

Jain Pre-University College:

Leading by Example as a Zero Waste Campus



Jain Pre-University College (JPUC), established in 1972, is a co-educational institution managed by Shree Moodubidire Digambara Jaina Vidyavardhaka Sangha (R). The college's journey towards becoming a Zero Waste Campus reflects a conscious shift from conventional waste handling practices to a structured, responsible, and measurable system of waste management

The Beginning of the Zero Waste Journey

The transformation of JPUC into a Zero Waste Campus began with a workshop conducted by the **Town Municipal Council (TMC), Moodubidire**, where schools and colleges from the region were invited. The session was led by Ms. Suhasini, then volunteer from Vedan Trust, and focused on the importance of waste segregation and sustainable waste management practices

Inspired by the workshop, **Mrs. Sandhya and Mr. Sajesh**, lecturers and Eco Club in-charges at Jain PUC, took the initiative to implement Zero Waste practices on campus. With the support of the management and the Principal, the college reached out for further guidance and formally began its Zero Waste Campus journey, becoming the **first college in Moodubidire** to do so.

Practices Before Formal Implementation

Before the Zero Waste Campus programme was officially adopted, Jain PUC had already introduced a few environmentally conscious practices. Pad-burning machines were in use for sanitary waste disposal, and there were occasional efforts to reduce plastic usage. However, waste management on campus still faced major challenges. Waste was often burnt, plastic covers were commonly used for parcels, paper cups were widely used, and waste was not properly aggregated, making recycling inefficient.

At the same time, small positive practices emerged organically — such as a staff member repurposing leftover uniform fabric into cloth bags for packing answer papers, and the occasional use of reusable plates in the college



Waste being burnt nearby to the college campus



Paper cups and plastic items were commonly used in the campus



Pad-burning machines were in use for sanitary waste disposal.

Implementing the Zero Waste System

Implementing the Zero Waste System

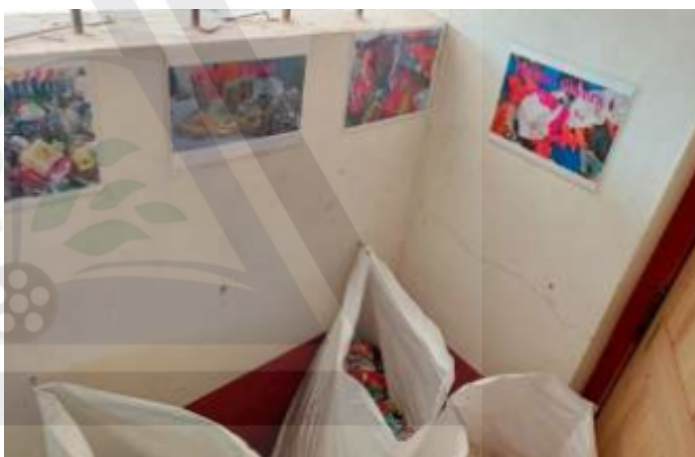
The Zero Waste Campus initiative introduced a systematic approach to waste management. Dustbins were placed in every classroom, enabling waste segregation at the source. Single-use items such as paper cups and plastic products were gradually replaced with steel cutlery, steel tumblers, and steel plates across the campus

A Dry Waste Collection Centre was set up within the college to aggregate segregated waste, and a dedicated e-waste unit was established to safely store and manage electronic waste. A prohibited items list was displayed at the campus entrance to prevent the entry of banned materials, reinforcing discipline and accountability

To ensure hygienic handling of sanitary waste, a three-step disposal procedure was displayed in all female washrooms. Additionally, a leaf compost unit was installed to manage leaf waste generated on campus



Steel Cutleries were used in the college as a substitute for single-use items



Dry waste collection center was set up in the college



E-waste unit in the college campus



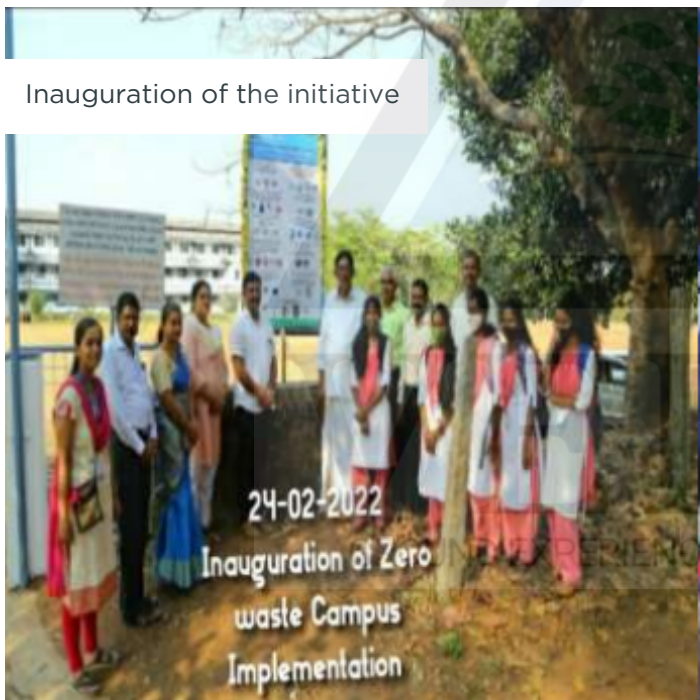
A 3-step disposal procedure for sanitary waste (pads) has been displayed in all female washrooms to ensure proper disposal

Zero Waste in Events and Daily Activities

The Zero Waste Campus programme was officially inaugurated on 24 February 2022, under the leadership of Sri Madhukar Salins, Principal of Jain Pre-University College, and formally inaugurated by Sri K. Hemaraj, Correspondent, Jain PUC. The event was attended by representatives from TMC Moodubidire and other invited guests.

Following the inauguration, Zero Waste principles were actively implemented during academic and cultural events. Science Day celebrations followed Zero Waste guidelines, using only natural flowers for decoration. A Best Out of Waste competition was organised to create awareness among students, and regular sessions were conducted to educate students on the impacts of single-use plastics and the importance of waste segregation.

During staff meetings, farewell functions, examinations, and celebrations, steel plates, steel tumblers, and reusable containers replaced disposable items. In several instances, staff members washed their own plates and tumblers after use, reinforcing shared responsibility for waste management.



Best out of waste competition was organized to create awareness among the students on 24-02-2022



Additional steel tumblers were purchased so as to maintain the practice of using it during events

Changes After Implementation

A significant shift observed after the implementation of the Zero Waste initiative was the complete elimination of waste burning. Waste is now collected and stored in an aggregation room, enabling proper segregation and recycling instead of disposal through burning



Demonstrating Impact Through Practice

There are multiple instances where disposable items were replaced with reusable alternatives during daily activities and events, leading to significant savings of paper cups, plastic plates, spoons, and bowls. These changes were implemented consistently across staff meetings, examinations, celebrations, and routine campus activities, demonstrating that Zero Waste practices can be sustained beyond one-time events

A Campus That Leads by Example

Jain Pre-University College's Zero Waste journey shows how a college campus can move from unsustainable waste practices to a structured, data-backed, and participatory waste management system. Through awareness, infrastructure, behavioural change, and continuous monitoring, the college has embedded Zero Waste principles into its daily functioning.

The initiative reflects the college's commitment to **leading by example and living waste-free.**