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RVCE students engineer a waste-free programme

By Nischith N, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Jan 27, 2015, 04.00 AM IST



Students told residents to separate dry waste from wet

Residents, BBMP partnership to make Kenchenahalli spic and span

Engineering college students are known to do projects which are mostly in labs. However, this project by students of RV College of Engineering was a bit different. They were shocked when they saw piles of garbage heaped at a place in Kenchenahalli surrounded by hundreds of houses. The team primarily set about making a video of the plight of the locality and interviewed people. Local people said garbage was not being collected

regularly and they had no other go but to deposit the waste in any free space available. The others said the drivers of garbage collecting vans were on strike even before the situation was better.

The students then decided that it was time to knock on the doors of the Bengaluru mayor. "Mayor Shanthakumari was very supportive and enabled the team to find suitable answers from the BBMP. A BBMP official frankly accepted that there was a lack of commitment from the Palike, which was supposed to collect dry waste on Wednesdays and Saturdays and wet waste on the remaining days.

"This was, however, not being followed stringently. There was a provision only for process collection and not for effective process decomposition," said Abhishek S, an engineering student.

There are nearly 14,000 houses in the locality and only 20 autos were pressed into service to collect waste from them. In this regard, people have shown negligence by not separating dry and wet waste, which is a major problem.

So, the students came up with a solution. On Monday, they requested BBMP to bring in their lorries. The residents were told that they should strictly separate waste into dry and wet waste on a daily basis. The health inspector in the specified ward has also planned to convert the place, once it is cleaned, into a park. RVCE students launched a rally to put forth a message to the corporation as well as the residents in this regard. They carried out a door-to-door campaign across 14,000 houses and spoke about a cleaner environment. As a result, the garbage at the entire place was cleaned and will be replaced by a park.

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