



**JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE**

**INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL**

# **FUTURE GREEN INITIATIVES**



Some suggestions for future green initiatives as deliberated upon in the IQAC. These can be implemented in coordination with the Green Society of JMC.

## AIM

- a. To educate and encourage JMC students to become genuine agents of change, who will be deeply committed to treasuring the campus environment and the neighborhood.
- b. To empower them to becoming leading protagonists in the larger community who will spearhead waves of transformation.

## INITIATIVES WITHIN THE COLLEGE

### 1. **Creating eco-friendly interior spaces**

• **Indoor Plants**- Installation of “NASA Clean Air Study” identified eco-friendly plants in the staff room, department rooms, canteen, library, and perhaps even in the classrooms. For example, the Snake Plant is low cost, low maintenance and evergreen. It can survive low light levels and has a low insect problem. It has proven indoor air filtration qualities, removes

4 major air toxins like formaldehyde and benzene etc. There are many such plants available like Aloe Vera, Peace Lily, Boston Fern, English Ivy.

- **Vertical Gardens** walls can be set up in 2-3 places.
2. **Organize Healthy Competitions** between departments who can take care of plants in specific areas and an annual prize can be declared for best maintained plants etc. The purpose is to create a sense of pride associated with green practices.
  3. **Department Assemblies** could be based on the theme of the protection of environment.
  4. Departments and Societies could also take the initiative of planning **events/seminars/conferences** related to these themes.
  5. **Creating a Students Gardeners Team**- Formation of a students gardeners team which will engage hands on with maintenance of the interior greenery. This is to address the problem associated with overworked gardeners. These teams could work on supporting the upkeep of these green elements.

## INITIATIVES BEYOND THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Apart from initiatives taken within the campus, one could in a very systematic manner, work on making JMC a college that

actively contributes to spreading the green ideology in the neighborhood and city through taking the following positive steps on the ground:

1. **The JMC Tree:** Identify one outdoor tree which has air purifying properties/ attract biodiversity, eg. neem, peepul, laburnum, jacaranda etc.; adopt it as a tree that will henceforth be associated with JMC; we could buy 100 small saplings, organise an event inviting any eminent environmentalist to flag off the drive where students gift two saplings each to embassies, neighbouring institutions, colleges, etc. within a radius of 3-4 km with JMC at the centre with whom an agreement has already been reached through letters being sent to accept our “Gift of Green” and join our campaign to create a green neighbourhood.
2. **Green Dialogues:** We can invite these colleges/institutions regularly to our programmes and events related to green issues to continue with green dialogues.
3. Apart from planting trees in the vicinity, **adopt any barren space** nearby, with permission from the concerned authorities and plant some of the JMC trees.
4. Plant one JMC environment friendly tree within the campus in memory of each of the ex-principals, staff members etc. who have passed away.
5. Encourage students to plant saplings to contribute to areas around their homes.

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6. Popularise the campaign on social media amongst students using hashtags like #selfiewithatree #mygreenselfie #ecowarriorprincess

## **FORMALISING AND REINFORCING EXISTING PRACTICES**

1. **Encourage Car-Pooling.** Though informally already existent, students in each department can be encouraged to seriously pursue the same. We can encourage them to maintain data about the reduction in number of cars plying to and from college systematically, oil/energy saved, pollution reduction etc. This will promote a keen awareness through their documenting of their Carbon footprint.

2. **Identify days in the calendar year** associated with the environment like:

22nd April: UN Earth Day

5th June: UN world environment day

26th August: International Dog Day

21st September: World Clean Up Day, Zero Emission Day

22nd September: Car Free Day

Students can be encouraged observe such days by doing something of their choice to minimise their carbon footprint. They could organise an appropriate event related to the day being observed.

## **INITIATIVES RELATED TO FAST FASHION**

1. We have done a survey of green practices across DU and other Indian Universities and in fact found that some colleges have initiated plastic free campus, tree planting, recycling etc schemes that have covered in the above mentioned initiatives.
2. However, there is a major untapped area related to getting students becoming active agents and committed leaders in promoting environmental consciousness. This is related to the fast fashion industry. Through this campaign, JMC could become the pioneering institution in bringing about an ideological change in an entire generation of young students who are also the primary consumers of fast fashion.
3. Fashion is something that is extremely relevant and an integral part of student existence that is shaped by pressures associated with selfie-culture and social media platforms like Instagram. These are driven by the need to buy clothes for every new post.
4. This initiative aims to make green consciousness a part of the DNA of all students and will have a long term impact. It will inculcate and awaken a sense of an awareness of each ones

impact on the environment. Accompanied by fashion foot printing, they can trace the contribution that they make individually. This will help them understand the need to strike a better balance between economic and ecological imperatives.

5. A clothes swap shop meet has already been organised for the staff on 2nd August 2019. This could serve as a template for future swap meets. More information regarding the same can be found here <https://www.jmc.ac.in/uploads/staticfiles/naac/greenpractices/Action%20Plan%20for%20Swap%20Shop%20Meet.pdf>.

6. Other miscellaneous activities linked with clothes swapping that can be organised in the future are:

- **Educative talks sensitising students.** Slide shows, screening documentaries and presentations defining Fast Fashion and explaining its heavy impact on the environment. Minimalist/ Capsule wardrobes/ Slow Fashion/ Sustainable Living/ Wearing the same garment in ten different ways/ Becoming proud re-wearers etc.
- For the **Freshers Welcome**, the theme could be linked to fast fashion. For example, an upcycled fashion show. Other possibilities include recycling old clothes, using miscellaneous unused material to create new clothes.
- **Upcycling and Recycling** – We could perhaps employ or tie up with women tailors, also creating work

opportunities for them. Demonstrations could be organised of the creation of new garments from old ones. Do-it-Yourself tutorials could be organised to demonstrate how to convert saris into skirts, scarves, dupattas, curtains; denims and other thicker fabrics can be converted into bags. The idea is to reverse wear and throw habits. The items created could be sold within the college at marginal rates to raise funds for Green initiatives.

- **Pre-cycling** represents the stage before recycling, at the point of purchase. Students and staff can be sensitised to choose products with least packaging, to carry own bag or containers, to refuse plastic bags while buying vegetables.
- **Journalling:** Students can be encouraged to maintain journals to document their changed relationship with clothes and lifestyle changes which will have a long term positive impact on the environment.