



LOYOLA DEGREE COLLEGE (YSRR)

(A Minority Institution)

NAAC Re- Accredited with B+ Grade

Affiliated to Yogi Vemana University

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Policy on Total Plastic-Free Campus

1. Introduction

Loyola Degree College (YSRR), Pulivendla, is committed to environmental sustainability and has taken a firm stance against plastic usage. Recognizing the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on the environment, the college management, staff, and students have collectively pledged to make the campus 100% plastic-free. This policy extends beyond the campus, encouraging students to actively participate in community awareness programs to reduce plastic usage in Pulivendla and surrounding areas.

Through initiatives like SASA (Swachh Andhra and Swarna Andhra), our students have not only removed plastic waste near the riverlet but have also educated the local community on the harmful effects of plastic on soil microorganisms, human health, and biodiversity.

2. Objectives of the Plastic-Free Policy;

- To eliminate single-use plastics from the college campus.
- To educate students and staff about the environmental hazards of plastic.
- To promote sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives to plastic.
- To ensure compliance with government regulations regarding plastic waste management.
- To extend the initiative beyond the campus by engaging with the local community.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to:

- All students, faculty, and staff of Loyola Degree College
- Visitors, vendors, and suppliers interacting with the college.
- Events and programs conducted within the campus.

4. Prohibited Plastic Items

The following plastic items are strictly banned on campus:

- Single-use plastic bags (polythene covers)

- Plastic bottles (unless reusable and approved for use)
- Plastic cutlery and plates (including disposable spoons, forks, and cups).
- Plastic straws and stirrers.
- Plastic wrappers and packaging materials.
- Non-biodegradable plastic decorations and banners.

5. Implementation Strategies

1 Awareness and Education

- Conduct regular awareness drives and seminars on plastic pollution.
- Organize workshops on eco-friendly alternatives, such as cloth bags and biodegradable packaging.
- Include plastic-free sustainability topics in the curriculum.

2 Waste Management and Recycling

- Set up segregated waste bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
- Collaborate with local recycling agencies to ensure proper disposal.
- Implement “Bring Your Own Bottle” (BYOB) and “Carry Your Own Bag” (CYOB) initiatives..

3 Green Campus Initiatives

- Replace plastic materials with eco-friendly alternatives like glass, metal, or cloth.
- Encourage students and staff to use reusable water bottles and lunch boxes
- Promote paper or jute bags instead of plastic bags

4 Monitoring and Compliance

- Establish a Plastic-Free Committee consisting of faculty and student representatives to oversee policy enforcement.
- Conduct regular inspections to ensure compliance
- Impose penalties or warnings for violations of the plastic-free policy.

6. Community Engagement and SASA Initiative

Loyola Degree College has extended its plastic-free commitment beyond the campus through SASA (Swachh Andhra and Swarna Andhra). As part of this initiative

- Students have conducted plastic cleanup drives near the riverlet.
- Awareness campaigns were held in Pulivendla streets to educate locals on the harmfulness of plastic
- Special efforts were made to inform people about how plastic damages soil microorganisms, making it difficult for soil to regenerate naturally.

7. Disadvantages of Plastic Usage Environmental Impact

- **Non-biodegradable:** Plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose.
- **Harmful to soil:** Plastics disrupt the natural composition of soil, affecting microorganisms essential for fertility.
- **Pollution of water bodies:** Plastics clog rivers, lakes, and oceans, harming aquatic life.

8. Health Hazards

- **Micro plastics in food:** Plastics break down into micro plastics, which enter our food chain.
- **Carcinogenic properties:** Certain plastics release toxic chemicals that can lead to health issues.

9. Economic and Social Impact

- **High cleanup costs:** Managing plastic waste is expensive for municipalities.
- **Threat to animal life:** Many animals mistakenly consume plastic, leading to fatalities.

10. Advantages of Saying No to Plastic

- **Improved soil quality:** Prevents plastic pollution and enhances soil fertility.
- **Healthier ecosystems:** Protects wildlife and marine life from plastic toxicity.
- **Sustainable future:** Promotes renewable alternatives like cloth, metal, and biodegradable materials.
- **Cost-effective:** Reduces waste management costs and encourages sustainable living.

11. Conclusion

Loyola Degree College (YSRR), Pulivendla, is determined to lead by example in creating a sustainable, plastic-free environment. This policy ensures that our college remains a pioneer in environmental responsibility while inspiring students and the local community to adopt eco-friendly practices. Together, we can build a cleaner, greener, and healthier future.

