

Zero Waste Campus at GHPS Kattigenahalli

From one Zero Waste Campus to many – a Zero Waste Movement



Vedan's journey with GHPS Kattigenahalli began long before the Zero Waste Campus project took shape. Back when our Co-founder and CEO was leading Vedan as a solo volunteer, she rallied a group of friends, gathered paint cans and brushes, and—with permission from the school—set out to give the school a much-needed facelift.

This time, the mission was even bigger.

The headmistress of GHPS Kattigenahalli, **Mrs. Kalavathi**, a deeply environment-conscious leader, has always been committed to creating a better future for her students. Under her guidance, the school had already planted over **100 trees** as part of a plantation drive conducted earlier by Vedan.



So, when Vedan reached out to offer awareness sessions on **Zero Waste Campus practices** and **waste management**, she welcomed us with open arms. After attending the sessions and understanding the potential for change, she immediately expressed her desire to transform the school into a **Zero Waste Campus**. She also convinced the **School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC)**—the parent body—to actively support the initiative.

Her leadership and enthusiasm soon created a ripple effect. Students were so inspired that they began urging their teachers to bring separate bins for classrooms, determined to stop generating mixed waste.

Encouraged by this commitment, we approached one of our sponsors to help bring the vision to life. **Polaris India Pvt. Ltd.** graciously stepped in to fund the transformation and become part of this meaningful journey. Graciously stepped in to fund the transformation and become part of this meaningful journey.

During the inauguration of the Zero Waste Campus on **21 Feb 2025**, CSR volunteers participated in a unique learning experience—guided by **Headmistress Kalavathi herself**, who conducted an engaging session on waste management. The volunteers played waste-related games with students, held interactive quizzes, and rewarded those who demonstrated strong awareness and enthusiasm for the cause.



As with all our Zero Waste Campus projects, we followed a structured approach:

- Separate bins were installed in all classrooms to encourage daily waste segregation.
- A Dry Waste Aggregation Centre was constructed for proper sorting and storage.
- A leaf composter was introduced to manage organic garden waste sustainably.
- Clear instructional boards and signs were placed across the campus to guide students and staff on proper waste disposal.



To ensure long-term sustainability, Vedan also connected the school with a **dry waste buyer**, enabling recyclables to be sold and helping the school **earn income from their waste**. An audit book was provided to track the quantity of waste generated and the earnings received.

This initiative stands as a **classic example of what's possible in a government school when the Headmistress is motivated and committed to the cause**.

With collaboration, leadership, and community effort, **GHPS Kattigenahalli is now on a promising path to sustainability—one bin at a time**.



Hold up! Their story doesn't end here!

Not only did GHPS Kattigenahalli inspire other schools — **GHS Konappana Agrahara** in Electronic City and **Ramagondanahalli Government School** in Whitefield — to become **Zero Waste Campuses**, they also motivated their students to bring these practices home!

On June 5, World Environment Day, Vedan Trust inaugurated the initiative **"My Waste, My Responsibility."**

This program encourages students to collect dry waste from their homes and bring it weekly to the **Dry Waste Aggregation Centre** within the school. This simple yet powerful action ensures that dry waste from nearly **300 families** will no longer end up in landfills.

What began as a classroom conversation has now grown into a **movement** — where teachers are not only imparting knowledge but also **leading by example**, instilling values of ownership, responsibility, and environmental stewardship.

Aligned with this year's **World Environment Day theme** — **"Ending Plastic Pollution"** — this initiative showcases how everyday actions, guided by committed teachers, can spark **long-term change in entire communities**.

