



## UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh

### PROGRESS REPORT

#### Plastic-Free Campaign September, 2019

UBA Coordinator's Name: Dr Gunjan

Email: [ubacellatmcm@gmail.com](mailto:ubacellatmcm@gmail.com)

Phone Number: 9915703134

Sr. No.	ADOPTED VILLAGES	TALUKA	DISTRICT
1	Attawa		
2	Badheri		
3	Maloya		
4	Kajheri		
5	Buterla		

#### List of Activities: Plastic-Free Village Campaign in Village Attawa

##### ACTIVITY 1:

**Name of Activity:** Community Awareness Drive on Plastic-Free Environment in Village Attawa

**September 13, 2019**

**Need of the Activity:** The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan cell of MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, organized a Community Awareness Drive on Plastic-Free Environment in Village Attawa on September 13, 2019. The Coordinator of the event was Dr Kanika Sofat, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, along with student volunteers from the College.

Though, Attawa is a small village in Sector 42 in Chandigarh but the village is completely opposite the signature line of the Tricity i.e. 'The City Beautiful'. The village being densely populated, with more than 10 members living in a single room, is hard to be managed in terms of waste disposal, specifically plastic.

On numerous visits to the village, the students of the College had observed plastic disposal as a major issue in most of the houses. Therefore, a Community Awareness Drive on tackling the serious issue was organized.

**Description in 200 words (along with the Pictures):** The volunteers went door-to-door to make people aware about the various health hazards associated with using plastic commodities in their daily lives. Information related to potential dangers of plastic disposal



was shared with the villagers. The village people were made aware that after plastic bags were disposed off, they blocked the road-side drains of the village which led to overflowing of drain water in the monsoon season. People were also warned about the dangers of plastic bags being swallowed by dogs and cows, which could cause serious problems and even death in some cases. The volunteers made the people aware that plastic bottles did not decompose and created garbage heaps all over the village, which apart from damaging the ecology was also an eyesore. It was also shared with the villagers that storage of food items in plastic bags or utensils could harm health by making the food toxic.

The villagers were told about the importance of substituting the use of polythene bags with cloth or jute bags for buying fruits, vegetables and groceries. They were also apprised about the benefits of collecting all their plastic bottles and thereafter giving them to the garbage collector instead of throwing them anywhere else.





## ACTIVITY 2:

**Name of Activity: Plastic Collection Drive in Village Attawa**

**September 23, 2019**

**Need of the Activity:** With the objective of making Village Attawa get rid of maximum plastic, a Plastic Collection drive was held in the village on September 23, 2019, organized by the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan wing of MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh. Apart from the collection of plastic waste from the villagers and shopkeepers, the UBA team of the College also distributed hand-made cloth bags to the villagers. The coordinator of the drive was Dr Kanika Sofat, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh. She was also assisted by several student volunteers from the College.

**Description in 200 words (along with the Pictures):** Plastic waste has become one of the biggest banes of modern existence. The UBA team of MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh during their Plastic Collection Drive organized in Village Attawa, was pleasantly surprised to observe that the village residents were well informed about this unfortunate fact. The villagers were not only in the know-how about the toxicity of plastic, but were ready and willing to give up plastic from their lives, as far as possible.





During the drive, the villagers actively participated and the groups of UBA volunteers collected 5-6 bags full of used plastic bottles, plates, broken tubs and plastic containers.

It was also observed by the teams that the enthusiasm of the villagers in giving away their plastic items was owing to the attraction of getting cloth bags. The cloth bags were tailored by the artisans of a local NGO.

The children of the village were highly enthusiastic and worked along with the volunteers in collection of plastic. The women also cooperated well with the volunteers. The residents were well aware that careless disposal of plastic leads to blockage of drains. Apart from the villagers, the shopkeepers also showed interest in the contribution of plastic.















### Activity 3

**Name of the Activity: Distribution of Handmade Bags in Village Attawa**

**September 30, 2019**

**Need of the Activity:** With the objective of giving a culmination to the earlier drives conducted by the UBA wing of MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, a final drive under the 'Plastic-Free Campaign' was carried out in Village Attawa, namely, 'Distribution of Handmade Bags' on September 30, 2019. On their earlier visits to the village, the UBA volunteers had observed plastic disposal as a major issue for most of the village households. They decided to address this problem by distributing handmade bags to the village residents.





The coordinator of the drive was Dr Kanika Sofat, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, MCM DAV College for Women. She was assisted by 21 student volunteers of the College.

**Description of the Activity (In 200 Words):** The UBA wing of MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh conducted a drive in Village Attawa on September 30, 2019, called, 'Distribution of Handmade Bags'. As a part of this awareness-cum-action-oriented drive, the UBA team distributed 50 handmade bags to the women of the village anganwadi, who were also reminded not to use polythene bags anymore because of their hazardous effects on health and environment. The handmade bags were made by the Home Science department of MCM DAV College for Women.

The drive of 'Distribution of Handmade Bags' conducted in Village Attawa was very gratifying not only for the UBA team but also for the village residents. As a parting gesture to the earlier activities conducted under the 'Plastic-free Campaign' in the village, this drive was organized to address the problem of indiscriminate plastic-bag use and disposal in the village. Though the UBA volunteers could only distribute 50 handmade bags, yet their strong inclination and will to make a statement of establishing a plastic-free Attawa was far stronger than the number of bags distributed. The village residents (anganwadi women) were overwhelmed by the UBA team's eco-friendly and inspirational gesture and promised to shun the use of plastic as far as they could.







Action plan for next month:

Sr. No.	Activity to be conducted(along with reason)
1	
2	
3	

Note: Detailed Village-wise Reports also uploaded on UBA Portal.