



KHUSHI PARISARA memorandum

We are a society of eco-citizens whose activity aims at protecting our natural capital, **prioritizing it in all situations and contexts**, requiring governance to maintain and value it – which is undeniably also expected from civil servants.

We want to involve intensely all-possible stakeholders, beyond political, cultural, social, economic variances, in order to implement URGENT and incontrovertible measures for good environmental governance, with exemplary punishment of all breaches of rules.

We recognize that the universally notorious state of environmental disaster, with its explicit points of erosion mainly caused by wastes mismanagement, are grounded on

- an intense and widespread local **environmental illiteracy of governors**, well depicted through continuous harmful environmental practices
- A blatant **lack of enforcement of environmental laws**

Considered the state of emergency that the planet lives, our Group has been acting, and wants to keep acting, in two ways:

- Report all situations of irresponsible governance and environmental mismanagement (whether public or private)
- Promote ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION of civil society, with special emphasis on governors, inviting them to understand the drama of reaching the alarming limit of environmental ruin, and the necessity to minimize its impact.

And thus, with the sustenance of knowledgeable and enthused enactment, *Khushi Parisara* wants to **promote capacity building for strategic environmental vision of local bodies**, boosting representatives and managers to embed consistent change in 3 segments:

- environmental literacy of elected bodies
- environmental instruction of administration
- environmental education of the public

Our Strategy bets on **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** – formal and informal – to:

- institute a fundamental “Trash Change” in the way people relate to wasteS, embracing all places, all levels, all segments of the population with a particular focus on statutory authorities
- eliminate all detrimental Environmental Practices through Education, Monitoring and Penalty (EMP), with the help of concerned bodies

However, from our ground work, we know now that to educate and change the behavioural pattern of common people is easier and more accessible than to make governors and managers JUST do their duty, just implement responsible environmental governance and management.¹ Situations of criminally negligent governance that cannot last or exist, or emerge, anymore. The wretched failure to keep our natural capital, protect

¹ We understand (wrongly?) that Civil Servants must be a source of integrity in face of climate/environment emergency, when lives and commons are at stake. But surprisingly, it is remarkable that in the hierarchy of priorities of our civic and elected bodies, of our politicians, environment is absent! All are overwhelmed with work, unable to perform their assigned tasks. But it is not an environment related work.

Everyone is marathoning their working day, even beyond the work schedule. But they are not marathoning for environment. Their priorities are somewhere else!

livings, citizens and the next generations from unconceivable health suffering brought by environment breakdown, can no longer be acceptable. It is why also, it is required a very stern enforcement of all legally framed environmental rules and procedures. This we cannot do, and for it we need your devoted powerful support.

To contribute to reverse the disastrous environmental condition, after identifying and accessing the main snags, *Khushi Parisara* supplied outreach tools, methods, material, information and ideas, to plan and implement change-making programs, trying to go beyond the scope of conventional solutions. We also requested to all civic servants, and regulatory authorities, to stringently accomplish their duties. For more than 3 years no reaction and no action came from them to change the ruinous scenario.

Meanwhile, NGT order 606/2018 with the creation of State Level Committees, brought directions to change the local play, unequivocally stating that “the rule of law has to be upheld, the State itself being liable for its failure to perform duties in upholding environmental norms.”

However, as the application/enforcement of NGT orders is supposed to be done by the same officers that are already not knowing, not respecting nor implementing the law, threatening its proficiency, **an unprecedented environmental education venture is required.**

Constantly this issue is highlighted at the NGT meetings:

The Committee discussed that most of the CEOs (Chief Executive Officers) of respective Zilla Panchayats are unaware of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Following observations for compliance were issued.

1. Needs to organise district/regional level workshops/trainings to the officials immediately.

Proceedings of 2nd NGT State Level Committee meeting, 15.03.2019

The Committee expressed that, there is lack of awareness to officials on waste management and pathetic condition is existing at field. '

Proceedings of 3rd NGT-State Level Committee meeting, 5.04.2019

The environmental disaster that we are living requires frontrunners with special knowledge, special understanding, special skills to draw local (District wise) strategic sustainable plans to protect the environment, but also to instruct, to educate, to indoctrinate, to raise awareness, to sensitize all the Officers that are, in a way or another, in position to harm natural habitats or natural conditions, by doings – or no-doings.

It is not simply necessary to educate the ‘public’. **Education has to start from the statutory authorities** in order to avoid their failure to protect the environment. We need to overcome ignorance and indifference of officers. We need to impart knowledge and motivation to officers. We need environmental capacity building for change behaviour of officers

January 2022

