

Volunteering by National Service Scheme (NSS) students for Rethink Plastic Campaign at Gateway of India and Elephanta (Gharapuri) Island

TERI organized an outreach event at Gateway of India and Gharapuri Island on 22nd January 2020 with active participation of student volunteers from the **NSS Unit of Kishinchand Chellaram (K.C.) College, Mumbai**. The activity was organized as part of the TERI- UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) campaign 'Rethink Plastic'.

15 NSS volunteers, along with **Dr. Satish Kolte, District Coordinator, NSS, Mumbai City** and **Mr. Kedarnath Ghorpade (Urbanist and Researcher)** joined the **TERI team** for the following activities:

1. Perception survey through interviews of locals and tourists on 'Plastic use and management'
2. Collection of waste plastic bottles- to be reused for raising and nurturing saplings of native trees
3. Encouraging individuals to take a pledge against single use plastics

The volunteers were first briefed by the TERI team about the project and the issues the project was aiming to address, such as plastic pollution, micro plastics, toxic chemicals that leach out from plastics, and their impacts on health and environment. The volunteers were then divided into teams led by TERI representatives to conduct the survey by approaching different groups of people. The teams also collected waste plastic bottles from the vicinity to re-use as sapling planters.

The enthusiastic volunteers actively also participated in the perception survey and took the pledge against single use plastic too. Through the activity, **more than a 100 people** were surveyed and their answers and observations recorded. The survey was conducted in **English, Hindi** along with the local language **Marathi**, to aid the respondents and obtain the most accurate responses and also maximize the outreach potential. The volunteers successfully collected **over 200** waste plastic bottles from the Gharapuri Island that would have otherwise gotten added to the trash in the area. The action oriented outreach activity not only fulfilled its objectives but also motivated the young participants to stop using non-recyclable plastic and actively participate in the upcoming campaign activities.

Photographs

"Promotion of countermeasures against Marine Plastic Litter in South east Asia and India" Initiative by TERI and UNEP					
"ReThink Plastic Campaign" - Date : 22.01.2020					
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Registration Sheet



Participants at Gateway of India



Participants at Gharapuri Island



Volunteers conducting survey at Gateway of India



Volunteers conducting survey at Gharapuri Island



Volunteers collecting waste plastic bottles from Gharapuri Island