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PLASTIC CAFÉ- INDIA'S 1ST CAFÉ RUN BY SHGS

- Ashish Kumar

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PLASTIC CAFÉ- INDIA'S 1ST CAFÉ RUN BY SHGS

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PLASTIC CAFÉ:

The plastic café is a new café in Gujarat's Dahod district, which provides free snacks and tea to customers not for monetary purpose but for plastic. The snacks and chai provided in this café will surely taste marvelous as it also has a sprinkle of noble deeds.

This plastic café is established in January, 2020 in front of Dahod tehsil panchayat and is done as a part of the centre's Shwachh Bharat Abhiyan, making it probably one of the first plastic cafés in Gujarat. NP Patanwadiya, Deputy District Development Officer stated to media personnel that this café was set up recently with the main objective to make the tribal-dominated Dahod, plastic-free.

Initially when this café was started at that time 10 women of 10 different SHGs were engaged in it six women were engaged in cooking, two in collecting plastics and two were in cleanliness and it is being supervised

by Anjana Ben, TLM of Dahod. To establish this café Sakhi Mandal took loan from a bank of two lakhs and then they started this café.

This 'plastic café' in Gujarat's Dahod has ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Customers can bring 1 kg of plastic waste and in return get snacks, free of cost. Those who get a half kg of plastic waste can get tea for free. The best part is that the snacks in this café are prepared by women under the Gujarat Government's Sakhi Mandal scheme. The café has successfully collected a large amount of plastic waste just within few days of its opening. The plastic waste which is collected will be then sent for recycling. If this concept becomes successful, it will be utilized and adapted to other tehsils in the district.

Currently six women of five different SHGs groups are working here and they work in the rotation. On an average they earn Rs. 1500-2000 per day and sometimes they received more order as compare to normal days from taluka Panchayat meeting, School, birthday etc. then they receive more earnings.



The café would also cater to others who can avail refreshments and other basic amenities for a nominal cost. The DDO explains that it is a 3-way model where the operation is handled by women of SHGs.



Firstly, it supports women empowerment as finance is regulated by women. Secondly, it provides a new livelihood option for them as they can earn by selling what they make. Thirdly, it builds awareness about the need to reduce plastic waste which encouraging recycling and reuse.

The idea of opening a plastic cafe is the need of the hour, as most Indian cities are reportedly struggling to dispose off large amounts of unsegregated waste.

According to the Environment Ministry, India generates around 25000 tonnes of plastic waste every day. But only 14000 tonnes of waste is collected. And even though there are some waste management schemes, yet they aren't sufficient and more measures need to be taken. So the concept of cafes bartering snacks in exchange for plastic waste is definitely important to create awareness among people. In the near future, there would be one thing uniting people out there, for the better or for the worse, it would have to be plastic.

