

# Yelahanka PU College

## A Work-in-Progress Zero Waste Journey

Transforming a campus into a Zero Waste Campus requires more than infrastructure — it requires understanding, ownership, and consistent execution. The journey at **Yelahanka PU College** reflects both the effort invested and the challenges faced in building that ownership.

### The Beginning

On **23 July 2024**, the Dry Waste Aggregation Centre at Yelahanka PU College was inaugurated. Infrastructure was provided, and the college was encouraged to implement structured Zero Waste practices. The request from Vedan was clear: awareness sessions must accompany infrastructure to ensure the system works effectively.

However, the college leadership initially preferred to conduct awareness sessions internally. Reports shared later indicated that while cleaning activities were happening, the deeper concept of Zero Waste — segregation, value recovery, and systematic aggregation — had not yet been fully understood. Mixed waste continued to appear in reports.



# Continuous Follow-Ups and Support

Between August and November 2024, multiple follow-ups were made:

- Reminders were sent requesting time for structured awareness sessions.
- A Teacher Committee of 16 members was formed to coordinate Zero Waste efforts.
- Student representatives were identified to spread awareness within classrooms.
- A detailed awareness session was finally conducted on 19 September 2024, attended by the Principal, 10 teachers, and around 100 student representatives.

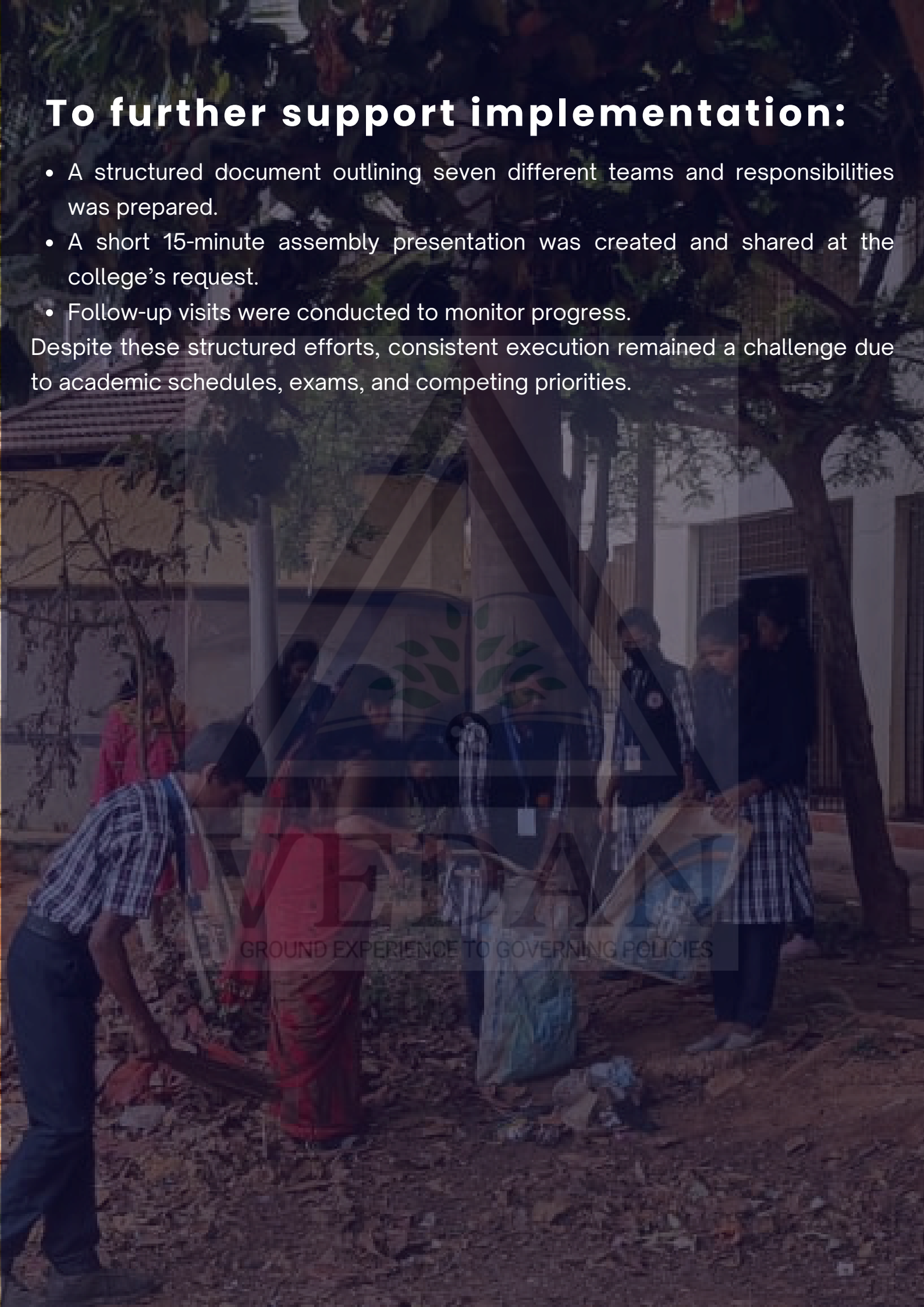
During this session, detailed PPTs and clearly defined Roles & Responsibilities were shared. Students showed enthusiasm and even committed to implementing the Zero Waste system within 20 days.



## To further support implementation:

- A structured document outlining seven different teams and responsibilities was prepared.
- A short 15-minute assembly presentation was created and shared at the college's request.
- Follow-up visits were conducted to monitor progress.

Despite these structured efforts, consistent execution remained a challenge due to academic schedules, exams, and competing priorities.



GROUND EXPERIENCE TO GOVERNING POLICIES

# Signs of Progress

There were encouraging moments.

On 9 January 2025, the college successfully sold segregated dry waste and generated ₹2,500 in revenue. A portion of this income was used to provide snacks to students who assisted in cleaning, while the remainder was reserved for future awards — an important step in building incentive-based participation.

During the January review meeting, the college agreed to undertake an exposure visit to Cambridge's Zero Waste Campus to better understand process flow and execution. On 17 January 2025, teachers, support staff, and the Vedan team conducted a detailed on-ground study at Cambridge Institute, guided by Mr. Ramu.

These steps demonstrated intent — but stability had not yet been achieved.

## Observations from Follow-Up Visits

During inspection visits, classrooms appeared clean and bins were placed correctly. However, when students were asked to explain the concept of Zero Waste beyond cleaning, many were unable to articulate the difference.

At the aggregation shed, mixed waste was still found, indicating gaps in collection and supervision. This highlighted a crucial lesson: infrastructure without conceptual clarity leads to partial implementation.

# Current Status

Yelahanka PU College has not yet been able to implement Zero Waste Campus practices to its full potential.

Despite multiple commitments made by the management, the deadlines have always been missed and there seems to be no interest in becoming a Zero Waste Campus.

Our team is in discussion with the support team to plan next steps.



# The Larger Learning

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