

## Support for Water Conservation Beyond Campus Boundaries: Off-Campus Water Resource Protection and Community Engagement Initiatives

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER) actively supports off-campus water conservation through structured environmental outreach, inter-institutional collaborations, student-led field initiatives, and community engagement programmes. These efforts directly contribute to the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of external water resources such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, and village water bodies.

The following activities clearly demonstrate JSS AHER's contribution to off-campus water conservation:

### 1. Cauvery River Cleaning Drive – Srirangapatna

**Organised by:** Department of Environmental Sciences, JSS AHER

**In collaboration with:** Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Government authorities, NGOs, and local community groups

#### **Activity Description:**

JSS AHER conducts annual cleaning drives along the banks of the River Cauvery at Srirangapatna, which is a significant pilgrimage and cultural site. Large quantities of plastic waste, discarded clothes, religious waste, and non-biodegradable materials are removed from the river banks and surrounding areas.

#### **How this supports off-campus water conservation:**

- Prevents plastic and fabric waste from entering the river and contaminating water
- Helps restore the natural flow and quality of river water
- Protects aquatic life and biodiversity
- Reduces chemical and physical pollution in a major regional water source
- Promotes reverence and responsibility towards sacred and ecological water bodies

#### **Additional Impact:**

Local residents, pilgrims, and vendors are educated on avoiding dumping waste into the river and are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly behaviour. This makes the activity not just a cleaning exercise, but a long-term **behavioural change initiative**.

## 2. Adoption of Nearby Villages, Lakes and Ponds (NSS Programme)

**Implemented through:** National Service Scheme (NSS), JSS Medical College and other constituent institutions

**Activity Description:**

JSS AHER, through its NSS units, has adopted nearby villages and water bodies, including lakes and ponds. Regular activities include:

- Cleaning and desilting lake/pond surroundings
- Removal of plastic, solid waste, and debris
- Awareness campaigns on protecting water sources
- Interactions with village residents on safe water practices

**How this supports off-campus water conservation:**

- Directly improves cleanliness and quality of village water bodies
- Prevents groundwater contamination from surface waste
- Encourages local community ownership of water resources
- Supports long-term sustainability of local water systems
- Enhances community awareness on water conservation and sanitation

These programmes strengthen local ecosystems and ensure the community understands the importance of protecting water sources beyond the University campus.

## 3. Swachhata Savaari Campaign under LiFE Mission

**Organised by:** EMPRI (Government of Karnataka)

**Collaborating institution:** Department of Environmental Sciences, JSS AHER

**Location:** Banks of River Cauvery, Srirangapatna

**Activity Description:**

JSS AHER partnered with EMPRI in implementing the “Swachhata Savaari” as a part of the national **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) Mission**. The programme used symbolic actions and psychological interventions to influence environmental behaviour.

Activities included:

- Cleaning of riverbanks
- Demonstrations on sustainable lifestyle practices
- Behaviour change communication (BCC) sessions
- Youth engagement in protecting water bodies

**How this supports off-campus water conservation:**

- Reduces littering in ecologically sensitive water areas
- Encourages sustainable habits at the individual and community levels
- Targets youth and children as long-term water protectors
- Strengthens community-driven conservation efforts
- Promotes responsible use and protection of shared water resources

This initiative connects national missions with ground-level water conservation action.

#### **4. Nature Walk and Water Conservation Education – Kukkarahalli Lake**

**Organised by:** Department of Environmental Sciences, JSS AHER

**In collaboration with:** EMPRI

**Participants:** Over 300 students from multiple institutions + local community

**Activity Description:**

A structured nature walk and awareness programme was held at Kukkarahalli Lake, an important urban lake in Mysuru. Participants were educated on:

- Role of lakes in groundwater recharge
- Importance of maintaining urban water bodies
- Link between biodiversity and water quality
- Effects of pollution on freshwater ecosystems

**How this supports off-campus water conservation:**

- Promotes protection of an important public water body
- Builds understanding of the ecological value of lakes
- Prevents misuse of lake resources
- Encourages future environmental leadership

- Strengthens public commitment to preserving natural water systems

This programme increased awareness not only among JSS students but also among external participants.

## **5. Environmental Education & Orientation Programmes (CCE & UNICEF Collaboration)**

**Organised by:** School of Life Sciences, JSS AHER

**In collaboration with:**

- Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)
- UNICEF

**Participants:** 400+ students from Mysuru

### **Activity Description:**

Students from JSS and other institutions participated in environmental orientation sessions focusing on:

- Sustainable water use
- Climate change impact on water resources
- Conservation of freshwater ecosystems
- Community responsibility in water protection

### **How this supports off-campus water conservation:**

- Builds knowledge on regional water challenges
- Promotes sustainable water usage in homes and communities
- Creates long-term change among students and youth
- Expands impact beyond the university boundaries

This initiative creates a ripple effect of water-conscious behaviour in society.

## 6. Collaboration with Government & International Agencies on Water Security

JSS AHER has collaborated with multiple organisations to strengthen water security beyond the campus:

Organization	Purpose
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB)	Community education on pollution control
EMPRI (Govt. of Karnataka)	Water conservation campaigns
SCOPE, Netherlands	Sustainable water management
NAM S&T Centre	Research and innovation in water resources

### How this supports off-campus water conservation:

- Enhances scientific and technical support for water sustainability
- Connects local efforts to national and global goals
- Encourages research-based water management
- Strengthens policy-aligned conservation initiatives

### Educational Opportunities for Local Communities on Good Water Management

JSS AHER actively engages local communities through various educational programs and outreach initiatives aimed at promoting good water management practices.

- **The Department of Water and Health** has been established exclusively to promote water resource conservation and social orientation.
- Community programs such as the **Cauvery River Cleaning Drive** and activities under the **Swachhata Savaari campaign** address critical issues like water pollution, raising awareness about preserving water resources.
- Through partnerships with organizations like the **Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI)** and the **Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)**, JSS AHER has conducted programs like **nature walks, awareness campaigns, and workshops**, directly involving students, local residents, and municipal authorities in water conservation education.
- These initiatives include psychological and behavioral change interventions to inspire sustainable water usage habits.

**Swachhata Hi Seva: Community Education on Cleanliness and Water Protection (09 October 2024)**

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER), through its National Service Scheme (NSS) unit, actively engages both students and the surrounding local community in educational initiatives focused on environmental hygiene and responsible water management. As part of the *Swachhata Hi Seva* campaign held on 9th October 2024, a cleanliness and awareness drive was conducted at the JSS Medical College and adjoining hostel and residential areas, with a strong focus on preventing water pollution and promoting sustainable waste practices.

The programme began at 6:30 AM with the enthusiastic participation of student volunteers, supported and guided by faculty coordinators Dr. Manu G, Mr. Manjunath, and Mr. Venkatesh. The students worked in groups to clean public and semi-public spaces within and surrounding the campus, including drainage lines, pathways, and open areas, removing plastic waste, wrappers, and other non-biodegradable materials that otherwise pose a serious risk of contaminating surface and groundwater sources.

Alongside the physical clean-up, the activity also functioned as a **practical learning platform for the local community**. Residents, hostel users, and passers-by were sensitised to the dangers of improper waste disposal, especially its impact on water bodies, stormwater drains, and groundwater recharge systems. The students educated community members on:

- The relationship between solid waste dumping and water pollution
- The importance of keeping drains and water channels free from waste
- Simple household practices to protect local water sources
- The role of individuals in maintaining clean and safe water environments

The drive concluded with an interactive reflection and awareness session, where students discussed how small, consistent actions can help protect water resources. The initiative reinforced the connection between cleanliness, safe water, and public health and encouraged the community to adopt better waste handling and water conservation behaviours.

Through such outreach programmes, **JSS AHER not only trains its students in environmental responsibility but also extends practical water management education to the local community**, directly contributing to long-term environmental sustainability and public awareness in line with national initiatives such as *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* and *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*.



**NSS – Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2025 – Educational Outreach on Water Conservation & Hygiene (04-03-2025)**



As part of its continuous commitment to environmental sustainability and community education, JSS Medical College, through its NSS unit, organized a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on 4th March 2025 with a focus on promoting awareness related to hygiene, waste management, and the protection of local water resources.

A total of 55 student volunteers actively participated in the programme, which commenced at 7:30 AM. The initiative aimed not only at cleaning public and campus surroundings, but also at sensitising students and the local community on the impact of improper waste disposal on water bodies, drainage systems, and groundwater quality.

During the drive, students collected large quantities of plastic waste, wrappers, and other non-biodegradable litter from the surrounding areas. The activity served as a practical learning experience, emphasising how solid waste, when left unmanaged, can pollute nearby water sources and disrupt natural water flow systems. Discussions were also held with local residents and campus users on the importance of preventing waste from entering drains and water channels.

The collected waste was responsibly handed over to the Mysuru City Corporation for scientific disposal. Through this initiative, the institution reinforced the significance of collective responsibility in protecting water resources and promoting sustainable water management practices at the community level.

This programme stands as a clear example of how JSS AHER actively provides educational opportunities and real-world exposure to students and local communities in support of effective and sustainable water management.



### **Swachhatha Sarvekshan 2024 – Community Engagement on Water Body Protection at Kukkarahalli Lake (16-02-2025)**

JSS Medical College, through its NSS wing, actively participated in the Swachhatha Sarvekshan 2024 initiative conducted by the Mysuru City Corporation at Kukkarahalli Lake on 16th February 2025. The programme commenced at 7:00 AM from Kuvempu Vana, Railway Front Gate, Mysuru, with enthusiastic participation from 25 student volunteers, including MBBS and BSc students.

This activity was specifically aimed at raising awareness about the protection and sustainable management of local water bodies. Students took part in cleaning the lake surroundings by collecting plastic waste, wrappers, and other debris that pose a serious threat to surface water quality, aquatic life, and overall ecosystem health.

In addition to the clean-up activity, the volunteers interacted with members of the public and morning walkers, educating them on the importance of keeping water bodies free from solid waste, preventing litter from entering stormwater drains, and the role of individual responsibility in safeguarding natural water resources.

This hands-on engagement served as a practical educational platform for both students and the local community, reinforcing key messages on water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable environmental practices. The initiative strengthened awareness and encouraged community participation in protecting Kukkarahalli Lake as a vital urban water resource.



## Community Awareness Programme on Dengue Prevention and Water Management – 23-07-2024 (JSS Urban Health Centre)

JSS Medical College, in collaboration with JSS Jan Shikshan Sansthan and the JSS Urban Health Centre (Department of Community Medicine), organized a community awareness programme on 23rd July 2024 focusing on dengue and malaria prevention as part of the Swachhata Pakhwada initiative. The programme highlighted the direct connection between stagnant water, poor sanitation, and the spread of vector-borne diseases.

The session covered key topics such as the causes and modes of transmission of dengue and malaria, with a strong emphasis on household and community-level water management practices. Participants were educated on the importance of eliminating stagnant water in open containers, overhead tanks, coolers, discarded tyres, and clogged drains to prevent mosquito breeding. Practical demonstrations and guidance were



provided on maintaining clean water storage, ensuring proper drainage, and adopting safe waste disposal practices.

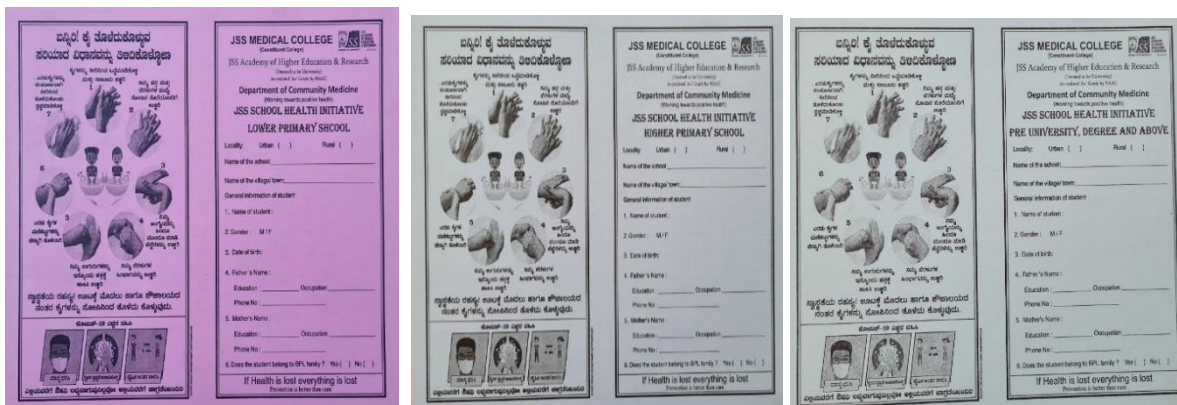
The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest Sri Nagaraju, Subject Expert from the School Education Department, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, in the presence of Sri Ramesh, Director, JSS Jan Shikshan Sansthan, and other dignitaries. The session was attended by JSS Medical and Dental interns, staff of JSS Jan Shikshan Sansthan, JSS Urban Health Centre personnel, and around 30 women beneficiaries from the local community.

Through this initiative, JSS AHER provided a vital educational platform for local residents to understand the role of effective water management in disease prevention, environmental hygiene, and community well-being.



## School Health Appraisal program

- Every year around 12,000-15,000 school and college students' health appraisal is conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, JSS Medical College. During this appraisal program, there are separate health cards for primary school, middle and high school, and college students. These health cards also depict the pictorial message about hand washing techniques and personal hygiene methods.
- The students are also educated about personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, and environmental hygiene (school & domestic).



## Handwashing picture is depicted in School Health Appraisal cards

- In the schools along with health check up, children were educated about hand washing technique and importance of hand hygiene.

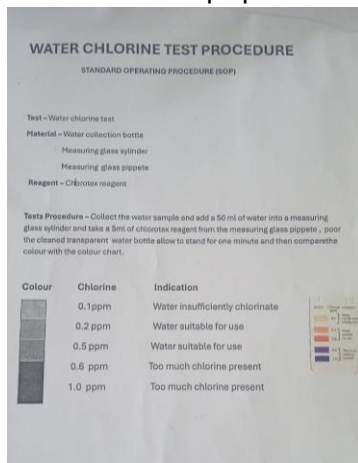
## Educational Initiatives on Water Safety and Management by JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research (JSS AHER) actively creates educational opportunities for both its students and the surrounding community to promote good water management and safe hygiene practices.

The Medical Education Unit of JSS Medical College conducted a Foundation Course for first-year MBBS students of the 2024–25 batch from 14th to 26th October 2024, in accordance with National Medical Commission guidelines. As part of this course, students were sensitized to critical topics such as patient safety, biohazard management, safe handling of biomedical waste, and the importance of water hygiene. Sessions on *hand hygiene and infection prevention* emphasized the role of clean and safe water in preventing hospital-acquired and community infections. These students, in turn, serve as change agents, carrying this knowledge into the community during their field postings, outreach activities, and awareness programmes.

In addition, the Department of Community Medicine at JSS Medical College has established and implemented a **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for water quality testing and chlorination monitoring**. Water samples from hostels, guest houses, and other institutional facilities are regularly tested for adequate chlorine levels. When deficiencies are identified, immediate corrective measures are taken, ensuring access to safe water. The process also serves as a **demonstration and training model** for students, interns and community health workers, who are educated on the importance of water testing, chlorination, and safe water supply management.

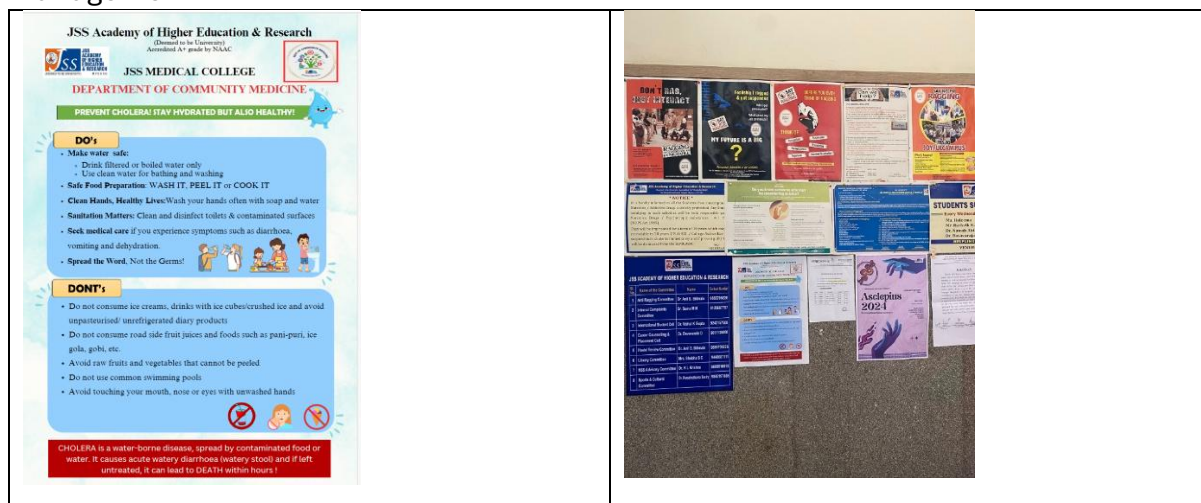
Through these academic and practical initiatives, JSS AHER strengthens awareness and capacity in water safety and management, benefitting not only its internal community but also the wider population through outreach and field-based health education activities.



## Community Education on Water Safety during Disease Outbreaks

The Department of Community Medicine at JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research developed and disseminated targeted health education material on staying safe during cholera outbreaks, a water-borne disease directly linked to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation. These materials emphasized key messages such as the importance of using clean and treated water, safe storage of drinking water, hand hygiene, and proper sanitation practices.

The educational content was prominently displayed at the JSS Hostel premises, where large numbers of students and local residents frequently visit, thereby extending its impact beyond the campus. This initiative served as an awareness tool for both students and the surrounding community, reinforcing best practices in water safety and hygiene. Through such evidence-based educational campaigns, JSS AHER actively empowers local communities with knowledge and practical guidance on safe water usage and disease prevention, contributing to improved public health and sustainable water management.

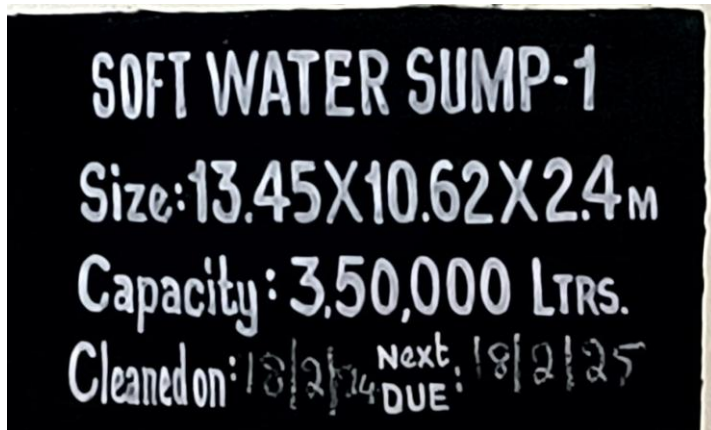


## Community-Based Learning through Water Sanitation Monitoring and Demonstrations

The Department of Community Medicine at JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research conducts regular water sanitation assessments across the hospital, college, and hostel premises, including the monitoring of chlorination levels and overall water safety. These activities are integrated into teaching and outreach programs, where students and community members are actively engaged in observing and understanding scientifically approved water treatment practices.

The institution has well-established water disinfection and RO purification facilities, and water is treated using Sodium Hypochlorite (12% strength). During routine inspections and training sessions, the Community Medicine team uses these systems as live demonstration sites, educating students, support staff, and visitors from the nearby community on the importance of proper chlorination, disinfection, and safe water handling methods.

Through this hands-on exposure and awareness initiatives, JSS AHER strengthens community knowledge on effective water sanitation practices, thereby promoting public health and sustainable water management beyond the campus boundaries.



Chlorination Pump Inspection of process of chlorination and functioning of the pump

### Advancing Community Awareness through Field-Based Learning on Sewage and Water Management

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research provides experiential learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom to strengthen awareness on good water management practices among students and the local community. On 30th May 2025, second-semester Master of Public Health (MPH) students from the School of Public Health, JSS Medical College undertook an educational visit to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), Mysuru.

This field exposure enhanced participants' understanding of the complete wastewater treatment cycle—from preliminary screening and aeration to sedimentation and final disposal. Students learned about the use of automated technologies and aerators used to manage approximately 67.65 MLD of wastewater daily and observed how treated water is recycled for landscape irrigation in public spaces.



Importantly, the visit also served as a platform to understand the role of safe wastewater management in protecting community health, preventing water-borne diseases, and promoting sustainable reuse of water resources. Insights gained during the visit are further shared through classroom discussions, community outreach programmes, and awareness sessions, thereby extending the benefits of this learning to the wider local community.

Through such initiatives, JSS AHER actively promotes responsible water use, environmental stewardship, and public education on sustainable water management systems.



### Promoting Awareness on Safe Water Management through Academic–Community Exposure Visits

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research actively provides educational opportunities that strengthen understanding of safe and sustainable water management among students who, in turn, extend this knowledge to the wider community. As part of this effort, the second-semester Master of Public Health (MPH) students from the School of Public Health, JSS Medical College undertook an academic field visit to the **Vani Vilas Water Treatment Plant, Mysuru on 29th May 2025**, as part of their Environmental Health curriculum.

During the visit, students gained first-hand understanding of critical water management processes including:



- Advanced water purification and filtration techniques
- Chlorination and disinfection procedures to prevent water-borne diseases
- Water sampling and quality monitoring protocols
- Operation of rapid sand filters and backwashing mechanisms
- Large-scale water storage and distribution systems

This experiential learning not only strengthened students' technical knowledge of public health engineering, but also enabled them to appreciate the importance of safe drinking water in safeguarding community health. The learning outcomes from the visit are further disseminated through community education sessions, awareness campaigns, and academic projects carried out by students in nearby urban and rural areas.

Through such structured field-based learning initiatives, JSS AHER plays an important role in promoting good water management practices and fostering a culture of water conservation and safety within the local community.



### Strengthening Community Awareness on Water and Sanitation through Field-Based Learning

JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research actively promotes education on good water management practices by engaging students in structured field-based learning activities that are later translated into community awareness initiatives. As part of this effort, a **field visit was organized on 19th July 2024 for second-semester students of the School of Public Health to the Sewage Treatment Plant, Mysuru.**

The visit provided students with in-depth, practical exposure to the stages of sewage treatment and the effective removal of **biological, chemical and physical contaminants** from wastewater. Students observed each stage of treatment and gained an understanding of how these processes contribute to environmental protection and the prevention of water-borne diseases, thereby reinforcing the importance of universal access to safe water and proper sanitation as a core public health principle.

In addition, the students were introduced to the plant's **compliance with public health regulations and national environmental standards**, highlighting the role of policy and governance in maintaining safe water systems. The visit was further extended to a **nearby solid waste management facility**, where students learned about **sanitary landfill practices and scientific composting methods** used to prevent land and water contamination.

The knowledge gained through this visit is disseminated through student-led awareness programmes, community outreach activities, and public health education sessions conducted in surrounding areas, thereby contributing to improved community understanding of responsible wastewater management and environmental hygiene.



### Promoting Community Awareness on Safe Water Management through Field-Based Learning

As part of its commitment to improving water literacy and promoting sustainable water practices within the community, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research organised



a **field visit to the Vani Vilas Water Works, Mysuru, on 18th July 2024 for second-semester students of the School of Public Health.**

The visit provided students with in-depth exposure to **water treatment processes, purification techniques, quality monitoring methods and water distribution mechanisms** that are essential for ensuring the supply of safe and potable water. The crucial role played by the Vani Vilas Water Treatment Plant in providing clean drinking water to the residents of Mysuru was also highlighted.

This hands-on learning experience enabled students to connect theoretical concepts in **Public Health and Environmental Engineering** with real-life practices. The insights gained are further disseminated through **student-led awareness programmes, community interactions, and educational outreach sessions**, encouraging local communities to understand the importance of water conservation, safe storage, and responsible water usage.

Through such initiatives, JSS AHER not only strengthens academic learning but also actively contributes to **building informed and water-responsible communities.**





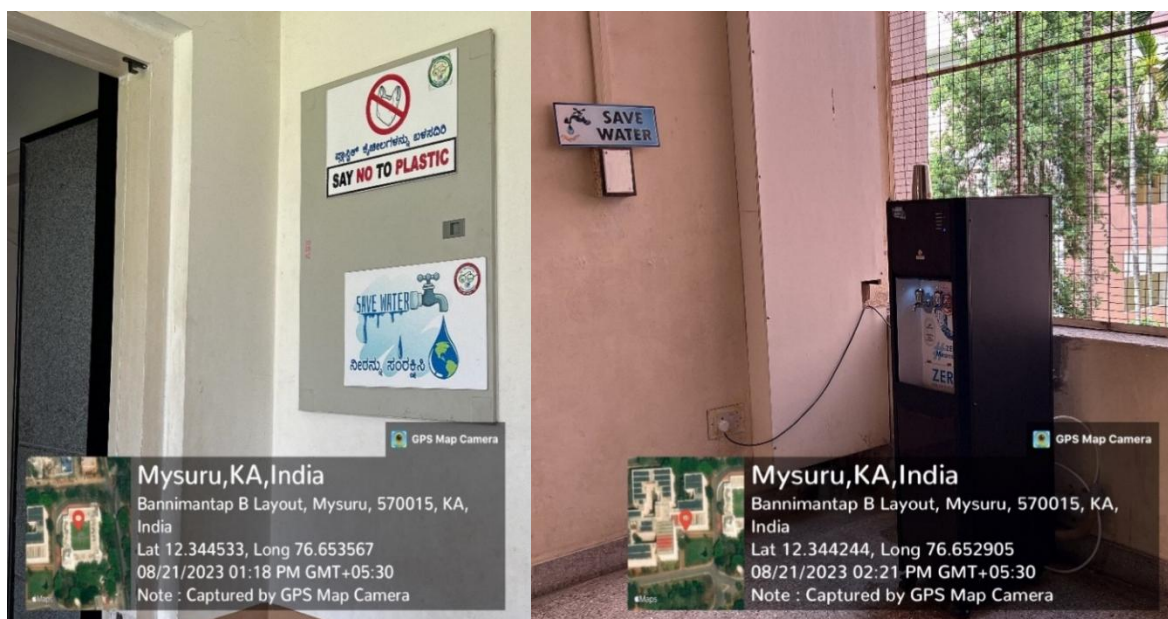
**Community educational and outreach programs on water resource conservation, pollution control and management by JSSAHER, Mysuru**





**Community educational on water conservation and sanitation by JSSAHER, Mysuru**





**Signage boards and displays for conservation of water at JSSAHER, Mysuru**

## **Commitment to Water Conservation and Management**

### **1. Educational Opportunities for Local Communities on Good Water Management**

JSS AHER actively engages local communities through various educational programs and outreach initiatives aimed at promoting good water management practices.

- The **Department of Water and Health** has been established exclusively to promote water resource conservation and social orientation.
- Community programs such as the **Cauvery River Cleaning Drive** and activities under the **Swachhata Savaari campaign** address critical issues like water pollution, raising awareness about preserving water resources.
- Through partnerships with organizations like the **Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI)** and the **Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)**, JSS AHER has conducted programs like **nature walks, awareness campaigns, and workshops**, directly involving students, local residents, and municipal authorities in water conservation education.
- These initiatives include psychological and behavioral change interventions to inspire sustainable water usage habits.

**Department of Water & Health :** <https://jssuni.edu.in/jssaher/faculty-of-natural-sciences/>

## 2. Support for Water Conservation Off Campus

JSS AHER demonstrates a strong commitment to off-campus water conservation through multiple initiatives:

- Regular cleaning drives at critical water bodies like the Cauvery River, in collaboration with local communities, government bodies, and environmental organizations.
- Adoption of **nearby lakes, ponds, and villages** through **National Service Scheme (NSS)** and environmental programs, involving activities like restoration drives and awareness campaigns to preserve these resources.
- Collaboration with the **Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB)** for water conservation programs and community education efforts.

## 3. Utilization of Sustainable Water Extraction Technologies

JSS AHER integrates sustainable water extraction technologies on its associated university grounds:

- The university emphasizes **rainwater harvesting** systems to sustainably manage water needs on campus.
- Water extraction and utilization practices are carefully monitored to ensure minimal environmental impact, and related initiatives are extended to off-campus projects, particularly in adopted villages and lakes.

## 4. Cooperation with Local, Regional, National, and Global Governments on Water Security

JSS AHER collaborates extensively with governmental and international organizations for water security and sustainable management:

- **Local Collaborations:** Partnerships with municipal administrations ensure the supply of safe drinking water and improved sanitation for the local population.
- **National Collaborations:** Joint initiatives with EMPRI under the **Swachhata Savaari campaign** and alignment with the **LiFE Mission** promote water conservation and sustainable lifestyles.
- **Global Collaborations:** JSS AHER works with organizations like the **Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), Netherlands**, and the **Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre)** to enhance research and technological advancements in water resource management.

## 5. Promotion of Conscious Water Usage on Campus

On-campus initiatives at JSS AHER aim to foster a culture of conscious water usage:

- Educational materials, including **flyers and signages**, are displayed across the campus in high-traffic areas to encourage responsible water use among students, staff, and visitors.
- Campaigns highlight simple yet impactful actions like reporting leaks, turning off taps, and adopting water-efficient practices in daily routines.
- Institutional practices like rainwater harvesting and efficient wastewater management set an example for sustainable water use.

## 6. Promotion of Conscious Water Usage in the Wider Community

JSS AHER actively extends water conservation efforts to the broader community:

- Community outreach programs under NSS and environmental initiatives include **water conservation awareness campaigns** and practical demonstrations in nearby villages.
- Collaborative efforts with organizations such as the **Centre for Environmental Education (CEE)** and UNICEF facilitate workshops and orientation programs focused on water resource sustainability for students and local residents.
- By organizing hands-on activities and engaging local communities in the **Cauvery River Cleaning Drive**, JSS AHER ensures that the importance of water conservation reaches diverse audiences, fostering long-term behavioral change.