

Save Ocean!

Khushi Parisara organised a program to start raising awareness on the problem of marine trash, on the **need of accurate policy and of ocean literacy**.

If in land, to protect the air, we have to reshape the traditional practice of cleaning by burning, in the ocean we have to reshape the traditional practice of disposing by immersion.

Thus, we want to trigger strong alertness about this so ingrained system, which daily dumps into rivers and ocean large amounts of all sorts of indecomposable waste.

Alvedande, Kalbhag Panchayat, is a privileged place to start, as we all know, and observe, how people are heavily dumping waste at the bridges and surroundings.

The amount of waste noticeably reaching the seashore is exponentially increasing this last year, and the mangroves are also becoming an elected dumping place.

Though we think that such deep-rooted practice has to be tackled by Central Government to properly direct the needful global behavioural change, we also consider that some local action plan has to be drawn for this segment of the coast.

We planned a clean up with students, teachers, staff, supporters and volunteers of *Dayanilaya* school (for challenged children).

We will make a waste audit to understand from where the waste is coming and, with the help of invited media, **to start a deep informal education of public** to reverse the practice and raise awareness about the threatening situation of our ocean.

The choice of the school wants to make evident that if those children can clean up the waste of others, others can stop wasting the way they are doing it.

In special when the waste goes inside the ocean from where it is nearly impossible to recover it, with all the subsequent impact.

Context

Beings health, prosperity and secure climate depend on the health of ocean.

Though our ocean faces many threats like the offensive of ocean trash, overfishing, warming and acidification, we're are just working on solutions to reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the ocean, mainly plastics.

Once in the ocean, plastic litter brakes up into tiny pieces, attracts toxic chemicals released over decades from industry and agriculture, their concentration increases and they move up to the food chain. The entry of plastic pieces into our food chain is tremendously dangerous to human health.

Before irreversible damage is done to our seas, NGOs all around the world are urging governments

- to pass plastic reduction policies
- to target industry to minimize and redesign plastic packaging
- to call on consumers to change their throwaway habits

But here in India we have firstly, **and immediately**, to urge our government

- to pass a comprehensive marine trash law

- to start remediation actions for marine pollution (clean-ups of water drains, beaches, backwaters, rivers, mangroves)
- to call individual behavioral change to reverse the current environmental impact

It was in this context that *Khushi Parisara* responded to the call of UN Ocean Conference last June (SDG 14.1 call for substantial reduction of oceans pollution) with a **Voluntary Commitment** to increase awareness of the impacts of marine litter, to call DCs arrangements for coastal capacity-building and Centre to draw a policy for marine trash, with the following **Milestones**:

- Foundation of state/Central policies on marine litter and marine literacy by 2018
- Full implementation of Solid & Plastic Waste Management Rules by 2018
- Engineering system at rivers/backwaters outlet to catch trash washed up by monsoon rains by 2018
- Disposal system of fish gears operationalized by 2019
- Full marine literacy of coastal communities by 2020

CHALLENGING CONTEXT

Though Swachh Bharat Abhiyan does not apply to it, Samudra is part of Bharat. Ocean does need a Policy, Rules, for managing its trash.

Our “cleaning” government has to actively, and urgently, refuse, dissent and condemn all wild trashing practices that take the ocean as the best, the easiest, the last disposing place.

We all know that it is to the ocean that the disposal at all water flows will come sooner or later. Immersion as the prevalent way of disposing trash at the coastal zones has to be immediately stopped.

Khushi Parisara appreciates that both a **lack of decision and criminal actions** are hampering the common good and creating unacceptable situations of abuse and ruin of environment, with outrageous collateral damage to ocean.

Now is the moment when Government and businesses have to account the importance of natural capital – because economic advance is not the same thing as human progress.

And, unavoidably, human progress has to target environmental priorities.

The absence of marine trash policy doesn't benefit, at all, a country emerging as a growing global superpower, with 7.500 kms of coast.

Our Ocean  Our Health

 Save
Ocean!

