



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

“Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign”

UGC Guidelines for Ban of Plastic Use in Higher Education Institutions

Whereas plastic waste has emerged as one of the biggest environmental concerns adversely impacting the soil, water, health and well-being of citizens at large;

Whereas excess-consumption of plastic combined with limited waste disposal systems has become a challenge to the urban waste disposal systems, and has choked the rivers and water systems in rural areas;

Whereas the time has come for a systematic campaign to reduce the usage of plastic, especially the single use plastic;

Whereas the Government has decided to take plastic ban as a national level campaign to address the environmental hazards being and bring attitudinal changes that shun use of plastics; and

Whereas the educational institutions have the unique spread and influence to educate the students and households on the need for avoiding usage of plastics,

University Grants Commission hereby issues the following guidelines for all the higher educational institutions in the Country:

Guidelines

1. Scope of guidelines:

- (a) These guidelines are applicable to all the higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the Country.
- (b) They encourage HEIs (universities and colleges) to adopt policies and practices towards cleaner and plastic free campuses.

2. All the HEIs in the Country shall strive to make their campuses 'plastic-free' by systematically banning use of plastics and replacing the same with suitable environmental friendly substitutes.

3. Every HEI shall:

- a. Ban use of single-use plastics in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc.
- b. Carry out awareness drives and sensitization workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
- c. Mandate all students to avoid bringing non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution.
- d. Encourage their students to sensitize their respective households about harmful effects of plastics and make their households 'plastic free'
- e. Install necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the use of plastic water bottles, and encourage use of alternative solutions like cloth bags, paper bags etc., instead of plastic bottles, bags, covers and other goods on campuses.

4. All HEIs which have adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan shall undertake a campaign in their adopted villages till they are converted into 'plastic-free villages' through promoting awareness and encouraging shift to alternative products.
