SENGAMALA THAYAAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST WOMEN'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)
(Accredited by NAAC)
SUNDARAKKOTTAI- 614016, MANNARGUDI,

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

Report on International Plastic Bag Free Day Awareness Programme

Title: International plastic bag free day awareness programme

Date : 03.07.2026

Venue: Mannargudi Township – Bus Stand, Vegetable Market, Tea Shops, Supermarkets and Shopping-Malls

Organized by: PG and Research Department of Microbiology, Segamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Mannargudi

Venue: Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Mannargudi Township – Bus Stand, Vegetable Market, Tea Shops, Supermarkets, and Shopping Malls
Organized by: PG and Research Department of Microbiology, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Mannargudi

Introduction

To commemorate International Plastic Bag Free Day, the PG and Research Department of Microbiology, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Mannargudi, organized an extensive awareness programme on 03 July 2026. The programme was conducted both within the college campus and among the general public to create awareness about the harmful environmental and health effects of single-use plastic bags and to encourage the use of eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth bags and reusable shopping bags.

The awareness programme aimed to instill environmental responsibility among students while extending the message to the wider community. Through interactive awareness sessions, demonstrations, and public campaigns, participants were encouraged to adopt sustainable practices that contribute to a cleaner, greener, and healthier environment.

Objectives of the Programme

- To create awareness about the harmful effects of single-use plastic bags among students and the public.
- To educate people on the environmental and health hazards caused by plastic pollution.
- To encourage the use of reusable, biodegradable, and eco-friendly alternatives.
- To promote environmental conservation and sustainable lifestyle practices.
- To develop environmental responsibility and social commitment among students.
- To motivate citizens to actively participate in building a plastic-free society.

Programme Activities

The awareness programme was conducted in two phases.

Phase I: Awareness Programme within the College Campus

The programme commenced on the college campus with an awareness session for the students of Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous). Faculty members of the PG and Research Department of Microbiology explained the adverse effects of plastic pollution on human health, soil fertility, water resources, wildlife, and marine ecosystems.

Students were educated on the importance of reducing plastic consumption through the principles of Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover (5Rs). They were encouraged to avoid single-use plastics, carry reusable cloth bags, minimize plastic waste, and become responsible environmental ambassadors within their families and communities.

Informative posters and awareness placards carrying messages such as "Say No to Plastic Bags," "Bring Your Own Bag," "Reduce Plastic, Save Nature," "Protect Our Planet," and "Choose Reusable Bags for a Sustainable Future" were displayed on the campus. The awareness session generated enthusiastic participation among students and motivated them to adopt environmentally responsible habits in their daily lives.

Phase II: Public Awareness Campaign

Following the campus programme, faculty members and students organized an extension awareness campaign at various public locations in and around Mannargudi Township, including:

- Mannargudi Bus Stand
- Uzhavar Santhai
- Tea Shops
- Supermarkets

- Shopping Malls

Students actively interacted with commuters, shoppers, vendors, shopkeepers, supermarket staff, and business owners to spread awareness about the environmental hazards of plastic bags.

The participants displayed colourful placards with environmental slogans and distributed awareness messages highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution. Faculty members explained that discarded plastic bags contribute to soil and water pollution, block drainage systems, endanger livestock and wildlife, contaminate ecosystems through microplastics, and remain in the environment for several decades.

Students encouraged the public to replace plastic carry bags with reusable cloth bags and other sustainable alternatives. Shopkeepers and supermarket owners were requested to motivate customers to bring their own reusable bags while shopping and to reduce the distribution of plastic carry bags. Many business owners appreciated the initiative and assured their cooperation in promoting eco-friendly practices.

The public responded positively to the campaign, actively interacting with the students, asking questions, and expressing their willingness to reduce plastic usage in their everyday lives.

Outcome of the Programme

The awareness programme successfully created environmental consciousness among both the students of Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College and the general public of Mannargudi Township.

The campus awareness programme enabled students to understand the environmental consequences of plastic pollution and encouraged them to become responsible citizens by adopting sustainable practices. The programme inspired students to reduce the use of plastic bags, promote eco-friendly alternatives, and spread awareness among their families and communities.

The public awareness campaign reached a large number of people, including shoppers, commuters, vendors, shopkeepers, and business establishments. The initiative significantly enhanced public understanding of plastic pollution and emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in protecting the environment.

The programme also strengthened students' communication skills, leadership qualities, teamwork, community engagement, environmental ethics, and social responsibility through active participation in the extension activity.

Overall, the programme effectively promoted behavioural change towards reducing plastic waste and encouraged the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices.

Conclusion

The International Plastic Bag Free Day Awareness Programme organized by the PG and Research Department of Microbiology, Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous), Mannargudi, was successfully conducted both within the college campus and among the general public.

The programme created meaningful awareness among students regarding the importance of environmental conservation and empowered them to become advocates for sustainable living. The extension campaign further reinforced this message by educating the public on the harmful impacts of plastic pollution and encouraging the use of reusable alternatives.

The programme reaffirmed the institution's commitment to environmental protection, community service, and the promotion of sustainable development through meaningful extension activities.

Vote of Thanks

The PG and Research Department of Microbiology expresses its sincere gratitude to the Management of Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust for their constant encouragement, unwavering support, and commitment towards organizing socially relevant extension activities.

The department also conveys its heartfelt thanks to the Principal of Sengamala Thayaar Educational Trust Women's College (Autonomous) for granting permission, providing valuable guidance, and extending continuous support for the successful conduct of the programme.

The department extends its sincere appreciation to all the faculty members and students of the PG and Research Department of Microbiology for their enthusiastic participation, dedicated efforts, and wholehearted involvement in making the awareness programme a grand success.

Special thanks are also extended to the students of the college for their active participation in the campus awareness session and to the shopkeepers, vendors, business establishments, and the general public of Mannargudi Township for their cooperation and positive response towards the campaign.

"A small step today can create a cleaner, greener, and healthier tomorrow. Together, let us build a Plastic Bag Free Mannargudi and a Sustainable Future."


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