

Category 2: Pollution and Waste Reduction

Problem Statement 1: Excessive single-use plastics, such as bottles, cutlery, and packaging, are generating high waste and environmental pollution on campus.

The packaging sector is the largest generator of single-use plastic waste in the world. Approximately 36 per cent of all plastics produced are used in packaging. This includes single-use plastic food and beverage containers, 85 per cent of which end up in landfills or as mismanaged waste. Chemicals used in plastic manufacturing can potentially enter into food, especially when exposed to hot liquids, raising health concerns.

In Colleges -Most canteen items like cups, cutlery, food packaging, and water bottles are often made from single-use plastic, leading to a large volume of disposable waste. Lack of proper awareness can trigger students to use plastic which ending up in landfills or littering the campus, not only impacting the aesthetics but also the environment. That's our solution is to instill the importance of avoiding plastics to protect the environment among students by encouraging them to bring their own reusable water bottles, Steel containers, and cutlery, Because banning plastics could result in usage of wooden & paper as alternative more resulting in deforestation

SOLUTION :-



Ecocred(EC) is a credit based app which has unique QR Code for each students and that QR Code is inserted on each and every student's ID Card .In Canteen ,If the Student opt for parcel like plastic-cutlery,cups,box,etc,.. then 2 credits will be debited from their EC app .It can be done through scanning the student's QR Code through scanning machine or any other scanning app-here the QR Code is used only to deduct the credits (Based on concept of loss aversion i.e., People are more motivated to avoid losses than to acquire equivalent gains.) . As default each student will be credited 72 credits at the starting of each Semester .

Not only in Canteen , In entire campus , Free plastic zone area should be formed. When any students carrying plastic items, seen by the teaching faculty/Non-teaching faculty/student volunteers , they will deduct that student's credits(as per the quantity of plastic cutleries/water bottle)by scanning the student's QR code using the incharge's EC app .Weekly leader board for class, monthly leaderboard for overall college will be announced on the app. (Likewise in Duolingo to encourage students) Also streaks concept is followed, where as the students did not use plastics at all means -their streak will continue, If they use plastics by their own or opted for parcel service which involves plastics .then ,the streak will start from over. For a year - Students with highest streak will get a Appreciation certificate.Students having full credits(144) will get a free food + a special certificate for protecting the environment-receives the certificate at the end of the year.

IMPORTANT RULES AND PROCEDURES THAT NEEDED TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE COLLEGE:- ✨

1. If any student seems to have lack of credit, below 75% of the total credits given at first. Then, they can attend EcoLectures available in the EC app regarding how this plastic pollution affects the living organisms. And they have to pass the assessment test based on the lecture video at the end of the lecture. If any student seems to have lack of credit, below 65%. Then, they have to create a video of creating awareness inside their college campus regarding reducing usage of plastics and encouraging the use of own utensils. (Minimum of 10min, which will be telecasted on the Billboard inside the canteen. Failing to do this, will cause the student to repeat their semester(only strict punishments will make the people understand the rules.)

2. While ordering their food, If they Choose own utensils -there will be No extra amount. If they choose parcel in plastic cutleries then, +Rs.10+ 2Eco credits will be debited. If they choose recyclable utensils like palmpulp plates and cups then, +Rs.15+ 1Eco credit will be debited. Based on the option used by the student they can get their food at the counter. If they didn't bring their ID card means, they can show their QR code using the EC app. Even those who don't have phone can use it by logging in through other's phone just like Instagram.

3. The Authority have to install billboards at canteen to display leaderboards, some informational video regarding effects of plastic usage and the videos made by the students who lack attendance.

Note:- This rules and conditions are applicable for all kinds of foods, snacks, beverages, including waterbottles sold at the canteen.