



# REFLECTIONS

SPRINGER NATURE JOURNALS EDITORIAL OFFICE

## ART FROM WASTE

ADITYA IYER . ABDUL HAKKIM . SARVAGNAN SUBRAMANIAM

SRI LAKSHMI PATRUDU . SIVAKANI JAYAPRAKASH

MAY 2017



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING

## SESSION BY DEVI SHANMUGAM

Open and constant communication is the key to high performance teamwork and a great way to improve the efficiency of the team members. One such way of communication is knowledge sharing which is a critical team process that involves members interacting to share ideas, information, and suggestions relevant to the team's task at hand.

As the number of manuscripts received for the Springer journals increases day by day, it is necessary to maintain the consistency of the peer review process thereby maintaining the TAT values of the journals. Hence, the Springer team has introduced a new protocol in order to perform the analysis of the manuscripts before the editor starts with the evaluation process. Mr. Sivakani, the SPS JEO Manager, had initiated a knowledge sharing session for the team members to understand the importance of the new protocol that should be followed for the journals. The team leaders of the SPS JEO team further arranged for short gatherings to explain the process in detail so that their team members would get acquainted with the new protocol.

Devi Shanmugam conducted one of these sessions our team members on 27 April 2017. She has not only explained the process that was to be followed by the JEO Assistants for the journals but also the reasons and importance behind this new protocol so that we would have a better understanding of the process. One of the main focuses of the session was discussing the problems that we came across with the new protocol and every team member shared their views and perspectives on what they had seen so far. Devi in turn suggested ways to avoid the difficulties and also took into account the way the process was put together. Overall, the session gave a clear idea about the advantages of using the new workflow and it has been helpful in sorting out the problems that the team members have come across.

**Ms. Divya Ananthanarayanan**  
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai





# ART FROM WASTE

The eagerly awaited competition 'Art out of waste' was held on 20 May 2017. As the name suggests, waste materials like water bottles, newspapers, and ice cream sticks were used by the participants to create spectacular pieces of art. There were 6 members in each team and the time given to complete the task was 3.5 hours. Each team was unique in their way of bringing out colourful combinations of different arts which brought out the creativity of each participant and also helped unify each team in the process.

Art not only brings out the creativity or the inner feelings of each person but also parts of us which we never knew existed. When everyone thought about using waste materials in a way to create awareness in people, there was also a team which brought out the latest trending movie fashion. Ms. Brindha was covered in jewels made with water bottle caps, peanut shells, and chocolate wrappers. We were so excited to see the reincarnation of the famous film character Sivagami from Bahubali movie in her with beautiful handmade jewels; we still have no words to express how we felt. Just when we thought the competition couldn't get any better, the BMC team created a real time 'Juice Maker' using waste materials. It was pure innovation and the best one that had been thought of.

Overall, we were amazed and excited to see all the art made by our colleagues which made the day very memorable. I would like to thank Mr. Sanjeevi who became a part of this beautiful occasion at the end by playing the role of judge. I am proud to say that our team won the first price for the concept 'Home garden wedding' and the BMC team won the second prize for "Juice Maker". Saraswathi's team won 3<sup>rd</sup> price for bringing out the fashionable Sivagami Character. I would also like to thank our manager for organizing this event for us apart from the regular work.

**Ms. Subbulakshmi Raman**  
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai



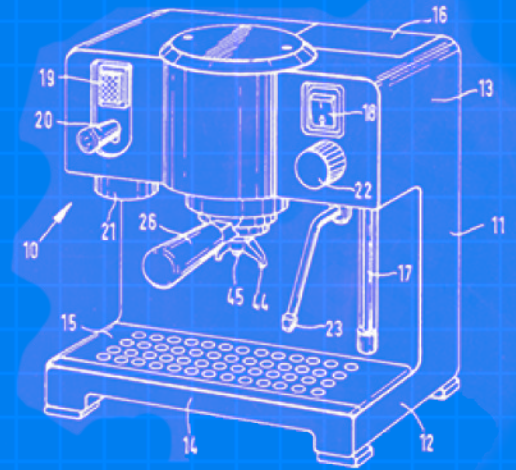






# JUICE MACHINE

The SPS JEO team organized an 'Art from waste' competition on 20 May 2017 to provide us with yet another opportunity to exhibit our skills in activities other than the daily work. We had a brainstorming session within the team and with three engineers in our midst; we naturally came up with the idea to build an appliance from scratch which we could use daily in our team. Thus, the idea of the juice vending machine was born.



Coffee and tea have been the staple drinks for every JEO team member since they joined SPS. However, there are no alternatives available for those who are not into both of those drinks. We decided to build something that could act as an alternative to provide another drink for our colleagues. We made use of the simple physics principle of introducing pressure in a closed container containing a liquid. We had to find a way to increase the pressure in order to bring the liquid out. Here we received assistance from the electrical geniuses of Magesh and Krishna and made use of an air pump, motor, and hose used in fish tanks. The skeleton of our project was then ready and we used cardboard to build the body of the machine. Voila! The machine was now ready for use in the BMC team bay as long as you had someone to sponsor the cost of the drinks in use and the electricity required.

I would like to inform my colleagues in SPS who are not very fond of hot beverages that you need not feel left out anymore during the drinks break when everyone is enjoying their coffee or tea. Just come over to the BMC team bay to enjoy your own drinks break with a beverage of your choice!

**Mr. Parthiban Gurusamy**  
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai







## TIME MANAGEMENT

Mr. Sanjeevi, Deputy General Manager in SPS, recently judged the “Art from Waste” competition held by SPS JEO. After the competition, he gave a talk for us about self-improvement. This was an impromptu talk, driven by the fact that Mr. Sanjeevi is a passionate speaker, someone whose enthusiasm is so infectious that we left the talk buoyed by the messages that he delivered.

He started the talk describing Mr. T.T. Rangarajan’s speaking style and punctuality. He explained how in Mr. Rangarajan’s talks, the start and end times were scriptures. The talks were never delayed and would never run long; he in turn expected the audience to respect the times associated with events. He also showed an admirable dedication to his work. His time management and dedication through all his years of experience was really inspiring and set an example that we could strive toward.

He also explained how setting goals for the long term was important and how very few people took the time to set goals for their lives. One useful tool that he gave us was the concept of SMART goals; Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely. Following these criteria would help us set effective goals that we could achieve.

I would like to thank Mr. Sanjeevi for spending the time and giving us this talk. He conveyed clear messages to us that we could all work toward.

**Mr. Sathish Srinivasan**  
Journal Editor, SPS, Chennai

