**Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Karad**

**Green Audit Report 2015-16**

 Environment protection has acquired great significance in modern times. The college took up the initiative to assess impact on environment and initiate measures to abate pollution of natural resources, treat wastes of various kinds effectively and emphasize reduce, reuse and recycle. In the wake of climate change, efforts at protecting the environment assume immense significance. Educational institutions and especially colleges need to imbibe this on the mind of the youth, who are the citizens of tomorrow. Youth can bring about a sea change, if they so wish. By utilizing the power of youth we can reach the wider society too. Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Karad hereby expresses its commitment tos the cause of environment protection. The present report not only aims at hailing the initiatives of the college in this respect, but also makes recommendations for enhancing the college’s contribution to environment protection in the college as well as in the surroundings.

 Our college is situated on the banks of River Krishna. Pollution of water bodies is a common experience in India. Our students, NSS volunteers periodically take up the initiative to clean the banks of River Krishna. As “Policemitra” (friend to the police), our volunteers strive hard during Ganesh Festival and Navaratri festival to encourage celebration of these festivals in an eco-friendly way. Our students encourage people to donate the idols and persuade them from immersing the idols into the river. The flowers and leaves too are collected separately and used for composting. In addition to these the volunteers also take part in sanitation drives on the campus and off campus.

Our campus has been declared plastic free. Our NSS volunteers undertook distribution of sari bags to the customers at the weekly bazaars and discouraged use of plastic bags. A workshop on paper bags making was also organized in our college and Dr. U. N. Tathe, faculty was the resource person. A workshop on preparing eco-friendly Ganesh idols was also undertaken.

The college has undertaken replacement of fluorescent tubes and bulbs with LED bulbs in a phased manner.

Water conservation measures are of great significance. The departments of Home Science and Geography do have laboratories, but no hazardous chemicals are used in them which may cause pollution. A vermin-compost unit has been installed on the campus.

The college has installed a sanitary napkin vending machine and an incinerator to cater to the need of the students. The college is perhaps the first college in the jurisdiction of Shivaji University to install the machines. The ash generated by the incinerator during disposal of used napkins is safe and hence used for plants in the garden.

To reduce the consumption of paper and encourage environment protection, the college has introduced e-projects for final year BA students for the coursework component. It serves dual purpose – avoids use of paper and helps students develop their skill of using ICT. The college conducted tree census and undertook plantation. The staff and faculty celebrated their birthdays by planting saplings.

The college has installed a solar water heater in its ladies hostel to reduce dependence on conventional energy sources. The faculty and staff take care and also motivate the students to turn off lights and fans when not in use to save electricity.

It is recommended that the college, in addition, may organize some informative lectures and also motivate the students to carry the message of clean surroundings to the wider public.

IQAC Coordinator Principal