

Notebooks for needy children from waste paper

Vedic Science Club of Gitam University to organise the project

NIVEDITA GANGULY
VISAKHAPATNAM

Waste paper can be used in many ways. A team of students from Gitam University has planned to reuse it and help shape the lives of several underprivileged children.

An initiative of the Vedic Science Club (VSC) of Gitam University's School of Gandhian Studies, this social enterprise project is termed as 'Reduce, recycle, reuse' in which the club members collect old notebooks, papers discarded by corporate houses and educational institutions and recycle it to give new notebooks to the needy children of GVMC schools and ZP high schools in and around Visakhapatnam.

Backed by the NGO Akshaya Patra, the VSC has tied up with the A.P. Paper Mills—one of the largest integrated paper and pulp manufacturers in India—in Rajahmundry for the project in its endeavour to reach out to 3,000 students this year.

Five tonnes to be collected

"Our aim is to collect five tonnes of old notebooks this summer, which will fetch 30,000 new notebooks. As



Noble initiative: P. Yasaswi and Naresh Kumar Reddy of Vedic Science Club, who have initiated the project 'Reduce, recycle and reuse' in Visakhapatnam. • K.R. DEEPAK

of now we have been able to collect 700 kg of old notebooks," club member and a final year BTech student Naresh Kumar Reddy told *The Hindu*.

The VSC was formed last year with a team of 60 active members from the student community who are involved in various social causes.

The club has reached out to 10 educational institutions and tied up with corporate firms like Visakhapatnam

Port Trust and Pharmazell.

"For a new batch of notebooks, 60% of old pulp and 40% of new pulp is required. Once we hand over five tonnes of collected old notebooks to A.P. Paper Mills, they will recycle the old books and provide the pulp to notebook manufacturers. In the first phase, we plan to cover 90 schools where each student will be given 10 new notebooks," said P. Yasaswi, a final year BTech student and VSC member.

Collection points are kept at Andhra University, Gitam University and other institutions. One box has also been placed at the Akshaya Patra office, Hare Krishna Movement, at MVP Double Road.

The club members aim at speeding up the collection drive in the coming week so that the fresh notebooks are available before the start of the next academic year. Those interested in donating old notebooks may contact the club at 7306592519.