

Jalmala Samvaad: Transforming Conservation Education by Empowering Young Minds for a Sustainable Future

-Kumari Babli and Piyush Pandey

As Benjamin Franklin wisely said, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” The sentiment perfectly dictates the reason why conservation education is so crucial, especially for children. It is not just telling young minds about nature and the environment but equipping them with understanding, a sense of nature responsibility, and the drive to act in ways that secure a healthy planet’s future. Establishment of Jalmala Samvaad is a vital objective under the WII-NMCG project “Planning and Management of Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of the Ecosystem Services in Ganga River Basin for a Clean Ganga”. By turning a small school space into a vibrant interpretation corner, Jalmala Samvaad ensures that conservation is taught, lived, and experienced by students in a meaningful way.

This initiative amplifies the hands-on activities and engagement, including creating learning spaces, painting nature murals on school walls, alongside biodiversity display boards on school corridors, and helping children form a deeper connection to environmental conservation. The initiative focuses beyond what a student can learn and helps cultivate a sense of responsibility within the school community for conservation education.



The presence of “Jalmala Samvaad” in the school’s corridors acts as a constant sentry and gentle reminder of how crucial it is to protect our environment. As students pass by these Jalmala corners, they are subtly reminded of their crucial and spearhead role in conservation, which fosters a continuous and natural reinforcement of their environmental awareness.

Children as future citizens have an incredible power to spark the change. Children have a great ability to absorb new ideas, which then transfer to their families, creating a ripple effect. This surely will extend the reach of conservation efforts beyond the school gates and into communities. The integrated approach of blending creativity, active engagement, and consistent reinforcement ensures that conservation education and awareness are not just a fleeting lesson but it deeply ingrained in the way school children think. These students will become the driving force behind a sustainable future, ensuring the ethical values of environmental stewardship are passed down positively for generations to come.

Authors:

Kumari Babli is a Project Assistant in the Nature Interpretation and Education Component. Her work involves designing educational materials, conducting field visits, and video editing to enhance nature interpretation and awareness. Passionate about creative endeavours, she is dedicated to making conservation education engaging and impactful.

Piyush Pandey is also a Project Assistant within the same project, where he plays a crucial role as the Database Manager. His responsibilities include managing and organizing the project’s data, ensuring its accuracy and accessibility. His work is vital for the smooth functioning and informed decision-making within the conservation education initiative.

