

SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

**A Deemed to be University
Tamaka, Kolar, Karnataka.**

**Declared under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956
vide MHRD, Government of India Notification No.F-9-36/2006-
U.3 (A) dated 25th May 2007**



**Policy on Prohibiting the Use of
Plastic Materials**



SRI DEVARAJ URS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

A DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY, (DECLARED UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE UGC ACT, 1956)

TAMAKA, KOLAR 563101, KARNATAKA, INDIA

Name of the Policy/ Guidelines	Policy on Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Materials	
Short Description	Policy and guidelines on usage of plastic materials inside the SDUAHER campus	
Scope	This policy is applicable to all faculty and non-teaching staff of the constituent colleges and departments of SDUAHER (Deemed to be University).	
Policy status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Revised	
Date of approval of Version 1	17-04-2020	
Revision No.	0	
Brief description of last revision	Not Applicable	
Date of approval of current revision	Not Applicable	
Effective date	12-10-2020	
Approval Authority	Hon'ble Vice Chancellor	
Responsible officer	Registrar	
Name of the Policy/ Guidelines	Policy and guidelines on Use of Plastic Materials	
Details of Revision	Date of Revision	Approved by

Policy on Prohibiting the Use of Plastic Materials

Introduction

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production and use of plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

There is a need to spearhead a campaign to create awareness and mobilize public opinion regarding the environmental hazards related to the indiscriminate use of plastics in different forms with a special emphasis on single use plastics.

Sri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research (SDUAHER) has also resolved to take the matter to the students and other stakeholders so as to garner their voluntary and informed participation towards creating awareness and bringing in desired changes in behavioural attributes.

SDUAHER believes that a change in our current attitude towards the use of single use plastics is undeniably valuable and highly warranted. Accordingly, this policy has been designed to ensure that the faculty members, students, research scholars, non-teaching staff, patients along with their dependents and other stakeholders to live as responsible citizens.

Hence, this policy framework is being laid down to be followed by all concerned in SDUAHER to marshal in a cultural change based on awareness, communication, education, encouragement and provisioning of supportive environment.

Aim

To reduce plastic use and generation of plastic litter with the collateral benefit of the reduction in the use of energy and resources including fossil fuels, required to manufacture such items that are used only once.

Objectives

- a) To promote re-usable water bottles and discourage single-use plastic bottles in the campus and if possible, in the nearby communities.
- b) To consult with all stakeholders including the local shop owners to garner their support for the cause.
- c) To examine the feasibility of composting more waste matter in the campus.
- d) To facilitate and encourage washing and cleaning of recyclable containers to improve recycling.
- e) To undertake measures to create awareness among all stakeholders with the knowledge and motivation to reduce plastic waste especially the single-use plastic.
- f) To promote the motto – “Refuse, Reduce, Re-Use, and Recycle”.
- g) To carry out regular audits, and educational drives, to re-enforce and entrench the culture of transforming the SDUAHER campus and extended areas, if possible, Plastic-Free.
- h) To keep evolving the policy as with the advent of knowledge and technology.

Applicability

The policy shall be applicable to:

- a) All offices of SDUAHER including Departments and sections.
- b) All offices of the constituent units of the SDUAHER including Departments and sections.
- c) All commercial establishments running on rent within the campus including canteen services, cafeteria, shops, cooperative society etc.
- d) Hostels and other similar establishments.

Items to be covered under the policy:

- a) Single use plastic bags, wrapping materials, single use plastic bottles of less than 500ml capacity, plastic straws and stirrers, plastic utensils including cups, tumblers plates, spoons, forks, sporks, knives, cling films etc.
- b) There shall be no exception for plastic items labelled “compostable,” “biodegradable,” or “made from plants.”
- c) Some people with disabilities may find it difficult or impossible to drink without a straw, and plastic straws meet their needs better than paper or metal straws. In order to cater to such exceptional situations a small supply of plastic straws may be stored and to be provided on request.

Action Plan

- a) Promotion of a Plastic Free SDUAHER and its surroundings will be addressed through a range of awareness activities viz. lectures, skits, role play, distribution of pamphlets etc.
- b) Promotion of Plastic Free SDUAHER will be achieved through the use of visual displays throughout the campus.
- c) Encouraging adoption of alternative options like glass /metallic bottles or containers, cloth bags, paper bags etc., instead of plastic bottles, bags, covers and other goods made of non-bio-degradable plastic.
- d) Motivating students to shun the use of items
- e) Information on Plastic Free practices will be available on the college website and in the college magazine – ‘Sankeerna’.
- f) Visitors and guest speakers will be invited to offer their expertise on the subject.
- g) Consultation with the Student Council would be done on an ongoing basis to further develop and promote a Plastic Free SDUAHER.

- h) The food sold on the Academy campus will be monitored and reviewed from time to time to ensure that it is in alignment with the Single Use Plastic Free Policy.
- i) Availability of adequate number of drinking water taps/ dispensers to be provided where students could refill bottles with clean drinking water on each floor.
- j) Parents will be made aware of relevant information via the SDUAHER website and through the PTA.
- k) To create awareness about the hazards of use of plastics while conducting camps (General Health Camps, Eye Camps RCH Camps etc.) or observing Health Event Days (viz. World Environment Day, Earth Day etc.)
- l) NSS activities be directed in this regard in and around the areas where NSS activities are planned.
- m) Organize Shramadan activities under Swachha Bharat Abhiyan specifically directed towards creating awareness about the plastic menace.

Approach

There shall be no use of the words such as 'rules', 'banned' or 'penalty' while implementing this policy initiative. It is believed that such an approach though likely to delay in achieving the results, will be the more sustainable and rewarding in the long term to bring in a permanent change in the behaviour of all concerned.

The focus will be more on Behaviour Change Communication which would aim to voluntary adoption of the right behaviour.

Implementation

The implementation of the policy shall come in to force with immediate effect. All concerned authorities/dean /principal/ HOD'S/faculties/ staff members and other stakeholders are required to play their role in letter and spirit.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed regularly. It will take into account any legislative changes, new policy and strategy documents either in the SDUAHER from the University Grants Commission or any other Regulatory Body and feedbacks received from parents, students staff and other stakeholders.

The monitoring shall be carried out by the Committee, to be notified for this purpose, comprising students, teachers and non-teaching staff.

Conclusion

The time has come for the world to say good bye to single-use plastic. Targeted interventions to reduce the dependence on plastics especially single use plastics is expected to cut annual plastic consumption. Though the transition would be undoubtedly tough there is an urgent requirement to create awareness and a movement by all stakeholders to curb its use.

This policy lays down the framework of ushering change in mindset towards the use of plastics among the stakeholders and expects to see a change in the behavioral attributes among them.

1 commitment to support the E –Governance.