

From Mixed Waste to Mindful Living

The Zero Waste Transformation of GHPS Ramagondanahalli

In March 2025, a quiet but powerful transformation began at Government Higher Primary and High School, Ramagondanahalli.

With 1,125 students studying in both Kannada and English medium sections, and supported by committed teachers and staff, the school already had the intent to manage waste better. But like many campuses, it struggled with one persistent problem — **mixed waste**.

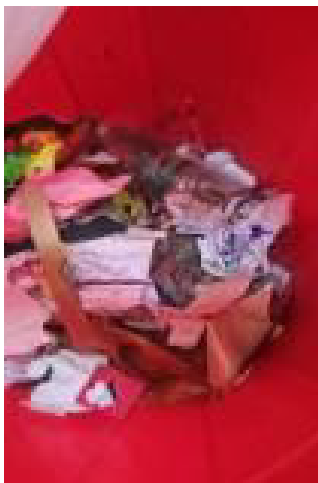
There was one bin in each classroom. Banana peels were meant to go in separate corridor bins, yet often ended up mixed with other waste. Food scraps, paper, and plastic found their way into the same containers. At the end of the day, despite everyone's hard work, the waste was handed over mixed to the BBMP vehicle and transported to the landfill.

It did not feel right. And it did not feel complete.

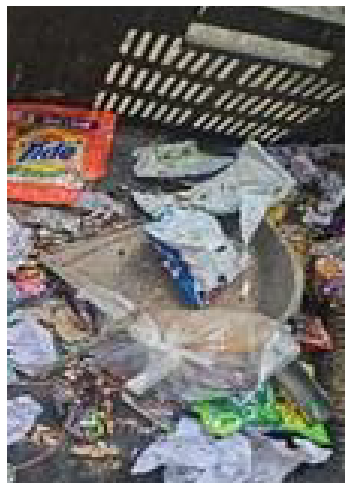
That is when they reached out to Vedan Trust to help find a better way. What followed was not just an infrastructure upgrade — it was a cultural shift



One bin is placed in the classroom



Mix Waste



Waste is mixed in a basket of banana peels

A Plan Rooted in Learning

Under the leadership of Ms. Suhasini and the Vedan team, a structured Zero Waste action plan was introduced in December 2025.

The journey began with awareness — not enforcement.

Separate awareness sessions were conducted for Kannada and English medium students to ensure that every child understood the concept of Zero Waste in their own language. Over multiple sessions, students learned what waste truly is, why segregation matters, and how small daily actions create long-term environmental impact.

Teachers were oriented next — because habits form when classrooms reinforce them daily. Cleaning staff received hands-on training on composting, dry waste handling, and compartment bag usage.

The message was simple: **Zero Waste is not about more work. It is about the right system.**



Creating awareness among students



Small Corrections, Big Results

Three separate bins — paper, plastic, and wet waste — were placed in every classroom.

Banana peels, once mixed with other waste, were given their own crate in the playground. Students were guided to drop them separately. On average, nearly **25 kg of banana peels per day** began reaching cow breeders instead of landfills.

Food waste was redirected to a designated bucket and then to the green manure composting unit. Nearly **30 kg of food waste daily** was now composted instead of discarded.



Leaves that once mixed with paper and plastic in the playground were swept and added to the leaf composting unit, returning nutrients to the soil. Each correction was small.

Each change was practical. But together, they reshaped the campus.

The Discipline of Monitoring

The Vedan team visited the school once or twice a week, checking every classroom bin, addressing mixing issues directly with students, and supporting the housekeeping team.

A key shift happened in the dry waste system. Instead of loosely storing materials, cleaning staff were trained to use compartment bags to collect and store dry waste systematically inside the Dry Waste Collection Centre.

Today, the dry waste is neatly segregated, organized, and ready for recycling and sale — not landfill.



Dignity in Disposal

Even sensitive waste was addressed thoughtfully. Awareness was created among girl students on proper sanitary pad disposal. Covered bins with liners were placed in toilets, and clear instructions ensured hygienic handling and safe handover for disposal.

Zero Waste at Ramagondanahalli became not just about waste — but about dignity, responsibility, and care.



A Campus That Leads by Example

By mid-January, the campus began to stabilize. The grounds became cleaner. Classrooms became disciplined. Dropping at source improved. Waste stopped being “someone else’s problem” and became a shared responsibility.

By the end of January, the school stood ready to confidently declare itself a **Zero Waste Campus.**

This transformation was made possible through collaboration — SVP India, **Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor, Kenview, Vedan Trust, Whitefield Ramagondanahalli Government School Volunteers, Inventure Academy, Swachha Belaku, and United Bengaluru** — all working together for one goal.

But the real heroes are the students who now pause before dropping waste... and choose the right bin.

GHPS Ramagondanahalli proves that Zero Waste is not about eliminating waste entirely — it is about building awareness, systems, and habits that respect resources.

And when 1,125 students grow up practicing that discipline every day, the impact goes far beyond the campus walls.

Ripple Effect

Inspired by the transformation at Ramagondanahalli, Inventure Academy has expressed its interest in partnering with Vedan to expand the Zero Waste movement to other campuses.

What began as a single campus initiative is now creating momentum — proving that when one institution leads by example, others follow.

The journey continues, with new campuses ready to embrace structured, sustainable waste management and carry the message of Zero Waste forward. 🌱