



Sanjeevani Multipurpose Foundation's

Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College & Research Center

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10th Ayurveda Day

Street Play on “Plastic Use Reduction & Its Hazards”

Theme: Ayurveda for People and Planet -आयुर्वेद जन जन के लिए, पृथ्वी के कल्याण के लिए

Organizing Institute: Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College & Research Centre

Place: Borpadale, Tal. Panhala, Dist. Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Participants: Second Year BAMS Students

Faculty In-Charge: Department Heads & Faculty Members

Supporting Staff: Non-Teaching and Administrative Staff

Day: Tuesday **Date:** 16th September 2025

Introduction:

Plastic pollution is one of the major threats to ecological balance and human health. Single-use plastic bags, bottles, and packaging materials have become an environmental hazard, causing soil and water pollution, harming animals, and affecting the food chain.

In alignment with the 10th Ayurveda Day celebrations and its theme “Ayurveda for People and Planet”, the Department of Swasthavritta & Yoga organized a Street Play (Nukkad Natak) performed by Second BAMS students to raise awareness about plastic hazards and to promote eco-friendly, sustainable alternatives.

Street play was chosen as it is one of the most effective and engaging tools to communicate social messages directly to the community in a simple, relatable manner.

Aims and Objectives:

Create Awareness: Educate the public on the harmful effects of plastic on soil, water, animals, and human health.

Promote Alternatives: Encourage people to switch to cloth bags, paper bags, steel bottles, and biodegradable options.

Eco-Responsibility: Inspire citizens to participate in “Plastic-Free Village” or “Plastic-Free City” campaigns.

Student Skill Development: Provide students with exposure to creative health communication and community engagement through performing arts.

Reinforce Ayurveda’s Vision: Highlight Ayurveda’s principle of living in harmony with nature, reducing pollution, and ensuring sustainability.

Proceedings of the Event

Preparation Phase:

A group of 15 second-year BAMS students prepared a script under faculty guidance. Script included a storyline showing a family’s dependence on plastic, its consequences, and the eventual shift to eco-friendly solutions.

Rehearsals were conducted for three days prior to the event in the college premises.

Venue & Time:

Street play was performed at three key public locations:

College Gate Area – for students and staff.

Borpdale Gram Main Chowk – for villagers and Gram Panchayat members.

Local Market Area – for shopkeepers and general public.

Performances were held between 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM with around 10-20 minutes per play including interaction with the audience.

Street Play Performance:

Opening Scene: Depicted heavy use of plastic bags, bottles, and wrappers in daily life.

Middle Scene: Showed plastic clogging drains, animals dying after ingesting plastic, burning of plastic causing air pollution, and microplastics entering the food chain.

Climax Scene: A village elder educates everyone about plastic hazards and demonstrates eco-friendly alternatives.

Conclusion: Students chanted slogans like

“Say No to Plastic – Save Our Planet”

“Bring Your Bag – Keep Your City Green”

“Healthy Earth = Healthy Us”

Audience participation was encouraged by asking them to take a pledge for “Plastic-Free Borpadale”.

Community Engagement:

Pamphlets with information about hazards of plastic and Ayurveda’s guidance on sustainable living were distributed.

Shopkeepers were requested to use paper or cloth bags.

Children were encouraged to become “Plastic Police” in their homes.

Faculty Role:

Faculty members supervised the event and interacted with community leaders, encouraging them to pass local resolutions for minimizing plastic use.

Outcome of the Event

Community Participation: More than 250 people attended across three locations.

Awareness Created:

Clear understanding among villagers about how plastic harms soil fertility, animal health, and even human health.

Immediate verbal commitments from shopkeepers to reduce plastic carry bags usage.

Student Benefits:

Improved confidence, acting, communication, and public health education skills.

Learned how to use cultural tools for effective message delivery.

Behavioral Impact:

At the market area, a few customers started carrying cloth bags from the next day, showing an early behavioral shift.

Conclusion:

The Street Play on Plastic Hazards proved to be a powerful medium to engage the public and sensitize them to the importance of reducing plastic use. The creative performances and emotional appeal left a lasting impression on the audience.

Future Path Ahead:

Monthly Street Play Programmes: Plan to conduct such street plays quarterly in different villages nearby.

Plastic-Free Campus Drive: College to initiate “No Plastic Zone” campaign on campus.

Workshops: Organize training for villagers on how to make cloth bags and paper bags.

Sustainability Link: Collaborate with local Panchayat for proper plastic waste management and segregation system.

