Cleanliness Drive at Raidighi College Campus

Date: 12th April 2025

Venue: Raidighi College Campus

Time: 9:00 am to 10:30 am

Total NSS Volunteers Involved: 26

Programme Officer: Dr. Arvinda Shaw, NSS Unit – 1

Introduction:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) has always played a pivotal role in fostering community service and social responsibility among students. In continuation of its efforts to promote cleanliness and environmental awareness, NSS Unit – 1 of Raidighi College organized a Cleanliness Drive on 12th April 2025. The primary objective of the event was to clean the college campus by removing single-use plastics and other non-biodegradable waste materials, in alignment with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the broader national goal of environmental sustainability.

This event was conducted within the premises of Raidighi College, and saw the participation of 26 enthusiastic NSS volunteers under the able guidance of Dr. Arvinda Shaw, Programme Officer of NSS Unit -1.

Objective of the Event:

The key objectives of the Cleanliness Drive were:

- To promote environmental cleanliness within the college premises.
- To raise awareness among students and staff about the harmful effects of single-use plastic.
- To encourage behavioral change towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.
- To instill a sense of responsibility among NSS volunteers regarding environmental conservation.
- To collaborate with community institutions, such as local health services, for a healthier campus environment.

Preparation and Planning:

Prior to the event, a series of preparatory meetings were held involving NSS volunteers and college staff. Volunteers were briefed about the goals of the program, the safety precautions to be taken, and the roles they were expected to play. The campus was divided into zones for efficient

and organized cleaning.

In a significant show of community collaboration, Raidighi Rural Hospital supported the initiative by donating protective and cleaning materials such as masks, gloves, and garbage collection bags. This ensured that the volunteers could perform their tasks in a safe and hygienic manner.

Execution of the Drive:

The cleanliness drive commenced at 9:00 AM on 12th April 2025. Volunteers assembled in front of the college auditorium where Dr. Arvinda Shaw addressed them and emphasized the importance of the mission. After the distribution of protective gear and cleaning supplies, the volunteers were divided into smaller teams and assigned specific zones within the college campus.

Tasks Undertaken During the Drive:

- Collection of single-use plastics such as wrappers, disposable cups, and bags scattered across the campus.
- Removal of dry and wet waste from common areas including classrooms, corridors, canteen zone, and college ground.
- Segregation of waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories.
- Sweeping and clearing of footpaths, garden areas, and behind-the-building zones that are typically neglected.
- Placement of awareness posters around the campus promoting the message of cleanliness and responsible waste disposal.
- Throughout the activity, the volunteers showed exceptional teamwork and discipline. They worked with dedication, demonstrating not only a commitment to cleanliness but also a deeper understanding of civic responsibility.

Waste Disposal and Post-Drive Actions:

All collected garbage was gathered at a designated collection point. With assistance from the support staff of Raidighi College, the waste was properly disposed off according to municipal guidelines. The non-biodegradable waste was separated for proper recycling, while biodegradable materials were processed for composting.

After the completion of the cleaning work around 12:00 noon, a brief review session was held. Volunteers shared their experiences and reflections on the importance of such drives. The Programme Officer appreciated the efforts of all volunteers and reminded them of the NSS motto: "Not Me, But You."

Outcomes and Impact:

- The Cleanliness Drive proved to be a meaningful and productive initiative in multiple ways:
- Visible Improvement in Campus Cleanliness: The immediate effect was the visibly cleaner and greener environment around the college, with significant amounts of plastic and garbage removed.
- Raised Awareness: Volunteers and other students became more aware of the dangers posed by improper waste disposal and the environmental cost of single-use plastics.
- **Inculcation of Values**: Participants developed a stronger sense of discipline, community service, and environmental responsibility.
- **Strengthened Collaborations**: The support extended by Raidighi Rural Hospital highlighted the potential of community-institution partnerships for collective well-being.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Practices**: The segregation of waste and proper disposal methods encouraged sustainable waste management practices.

Challenges Faced:

- → While the event was largely successful, a few challenges were encountered:
- → High temperatures and humidity posed physical discomfort to the volunteers.
- → Certain areas of the campus, especially behind old buildings, were difficult to access due to overgrowth or accumulated waste.
- → Some waste materials, such as broken glass or rusted metal, posed potential safety hazards, though handled carefully due to prior training.
- → These challenges, however, were overcome with planning, teamwork, and the availability of protective gear.

Feedback and Reflections:

Feedback collected from participants reflected a positive and fulfilling experience. Many volunteers expressed their willingness to participate in more such initiatives in the future. A few of the reflections included:

"It was tiring, but I felt proud to make a difference in our college environment." – NSS
Volunteer, 2nd Year
"This was not just about cleaning but understanding why it's important to avoid plastic in
daily life." – NSS Volunteer, 1st Year
"We should do this regularly – once every two months, at least!" – NSS Volunteer, 3rd
Year

The Programme Officer also suggested organizing awareness campaigns and poster competitions to further involve the college community in cleanliness efforts.

Conclusion:

The Cleanliness Drive organized by NSS Unit – 1 of Raidighi College on 12th April 2025 was a resounding success. It not only achieved its objective of cleaning the campus but also succeeded in planting seeds of environmental consciousness in the minds of the participants.

Events like this reinforce the role of the NSS in shaping responsible, aware, and socially committed citizens. The collaboration with local institutions like the Raidighi Rural Hospital demonstrated the power of collective action in addressing local environmental challenges.

Going forward, Raidighi College NSS Unit aims to conduct regular cleanliness drives, tree plantation programs, and environmental workshops as part of its broader mission to promote sustainability and civic responsibility.











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Volunteer's attendance sheet