



Environmental Re-Engineering Series 13: Mission LiFE

A Report

Pillai College of Education and Research, New Panvel organized a series of national-level seminar from 9th to 16th December 2024. The seminar was a part of our Environmental Series, a visionary initiative spearheaded by our Principal, Dr. Sally Enos. Each year, we dedicate a seminar to addressing and emphasizing critical environmental issues. This year, the 13th edition of our Environmental Series aligned with the Government of India's flagship initiative, **Mission LiFE—Lifestyle for Environment**. Mission LiFE (<https://www.mygov.in/life/>) is more than just a government program; it reflects the transformative vision of our honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi. It is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment.



Mahatma Education Society's
Pillai College of Education and Research
Sector 8, Khanda Colony, New Panvel
Accredited NAAC "A+" (2nd Cycle)
(Recognized by NCTE and Affiliated to University of Mumbai)

Collaborators: Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur, Muenzer Bharat, Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth



Save Energy



Save Water



Say No to Single Use Plastic



Adopt Sustainable Food Systems



Reduce Waste



Adopt Healthy Lifestyles



Reduce E-waste

Environmental Re-engineering Series 13: "Mission LiFE"
(in line with the initiative by Government of India)

THEMES OF THE E-CONFERENCE

- **Energy Revolution: From Consumption to Conservation**
(9th December 2024)
- **Water Wise: Navigating the Water Crisis**
(10th December 2024)
- **Breaking Free from Single-use Plastics**
(11th December 2024)
- **Sustainable Food Solutions**
(12th December 2024)
- **Innovative Approaches to Effective Waste Management**
(13th December 2024)
- **Minimalism: Simplifying Lifestyle for Global Impact**
(14th December 2024)
- **Addressing the E-waste Epidemic**
(16th December 2024)

3.00 to 5.30 pm

Papers (preferably research based) are invited.
Selected papers will be published in Seminar Proceedings with ISBN (e-book)
Contributors are requested to send the abstract (not more than 250 words) on or before 10th November 2024 and the full paper (1500 words) on or before 25th November 2024 to pcerseminar@mex.ac.in

Quick Checklist for submitting papers:

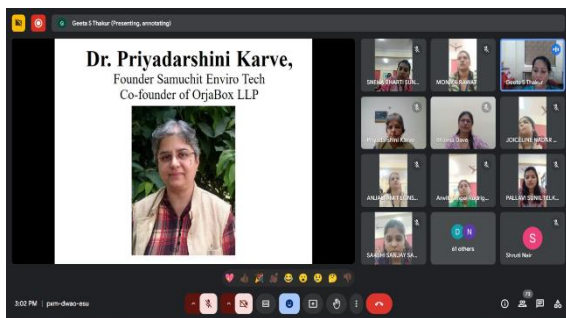
- Contributor's name, Designation, Institutional address, e-mail ID and Mobile no.
- Margin: 1" Top, 1" Bottom, 1.25" Left, 1" Right.
- Font: Times New Roman (English) – 12 pt, Krutidev/Shivaji (Marathi/Hindi) – 14 pt
- Line spacing : 1.5
- References: APA style
- Registration Fee: ₹ 300/-
- Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/Q84ubDd87K49gDyb8>

Note: Certificates will be issued to only those who attend minimum 5 sessions

We took our inspiration from this initiative and lined all the sessions of this year's seminar series around its core principles. Each session was thoughtfully designed to encourage sustainable practices, raise awareness about environmental challenges, and inspire collective action. By integrating the ideals of Mission LiFE, we aimed to promote a lifestyle that harmonizes with nature and fosters a culture of responsibility toward our planet.

Theme - Energy Revolution: From Consumption to Conservation (9th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Priyadarshini Karve, a renowned environmental scientist and social entrepreneur with a PhD in Physics from the University of Pune. Founder of Samuchit Enviro Tech, promoting sustainable solutions in energy, waste management, and green living.

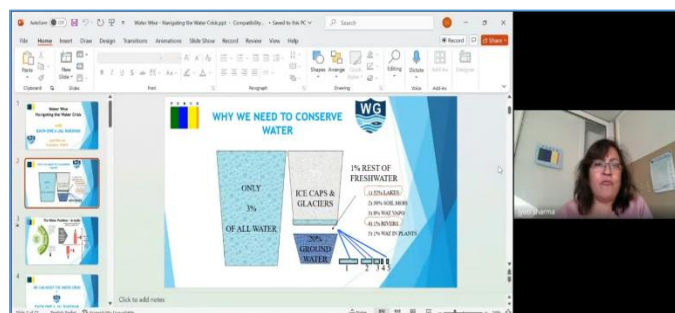


The talk explored humanity's transition from muscle, wood, and animal power to fossil fuels, which fueled the Industrial Revolution and brought economic and social progress but also severe environmental damage. Today, climate change is already evident with over a 1°C rise in global temperatures, threatening ecosystems and vulnerable communities. To limit warming to 1.5°C, fossil fuel use must decline sharply by 2030, requiring urgent global action. A key solution lies in shifting from centralized fossil-fuel systems to decentralized renewable energy (DRE) options like rooftop solar, micro-grids, small wind, and biofuels. This approach promotes equitable access, reduces ecological impact, and creates local jobs. Organizations like **CLEAN** are driving this shift in India by supporting diverse DRE technologies and advocating policy change. Notably, renewable energy is now cheaper than coal, making this transition economically sensible. Engaging students through campus initiatives can build skills, foster entrepreneurship, and accelerate the move toward a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

Theme – Water Wise: Navigating the Water Crisis (10th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: *Mrs. Jyoti Sharma, a renowned social entrepreneur and the founder of NGO force that is for forum for organized resources conservation and enhancement with a mission to create awareness and implement practical solutions for water management.*

The global water crisis is an urgent issue impacting health, economies, and ecosystems. Despite Earth's vast water cover, usable freshwater is scarce and under pressure from population growth, pollution, and climate change. The consequences include agricultural losses, industrial disruptions, health risks, and deepening social inequalities.



To tackle this, the session highlighted the need for:

- **Water conservation** through efficient use, rainwater harvesting, and reuse of greywater.
- **Improved water quality** via pollution control and sustainable farming.
- **Stronger policies** and infrastructure investments.
- **Public awareness** to foster mindful consumption.

It underscores the “Five Rs” — **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rainwater Harvesting, and Respect Water** — as a practical guide for individuals and communities. The power of small actions is evident: if every person in a city like Delhi saved just one bucket daily, it could meet the city's water needs for weeks. Rainwater harvesting

emerges as a key solution, enhancing water security, recharging groundwater, and reducing floods. The report also explores water's spiritual lessons — persistence, adaptability, patience, unity, and balance — urging a cultural shift to view water as sacred. In conclusion, safeguarding water requires collective responsibility. By valuing water and making conscious choices, we can secure a sustainable future.

Theme – Breaking Free from Single-use Plastics (11th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: *Mr. Bhatu Sawant, a visionary social entrepreneur, founder of signal school, Thane and the CEO of Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth.*



Mr. Sawant presented *Project Revitalization*, a collaborative effort by Samarth Bharat Vyaspeeth (SBV) and the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), designed to revolutionize waste management in Thane. The project addresses the challenge of single-use plastics through a blend of technology, active community participation, and inclusive social initiatives. Leveraging the Recycled Earth

App, it has mobilized over 200,000 families to segregate and contribute 10 tons of waste daily across 12 dedicated routes. Beyond waste collection, the project enhances the well-being of waste workers by providing healthcare, education, and digital literacy, while also driving environmental awareness through the Waste Wonder Museum, which has reached over 75,000 students. Recognized by UNICEF and featured by international media like the BBC, Project Revitalization serves as a replicable model for reducing environmental risks, advancing recycling, and fostering sustainable, community-led waste management systems across India.

Theme – Sustainable Food Solutions (12th December 2024)

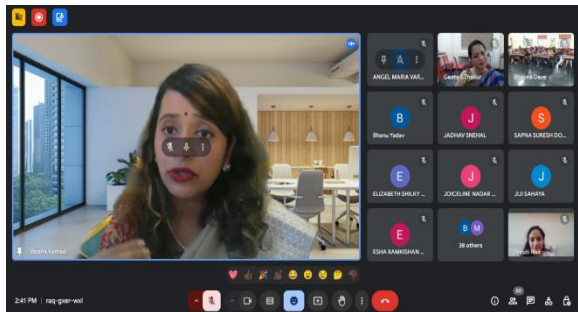
Guest Speaker: *Mr. Ajay Gopinath. Founder of Grow Greens Kerala's pioneering Microgreens brand.*

The session introduced **Microgreens** — young, nutrient-dense plants harvested just after the cotyledon stage. Originating in 1980s San Francisco, they are now recognized globally for their health benefits, containing up to **40 times more nutrients** than mature vegetables. Microgreens are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and proteins, aiding in disease prevention and overall wellness. Cultivation is sustainable, requiring minimal water, no pesticides, and offering a zero-waste model. They can be easily integrated into daily diets raw, supporting both health and environmental goals. Economically, Microgreens farming creates livelihood opportunities, empowering small entrepreneurs across India and beyond. By adopting Microgreens, we move toward a healthier, more sustainable and resilient future.



Innovative Approaches to Effective Waste Management (13th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: Varsha Karnad, Area manager at Muenzer Bharat Pvt. Ltd. An Austrian company that ventured into the Indian market as a startup in 2015



The session highlighted the urgent need for responsible waste management in the food industry, especially concerning the reuse and disposal of cooking oil. Improper practices not only harm health—leading to hypertension, liver diseases, and cancer—but also damage the environment by polluting water and soil. Organizations like **Muenzer Bharat** are addressing this by

converting used cooking oil into biodiesel, reducing carbon emissions by up to 85%. Their initiatives engage households, restaurants, and communities through collection systems, certifications, and awareness campaigns. This approach underscores that waste management is a shared responsibility, vital for both public health and environmental sustainability.

Minimalism: Simplifying Lifestyle for Global Impact (14th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Ashish Agrawal is an inspiring social entrepreneur and the founder of the Bridge4Change Foundation.

Minimalism is a conscious lifestyle that emphasizes mindful consumption, intentional choices, and reducing excess without compromising comfort. It plays a vital role in global sustainability by lowering carbon footprints, conserving resources, and cutting pollution. In the face of climate change and rapid resource depletion, adopting minimalism is critical.

For example, if India's middle class reduces its carbon footprint by just 250 kg annually, it can substantially aid the national goal of cutting 1 billion tons of emissions by 2030. Minimalism applies across daily life — choosing local, seasonal foods to reduce food miles; avoiding food waste; limiting fast fashion by opting for durable clothing and recycling; and embracing eco-friendly travel and technology habits. Even minor changes, such as reducing screen time or taking public transport, compound into significant environmental benefits over time. Ultimately, minimalism fosters a culture of responsibility and collective action, paving the way for a cleaner, more balanced, and sustainable world for future generations.



Addressing the E-waste Epidemic (16th December 2024)

Guest Speaker: Ms. Ashwini Jadhav, head of the Social Change division at The Recycling Company (Threco)



Just as we handle borrowed items with care, extending this responsibility to the environment could create transformative change. The Industrial Revolution, while advancing industries, fueled pollution and waste, especially non-biodegradable waste that burdens ecosystems. Climate change, evident in places like Mumbai with rising sea levels, stems largely from our linear

“take, make, dispose” economy. Moving towards a circular economy—where materials are reused, repaired, and repurposed—offers a sustainable path. The familiar “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” mantra, long practiced in India through practical habits like repurposing old clothes and jars, underscores this shift. Beyond recycling, recovering valuable resources from e-waste is essential, especially as India expands its electric vehicle sector and strengthens e-waste policies. Ultimately, individual efforts matter. While one person may not change the world alone, collective small actions create significant impact. The choice to act sustainably starts with us, today.

Overall Outcome: The sessions collectively fostered greater **environmental awareness, personal responsibility, and practical action** among participants. They deepened understanding of crucial issues like waste management, water conservation, climate change, minimalism, circular economy, and sustainable food practices. Participants learned how small, mindful choices—such as reducing waste, adopting minimalism, managing e-waste, conserving water, and choosing sustainable foods—can significantly lower individual carbon footprints. The sessions inspired behavioral change, encouraged community engagement, and built a strong foundation for promoting long-term sustainability and a healthier planet.
