on our thoughts, to find our hidden talents and interests. Talking about me, the travelling, college and hangouts left very little time to ponder upon my interests. for instance, I was never much into cooking or baking stuff but since all the scientific labs were closed, the kitchen was the only lab you could experiment!

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### Cont..

I generated interest in baking and trying different cuisines. I have always wanted to learn a western musical instrument but long college hours and studying never really helped. The pandemic was the time I learned to play the guitar. My mind and soul having no escape

from the closed walls of my home had led to often irritation and frustration. That's when I tried engaging myself into meditation and Yoga. Something I never thought would include in my daily routine. The pandemic helped me generate a healthier



lifestyle than before. Gardening became another activity that helped me feel calm and happy. Watching new life grow, the vibrant flowers added colours to a monotonous life after months of lockdown. Since I had more free time than ever, I could catch back my hobbies of reading novels, fiction and creative writing.

To sum up with, the Covid-19 pandemic taught us how insignificant we are in front of the nature and how temporary everyone around us is. I started looking at life with a new perspective trying to utilize every minute and be grateful about it. From being happy to be able to spend more family time to catching up with lost feelings. Even though the pandemic took away uncountable college memories to look at the brighter side, it also gave us opportunity for self -care and opening up to so many interests and creativity within our homes.

# **Corona-virus pandemic- Opportunity to** learn something new

Article written by : Neeha Sinai Borker, TYBSc

Learning is a matter of your interest and will power to gather knowledge. Circumstances pose little to no challenge for those with sheer zeal and passion for learning. Being an extrovert, who enjoys group discussions and group learning, Covid 19 pandemic made me realize the importance of "traditional form of learning" through physically attending lectures in classrooms, interacting with teachers, having group discussions with peers and socializing through live interactions. While the mode of "online learning "was expected in the near future out of choice, never did I imagine it would be a part and parcel of our life out of compulsion.

### Cont....

My experience with this virtual mode of learning has been a macabre of mixed emotions. During these difficult times, Google meet and Zoom app have become our best friends and aided us in attending online classes. Online resources in the form of power point presentations, e-books, web links and You Tube videos were made available by our college faculty for understanding

difficult concepts. Online discussion forum served as an inquisitive to solving student queries. The current pandemic gave rise to numerous internship and work from home opportunities and being part of one such internship helped in improving my communication skills and learning Running a personal blog 'NB Diaries' new software lan-

This was my first trip abroad, along with my friends and I couldn't be more thrilled to chose Sweden as my first destination . I have always wanted to visit a European country and my uncle, who is a frequent visitor to Sweden, spoke fondly about Swedish culture and places worth visiting.



guages. Attending a series of webinars broadened the horizon of opportunities and aided in career guidance and public awareness on current affairs. Keeping a positive mind-set, I tried to make the most out of this new form of learning, channelling my creativity and imagination skills and polishing my reading skills to my level best. This mode of learning in fact strengthened my discipline as one tends to become lethargic.

Being a Final year undergraduate student, my main concern was my research project as I was looking forward to what I thought would be my most exciting part of learning and a new opportunity similar in lines to my career path. Once again, our best friend Google saved the day and the concept of secondary data analysis did relieve my anxiety and gave rise to a new opportunity of learning. A major downside of this mode of learning would be limitations to polishing our practical skills. Nothing would compensate the practical skills which we fell short of, during this pandemic and competitive offline job markets in near future.

While the current Covid-19 pandemic has caused worldwide crisis and growing economic and social disruption, it has solidified the notion of social connectivity of the world through nuance of internet, as the near future predicted it to be.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Department of zoology

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