



Guidelines for Ban of Plastic Use in Higher Education Institutions

Introduction

Plastic pollution is currently one of the biggest environmental concerns. The short-term benefits and convenience of plastic and plastic goods have led to a boom in the production and consumption of plastic. Over the past century, excess-consumption of plastic has surpassed management of plastic waste and led it to become a scourge to the planet. Plastic is a menace that impacts not the environment as well as our health and wellbeing. We have all contributed to this problem, knowingly and unknowingly and we must work to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution.

Government has decided to take plastic ban as a national level campaign to address the environmental hazards being caused by the indiscriminate use of plastic. Educational institutions must lead this nation-wide endeavour. There is a need for educational institutions to actively contribute to the effort of banning the use of single use plastics.

Guidelines

This guideline intends to help Indian HEIs to achieve plastic free campus. It is not meant to be exhaustive but to provide directions and tips which shall be applicable to all institutions in general. The guidelines encourage universities to adopt policies and practices towards cleaner and plastic free campuses.

- All institutions to carry out awareness drives and sensitising workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
- Ensure plastic-free campuses in the institutions. Students and faculty must work towards this in mission mode. Usage of plastics should be stopped in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc. Students may not be permitted to bring non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution
- Every student will strive to make his/her household plastic free.
- Students to be incentivised to carry out similar campaigns at community level
- Installation of necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the purchase and use of plastic water bottles.
- Ensure presence of alternative solutions like cloth bags etc., to plastic bottles, covers and other goods on campuses.
- Conducting events and poster competitions etc. on designing ecological and environment friendly goods to minimise the use of single use plastic.