

## ECO-CLUB

**To Plant A Garden Is To Believe In Tomorrow**

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With the global population, there is and will be always a continuous need to safeguard our nature because the vast majority of people live in developing countries under sub-standard living conditions, like India. People are very much concentrated and worried about their work and benefits. So, they did not want to focus on nature, by spending their valuable time. But, over recent years there has been growing interest among people all around the world to reduce the harmful effect of global environmental problems on nature. Consequently, there is much attention towards Eco-Clubs as a strategy to enhance our nature.

Considering the activities of humans damaging the environment, it is believed that environment education along Eco-Clubs can lead to sustainable management of resources and ensure responsible actions by young individuals. Eco-Club is a part of schools and colleges in Tamil Nadu with their primary aim to generate environment consciousness among students. They work with a belief that learning is more endless and enhanced during growing years.

### **Brief description about our College**

Pastor Lensen Polytechnic College is located in Kuthenkuly which is very close to Kudankulam town which is situated in the Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu, India. The town is notable as the construction site of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. It is also the location of hundreds of windmills used for power generation, eight of which are on the grounds of the nuclear plant. These wind turbines have a total capacity of 2000 MW and represent one of the largest wind farms in India.

Our college, Pastor Lensen Polytechnic college, has initiated a small step to create and develop awareness and a sense of ecological environment among our students. It is also a noble

responsibility to inculcate the benefits of raising plantation, kitchen garden etc. in a student's mind and to take different biodiversity improvement measures through different activities of our eco-club. This idea was encouraged and enhanced by the Management. A plantation programme was conducted in the year 2018. The students and the teachers of the Eco-Club along with the principal planted different kinds of saplings inside the college campus.

### **Don Bosco - Kuthenkuly initiatives:**

Eco-club boys and girls of Pastor Lenssen Polytechnic College, have spent their valuable time in cleanup drive, beach areas, planting saplings in and around Kuthenkuly village. We appreciate and congratulate their hard work and sense of eco concern & social responsibility. We have given below the activities that we organized to generate the eco concern amongst people.

### **Mega Plantation**

The Eco-Club students of Pastor Lenssen Polytechnic College, along with their respective staff, participated in the **Mega Plantation**, which took place at the entrance of our college. The event was organized by the Management. We invited the Bishop of Tuticorin, Most. Rev. Dr. Stephen D.D, as a chief guest to inaugurate this mega event.



The students got an opportunity to know how to plant a tree sapling in a pit and how to cover the pit and its importance. Around 1000 saplings were planted. The first sapling was planted by the Bishop and subsequently the student followed the same. The Bishop addressed the students and imposed the spark in students mind by his vibrant speech and gave a strong message on the threat to the environment and how to keep our surrounding clean and green. And he made the students aware about the rules, facilities from government and benefits of planting the trees. Each participant was wearing a cap and a T-shirt sponsored by one of our beneficiaries.

## Cleaning up the beach and surroundings



**“Cleanliness is next to Godliness”.** Keeping this in mind the students of our college is taking the initiative, emphasizing on its importance in the

lives of people. The students who are actively in eco-activities visited the neighbouring coastal area to educate the people residing there and make them aware of the need for a clean environment. On one of the Sundays, we gather student and they formed small groups and went to the neighbouring coastal area. The students took the matter in their own hands cleaning the beach under the able guidance of Fr. Justin SDB and Fr. Vimalan SDB. They cleaned the area which was very badly littered by the public and collected a lot of non- biodegradable waste. Students spent more than two hours in collecting waste from every nook and corner, and finally, it made a large heap which they also brought into the notice of the people (the fishermen) who were responsible to clean. The students got great appreciation from the general public for taking such an initiative. But they were sad to see that there were no common dustbins in that particular area.

## Short Films

A similar initiative was also organized by us on the view of eco concern. We gather youngsters on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November of this year and given a session on beauty and uniqueness of nature. It was animated by one of our staff and we presented some points to save and empower the nature.

Added to it, we involved the student to get ready a short film based on the theme 'Protect the Nature'. We divided them into 5 groups and they made it a day. Finally, we appreciated their efforts and distributed prizes based on the ideas and message. It was nice and enriching experience for both the students and staff.

1. PLP College Eco-Club Initiative - I Waste Speak! (Evethin & Co)  
<https://youtu.be/KKOZdzHbXZs>
2. PLP College Eco-Club Initiative - I Tree Speak! (Santhosh & Co) <https://youtu.be/3Y-RigvEYX8>

## EXPOSURE VISIT

Thirty-five Students of our college were taken to Karmugil, Madurai for an exposure visit. The purpose of this visit is to make the students to be aware of organic farming and its benefits. As part of the visit there was a session about the process of organic farming and making natural fertilizers.



The students of the Eco-club of our college participated in a rally and the plantation drive programme organized by the Province level on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. During this visit, the organizers acquainted the students, the active social workers and the gathering with the importance of plantation and cleanliness in human life. The students planted the saplings and got caps and T-shirts with the logo-Green.

## Organic Kitchen Garden



Dr. Sandanam assisted this training and gave a hands-on experience in the garden planting for all the participants. The invited resource staff demonstrated the full process of planting an organic garden at the college site. The instructor and his team, distributed native seeds and gave instructions on native seed collection and seed preservation techniques. Through this training, the participants learnt to prepare nutrient-rich soil, which has abundant and diverse microbial life that supports healthy plant growth. Dr. Sandanam was patient enough to assist the participants in the process of preparing the healthy and nutritive soil which will bring about extremely effective results.

After having animated the groups for several times on various occasions, the management sponsored the tools to our beneficiaries. They were motivated enough to start their vegetable garden. The members have big dreams to achieve growing their production of food. The distributed tools will be of some help to begin their Organic Kitchen Garden. The distributed tools consisted of Spade, weeding trowel, water spray can, weeding fork, green bags garden trowel, fork hoe, Garden Secateurs and a Heavy Duty Hoe. Besides these tools, we have also sponsored a set of hand tools (VAR Hand Tools).

