

Nature Club Report 2022

Nature Club has been actively involved in raising awareness about environmental issues in the hills and among students. After the formation of a new committee for the session 2022-23, various activities were carried out.

Three members of the club Diksha Shankar, Jaysoon Subba and Neha Gupta, participated in the Students Science seminar organised by the Science Club in May. 2022. They presented a paper entitled 'Medicinal Plants of Darjeeling' to raise awareness about the rich ethno-medico heritage of the Himalayan region.

The new session began with the formation of new committee. After a preliminary student orientation outlining the history, aims and objective of Nature club, a general meeting was conducted in 17th August 2022. A new core group with portfolios was assigned to oversee the activities of the club. A total of 175 students from different departments enrolled as members. The core group, along with the teacher co-ordinator, planned the activities for the session. Following are the activities carried out.

In the beginning of the new session, a succulent plants garden was established on the 25th August 22 as part of the planned activity. Different varieties of succulents were planted which now adorns the corridor of Botany Department.

The club collaborated with Darjeeling Himalaya Initiative, a conglomerate of NGO of Darjeeling Hills and actively participated in the clean-up program on 12th November 2022 as part of its commitment towards Zero Waste Himalaya movement. The clean-up program covered the Singamari area, (from Ropeway to Triratna gram). Ten bags full of plastic wastes were collected, and a brand audit was conducted to identify polluting companies. More than 17 companies were found to be responsible for generating plastics in the form of wrappers, water bottles, tetrapacks etc from the clean-up sites. Coco-Cola, Pepsi-Co, Nestle, Perfetti Van Malle and Mondelez International were the five largest companies contributing non-degradable waste. These companies were also found out to be the highest contributor throughout the 12 Hill states of India for consecutive 5 years.

The club vociferously participated in '**Return to sender**' campaign as part of the Global Action Plan carried out world-wide to remind polluting companies of their corporate responsibility. The trash was cleaned, dried and nicely packed and sent to respective companies to protest for their lack of comitment to environmental cause.



One of the groups in the clean-up program



Nature Club members participating in the Clean-up program on 12th November 2022



Brand audit of plastic waste 16th November 2022 at the Department of Botany

Co-ordinator
Nature Club
St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling