

Waste to Wealth

22 June 2009

Reusing, recycling our waste to improve our livelihood and health



Bhageerath, the Desphande Foundation & University of North Carolina (USA) partner to address solid waste management in the villages of Gumgol and Shivalli.

NamaskArA. Thank you for welcoming us into your community. We are four post graduate students from the United States of America attending the University Of North Carolina Gillings School of Public Health. We are delighted to be here in Karnataka and eager to be of service to you. We are working in partnership with the Desphande Foundation, Bhageerath, and the village panchayats to benefit the community.

Our plans for the next six weeks will include: improving waste management, building a composting site, installing an Eco-san toilet, utilizing kitchen waste by installing a biogas stove, and educating the community children on sanitation and hygiene.

Our Kanada is not the great, but we will attempt to

communicate the best way that we can...please be patient with us. An action plan has been developed, describing our weekly goals for each area below:

June 15-21 accomplishments:

Waste Management

- We have selected the two villages – Shivalli and Gumgo
- Shavalli has ordered waste bins; Gumbol is starting their separation of waste through the village.
- Panchayats are supportive in Shivalli and Gumgol

Composting

- Sites have been identified for

the composting and construction should begin in Gumgol next week

- We have decided on the method of composting – the use of beneficial microbes
- The microbe solution will come from Bangaluru in a week. It is safe and easy to apply.
- Composting time should be less than 2 months – addressing the need of the village



Visiting the headmaster and teachers at the school in Shivalli.

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Eco – San Toilets

- In Shivalli, the President of the panchayat has graciously volunteered to test the benefits of the Eco-san toilet
- In Gumgol, the Eco-San will be installed at the panchayats office for all to witness the benefits

Kitchen Waste – Biogas Stove

- The locations were identified for the installation of the stoves – Anganwadi (nursery school) for each village
- The schools will collect waste from mid-day meals to contribute to waste

Education – Sanitation and Hygiene

- We received support from the CEO of Dharwad district to give the school permission to allow us to start educating the children in Shivalli and Gumgol
- 15 student leaders will be selected per school (5 each standard – 7, 8, and 9 standard for Shivalli and 6, 7, and 8 for Gumgol) who will participate 2 hours per week for 3 weeks
- After school, on Saturdays, the leaders will conduct child-to-child education
- The popular participatory curriculum has been outlined emphasizing composting, sanitation and hygiene.
- Teachers as well as local women will be taught the benefits of waste management, composting, and sanitation and hygiene



Visiting the headmaster and teachers at the school in Gumgol.



Students and village members greeting our delegation.

Special Thanks and Recognitions to the staff of Bhageerath, the panchayat from Shivalli and Gumgol, The CEO of Dharwad district, The Head of Rural Development in Dharwad, the Deshpande Foundation, and UNC – School of Public Health.