



Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,
Government of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu

INDEPENDENT INDIA@75

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Iconic Week on Creating Awareness about Avoidance of Single Use of Plastic

A Report

Organized

by

Department of Sociology
Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu

October 08-18, 2021

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Iconic Week on Creating Awareness about Avoidance of Single Use of Plastic

October 08 – 18, 2021

REPORT

The Department of Sociology, RGNIYD organized a week long *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* with a series of lectures and activities in virtual mode for faculty members, students *and* staff of RGNIYD during 8th –18th October 2021. Resource persons working in the field of sustainable development were invited to deliver lecture sessions on various topics aligned to the theme suggested by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ‘*Awareness about Avoidance of Single Use of Plastic*’. The programme was well received by all the participants.

Day One: 08.10.2021

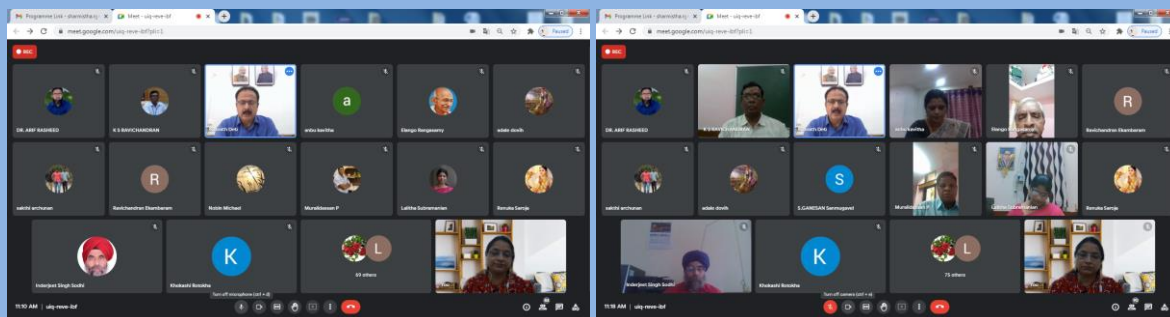
Inauguration and Lecture I

RGNIYD observed *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* starting from 8th October 2021 which was inaugurated by Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD. Dr. Sharmistha, Head, Department of Sociology highlighted the concept and purpose behind observing the weeklong programme commemorating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* for a plastic free environment.

Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director RGNIYD delivered the inaugural address and emphasized the need for a plastic free environment and motivated the participants towards zero plastic use approach. Prof. K.S. Ravichandran, Registrar, RGNIYD delivered the key note address and highlighted the issues and problems of plastic use substantiating with various facts.

The resource person for the session Mr. R. Elango, scientist and grassroots change maker who established a successful Model Village at Kuthambakkam Panchayat, Tamil Nadu delivered a lecture on *Awareness about Avoidance of Single Use of Plastic*. Through his

lecture he shared about various practical ideas and measures to adopt for sustainable development at various levels starting from the family. He emphasized the idea that every family can be a change maker towards a plastic free and sustainable living by adopting a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) calendar in each family. The faculty members, staff and students of RGNIYD participated in the programme. Hundred and eight (108) participants attended the programme.



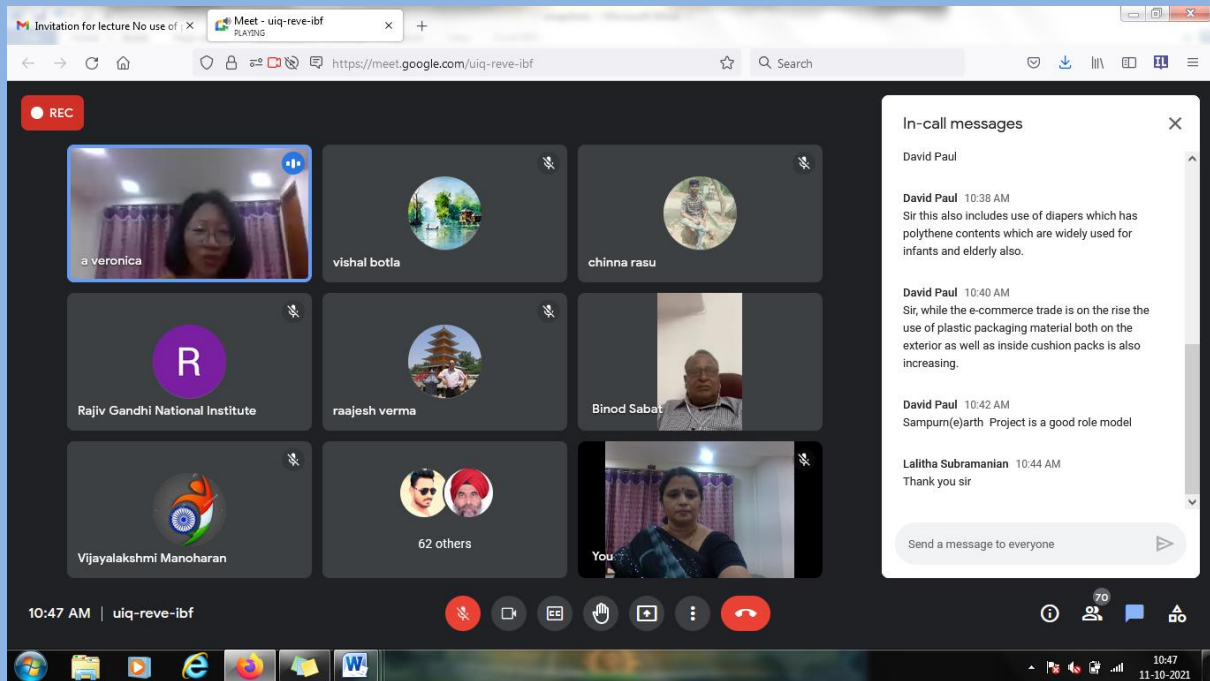
Day One: Afternoon session

In the afternoon session a special lecture in vernacular medium was arranged for the maintenance staffs, gardeners, security guards of RGNIYD. The resource person was Mr. Kannan, Project manager in Hand in Hand, an NGO from Kanchipuram. Mr. Kannan elaborately discussed on the hazards and impact of usage of one time use plastics and the importance of general waste management practices. A **Pledge on No to Plastics** was administered among the audience. The session was very interactive in nature and was well received by the audience. The programme was coordinated by Dr Anbu Kavitha, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGNIYD. Forty (40) participants attended the programme.



Day Two: 11.10.2021**Lecture 2**

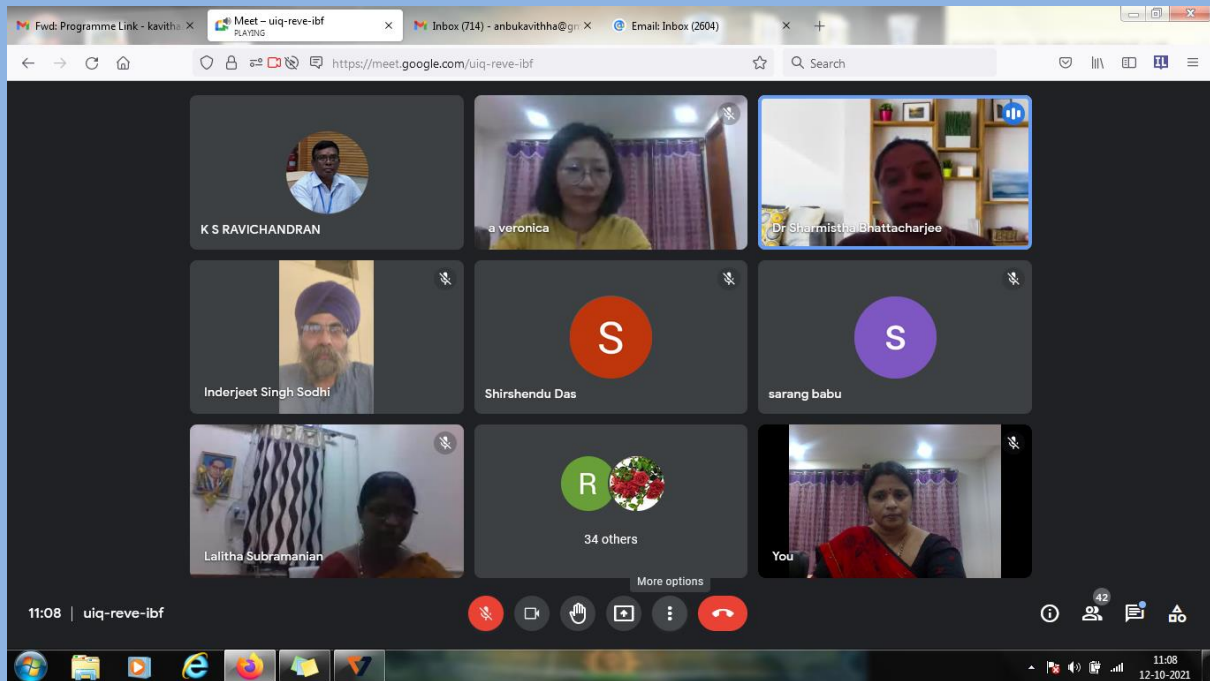
A special lecture online on 'Saying No to Plastic' was delivered by Dr. Binoda Chandra Sabata, Former Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Combating Climate Change (MGICCC), Alipur, New Delhi. Dr. Sabata highlighted about the various consequences of using single use plastic and how we as responsible citizens can help to reduce and avoid the use of plastic in our daily lives. He pointed out on the problems of single use plastic especially in the recent years which is not only polluting our rivers and environment but also a threat to animal life, and one major issue is lack of segregation at the source. He encouraged the institute to have a mechanism for placing waste bins for collection of plastic items which can be recycled or reused and adopt composting methods for organic waste which is one step to eradicate the use of plastic at our own level. He emphasized the need for behavioural change at the individual level starting from childhood, and need for public awareness on the problem. Adopting and switching to eco-friendly ways such as using cloth bags, refusing plastic carry bags are some measures one can adopt. The faculty and students of RGNIYD participated in the programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr Anbu Kavitha, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGNIYD. Eighty Nine (89) participants attended the programme.



Day Three: 12.10.2021

Lecture 3

One more special lecture was delivered by Mr. Shirshendu Sekhar Das founder of Midway Journey on 12.10.2021 from Assam. His lecture focussed on the effective management of waste at all levels. He elaborated on the scientific method of Landfills, differences between Landfills and dump sites. He emphasised especially on waste segregation at the source viz., individual homes, schools, Institutes, Hospitals etc. He also emphasised on reducing our consumption patterns, reuse within the existing resource and recycle the wasted. The faculty and students of RGNIYD participated in the programme. The programme was coordinated by Ms Avinu Veronica Richa Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGNIYD. Sixty (60) participants attended the programme.



Day Four: 18.10.21

Morning Session

Competition: **IDEA for Behavioural Change for Sustainable Development**

The competition was organized amongst the students of RGNIYD on the following themes:

- Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development
- Avoiding the usage of plastic bags for promoting lean environment.
- Best practices followed by youth to manage waste.

Students were instructed to form groups consisting of 4-5 students in a group.

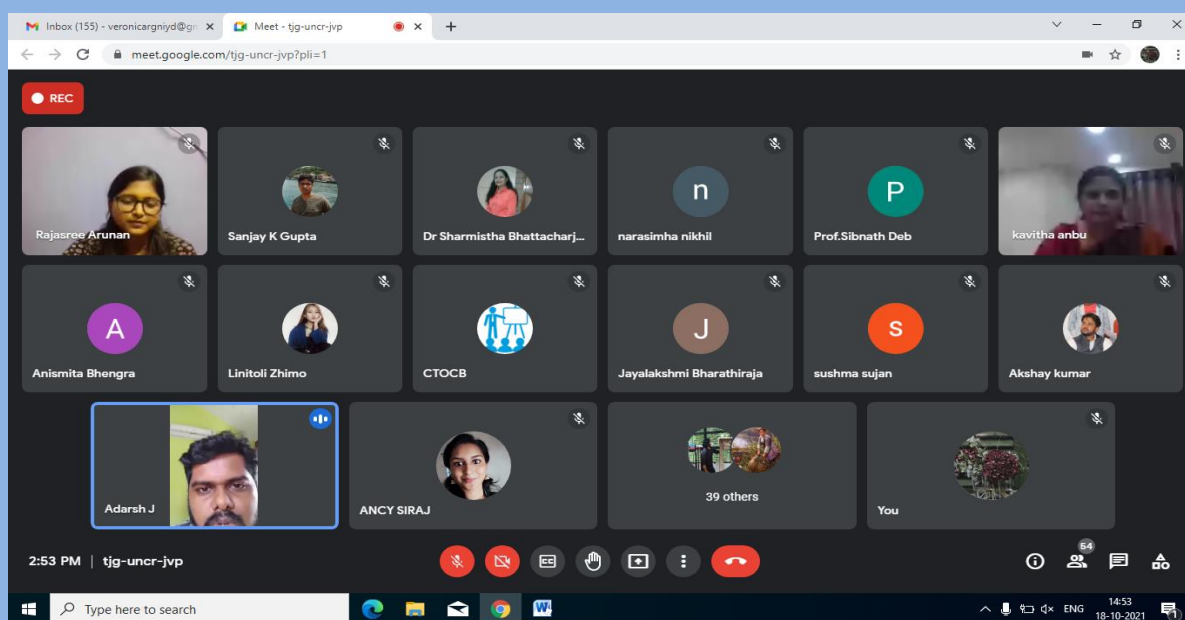
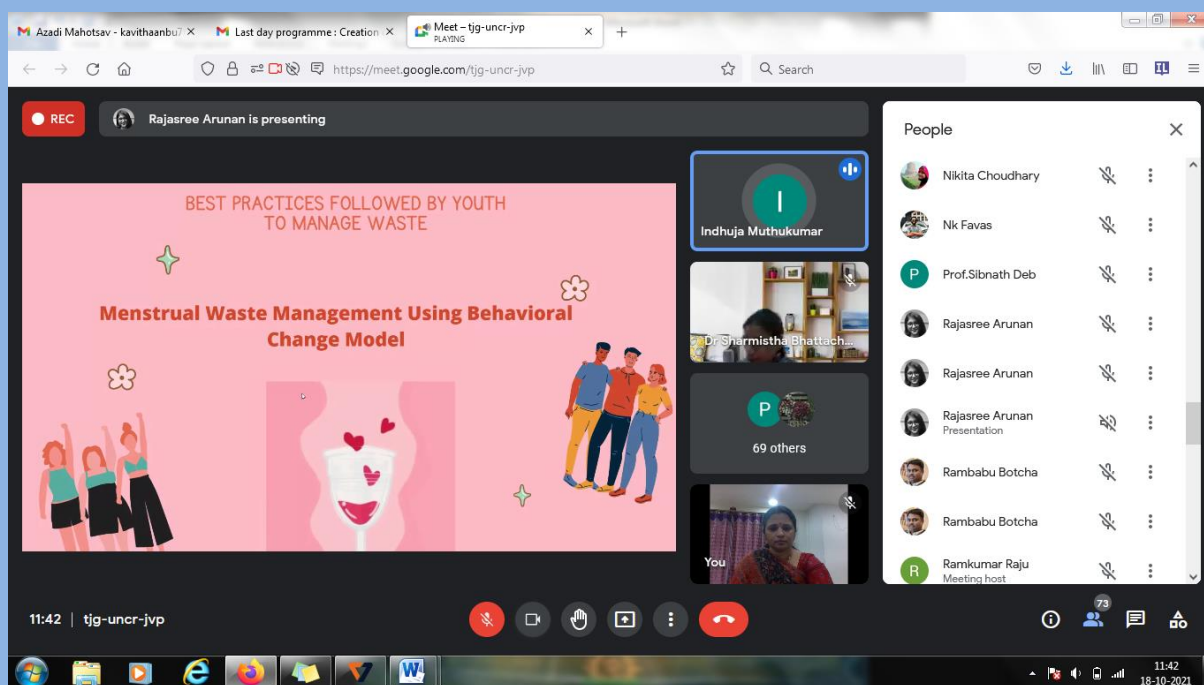
Students formed teams and presented their wonderful ideas by power point presentations.

Five groups registered.

1. Two from Department of Applied Psychology,
2. Two from Department of Social Work
3. One from Department of Local Governance and Development.

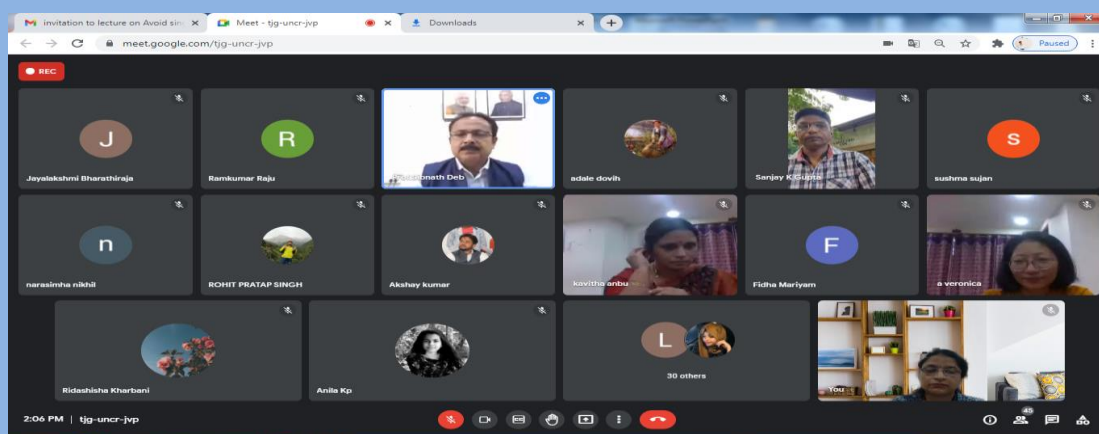
Twenty four students participated in the competition

The jury of the competition was Prof. K.S. Ravichandra, Registrar and Prof. Vasanthi Rajendran, Professor; Training They appreciated all the participants for their efforts and innovative ideas. Prof Sibnath Deb observed the team presentations during the competition to motivate the students of RGNIYD. The programme was coordinated by Dr Sharmistha Bhattacharjee Associate Professor & Head, Department of Sociology, RGNIYD. Sixty (60) participants attended the programme.



In the valedictory session, Prof. Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD gave his valedictory address emphasising to reduce the usage of plastics and environment friendly materials to be used in day to day life and importance of plantations of trees.

Dr. Sanjay K Gupta, International ISWM expert delivered the valedictory lecture from Assam on “Let’s talk plastic trash”. He spoke on the Plastic menace, dissociations of the society and environment. He highlighted various sustainable practices such as creating Zero waste campuses, setting up plastic bank in schools and communities. The programme was coordinated by Ms Avinu Veronica Richa, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, RGNIYD. Sixty (60) participants attended the programme.



In the valedictory session Registrar, RGNIYD announced prize winners of the competition **IDEA for Behavioural Change for Sustainable Development**

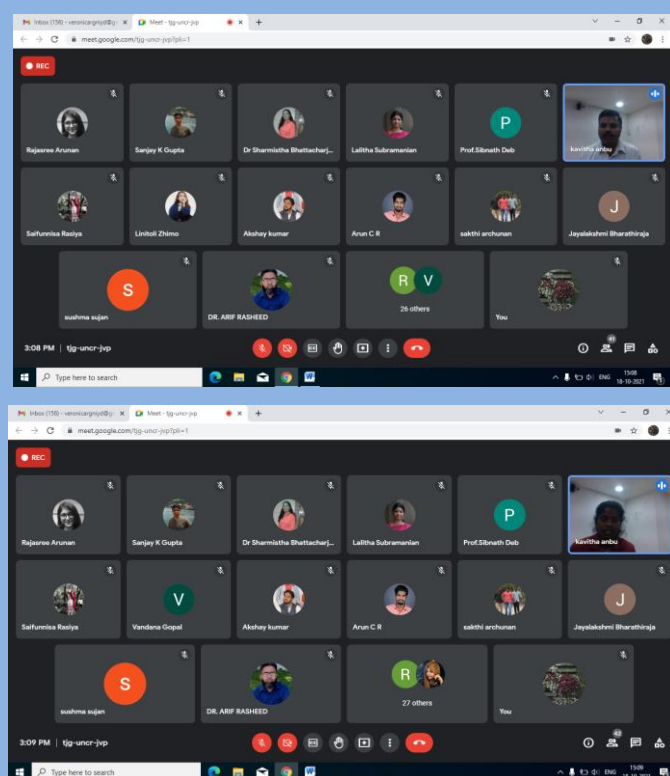
First Prize: Team: Rajasree A, Indhuja M, Sumaiya, Mohana Priya T & Veni Muthu Gomathi M

Second Prize: Team: Adarsh J, Ancy Siraj, Botla Vishal & Valleru Madhuri

Third Prize: Team Rohit Pratap Singh, Sanjay Hari T, TPSS Srinivasa Narsimha Nikhil, Jeni Johnson & M Kavya

The first prize was bagged by the team for the theme **Menstrual Waste Management Using Behavioural Change Model**, Second prize by the team for the theme **Food for Sustainability: How We Can Eat Sustainably** and the third prize were given to the team members for the theme **Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every Educational Institution**.

It was followed by the feedback about the entire programme from the faculty, student's administration and housekeeping participants. The programme provided rich insights on the urgency to adopt eco-friendly living style, switching to re-useable materials, sensitizing one's family, friends and communities. The detailed report of the Iconic week was presented by Dr Anbu Kavitha, Assistant Professor and vote of thanks proposed by Dr Sharmistha Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor & Head Department of Sociology.



The programme finally concluded with a plantation drive at RGNIYD campus near the New Academic block by Prof Sibnath Deb, Director, RGNIYD



Conclusion

The observance of the Iconic week *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* finally concluded on 18th Oct 2021 and with a positive note towards behavioural change amongst all the participants for promoting a plastic free environment. The faculty members of the Department of Sociology coordinated the week long programme. Around two hundred participants benefitted from the programme,

The Department sincerely thank the Institute and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for providing an opportunity to organize a weeklong programme on the topic which is a priority to be discussed and practiced in present day context to save the environment and humankind at large.

Annexure I

List of Participants - *IDEA for Behavioural Change for Sustainable Development*

“IDEA to Behavioural Change for Sustainable Development”

Teams

Sl No	Name	Department	Theme
1.	Adarsh J	Local Governance	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development : How We Can Eat Sustainably?
2.	Ancy Siraj	Local Governance	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development : How We Can Eat Sustainably?
3.	Botla Vishal	Local Governance	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development : How We Can Eat Sustainably?
4.	Valleru Madhuri	Local Governance	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development : How We Can Eat Sustainably?
5.	Saifunisa	Applied Psychology	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development
6.	Shahana Nasreem A	Applied Psychology	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development
7.	Sreepriya	Applied Psychology	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development
8.	Sahla K	Applied Psychology	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development

9.	Fidha Mariyam	Applied Psychology	Behavioural change among the youth on waste management for sustainable development
10.	Rajasree A	Applied Psychology	Best practices followed by youth to Manage waste
11.	Indhuja M	Applied Psychology	Best practices followed by youth to Manage waste
12.	Sumaiya	Applied Psychology	Best practices followed by youth to Manage waste
13.	Mohana Priya T	Applied Psychology	Best practices followed by youth to Manage waste
14.	Veni Muthu Gomathi M	Applied Psychology	Best practices followed by youth to Manage waste
15.	Lalit Kumar Dogra	Social Work	Avoiding Usage of Plastic for promoting clean environment
16.	Sunil P Mahale	Social Work	Avoiding Usage of Plastic for promoting clean environment
17.	Ridhashisha Kharbhani	Social Work	Avoiding Usage of Plastic for promoting clean environment
18.	Anismita Bhengra	Social Work	Avoiding Usage of Plastic for promoting clean environment
19.	Akshay Kumar	Social Work	Avoiding Usage of Plastic for promoting clean environment
20.	Rohit Pratap Singh	Social Work	Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every Educational Institution
21.	Sanjay Hari T	Social Work	Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every Educational Institution
22.	TSS Srinivasa	Social Work	Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every

	Narsimha Nikhil		Educational Institution
23.	Jeni Johnson	Social Work	Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every Educational Institution
24.	M Kavya	Social Work	Biodegradable Waste Compost in Every Educational Institution



Rajiv Gandhi National institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

(Institute of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No. 35/2012)

Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India

Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

Phone: (091)044-27163127, Fax: (091)044-27163227