

Managing Waste ... through a Handprint - Actions towards sustainability approach



Introduction

The Footprint and the Handprint are two complementary concepts that help people like you and me to find their own best way to lead a more sustainable lifestyle that would contribute towards a sustainable society and planet. The Ecological Footprint is a measure of human pressure on earth's resources. Every human being has an ecological footprint. It is the lifestyle that determines how small or big an individual's footprint is.

Handprint is a measure of what we can do individually, and together, to restore the balance between consumption and the planet's carrying capacity.

Positive stories have powerful impact in haring ideas that can motivate others to take actions and it is important in context of environment when we want people to have hope and work towards a solution.

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- investigate different print media for coverage pertaining to waste.
- analyse news coverage.
- investigate positive news.
- plan and implement handprint actions.

Eco-Schools Steps: Environmental review, Action Plan, Inform and Involve, Eco-code
Curriculum Linkage: Science/ Environmental Studies/Social Science/ Global Citizenship



Time required/ Duration:

- **Classroom session 1:** 60 minutes for introduction and background, and group work.
- **Home Assignment:** 15 days for media analysis.
- **Classroom session 2:** For planning and sustaining year-long handprint actions.



Resources Required:

- "City's zero-waste woman" - newspaper coverage
<https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/other/citys-zero-waste-woman/articleshow/61212063.cms>
- Writing material
- Internet and other print media
- Resource 5 (Hand Print)



Activity

Classroom session **1**

- Discuss with students the need to look at both types of coverage - those which reflect the negative impacts of waste and those which reflect positive actions to deal with the waste problem.
- Ask the students the advantage of positive stories.
- Explain to students that this positive action to solve environmental problems is called the “handprint” action.
- Assign student groups (3-4 members in each group) and get them to investigate handprint actions relevant to waste. Resource 4 “City's zero-waste woman” has been provided as an exemplar.
- Subsequent to going through Resource 4, ask each group to make a presentation of their views.

Home Assignment **1**

- Provide student groups 15 days time to go through the different types of news items covered in different print media. Student may look at the online editions of Newspapers, TV channels, Social media pages that are dedicated to positive stories - For example the Better India.
- Guide students to collect relevant articles and bring the same back to class.

Classroom session **2**

- Get student groups to consolidate the different news items/stories that they have collected. Ask one student from each group to make a presentations of the different handprint actions that their group researched.
- Select representative news items that could be put on display on the Eco-Schools bulletin board as part of inform and involve.
- Ask the students to plan and implement a handprint action related to waste management that they can implement in their class/ school.
- Get students to frame an Eco-code which addresses waste management through a handprint action approach.
- The Eco-code developed by the students should be displayed on the Eco-Schools bulletin board/ other appropriate locations.

Continuous engagement:

- Teachers should ensure that students sustain their handprint actions year long.

Evaluation:

Get students to evaluate the success of their waste handprint action. Some questions you can ask how can we prioritise our Hand Print actions, the challenges we might face and what could be our strategy to overcome those challenges.

Resource 4



THE DISH
Meera Shah, 40, is a resident of Mulund in Mumbai. She has created a zero-waste lifestyle for herself and her family. She has been practicing zero-waste for over a year now. She has been using reusable containers, composting, and donating items she no longer needs. She has also started a composting bin for her plants. She has been using reusable menstrual cups and has stopped using sanitary pads. She has also started a composting bin for her plants. She has been using reusable menstrual cups and has stopped using sanitary pads. She has also started a composting bin for her plants. She has been using reusable menstrual cups and has stopped using sanitary pads.



MEERA'S WASTE MANTRAS

- Use own utensils to pack leftover food, or even collect takeaways.
- Donate clothes you don't need.
- Reusable menstrual cups are a better alternative to sanitary pads.
- There's no shame in collecting your own hair after a visit to the parlour. Put this hair in composting bin.
- Do not shop for things you don't need. Do not hesitate in using things friends and relatives have stopped using if you need those.
- Compost wet waste.
- Give away glass bottles and plastic items to raddiwallah, or to NGOs working for reusable energy.

Top: Meera Shah at her Mulund house. She composts waste and uses it for her plants; above (left): Meera says reusable menstrual cups are a better option compared to sanitary pads

<https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/other/citys-zero-waste-woman/articleshow/61212063.cms>

Resource 5

Handprint

- The Handprint was launched by Centre for Environment Education (CEE) in 2007 at UNESCO's 4th International Conference on Environmental Education at Ahmedabad, India.
- The concept emerged from one of the CEE's Programmes - Environmental Education in Schools of Andhra Pradesh (EESAP 2000 to 2008). The programme, implemented in 1500 schools, engaged students in small action projects in and around schools, and involving communities.
- Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), 2005-2014 also recognized Handprint as a measure of ESD action; action that is directed to decrease the human footprint and make the world more sustainable. Handprint represents the belief that we can make a difference through individual and collective actions to solve the environmental problems.

Read more about the Handprint <http://www.handprint.in/>

