

PLANatEarth

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Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU signed on 10-2-2022, between Planatearth and the Department of Economics, Sree Sankara College, Kalady, for the purpose of collaborating in projects connected with environment conservation activities, campaigns and surveys that are part of the activities of Planatearth. Planatearth (Reg No. ER-313/09) is a non-profit organization registered as a charitable trust under the Travancore Cochin Charitable Societies Act 1955 and has been involved in the management of dry waste namely paper and plastic from the year 2009 onwards. As per this MOU which is valid for a period of one year, PlanAtEarth will associate with Sree Sankara College in various projects related to waste management, environment conservation, awareness programs and recycling, intimated through a formal letter submitted at the commencement of a project, specifying the roles of each party in the project. Planatearth agrees to certify students and staff associating with the organization in activities agreed upon. The MOU exempts both parties from any financial obligations, unless specifically mentioned in further annexures. As per this MOU, the parties can jointly apply for funded projects after letter of permission is obtained from the second party, specifying roles and responsibilities and how the fund is to be utilized.



Mujeeb Mohammed
President PlanAtEarth



Principal

Dr. SURESH A.
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Registration Number: ER-313/09

Registered as a charitable society under the Travancore-Cochin
Charitable Societies Act - 1955

Kerala State Pollution Control Board approved Establishment.



A STUDY ON DRY WASTE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLDS AND SHOPS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KADUNGALLOOR GRAMA PANCHAYAT

A Baseline Study was done in Kadungalloor Panchayath to assess the progress and effectiveness of the Waste Management System implemented by the Panchayath. Following the norms and directives of the Haritha Kerala Mission, a door-to-door waste collection system was implemented in all wards of the panchayath over a year ago. A team of 42 women was selected to function as the Haritha Karma Sena. This team of women visit households and shops once a month and collect dry waste consisting mostly of plastic discards. A User Fee of Rs 50 per month is collected from the households and this becomes the remuneration for the workers engaged in the door-to-door collection of waste.

Though the project was implemented over a year ago, the system seems to have some deficiencies as the sides of the main roads of Kadungalloor have a lot of litter. The elected representatives themselves are aware that the project is weak in many areas and are willing to make corrections. Before suggestions and corrections can be made, a detailed study of the project from different perspectives and points of view was needed. Since the primary beneficiaries are the residents of Kadungalloor Panchayath a study was done taking 10 % of the population. The study also included 20% of shops in the panchayath. Responses were also taken from the elected representatives as well as the actual workers involved. Based on the study it was found that About 80 percent of the households generated less than 2 kilograms of waste in a month. While more than 90 percent of the residents are aware of the waste management project in the panchayath, it is only half of the households in the study area are disposing the plastic waste by way of handing over it to the Haritha Karma Sena. An alarming fact is that almost half of the households still do not pay attention to dispose plastic waste in a healthy and environment friendly manner. They still burn, bury, dump or throw with other wastes. Plastic waste disposal by the residents clearly shows that only 54% give to HKS for recycling. A significant 46 percent of the households are following unscientific methods of plastic waste disposal such as burning, burying, dumping or throwing with other wastes raising doubts about the efficacy of the current waste disposal project. The study also revealed that 61.08 percent of the households do not remove scrap value plastic while handing over other discards to HKS. This is an indication that there is potential for value recovery from waste collected, which becomes an income source for the panchayath.

At present the Material Recovery Facility is full to the brim with waste and the crying need of the project is to initiate a parallel process of sorting and recovery followed by timely disposal of residual inerts. A system has to be brought into place where the waste collected from households is transported on the same day to the Material Recovery Facility. Daily, weekly and monthly reports of collection and households covered as well as sorting and recovery have to be generated and documented for the proper monitoring of the project. The study revealed that the existing dry waste management system has not been able to create a better awareness among the residents and shopkeepers about the importance of scientific waste management system. Therefore, a scientific and effective waste management system needs to be implemented by creating better awareness among the residents and shopkeepers about the importance of waste management.