



Students of Bhira and Patanus, Karjat tehsil exploring their surrounds

The Mulshi, Mawal and Karjat talukas lie in the Northern Western Ghats which is a hotspot of biodiversity. Increasing pressures of unsustainable development destroy the rich biodiversity in the area. While development is aspired by the population, it is essential that they have the requisite knowledge and abilities to make the decisions that foster sustainability and result in long term benefit.

The best way to attempt to bring a change in the society is through children. They have no vested interests and are the single most important influence in any family. Schools and school children are very effective conduits to society. This joint programme of the Tata Power Company and the Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Pune aims to reach out to the community. It focuses on skill development, knowledge building and harnessing of traditional knowledge to foster knowledge transfer and support the design

**The Eleven remaining schools and 741 students have been accessed in the month of December 2014. And the modules focusing on exploring the surrounds and solid waste management have been implemented in these schools.**

### Module 7: Let's explore our surrounds....

The students of these school were taken to nearby areas such as... which is indeed a diversity of ecosystem such as Grassland Ecosystem, Wetland Ecosystem and Forest Ecosystem. This is the first time that there students were enjoying a guided tour into their own surrounds. BVIEER faculty interpreted the various ecosystem services and initiated them into bird watching and insect watching, highlighting endemic and rare species. This activity have an important role to play in developing a sense of in being a citizen of the area.



Students of Mandavane understanding their ecosystem



Students of Nive observing the grassland birds



Students of Ambavane observing the birds



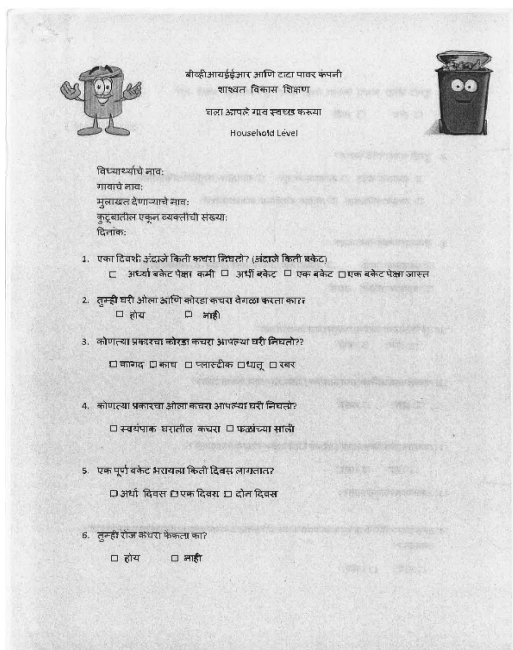
Mr. Vinod an employee of TATA Power explaining the concept of his recycled garden at Bhira.



of sustainability initiatives.



## Module 8 : Solid waste management.....



This module was designed in accordance with the spirit of the Prime Minister's 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. Students are involved in collecting data about solid waste generated in their own village.

The data generated will be presented and discussed with the Sarpanch of the village which would help in planning a sustainable solid waste management system in the village. This module reinforced students' understanding of waste segregation, collection and management. A brief test to gauge students' knowledge about solid waste management was conducted prior to the surveys. The field component of this module helped in building the capacity of the students in communication as well as data collection.

An assessment of the quantity and quality of waste generated in the first step towards the design of a Solid Waste Management program. Students interviewed households, commercial, establishment and have collected data on solid waste generated in their village.



Student conducting household survey for solid waste management in Khandi village



Students interviewing elderly people for the information about solid waste generated in Vandre



Students have made new note book from old blank pages – an activity initiated by our program.



'The panchayat in the village Pomgaon had set up two new waste collection bins in the village which were vandalized by the villagers. When the school students went to the village to conduct survey and generate awareness for solid waste management the villagers were quite impressed and said that such activities should be conducted by the Panchayat before setting up any new system in the village which would help in preventing vandalism and generate cooperation from the villagers' – Laksh-



### 'Paryavaran Shikshan via WhatsApp'

To facilitate interaction among the 25 schools in the four tahasila of Mulshi, Maval, Karjat and Mangaon a WhatsApp group titled 'Bharati Paryavarn Shikshan' was initiated by Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth, This not only ensures regular interaction but also inspires the schools to take up new and innovative projects and exchange