

Udgaman

The CII Green-I contest is a National Level competition for school students. It aims to create awareness and encourage students to think about conservation and sustainability measures that can be incorporated for a better tomorrow. This year's topic was 'Looking beyond your school campus at the immediate neighbourhood to create more environmental awareness in your community, encouraging green practices within the community to help reduce the community's impact on the environment.' On the basis of reports submitted by over hundred schools, five schools were selected for the final round that was held in Hyderabad.

Our project called Ūdgaman, meaning upliftment or ascent aimed to target two localities within the 2km radius of Vasant Valley School – the Dalit Ekta Camp (a squatter settlement) and C-8 Vasant Kunj (a residential colony) chosen as our larger community.

The main idea of our project is to overcome the challenge of solid waste disposal in our society through our efficient model of waste segregation. Along with this, we aim to empower and educate the community by establishing a community centre and implementing the designed awareness campaign. This is based on our ideology that learning is a two way process, and all members of this community will equally contribute to the success of our project.

Our experience in Hyderabad was enriching, as it took us to the industry level where representatives from all over the world had come to attend the 10th Green building Congress. We were honoured to be present before a distinguished panel, including Dr. Prem C. Jain (head, Indian Green Building Council), Mr. Mahesh Ramanujam (COO of International Green Building Council) and renowned Indian and International architects. Our project was appreciated as a model project for its innovative ideas, its ability to lead by example, which serves as an inspiration to implement change. Furthermore, this project is being shared at the International Green Building Conference to be held in San Fransisco from 14th to 16th November 2012.

Our continuous efforts put in by students and teachers to bring superior projects at the National level were recognised by the CII. After five years of reaching the finals, being announced as the winners of the CII Green I Contest 2012 gave us a feeling of immense pride in our environment and outreach program as well as satisfaction of using the prize money of 7.5 lakhs for a good cause.

For us, this was more than just a competition; it was a platform to exchange ideas to promote sustainable living and provide green solutions to overcome the present environmental concerns. We hope that we will be successful in changing the mindset and attitude of the larger community and motivating others to join our green movement.

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