

When stakeholders come together, see how the magic happens



Zero Waste Logo implemented at TMC

From One Office to an Entire Town: The Moodubidire Zero Waste Movement

Did you hear about how we successfully transformed a government office into a Zero Waste Office? That was just the beginning of our journey in Moodubidire!

Building on that success, **Mrs Indu**, Chief Officer of TMC and **Mrs Shilpa S**, Environmental Engineer Moodubidire and Vedan set out to create Zero Waste Campuses across schools and colleges in the region, by conducting a workshop. This ambitious effort was made possible thanks to the invaluable support of **Mr. Prasad Kumar**, then President of the Town Municipal Council and Councillor of Ward 14, and **Mrs. Swetha Praveen**, Councillor of Ward 9. Together with our Vedan volunteer, they visited both private colleges and government schools, engaging directly with Heads of Institutions and Headmasters to share the vision and importance of adopting zero waste practices on their campuses.

Action Plan – Getting Started

With the Heads of Institutions and school leaders aligned and enthusiastic about the transition to Zero Waste, it was time to begin planning implementation on the ground.

As a first step, it was decided to organize orientation sessions for the Headmasters of Government Schools.

In this regard, the Town Municipal Council (TMC) Moodubidire, in coordination with the Block Education Officer (BEO), convened a meeting with all Government School Headmasters at the TMC office. During the session, the Headmasters expressed their interest but also raised concerns regarding the lack of financial support for infrastructure development in their schools.



Community Support for Government Schools

Government schools in Moodubidire showed strong enthusiasm for becoming Zero Waste Campuses, but limited funding posed a significant challenge. That's when the community came forward with generous support. **Rotary Temple Town** committed to adopting four government schools and supporting their transition to Zero Waste, while the **Inner Wheel Club** stepped in to adopt **Kallabettu School**, ensuring it too could embark on this sustainable journey.



A Game-Changing Moment

As the second step, Head of institutions of private schools were called for orientation in TMC office.

The turning point came when **Mr. Nithin Kumar** from **CIT** visited Moodubidire to engage directly with the Heads of Institutions. His insights on the practicality of implementing Zero Waste practices—along with a clear breakdown of the cost-benefit advantages—played a pivotal role in building their confidence. Discussing the challenges, pros, and cons with someone who genuinely understood their management realities and had navigated similar transitions himself was deeply motivating for the institutional leaders, helping turn hesitation into commitment.

Following the meeting, it was decided to organize a workshop, as the Headmasters expressed a desire for a deeper understanding of the subject. To address this, a hands-on workshop was planned to provide practical experience and better equip them for implementation.

IEC – Information, Education, and Communication

The focus was on building awareness and foundational knowledge. To do this, we organized a **mega one-day workshop on 30th December 2021**, designed to train key stakeholders as Zero Waste Coordinators for their respective institutions. The workshop was hosted at **Shri Mahaveera College**, which generously provided the auditorium free of charge. Additional provisions, including food and materials, were supported by the municipality.





Workshop Highlights:

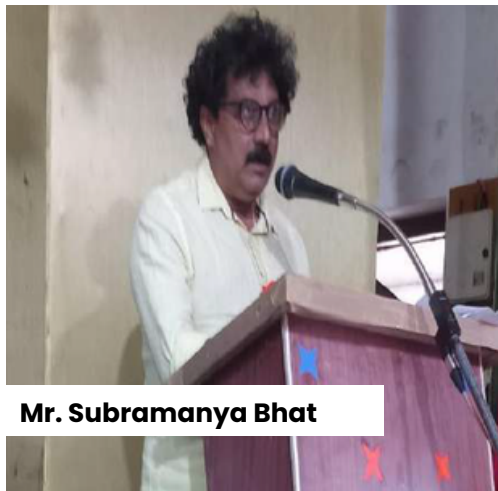
- The event commenced with the **lighting of the lamp** by **Dr. Swasti Shree Bhattacharya Charukeerthi Pandithacharyavarya Mahaswamiji** of the Jain Mutt.
- **Mr. Prasad Kumar**, President of the Town Municipal Council (TMC), and **Mr. K. Abhayachandra**, Chairman of Shri Mahaveera College, delivered the welcome addresses.



- Notable **Swachh Survekshan Brand Ambassadors**—**Mr. Jayaprakash W Pinto**, **Mr. Subramanya Bhat**, and **Mr. Prashanth Bhandary**—shared their insights and experiences, inspiring participants.



Mr. Jayaprakash W Pinto



Mr. Subramanya Bhat



Mr. Prashanth Bhandary

- The event was emceed by **Mrs. Shilpa S**, with an orientation session delivered by **TMC Chief Officer Mrs. Indu M**.
- The workshop included the **launch of the Zero Waste Campus (ZWC) logo and information booklet**, followed by a comprehensive session led by Vedan Volunteer **Suhasini B.S**.



- Interactive segments included a live demo of a mesh leaf composter installation and a hands-on home composting session.



Sustainability in Practice: Special Highlights

- A symbolic gesture was made by placing both plastic water bottles and steel tumblers on the dais—every dignitary chose the steel tumblers, reinforcing the message of conscious choice.



- All meals and beverages were served using reusable steel cutlery, eliminating single-use items.



- Digital banners were used in place of traditional single-use printed flexes.



Impact

The results of the workshop were visible almost immediately:

- **Mrs. Sandhya**, a teacher from Jain PU College, initiated a compost unit at her home and made a heartfelt New Year's resolution around the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). She has also opened a cutlery ban that is available for use by anyone in Moodubidire. (Watch her video [here](#)).
- **Jain PU College** was the first institute to become a Zero Waste Campus in the Moodubidire district. This was possible due to the efforts of Mrs Sandhya, Computer teacher and Mr Saji, English teacher.
- **Shri Dhavala College** transitioned from disposable to **reusable steel cutlery** and is actively working toward achieving Zero Waste Campus certification.
- **Kallabettu School** has officially banned all single-use items and partnered with **Mrs. Sahana Nagaraj**, President of the Inner Wheel Club, to fully convert into a Zero Waste Campus.

Other schools that implemented Zero Waste Campus are:

- Jain High School ([Click here to read](#)) ([add links](#))
- DJ Kannada Medium School ([Click here to read](#)) ([add links](#))
- Excellent PU College ([Click here to read](#)) ([add links](#))
- Moraji Desai ([Click here to read](#)) ([add links](#))

Conclusion: The Crucial Role of Municipal Leadership

This initiative stands out as a first-of-its-kind effort led by an Urban Local Body (ULB) to proactively support educational institutions in strengthening their waste management systems. By empowering youth and educators, we aim to create a ripple effect—encouraging students to implement these sustainable practices at home and carry them forward into the future.

The **active involvement of municipalities** is essential in driving this transformation. It is time for more ULBs across the country to step up and take responsibility for turning their jurisdictions into Zero Waste Zones. Municipalities have the authority and influence needed to inspire, enforce, and sustain this change across communities.