

# Greening minds.....from schools to communities....



A landscape of Kanheri village

To ensure long term sustainable growth of the region, it is very important that the local dwellers have knowledge of the environment around them. A realization that regions environmental assets have become problems and a requisite set of skills is required to deal with these problems to initiate action at a local level.

A comprehensive environment education program based on the three pillars of sustainability namely economic, social and environmental can act as a catalyst for the Initiatives that can be taken by community to better their own environment. Schools and school children's are doorways to the community. A well designed environment action program not only facilitates knowledge from the schools to the community but also intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge and practices.

The schools selected for the program are located in and around the Shirval and Khandala town. 650 students from 10 schools are involved in this environment action programme. Strengthening of vermicomposting setup in drums in the schools, sapling development and plantations have been initiated in the month of July 2014.

#### Project team

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### From garbage to garden.....

The villages in which our schools are situated have problem of optometric garbage disposal resulting in heaps of garbage all around the village. The majority of waste generated in these villages is organic which can be converted into compost. Vermicomposting drums have been installed in each school by students, wherein they have gained experience making vermicompost from organic waste. These drums were setup in the month of Jan 2014. Through the summer holidays the concerned teachers and students took care of drums resulting in good quality of compost being formed in July 2014. Children's involved in this activity have initiated similar process in their homes.

### Greening the school campus.....

Trees are an important part of every community, it increase the quality of life by virtue of their aesthetic and other properties. In the beginning of July schools undertook plantations of indigenus trees in school campus as well as generated saplings. The saplings have been generated from the seeds collected by the students themselves . Each school on an average collected 1500 seeds of different plant species.



Vermicomposting drum installation



Seeds collected by the students



Plantations in school campus



Quality compost recovered from drums



“ Action programs like these are to develop an understanding of environmental assets and problems around us. Students not only develop skills but also take the message to community. The nature visit to Rehekuri has been a life changing experience for me as well as my students, they have developed a new vision for nature”- Mr. Mujawar ( New English School, Palshi)