

Tribal students put PET bottles to good use

Build House Using Discarded Plastic Bottles

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Vadodara: Chhota Udepur district has a rather unenviable record in the state board's HSC and SSC results. But when it comes to educating people on plastic menace, students from this tribal district are taking the lead.

Close on the heels of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi giving a clarion call to ban single-use plastic, 8,500 students across the district have collected polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles



The bottles were collected by the students and also provided by the district administration under 'Fill The Bottle' campaign

to build a plastic house over the last two weeks. The bottles were collected by the students by themselves and many of them were even provided by the district administration under 'Fill The

Bottle' campaign.

Interestingly, the bottles are filled with other plastic waste like wrappers. The campaign idea was floated during a meeting of the district administration to make

good use of waste plastic bottles. "There was an idea of making vertical gardens in all schools of the district, but its execution was a bit difficult. So we came up with the idea of making a building using PET bottles and involving students in this campaign so that they become aware and use less plastic," said deputy collector Mayur Parmar.

Mansi Vankar, a class VII student in Dhandhoda village, said, "Our class teacher asked us to collect waste. But all my friends collected bottles and brought them to school. We learnt how to keep our surroundings clean and minimize use of plastic."

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Students collected 8,500 PET bottles

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The administration roped in school heads and through class teachers they ran awareness campaigns. Bottles of different sizes bought from scrap dealers were distributed among the students who also took the initiative to collect bottles on their own.

The administration consulted civil engineers who gave a go ahead and the construction work of this building will be over in three weeks. "This will be a symbolic plastic house and from here we will initiate all activities against single-use plastic," Parmar said. Some

bottles were filled with sand to strengthen the structure.

"Students can visit the building so that they can understand the impact of their work," said Sujal Mayatra, district collector.

Inspired by the initiative, the Chhota Udepur District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) is also planning to use plastic bottles in construction activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme. Officials of DRDA said that they are already in talks with civil engineers and other technical experts to make use of plastic bottles.