

SCHOOLASTIC NEWS

IMPACT-FOCUSED SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The problem is not
to find the answer,
it's to face the answer

Significance of Menstrual Hygiene Day
Learn about Climate Finance



STUDENTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE AND PEACEBUILDING

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School Membership Program

The School Membership Program helps the school instill experiential learning, holistic development, skill building and financial literacy in children further preparing them for their life after school.

available as a standalone engagement activity

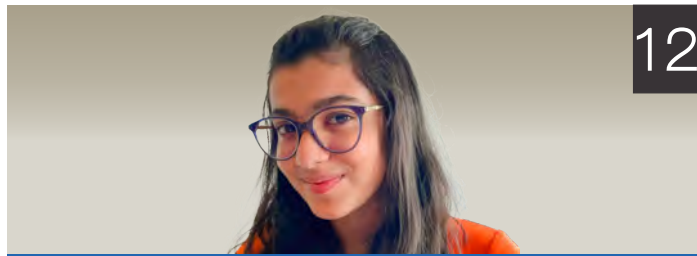
1. ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Conducted by professional mentors for students, teachers and parents focused on knowledge and skill building.

available as a standalone

available as a standalone

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Ganga Quest 2022

How to participate

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Winning Stories in School Champs For Climate Action

CLASS 6TH-8TH STORIES
Zoya, Vivekanand School, D-Block, Anand Vihar, Delhi 92: Amidst the pandemic Zoya found a way to contribute towards SDG 13. She and her mother got together and used kitchen waste like Egg Shells, Filtered Tea Leaves, Fruit & Vegetable peels which were in abundance, to make the organic manure. She proudly proclaims that organic manure can



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CREDITS & EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORIAL LEAD

BHAVNA SHARMA

SECTION EDITOR

MENKA SHARMA

HEAD OF DESIGN & LAYOUT

JASVINDAR SINGH

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MANSHI BISHT

RENU SHARMA

EDITORIAL & MARKETING CORRESPONDENCE

FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.

522 Ansal Tower, 38 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, India
Ph.: +91-11-46850000 | E-mail: info@fairgaze.com

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Editorial Lead

Let's learn to act and transform to strengthen a sustainable future!

Welcome to the May edition of the Schoolastic News magazine. We are enthusiastic and eager to present this issue as we continued to work hard to make it simply the best and most engaging magazine for students and by students.

Our themes for this issue of Schoolastic News are as dynamic as they are evergreen – awareness, innovation and sustainability. It is common for us to focus on the competitive aspects of the well-known phrase "Survival of the Fittest". This issue includes articles on essential life skills, importance of collaborative learning, and the significance of celebrating World Menstrual Hygiene Day every year on 28th May. It also engages in various flavours of cooperation – from discharging a benevolent task for a teammate to performing selfless actions for the greater good like empowering young minds to learn climate finance, spreading awareness among all the genders about menstruation, or becoming agents of peace and harmony.

The Schoolastic News brings forth the student achievers and change-makers who showcase their stories of actions taken to beat climate change, as a part of the FairGaze and United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) "School Champs for Climate Action" campaign on SDG -13. The editorial team congratulates all the students who joined the campaign and contributed to the cause.

We thank Mr. S. Srinivas Reddy, Principal & Director, Vedham Group of Institutions for his enlightened thoughts on "**Personalized and Paced Learning for Students**". We also acknowledge Aarna Bhura, Youth Ambassador-Sachhi Saheli for sharing an awareness piece on "**That Time of the Month**" in Indian society.

The Schoolastic News is the magazine through which students can demonstrate their literary and artistic talents, achievements and contributions to global causes like SDGs. We believe that writing potential exists in all, but the urge to communicate through writing that only a few possess. It has been our constant endeavour to stir this urge by getting the students, educationists and experts to write about the things that they feel, see and do.

The tireless efforts of our Editorial team and some great thoughts put up by our young pals in their articles will surely amaze all the readers. I extend my sincere thanks to all the contributors who enhanced this issue to its perfection that makes this magazine endearing to our readers.

Happy Reading!

Bhavna Sharma
Editorial Lead
info@fairgaze.com

CLIMATE ACTION

MICROPLASTICS FOUND IN HUMAN BLOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME



Plastics have pervaded every single region of the planet, and invisible plastic has already made its way into the highest peaks and the deepest trenches, finally making its way into human blood, with harmful effects unknown.

Microplastics are defined as small plastic pieces which are less than five millimeters in length. The first revelation that plastics may be found in the human body was when scientists detected bisphenol A in human urine samples.

A Dutch study published in Environmental International Journal found microplastics in the blood of 17 out of 22 volunteers. In the study conducted, researchers looked for five common plastics – poly (methyl methacrylate) (PMMA), polypropylene (PP), polymerized styrene (PS), polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

More than 3 quarters of the blood samples contained a quantifiable mass of microplastics. Most of the effects of the

presence of plastic in the blood are unknown but a recent study in Germany found that microplastic particles can destabilize lipid membranes, and the barriers surrounding all cells, and may affect their functioning. Another study found that microplastics have many effects on cells, including cell death.

Microplastics may enter the bloodstream through polluted air and water, toothpaste, dental polymers, and other personal care products as well. PET plastic, which was found in half the blood samples, is used to make drink bottles.

It has also been found, that microplastics live in human lungs. These could have adverse effects on respiratory health. In a study conducted, 39 microplastics were found in 11 out of 13 lung tissue samples.

The average person ingests at least 50,000 microplastic particles in a year. Certain toxic substances may also attach to the particles and enter our bodies, thus

harming our health. There are a few ways of reducing the number of microplastics entering our body such as avoiding synthetic clothes made of lycra or nylon and using cotton clothes since synthetic clothes shed a large number of microfibres and reducing the usage of takeaway containers and cups which are lined with polyethylene.

Microplastics have become ubiquitous, after having spread to every nook and corner of the globe they have finally entered the human body as well whose consequences will surely be detrimental. A few steps can help reduce the number of microplastics present in our body, but for our blood to be completely free from microplastics, there is still a long way to go.

By:
Maithili Nanda
Class - 12
The Hyderabad Public School,
Begumpet, Telangana

CLIMATE ACTION

LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate change is a global issue as it can cause storms, extinction of species, diseases such as malaria, drought (less availability of water), global warming, floods, lack of food, and many other difficulties in day-to-day life. These causes are not only dangerous for humans but animals, plants, and all kinds of organisms as well. So, we need to stop or reduce climate change. It takes a huge amount of money to stop or reduce its impact till some point. Many undeveloped countries can't afford this as this process is too costly. So here, the role of climate finance comes to collect this huge amount.

Climate finance refers to the financing of any kind that is used to avoid or reduce climate change. Some undeveloped countries that can't afford this costly process are provided with some amount of money from the developed countries to help them in the fight against the climate change and help them to invest in economic-friendly technologies and energy regenerating sources such as the solar panels and electricity and energy providing sources such as windmills, hydropower powerplants, tidal powerplant, etc. In short, one can say that it is a weapon that all countries use to fight against climate change to stop its dangerous effects.

The money used to reduce climate change comes from developed countries that use the private and public units such as the central banks, corporations, enterprises, etc. to allocate funds. The developed countries provide finance to undeveloped countries for them to move their steps towards natural resources of sustainable energy and technologies with less pollution and less emission of carbon. This is a measure to reduce climate change and help or motivate



them to fight bravely against the impacts of climate change. In the years 2015 and 2016 Japan became the biggest climate finance donor and at the same time, India became the largest finance receiver. Japan donated \$ 10.3B / year in 2015 and 2016. India received a huge amount of finance worth \$2.6 B.

Banks play a huge role in transferring capital overseas. Financial markets

“Climate finance refers to the financing of any kind that is used to avoid or reduce climate change.”

consist of stock markets and real estate markets that enable people to invest in top gaining, achieving companies. Stock

exchanges enable people to invest in renewable energy companies such as solar companies, etc. Some apps that are used to invest in different companies are Groww, Upstox, CoinDCX, etc.

Some main effects of climate change are a decrease in GDP averagely by around 18% if the temperature rises by around 3%, the sea level rises that reduce or affects the coastal economies by trillions of dollars. Averagely \$100B/year is required to fund these climate investments. Many countries can't afford this. It is a costly process but is very important to develop the GDP of a country.

By:
Yashraj Lode
Class - 8 | Podar International School,
Parbhani, Maharashtra
Edited by: Menka Sharma

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

HOW IS ◀ MENSTRUATION RELATED ▶ TO HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human beings are entitled to certain basic and natural rights that define their meaningful existence. The only difference between animals and human is that we can raise our voices. Menstruation is a normal biological phenomenon that occurs during a monthly women's cycle. It happens during puberty when the inner lining of the uterus shed blood and tissues through the vagina. The average age of a girl starting this process is between 12 to 15. The length of time between the first period and the next is about 28 days. Menstrual health is defined as complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing during the menstrual cycle. Even though it's a physiological process and an essential part of our reproductive system, it's taken oblivious. Illiteracy often leads to myths and taboos about this process. It was observed in a scientific study of menstrual hygiene management among teenage girls in India, that out of 100,000 girls, 50,000 didn't know about periods till they got their first one. And when it happens without awareness, they feel embarrassment and shame.

Menstruation intrinsically leads to human dignity as women who don't have a proper way of managing their period's hygiene due to inaccessibility of supplies, are not able to manage their dignity. For a menstruator to have access to sanitary products, a safe bathing facility, and access to water and medicine shouldn't be a hard fact to digest as a human rights issue. Most adolescents rely heavily on their mothers or friends for information on menstruation, however, mothers feel uncomfortable talking about this topic and remain silent. Their advice is often



limited to period management which reinforces negative beliefs. Every girl has the right to go to any place freely without the fear of humiliation during the menstruation period, the right to health, education, work, water, and sanitation. But due to many religious plagues, myths, and taboos these rights are often violated. Illiterate and even some educated people often think of "period as a disease" and people having it are impure. In rural areas, this process is taken as readiness for marriage. People do let such women prepare their food or go to a holy place as they believe that their body emits a smell. The existence of such myths makes it hard to believe that our world is developing and becoming more civilized.

We should teach our future generation to be normal during this time and discuss it freely without any humiliation. To put these words into action organizations like UNFPA solve such problems by handing

out dignity kits containing disposable and reusable pads, soap, tampons, and menstrual cups to girls going through this. In December 2015 Ministry of drinking water and sanitation released guidelines on 'Menstrual hygiene' along with UNICEF. But the biggest problem is the lack of implementation. Training community health workers and organizing vital seminars to spread awareness will be a huge impact on people. Making documentaries and movies on this issue will be a great way to empower knowledge about it and eradicate superstitions. The right to safety and privacy should not be taken as "something extra" but as a normal right of every girl.

By:
Diya Jain
Class - 6
The Star Global School,
Rohtak, Haryana

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

SIGNIFICANCE OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

Beginning with menarche, menstruation (ordinarily referred to as having a menstrual period), is a major physiological change that adolescent girls must learn to manage, including healthy menstrual hygiene practices. Poor menstrual hygiene practices influence school girls' dignity, well-being and health, school absenteeism, academic performance, and school dropout in developing countries. Despite this, menstrual hygienic practices are not well understood and have not received proper attention from school WASH programs.

Despite the fact that menstruation is a natural process, it is linked with several misconceptions, negative attitudes, and punitive practices, all of which result in adverse health outcomes. Lack of good menstrual hygiene can have health consequences, including an increased risk of reproductive and urinary tract infections.

An Indian study showed that nearly 50 percent of girls do not have access to a separate place for bathing or changing their menstrual absorbent. Menstrual hygiene is a 'taboo' topic of sorts, especially in the rural areas of the country. Since it isn't often discussed, and when it is, with vague and minimal details- there is a lot of fear, confusion, and anxiety associated with the word 'periods'.

One of the main reasons why menstruation is taboo and menstruation hygiene is neglected is gender inequality. Unequal rights given to men and women result in women's voices being ignored within households and communities and in development programs. Due to cultural

norms and stigmas, menstruating women are not allowed to use water and sanitation facilities and in some cases even excluded from home as menstruation is considered impure. Therefore, comprehensive programs that engage both men and women should be organized related to menstrual hygiene.

Men can support and influence women and girls in managing menstruation in households, schools, work, and community through many roles as husbands, fathers, brothers, students, teachers, colleagues, leaders, and policymakers. By reviewing the literature, it was found that at the household level men do not support women regarding menstruation hygiene, and never have they discussed menstrual issues with their wives and daughters.

Due to unwillingness, myths, prejudices, and misconceptions, it is difficult to talk

“Unequal rights given to men and women result in women's voices being ignored.”

about menstruation with men and boys. But by engaging them in group discussions and regular community meetings, we can change their perception and make them aware of their role in menstrual hygiene management.

In India, a man named “Arunachalam Murugantham” known as “India's Menstrual Man” develops an inexpensive and environment-friendly machine that produces semi-biodegradable sanitary pads.



Menstruation is a silent issue in a girl's life that is further affected by the teacher's attitude, school environment, and infrastructure. Because of this, many girls remain absent from school during this time. Sex education is often neglected in the school curriculum which negatively impacts the student's life. They get information about puberty, sexual intercourse, menstruation, and other physiological changes in one's body from books, friends, and the Internet which may be incomplete or inaccurate. It's high time they are required to be educated about W.A.S.H.

By:
Ananya Anuragini
Class - 9
ODM Public School, Orissa
Edited by: Menka Sharma

PERSONALIZED AND PACED LEARNING FOR STUDENTS





Education - indeed a word with all the 5 vowels in it and with the growing challenges, changing times, and advancement in technology, even the definition of Learning has changed. For students, Education is truly the basic need for their professional survival. From the traditional Gurukula education to school and now out of 4 walls, learning through the internet and various other sources is what we term Personalized and Paced learning.

The education system has been quite revolutionary ever since Student-Centered Learning has come into practice (C.C.E) and the pandemic has changed the course and pattern of learning and teaching as well. It just moves with the simplest concept of THE MORE EFFORTS ONE PUT, THE MORE IS THE OUTCOME. Yes, personalized and Paced learning has thrown a huge challenge ahead of schools on how to monitor this change and prepare the curriculum accordingly. With the limit in the period of learning, the student is enabled with the right to select the subject, content, and amount of learning for the stipulated time.

With growing digital platforms and Artificial Intelligence playing a pivotal role in the field of education, information technology has now become a must for the people in the field of education. Be it the management, the teacher, the student, paced learning has been a game-changer overall.

Yet, it's the COURSE to be completed with the support of the SOURCE (teacher), student has still been able to be self-reliant and learn any subject in the comfort of his home even post the school hours. Thus, it's high time for the educational institutions to get updated, upgraded, and uphold the spirit of ready-to-accept any challenge to boost the learning and self-confidence of the students. To sum up, it's education that gives a student Exposure, Experience, Enrichment, Exploration, and Encouragement and helps the learner establish himself. Personalized and Paced learning is for sure going to be the future of education and the learner and teacher need to pull up the socks and be ready for the face-off.

When we talk about personalized learning for students, it suggests some educational methodologies and scholastic pedagogies to address the distinct learning requirements, interests, goals, or cultural backgrounds of students.

Personalized learning implements Student-focused instructions. It aims at focusing on one student at a time and also engage them in real-world activities that endorse content learning. If we go deeper in the process, the integration of technology into learning experiences plays an essential role. Technological advancement has helped the education system a lot to handle studies as much as possible.

Now, post-pandemic, technology can again play an important role to bring things back on track. While keeping personalized learning in focus, online education has emerged as an integral way for paced learning. It is low-cost, convenient, and can be tailored to their needs.

Personalized learning has several benefits. Some are improvement in student outcome, academic standards enhancement, addressing personal academic needs, and engaging students by connecting their out-of-school and in-school lives. It also provides an option of choice and control of a student over learning.

For schools, personalized and paced learning is an approach that accepts and assumes every child comes to the classroom with a different knowledge base and skill set, as well as varying skills and ambitions; and because of that, there is a determination for every young person's needs to be assessed and their talents developed through diverse teaching strategies. This can bring very interesting results.

By:
S. Srinivas Reddy
Principal & Director,
Vedham Group
of Institutions

FAIRGAZE OFFERINGS

School Membership Program

The School Membership Program helps the school instill experiential learning, holistic development, skill building and financial literacy in children further preparing them for their life after school.



Recent FairGaze Engagements



FAIRGAZE In association with UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan

WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR

SCHOOL CHAMPS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

17 April | 5:00-6:00 PM

CHIEF GUEST
MAJOR HARSH (SECRETARY NCERT)

Shachi Chaturvedi
Public Information Assistant UNIC

JURY MEMBER
KESHEO PRASAD DUBEY (IFS OFFICER)

JURY MEMBER
RITURAJ PHUKAN (ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER)

JURY MEMBER
MRS. SANGEETA SRIVASTAVA (EDUCATIONIST)

JURY MEMBER
AMUJURI BISWANATH (EDUCATIONIST)

The winners of the School Champs for Climate Action Campaign were announced at a glittering ceremony graced by Major Harsh (Secretary, NCERT) as the Chief Guest. Other eminent personalities like Mr. Kesheo Prasad Dubey (IFS Officer), Ms Shachi (Public Information Assistant UNIC), Mr. Rituraj Phukan (Environmental Writer), Ms Sangeeta Srivastava (Educationist and Environmentalist) and Mr. Amujuri Biswanath (Educationist).

Out of 7200+ students who registered from 250+ schools from 28 states and UT's for the campaign, the top 13 change-makers were declared as winners across 3 class categories and 2 language categories.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

- **May 2, 4:00 PM:** Time Management
- **May 6, 5:00 PM:** Childhood Innocence Leading To Gullible Adults
- **May 11, 4:00 PM:** Floral Painting on Newspaper
- **May 16, 4:00 PM:** Healthy Lifestyle
- **May 25, 4:00 PM:** Each Day Is Earth Day

Find out more about all our upcoming webinars and register here:
<https://fairgaze.com/webinars.html>

PAST WORKSHOPS

- **April 2:** Self Management
- **April 6:** Easy Steps To Draw Human Figure Sketch
- **April 18:** Teachers Are The Leaders of The Classroom
- **April 20:** How To Heal and Relax Through Music
- **April 25:** Nurturing Child's Self Esteem



FAIRGAZE UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

EARTH DAY CAMPAIGN

EARTH DAY

22nd April - 20th May, 2022

ACCELERATING THE FULFILLMENT OF SDG 6 / SDG 7 / SDG 12 / SDG 13 / SDG 14 / SDG 15

We are back with a new student-led contest - Earth Day Campaign. It aims at accelerating the fulfillment of SDG-6, SDG-7, SDG-12, SDG-13, SDG-14, SDG-15. It is open for Class 6 to 12.

Students need to share a video of actions taken towards any of the above-mentioned SDGs, for the well-being of our planet.

Registrations are open and the last date of registration and submission is 20 May 2022.

“THAT TIME OF THE MONTH” IN INDIAN SOCIETY

(By: Aarna Bhura, Youth Ambassador-Sachhi Saheli)

For centuries the process of menstruation has been regarded as dirty and impure and talked about in a hushed manner. Menstruating girls have consistently been thought of as unhygienic and impure and their daily activities minimalized. Periods have been associated with evil spirits, shame, embarrassment, leaving menstruation as the most neglected topic. The perception that menstruation is dirty or shameful presents as a barrier to opportunities and proper health and sanitation to numerous women. Vulnerable and poor women are often forced to use ash or old cloths in place of period products, heightening the chances of hundreds of infections. Further more, the taboos have also, without fail, disrupted the lifestyle of women all around prohibiting them from entering the kitchen, going to temples or “in-house mandirs”, some are even made to sleep in separate rooms. Such taboos backed by no logical or scientific reasoning influence most aspects of a woman's life be it physical, mental, emotional or social.

In addition of limiting her movement inside the house, getting her period also restricts her access to the outside world. In India, 23% girls drop out of school when they reach puberty because they anyway tend to miss six days a month on average, restricting their access to education and compromising their future endeavors. This statistic also brings to light the apparent lack of schools in providing access to appropriate period products and facilities. This gender-unfriendly school culture also poses as a complication for female teachers, compelling them to take leaves during

their times of the month. Additionally, the Indian education system too has instilled the taboos of menstruation, a fact highlighted by the shocking headlines from the year 2017, a 12-year-old schoolgirl from Tamil Nadu committed suicide after allegedly being humiliated over a blood stain by her teacher, further proving how menstrual shaming has reached the safe spaces of a classroom. Our country's menstrual illiteracy and awareness pose an obstacle while addressing such instances. This only shows how nearly half of all adolescent girls don't understand and accept their body changes and its natural processes. This lack of understanding is prevalent in very grading order of Indian society; from grandmothers to mothers including teachers, which fails to create safe, non-judgement space for them.

Many non-governmental organizations are involved in dissipating knowledge to break through the existing myths and taboos. One such Delhi based NGO, Sachhi Saheli has been actively creating a menstrual literate ecosystem empowering women & children by sensitizing them in specified education through mass and class awareness workshops/ programs. Sachhi Saheli every year celebrates "Menstrual Hygiene Day" on 28th May every year to promote mass awareness and normalize periods. With an objective of creating a menstrual literate community, bringing a metamorphosis in belief system & pecking order of mindset of menstruation Sachhi Saheli has been celebrating MHAD with great participation from community and school children. Namita

Bhura from Sachhi Saheli says, "The most pressing need today is creating awareness and normalizing periods in every household, only providing sanitary napkins doesn't help. The revolutionary change will happen only when we have a menstrual literate community. Thus, we conduct workshops, training programs and modules to ensure that women & children (both girls & boys) from all backgrounds can unbolt the shackles of societal taboos and myths around menstruation."

The active participation of children and adults in 'Pad Yatra' and 'Period Fest' during celebration of menstrual hygiene day proclaims that these initiatives are making the change happen. Through these celebrations, they aim at bringing an inclusive change in both, personal and social practices helping improve the quality of life of all menstruators. These changes have hence resulted in a decrease dropout rate for menstruators are no more discouraged from attending their educational institutions.

Imparting a certain level of knowledge about periods and puberty is the responsibility of teachers, but the echelons of the society themselves restrict to the illiberal thought process in matters related to menstruation, thus negatively impacting the evolution of better sustainable products to manage periods. The knees up participation and observance of menstrual hygiene day at school & college levels have also brought a change in their attitude towards stigmas attached to menstruation. Teachers at schools who used to avoid teaching such topics now understand and explain to the students the anatomy behind periods



taking the first step towards destigmatization of menstruation.

Ms. Bhura further states "On Menstrual Hygiene Day, through different sources like webinars, workshops & panel discussions appropriate & right knowledge promoting the use of reusable sanitary products such as menstrual cups, cloth pads, bamboo-

based sanitary pads, etc., is provided to sensitize girls & women and bring adherence to the SDG's. The menstruators are also educated in regards to the environmental impact and health hazards associated with the disposal of single-use sanitary napkins."

If efforts of this frequency continue in the near future, we would have many

Kumbalangi style towns (Sanitary napkin free) in India. As educated and aware the menstruators become the myths will become history and history will not be repeated. It's true the cloud of stigmas still surround menstruation, but the wind of knowledge and awareness being spread by such grassroots NGO's will soon clear the sky for a better tomorrow.

PEACE & JUSTICE

EMPOWERING YOUTH AS AGENTS OF PEACEBUILDING



Pablo Picasso once said, "There is only one way of looking at things until someone shows us how to look at them with different eyes."

The global number of youths is the highest ever. As the world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 years, 9 in 10 of the world's young population lives in less developed countries. According to a report published by the global charity Save the Children, more than 357 million children live in war and conflict zones. The rapid increase in poor political decisions and innumerable crises' leads the impressionable young adults to rapidly become unhappy with their governments and policymaking.

Over 25% of the population that lives today is the future of tomorrow. Their policies, cultures, ethics and values lay the foundations for a better world. Young children are every day exposed to the horrors of war, crisis and bloodshed. Such ghastly instances embed themselves in their minds. However, unlike the previous generations, today's youth shall not be suppressed. Their voices need to be heard for an improved tomorrow.

On the generation scale, on one hand, youngsters are considered childish, vulnerable and in need of protection and on the other politicians drive their political propaganda at the cost of their emotions by telling the world that they are violent, radical, dangerous and impatient.

Today's youth is constantly involved in politics and peacemaking. We are driven to ameliorate the conditions of war zones and underdeveloped countries. This is especially the case with the recent social chaos and humanitarian crisis. Greta Thunberg, Malala Yousafzai, Bana Alabed and Timoci Naulusala are some of the youngsters who have managed to become obdurate in the face of injustice, evil and hatred.

Since times immemorial the younger generation has always had an affinity toward change. For example- - civic awareness for peaceful social relations and development programmes in Nepal, trust-building across different ethnoreligious groups in Sri Lanka, community entrepreneurship and livelihoods programmes in Burundi, children holding up posters against the government in Hong Kong, marches being held in support of the Uighur Muslims in China, rallies against the ethnic cleansing by the military in Myanmar are just a few to name.

What makes youngsters so open to change is their ability to expand their horizons and to look beyond the rules that they've been expected to adhere to. At the same time, youth face disproportionate social, cultural and economic and political barriers which prevent them from unleashing their full potential. However once given the absolute freedom they require to soar to

their greatest glories, changing the world dynamics to become more peaceful, sustainable and equitable won't be very far.



What India and the world need today are better opinions, policies and tactics. Even a UNDP report stipulated that young people are the key to preventing violent extremism. The youth of the present age acknowledge the paramount need for solving conflicts over dialogue instead plunging into the path of war.

Schools and educators must learn to treat young minds with equal acclaim and respect their opinions on political, social and cultural matters. It is also essential for Parents and Guardians to let their children explore their surroundings, their interests and formulate their views and opinions so that they can find a voice and place in the emerging structures of post-conflict environments.

It is also crucial to inculcate the youth in politics and policymaking so that their ideas and opinions can take the centre stage and prevent exacerbation of the world of tomorrow.

Bhagat Singh rightly said, "Bombs and pistols do not make a revolution. The sword of revolution is sharpened on the whetting stone of ideas"

It is only in togetherness that we shall blossom..

By:
Arshia Mehta
Class - 12
Venkateshwar Global School,
Rohini

PEACE & JUSTICE

HOW TO COMBAT CORRUPTION ACROSS THE WORLD?

Corruption, a term often associated with power and politics, refers to a criminal offense which is a form of dishonesty and the misuse of power within an organisation, community, or nation. If we take into account our nation or even the entire world, we would be stunned to know the various aspects or forms of corruption that are prevalent even in the 21st century.

First, let's understand-Why 'CORRUPTION' arises? We live in a world where materialistic fulfilment matters to us to a great extent. There is a borderline between all the things majorly classified as "what's mine" and "what's not". In the aura of "what's mine" and "what's not", we often tend to have a longing for

"The problem is not to find the answer, it's to face the answer."

"what's not" since we never are satisfied in a true aspect. Secondly, if we refer to corruption due to power, it is not the 'power' that makes a person corrupt, 'power' is not the external cause, but it's fundamental to human nature which depends upon their conscience and upbringing, which varies their perspective of what's right and what's not, which might not be a common perception.

Besides, we cannot just blame 'corruption' to be fundamental to human nature and disregard its influence in the growth/downfall of civilization, we MUST find a solution.

Whenever we come across the word 'corruption', what things, what circumstances, what causes do come to our mind? In most cases, a person



demands a bribe or indulges in embezzlement, because they simply NEED it. This 'need' might be a result of a person not being able to fulfil their fundamental needs or due to a lack of acclaim or recognition for their work. This form of demoralization can over time make a person either depressed or 'corrupt'.

When they feel a sense of responsibility and a lack of esteem, their self-esteem rises to such an extent that they stop caring about the need to be morally right or wrong!

This compels them to indulge in dishonesty. Why would anyone care to be called 'immoral' when their luxuries are succeeding without any hard work and they are leading a satisfying life. For whom will they attempt to approach the most straightforward approach of lifestyle? For those who neglected their

importance or denied their income? For those who hadn't bothered to extend a helping hand to them?

Essentially, if we truly wish to eliminate 'corruption' from the face of humanity, our first and primary approach should be to diminish or even try to eliminate the causes that push us to the 'corrupt' side. If we can do away with the 'NEED' for corruption, even the thought of putting down honesty will not arise in the mind of mankind. This may seem like a simple step but it won't be as simple to execute it nationally or globally, but it has the potential to replenish the true aspects of humanity.

By:
Avi Krishna
Class - 6
Prarambhika, Patna
Edited by: Menka Sharma



Ganga Quest 2022

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GANGA QUEST 2022



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CATEGORIES

- Upto Class VIII (AY-2021-2022)
- Class IX-XII (AY-2021-2022)
- Any other- teachers, university students, home makers, retired officials, senior citizens



ROUNDS

- Questions to Build Knowledge
- Questions to Assess Knowledge
- Short Survey



THEMES FOR ROUND 2

- Arth Ganga and Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
- Physical Geography & Famous places and personalities
- Current Affairs & Governance
- Flora and Fauna & Pollution / Water Treatment Technologies



AWARDS

1st-Laptop • 2nd-Tablet or Kindle • 3rd-Tablet or Kindle



Winning Stories in School Champs For Climate Action

CLASS 6TH-8TH STORIES

Zoya, Vivekanand School, D-Block, Anand Vihar, Delhi 92: Amidst the pandemic Zoya found a way to contribute towards SDG 13. She and her mother got together and used kitchen waste like Egg Shells, Filtered Tea Leaves, Fruit & Vegetable peels which were in abundance, to make the organic manure. She proudly proclaims that organic manure can prevent the excess emission of Carbon Dioxide in the air and it is her impactful action to fight against Global Warming.



Shreya Das, Bhavan's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Vidyaniketan, Haldia: Shreya decided to plant vegetables in her garden and not buy them from vendors/malls as the packaging increases plastic wastage. She convinced her family to switch to eco-friendly products like an electronic toothbrush, LED bulbs in place of CFL bulbs, use glass containers in place of plastic containers in the kitchen and also replaces all plastic bags with cloth bags. This was her way of having a positive impact on the climate.



Aditya Bhatia, Modern Public School: Aditya researched on energy consumption and found that energy conservation can make a huge difference in climate. He read that CFL bulbs can reduce energy consumption by up to 35%, limiting screen time isn't just beneficial for the eyes, it helps us to save electricity as well and how sunlight usage should be preferred instead of artificial lights in the daytime. He adopted these conservation techniques in his house. He created a presentation and has been generating awareness and convincing his classmates to motivate them to do the same.



Deepak Sabar, Mahendra Tanaya Ashram School, Koinpur: दीपक ने प्रकृति संरक्षण में चित्रकारी के माध्यम से सहयोग देने का सोचा। प्रकृति संरक्षण की जागरूकता के लिए चित्रकारी शुरू की। विद्यालय के अन्यछात्र- छात्राओं और अध्यापकों के साथ गांव-गांव में जागरूकता रैलियां निकाली। भारत सरकार के एनर्जीए फिशिएंट इंडिया पेंटिंग कॉम्पिटिशन में भी पुरुस्कार से नवाजा गया।



Jyoti Parabhoi, Gram Vikas Shiksha Niketan Kumudabahal Kalahandi: Jyoti made people aware in her community of how some companies provide fake products in the name of eco-friendly products and what signs to look for, while buying such products. Energy Star: - For appliances and electronics that are energy savings. USDA organic seal: - For cosmetics and foods that truly are organic. Green Seal: - For cleaning products that state for the environment. Forest stewardship council logo: - for paper and wood products and a few others. It is very important to be attentive and aware.

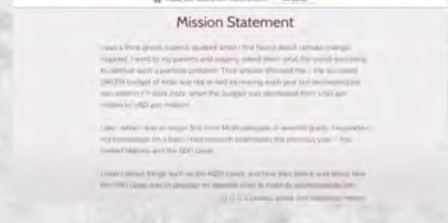
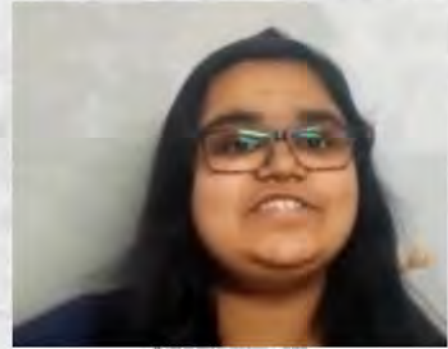


CLASS 9TH-10TH STORIES

Janhavi Tandon, Bal Bharati Public School Noida, Sector 21: Janhavi believes that awareness is the foundation of development and innovation, so as a B.E.S.T. Leader (Lung care foundation), she and her teammates organized activities through social media in the form of quizzes, videos and slogans to provide information and create awareness on climate change. She worked towards planting a seed of consciousness in many minds and became a torchbearer for saving mother earth.



Anvi Tuteja, Suncity School: Anvi derives her inspiration from young leaders like Greta Thunberg. Motivated by her peers, juniors and seniors, she used the impactful action 'SPEAK UP!' to raise awareness on climate change. She also created a website and social media following to spread awareness about SDGs. Through her blog, she shows the actions taken at her home and motivates others to become change-makers. She believes that Speak Up! is the most important impactful action as it bridges together and binds all the other actions.



Ishita Gupta, Mahavir senior Model School:

For Ishita, making home compost is her way of doing something for the climate. She makes compost using her kitchen waste. She also guided friends and relatives on how to make manure simply at home. She also worked on reducing, reusing and recycling things like Clay pots, tyres, plastic bottles, newspapers, spoons and disposable containers to make school projects and showpieces. She also got the title #IshitaTheChangeMaker from her dear ones and we feel she really deserves it.



Riya Wason, Gems Modern Academy: During her winter break, Riya joined a group and decided to educate kids of house helpers in her society about SDGs. Realizing that 'trash for one, can be a treasure for others', she organized a donation drive in association with Bharosa Foundation and convinced people to donate their old clothes and shoes. The drive helped to recycle many goods and benefitted the house helpers and their kids. She feels that this has also made her a better person.



CLASS 11TH-12TH STORIES

Adhi Daiv, The Shri Ram School: After in-depth research and observation, Adhi started the project 'Urvara-Greening Mother Earth' to green the deserts of Rajasthan in 2020. Adhiraj and his team mobilizes the local rural communities by teaching, advocating, and motivating them for the social cause of tree plantation in the dry arid regions. In 2021, he and his team planted more than 2200 trees with one liter water technique in 12 acres of desert land, in 6 schools of villages of Sikar district which will directly impact the lives of more than 3500 children. He believes that people's participation ensures the conservation and development of common property with a sense of responsibility and awareness for it.



Apoorva, KIIT World School: To promote the recycling of plastic waste, Apoorva placed a container outside her house and asked everyone to put the empty milk packets in that. She also asked neighbours to keep in mind that before cutting the packets the small part of it shouldn't be detached because then it won't get recycled. She sends the collected packets for recycling every week. She also encouraged her school and the local community to do the same.



Noor Beniwal, Vidya Devi Jindal School: Noor believes that "Recycling is the best thing you can do to reduce carbon footprint". She and her cousins cleaned the big bucket-like containers of paint and started using those as buckets in washroom, as trashcans and as flower pots. She also believes that educating people of all ages about climate change is very important. She is also a proud member of "Fridays For Future" India.



Ankith Suhas, The Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet: Ankith has been a member of his school's COP24 team. To do his share of climate change, he used public transport like the metro and RTC buses more often. He switched from plastic bottles and utensils to steel ones that last longer and reduce the carbon footprint. He also planted fruit trees and grew some organic vegetables and also prepared compost at home. He took part in climate change competitions and attended the Center of Global Education meetings. He believes that by a team effort, we can defeat climate change.



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FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.,

522 Ansal Tower, 38 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, India | Ph.: +91-11-46850 000 | E-mail: info@fairgaze.com

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