



"Everyone in this world should sleep without fear, at least for one night. There should be at least one day when there is no violence. Everyone should eat to their fill at least for one day. This is my dream" - Amma

Gandhipuram bus stand get a makeover Amritians continue their clean-up drive

Photo:Sabyasachi Biswas



Active cleaning going on at Gandhipuram bus stand

Komal.G

On a hot Friday morning, while rest of Coimbatore was enjoying a holiday, the students and faculty of Amrita were busy cleaning the town bus stand and the Thiruvalluvar bus stand at Gandhipuram.

This was in continuation to the clean-up drive that commenced with the Ettimadai junction, in and around Ukkadam bus stand, Kuniyamuthur and the Chavady village on Oct 30.

950 volunteers cleaned up the two bus stands with a selfless dedication that surprised the public around them, the highlight being: students cleaning up even the sewage and removing all the blockages. "Yes it was stinking but someone has to do it right?" quipped a student, who had helped clean up the ditches near the parking area. Among the waste, plastics, panparag and strewn bus tickets had mostly clogged up the ditches. Waste from one of the ditches alone filled up two trucks. Students separated the decomposable from the non-

decomposable waste and sent it for disposal.

The students and the faculty set out in groups. While one group was busy cleaning up the lawns in the bus stand, which had hardly been noticed by the public, the other group cleaned the walls and the floors.

"We're doing something for the people of Coimbatore. I feel service is always good for humanity" said Manoj, 3rd yr, Chemical Engineering student. The branch manager of the bus stand, Mr.K.Gandhi was very happy and appreciated the students through public announcements. In response to the suggestion that some provision be made inside the stand for the disposal of tickets, he said that he would consult the authorities and install some bins inside the buses themselves.

Altruistic dedication always creates inspiration. Though in the beginning there didn't seem much appreciation from the public, slowly the dedication did impress them and many personally thanked the volunteers for their service. "This is such a great initiative

that I wanted to be a part of it", said Mr.Govindrajan who runs a bakery and a restaurant in Peelamedu and who voluntarily turned up to help the Amritians.

Many shopkeepers in and around the Thiruvalluvar bus stand also helped the students. A taxi driver voluntarily brought two drums of water for the students and the staff, impressed by their dedication.

Mr.Gautham who is a daily visitor to the bus stand said that incidentally, it was just that morning that he heard on radio that the Gandhipuram bus stand was among the dirtiest bus stands in the state and seeing the students clean it on the same day made him feel proud. He further said that people's outlook on cleanliness and their opinion about the bus stand would surely change after this.

Ironically, the Thiruvalluvar bus stand was conferred with an award for cleanliness in 1991. "It is sad that all these years no one had taken an initiative to clean this bus stand", said Mr.O.J. Kumaresan, Director, Physical Education. He further said, "We'll disturb

them again and again until the public is conscious and sentient"

The Corporation supported the initiative by bringing in extra trucks to dispose off the waste. The Assistant Engineer of the Coimbatore Corporation was surprised at the students' dedication and said that the public would surely be more responsible in the future.

After the cleaning, many labels were stuck on the walls of the bus stand to create awareness regarding cleanliness. Also many mud pots and dustbins were placed around the bus stands to maintain the cleanliness here on. "We've noted down some suggestions. We'll take the necessary steps regarding the problem of maintenance of such places", said Brahmachari Gopakumar.

Some volunteers were very optimistic even when they heard about people littering the area again. "We want the community to take part and want cleanliness to percolate through their minds. Only then will our undertaking be accomplished", said the Pro-Chancellor.

Of clicks and films

Anitha Ramachandran

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham recently held a Photography and Short Film competition based on the theme 'Nature and Man'. Amritians were asked to submit their entries in both the photography and short film category.

R.Maruthachalam, CEO, R.K.Photo Center ranked the top three photos.

Deepak P of M.Tech CEN bagged the first prize for the photo 'Plant between the hollow brick'. Deeraj.V of Civil Engineering Department won the first prize in the Short Film category.

Jointly organized by the Amrita Photography Club,

Environment Club, ASCOM and Nature club, around 116 photos and 16 films were submitted by the students, Akash Mohan of ECE, the coordinator for the competition said.

The Valedictory and Prize distribution functions were also held.

Prof. K. Gangadharan, Chairman, Department of IT, Dr.M.P.Chandrasekharan, Dean - Engineering, Dr.N.S.Pandian, Dean-PG Programmes and Dr. Aravindakshan, Coordinator, Environmental Studies gave away cash prizes to the winners.

Says Dr.Aravindakshan, "Interest towards photography at Amrita should be instilled in students."

Taking care of your eyes during the exam season



It is a fallacy that sitting in front of a wall improves concentration. The eyes must be able to relax for distant and near objects. Sit facing a corridor or even next to a window where you can relax your eyes by looking far. In case your room does not permit it, place a mirror before you.

Take a five minute break after every 40 minutes of study as a regular routine. Get up and walk around the room. The eyes get tired of being anchored in a fixed position for any prolonged periods of time.

Schedule study sessions starting early in the morning rather than late night. The common concept is, "At night I concentrate better". Studying during the day is better as you will study faster with a far better reproducible memory than the same amount at night when fatigue results loss of ability to concentrate.

Courtesy: The Hindu

CORRECTION

In the Amala Bharatam Campaign special issue dated November 8, 2010, the opening paragraph mentioned that October 31, 2010 was a Sunday. It was a Saturday. This correction makes the lead for the story, 'Lazing on Sundays with a cup of coffee' irrelevant.

CAMPUS BEATS LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Anitha Ramachandran
Renu Unnikrishnan