

#### MAR ATHANASIOS COLLEGE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES TIRUVALLA (MACFAST) Thiruvalla - 689101

#### **NSS ACTIVITIES**









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### Cleaning of Govt. H.S.S Kuttoor Secondary School, Pathanamthitta

23rd-29th December 2016

According to the second phase of the cleanliness campaign associated with the Swachh Bharat Mission, MACFAST NSS team organized a one-week cleaning activity at Govt. HSS, Kuttoor on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The mission was coordinated by Mr. Biju Dharmapalan. The school headmaster addressed the gathering and appreciated the commendable act of social service and dedication shown by the NSS team. 46 volunteers took part in the campaign and cleaned the school premises. The students trimmed weeds, small trees, and other foliage around the campus along with plastic waste. After the reopening of the school, an awareness programme was also conducted for the students. Through this, the NSS volunteers tried to propagate the benefits and importance of cleanliness among the school children and also instructed the students to dispose of the waste in dustbins. An awareness of the ill effects of plastics on the environment was also emphasized.



Students at Govt. H.S.S Kuttoor Secondary School, Pathanamthitta for the cleaning activities





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Students cleaning classrooms at Govt. H.S.S Kuttoor Secondary School, Pathanamthitta







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#### Cleaning of Sree Vallabha Temple Pond

12th January 2017

In the next phase of the cleanliness campaign associated with the Swachh Bharat Mission, our NSS team of 40 volunteers actively participated in the cleaning of the temple pond and premises of Sree Vallabhha temple on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The volunteers also created an awareness of the health issues resulting from contaminated water and the need for water conservation among the people assembled there. The bushes and grass around the pond were cleaned. The plastic bags and containers around the premises were discarded properly and the NSS volunteers emphasized the need to reduce the use of plastic items and to promote the use of cloth or paper bags, steel bottles, etc. to the people over there. The relevance of cleanliness in rainy seasons and the need for the removal of containers that hold water to avoid the spread of diseases was also highlighted. Various placards with drawings and writings were also shown to create awareness among the general public.



NSS program officer leading the cleaning drive at Sree Vallabhha temple





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NSS Volunteers engaged in cleaning the Sree Vallabhha pond premises



Students and faculty members at the temple pond after the cleaning activities.







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#### Renovation work of "Anganavadi", Thukalassery

20th January 2017

"Anganwadi" is a type of rural child care centre in India. They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition. 46 NSS volunteers under the coordination of Mr. Biju Dharmapalan visited the "Anganwadi", Thukalassery on 20th January 2017. Volunteers were thrilled to be part of the project and actively participated in cleaning the campus and painting the compound walls of the "Anganwadi". Overgrown weeds and bushes around the campus were cleared and the garbage was removed. Plastic waste was also segregated and disposed of through the proper channel. Volunteers made an effort to draw child-friendly drawings and illustrations on the boundary walls to make the premise more lively and blissful for the kids. Volunteers also planted some flowering plants to make the campus more beautiful.



NSS volunteers cleaning the "Anganvadi" premises





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NSS volunteers cleaning the "Anganvadi" premises in groups







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#### **Organic Farming Awareness Programme - Jaivam 2017**

4th to 9th September 2017

'Jaivam 2017' is an organic farming initiative launched by the Kerala state government. The MACFAST N.S.S unit organized a one week Jaivam Campaign activities based on this programme. Jaivam 2017 was basically organized to promote the culture of organic farming in the households of Kerala. The one week organic farming awareness was conducted during the Onam holidays from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. In the campaign, the NSS volunteers went door to door and conducted a survey in the Payippad Panchayath, in Kottayam district. They also gave organic farming awareness classes to the housewives. 50 students actively participated in this programme.



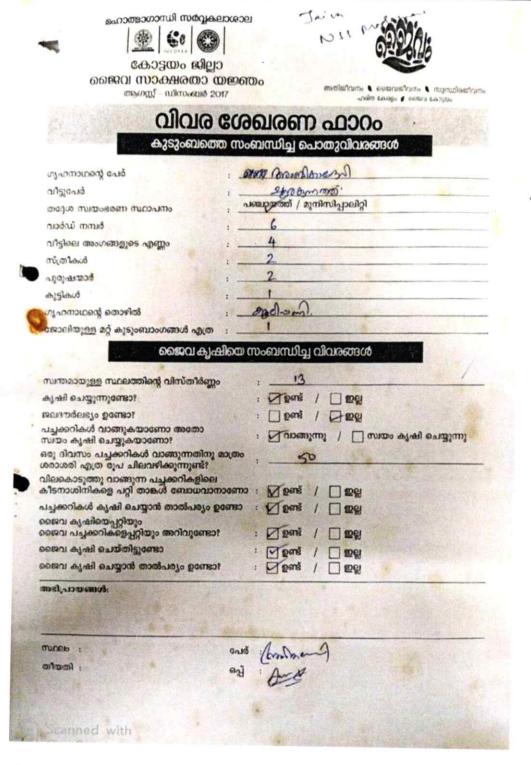
NSS volunteers with the banner for the "Jaivam 2017" camp







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Questionnaire of the survey conducted in the Payippad Panchayath by NSS

volunteers







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#### Cleaning of Government Higher Secondary School, Kuttoor, Thiruvalla

4th to 9th September 2017

In accordance with the cleanliness campaign associated with the Swachh Bharat Mission, NSS team organized a cleaning activity at Govt. HSS, Kuttoor from 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The programme was coordinated by Mr. Stephen James, programme coordinator and 50 student volunteers were actively involved in this programme. Classrooms, verandas, toilets, playground etc. were cleaned by the volunteers and the overgrown grass and weeds in the school premises were cleared along with the plastic waste. The school PTA secretary addressed the students and appreciated the efforts of members.



NSS volunteers cleaning the Govt. HSS, Kuttoor





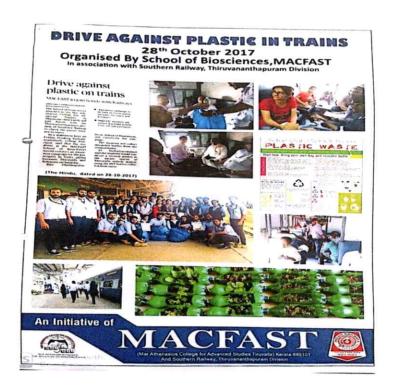


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#### Plastic Awareness and Collection Campaign in Trains

28th October, 2017

The school of Biosciences, MACFAST College Thiruvalla in association with the Thiruvananthapuram division of Southern Railway conducted an awareness programme on the harmful effects of plastic on health. The awareness campaign was done for passengers in the trains plying between Thiruvalla and Kottayam on 28th October, 2017. Mr. Biju Dharmapalan, HoD, School of Biosciences coordinated the event and 41 students were actively involved in this programme. NSS volunteers and students from School of Biosciences collected the discarded plastic waste bottles from the train compartments and these were used to construct a vertical garden in the vacant space of Thiruvalla railway station and in the college campus.



Poster for the plastics awareness campaign conducted by NSS volunteers in the trains







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#### Cleaning Campaign at Sabarimala - Punyam Poonkavanam 2017

15th to 19th December 2017

In association with Kerala Police, the NSS unit, Radio MACFAST 90.4 and forestry club in the college, participated in 'Punyam Poonkavanam' during "Mandala Kalam". This campaign is an initiative of the Kerala Police which intends to promote awareness among the devotees on not to bring plastic wastes and to abstain from dumping it at Sabarimala. The objective of this programme is to keep the pilgrimage site of Sabarimala clean, green, save forest, save wildlife, use dust bins and avoid plastics. The total NSS unit of 85 students and 7 faculty members actively participated in this campaign from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The programme is coordinated by the Kerala Police in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of MACFAST during the "Mandala Kalam".



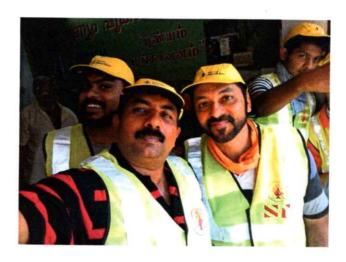
Poster for 'Punyam Poonkavanam' cleaning campaign conducted by NSS







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Faculty members and students at the Sabarimala site



Faculty members and students at the Sabarimala site







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NSS volunteers talking to pilgrims on harmful effects of plastics







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#### Cleaning of the Thiruvalla railway station road

30th July 2019

The MACFAST NSS unit conducted a cleaning activity as part of the Swachh Bharath mission on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 3 pm. The NSS volunteers cleaned Thiruvalla railway station road and its surroundings under the coordination of program officer Dr. Jeemon Joseph. They cleared plastic waste and weeds from the sides of the road. 16 NSS volunteers completed the cleaning activity within 4 pm. The collected waste materials were handed over to the Tiruvalla Municipality. The NSS unit Secretary Blessan Chandy expressed gratitude to their fellow volunteers and pledged to continue such social activities. The cleaning activity was a needed one at railway station road and its premises as the accumulated waste was a burden for travellers.



NSS team after collecting the garbage at Tiruvalla Railway station road.







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NSS team collecting the garbage in front of the Tiruvalla railway station road.



Students cleaning the road near the railway level cross.







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#### Campaign for Plastic-free Environment at Thukalassery

21st December 2019

On 21st December 2019, the NSS team of MACFAST comprising 60 student volunteers and the programme officer visited different locations at Thukalassery, Thiruvalla. The volunteers collected plastic wastes from the public shops and houses and created awareness among the general public on the importance of a plastic-free environment. The students discussed the disadvantages of plastic waste particularly its non-biodegradability and soil retention. The campaign was organised in association with the Kerala Police Department and was inaugurated by the Thiruvalla Circle Inspector, Mr. Suresh M R. He pointed out that women in the society, particularly housewives have a role to play in spearheading the plastic-free awareness. The collected plastic waste was then passed on to the plastic shredding unit for recycling.



NSS volunteers with the plastic waste they collected from the locality.







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NSS volunteers with the plastic waste they collected from the college vicinity.



NSS volunteers involved in collecting the plastic waste from a house.



NSS volunteers collecting plastic waste from a household in the locality.

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### Lifestyle diseases and organic vegetable gardening awareness campaign

23-12-2019

On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019, 60 NSS volunteers visited residents of different nearby localities and gave an awareness talk about the health and environmental impacts of persistent organic pollutants and use of toxic free vegetables. They also distributed organic vegetable seeds, and tree saplings to the farmers. This Phase I project was themed under toxic free vegetables.

As part of Phase II, on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 60 NSS volunteers conducted an awareness programme on lifestyle diseases. As part of this, students divided into 10 groups and visited 10 nearby areas and gave classes about the foods causing lifestyle diseases & its impact.



NSS volunteers discussing the impact of toxic vegetables with local population.







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NSS volunteers exploring the scope for organic vegetable gardens in the local households.







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Photo collage showing different views from the awareness campaign.







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#### Cleaning activity at Manakkachira Tourism Project field

21st December, 2018

The NSS unit of MACFAST conducted a one-day cleaning programme at Manakkachira Tourism Project, Changanacherry. The goal of the programme was to clean up the place and pathway included in the Manakkachira Tourism Project. Under the leadership of Dr. Jeemon Joseph, camp officer, 54 volunteers actively participated in this event.



NSS volunteers cleaning the Manakkachira Tourism Project.



NSS volunteers collectively engaged in cleaning activities.







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NSS volunteers jointly remove the garbage from the Manakkachira site.







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#### **Cleaning of Flood Affected Areas**

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018, NSS unit volunteers visited the flood-affected areas nearby MACFAST and cleaned some of the flood affected houses. They visited the flood relief camp and provided immediate help to them. Christmas gifts were given to the flood affected victims. Under the leadership of Dr. Jeemon Joseph, camp officer, 54 volunteers actively participated in this event.



NSS volunteers cleaning the cupboard of a flood affected house.



NSS volunteers cleaning the front of a flood affected house.





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NSS volunteers interacting with the inmates of the relief camp.







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#### Distribution of Tree Saplings on World Environment Day

5th June 2018

On June 5th 2018, the NSS unit of MACFAST celebrated the world environment day. NSS Programme officer Dr. Jeemon Joseph coordinated the program and 54 NSS Volunteers participated in the program in 10 different groups. A total of 150 trees were planted in public places and at MACFAST campus by the volunteers. In addition, medicinal plants and fruit-bearing trees were distributed to college students. This new initiative by the NSS team as a part of an environment-related program aims to spread general awareness on the importance of planting trees and the impact of deforestation on global warming and climatic change among the students. All the volunteers actively participated in this program.



Local newspaper cutting showing MACFAST students distributing plant saplings at Tiruvalla Railway station.







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MACFAST students distributing plant saplings at Tiruvalla KSRTC Main Bus Station.

