

Zero Waste Campus Journey: Jain High School, Moodubidire

Implementing Zero Waste on a large, active school campus is often seen as a challenge. With thousands of students, daily academic activity, frequent events, and community participation, maintaining waste segregation and discipline requires strong systems and committed leadership. **Jain High School, Moodubidire, demonstrates how this can be done effectively and sustainably. .**

How the Zero Waste Journey Began

The Zero Waste initiative at Jain High School began with support from the Moodubidire Town Municipal Council (TMC). The programme was introduced by the TMC's Environmental Engineer, who highlighted the importance of waste segregation and sustainable practices. This was followed by hands-on, step-by-step guidance from Vedan, supporting the school in designing and implementing a practical Zero Waste system on campus.



Putting the Right System in Place

One of the first and most impactful steps taken by the school was a **complete ban on single-use plastics**, including commonly discarded items such as chocolate wrappers. This decision significantly reduced non-recyclable waste at the source.

A structured waste segregation system was then implemented across the campus. Every classroom was equipped with clearly labelled bins for paper waste, plastic waste, and pens/refills. Students were actively involved in maintaining segregation, with class leaders monitoring proper disposal, while housekeeping staff ensured that waste was collected and aggregated correctly.

Even small details were addressed thoughtfully — students were instructed not to crumple paper, as flat paper improves recycling efficiency. A dedicated Dry Waste Aggregation Centre was established on campus, where waste was further segregated into categories such as paper, plastic, MLP, and cardboard for responsible recycling.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Zero Waste at Jain High School was integrated into learning and skill development. Students participated in hands-on workshops where they learned to make paper and cloth bags using old project papers. These paper bags were supplied to local medical stores, generating both awareness and income, while demonstrating real-world circular economy practices.

Students also actively volunteered at community events, including Zero Waste Kambala, supporting waste management beyond the school campus and reinforcing their role as environmental ambassadors.



Building a Culture of Cleanlines

Even before formally adopting the Zero Waste model, the school had laid a strong foundation through initiatives like “Swachha Bharat, Swachha Kaksha”, where classrooms were rewarded for cleanliness. Importantly, sweeping was not allowed — students were expected to dispose of waste correctly at source, reinforcing responsible behaviour.

Unused land within the campus was also converted into a medicinal garden, adding another layer to the school’s sustainability journey.



Recognition, Challenges, and Impact

Jain High School’s Zero Waste efforts were officially recognised and felicitated by the Moodubidire Town Municipal Council (TMC), acknowledging the school’s leadership in sustainable campus practices.

The campus regularly hosts large events such as annual day celebrations, where external vendors and visitors are present. While this occasionally poses challenges in enforcing Zero Waste guidelines, the school has been able to identify gaps and continuously improve systems to minimise waste leakage.

Today, all guest meals during school events follow Zero Waste guidelines, single-use plastics are eliminated, and reusable steel cutlery is the norm. With strong support from the management and the Principal, the Zero Waste initiative continues to grow and strengthen year after year.

What This Journey Shows

Jain High School's experience clearly shows that Zero Waste is achievable even on large, high-activity campuses. When management leads with intent, students participate actively, and systems are designed thoughtfully, Zero Waste becomes not just a project — but a culture.



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