
Creating a Greener World: The British Council Climate Action Video Competition

Pune, Maharashtra | September 16th, 2021



To mark the United Nations climate conference COP26, the British Council, in partnership with Digital Learning Associates (DLA) and IATEFL Global Issues SIG organised a Climate Action School Video Competition for students aged 11 to 18 years. Students had to work in groups of three to five. Students also had to seek the advice and support of teachers in their school to produce a three to five-minute video.

The top ten winning videos and their learning videos would be screened during the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021.

Within entry dates between September 1st and 20th, 2021, on September 16th, students of S.B. Patil Public School: Dhawala Patil, Darshil Mali, Ishika Wagh and Tanmay Jamkhandikar partook in the competition and interviewed the principal on how the school has aided and contributed to the environment, especially during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview, the students asked questions such as stated under:

1. Being the principal, what would you tell, about what SBPPS as a school, has done to reduce the effect of global warming and climate change?
2. How is our school contributing for improving the environmental conditions in this pandemic?
3. What are the future plans of our school for contribution to reduce the effect of global warming?



Principal, Dr. Saini responded to the questions posed by speaking of the steps she as the HoS, and the school as an institute has taken to be green school such as its methods of e-waste disposal, usage of solar power though the panels installed, curbing of the wastage of electricity, the plantation of foliage within the campus premises, etc. In lieu of the questions asked, she further went on to describe the future plans of the school in aiding in reducing global warming such as the harnessing of wind power, usage of eco-friendly transportation, etc.

The students toured of the school gardening and compost-making zone whilst making a recording of their school story. The school gardener, Mali Kaka, showed them various medicinal and fruit-bearing plants and trees in the garden which he has been taking care of since many years of his service in the school.

Following this, the students met the school Eco-Club in-charge Ms. Varsha Deshmukh who spoke about the inception of school's Eco-Club in the school. She also elaborated on its contribution in conducting various activities to raise awareness about saving the environment such as planting trees, making bird-feeders, the reuse and reduction of plastic waste, participating in the cleanliness drive to promote the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan*, school awareness rallies on combating e-waste, and its management for the British Council collaboration activity with students from Bangladesh.

The school's sub-coordinator, Ms. Vandana Sangle related information about school activities that raise awareness among students about celebrating various cultural activities and festivals in an eco-friendly way. These activities included eco-friendly Ganesha-making during the Ganapati festivities so as to prevent pollution in rivers and other water bodies; using eco-friendly colours for celebrating Holi; and celebrating a firecracker-less Diwali to reduce air, land and noise pollution to save the environment.

Social Science teacher, Ms. Anjali Gugale spoke about the situation during the pandemic and the various school activities and online projects conducted via online classes along with the school curriculum to raise awareness about climate change and its impact on the environment. Such were: student participation in the Climate Action project, Goals project on the UN SDG's, and the Rethink Plastic Challenge project with Take Action Global in the years 2020 and 2021.

The students also took a tour of the school terrace along with Mr. Abhijeet Gaikwad, the school's IT administrator who explained the system of rainwater harvesting and use of solar panels to generate electricity and save water in our school. He showed them graphs of electricity production and consumption during the last few months, and how use of solar panels benefitted in reducing the monthly expense of the school's electricity consumption.

We thank Dr. Saini, the school principal for lending her insightful views on the subject; Ms. Anjali Gugale, TGT social science teacher and Institutional Coordinator, PCET; Ms. Vandana Sangle, sub-coordinator for grades V to VIII; Ms. Varsha Deshmukh, math teacher and school Eco-Club in-charge; Mr. Abhijeet Gaikwad, the school's IT in-charge; and school gardener, Mali Kaka for extending their wholehearted support to the students to successfully organize the Climate Action school story video-making session.