



A small step for a big cause

Jasna jaffer² and Vandana V²

¹KMEA college, Aluva, jasnajaffer19@gmail.com, Ph. 9497444843

²CMFRI, vandana.ekpzh@gmail.com

Introduction

My name is Jasna Jaffer. I am a second year Degree student studying in KMEA College, Aluva. I belong to Nettoor and is a part of Maradu Municipality, Ernakulam. Near to our area is the International vegetable market and besides this market is situated the water treatment plants, post Office, agriculture training centres and soil testing centre. I am a student, social activist and a farmer. I have been honored with the School topper award, Best student of the School, Eastern bhoomika iconic women award for social activities, Best agriculture student of Maradu Municipality, Akshayasree award, Inpham award and also received the District level agriculture student award by state government.

Description of Solid waste

The solid waste was mainly the bio degradable vegetable wastes from the market which was the main problem we were facing in our locality. As there were no facilities for the proper waste management in the market all the market wastes were dumped in the open space near to the market. This caused inconvenience to the people from the foul smell of the rotten vegetables and other wastages. Even the waste water from the market and plastic wastes had started to become a big threat to the fish resources of Vembanad lake. Market place was surrounded with dogs and nuisance pest like African snail. All these matters in turn had affected the tourists coming to the Valanthakad Island - upcoming tourist spot filled with mangrove forests. Many requests were given to the authorities to solve these problems. But no action was taken.

How was it done?

Finally, when I was studying in plus - two, I came to know about Malayala Manorama " Nalla Padam ezhuthupetti". I wrote a letter regarding the problems of market to Ajitha Miss, who is our principal and Maradu Municipality Chairperson. It was published in the paper. This letter was widely discussed among the members of Municipality and a detailed report was submitted to the collector, Shri. Rajamanikyam., Ernakulam. Collector visited the place and conducted meeting with Municipality members and Resident Associations. Emergency fund was provided for establishing streetlights. Next

day our resident association named "Ninavu" organized group run inside the market which attracted public attention.

The impact

The market wastes were frequently cleared with the help of JCBs. Steps were also taken for establishing waste processing plants. Peoples were appointed for cleaning the market. Roads to the market were reconstructed.

Adoption of this method by others

Inspired from the waste management techniques I started making compost from waste of my house and my neighboring houses. Plastics were reused and cloth bags were used as carrier bags. Poultry farming was started and waste from the farm was used as manure for the vegetable farming. For this, I got appreciation from government and organizations.

Economic aspects

No fund is received from government or any other organizations.

Conclusion

I wish to get a job. Through serving the society I wish to continue farming also. Its our responsibility to protect the soil. We have to be self- sufficient for getting food without poison. For this farming is the only way for establishing a connection between man and soil.

