

## **Recycling-A Bane or Boon under the Theme Lifestyle for Environment under Yuvamanthan Model United Nations**

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Baba Mastnath University hosted a thought-provoking debate titled "Recycling – A Bane or Boon" under the theme "Lifestyle for Environment", as part of the Yuvamanthan Model United Nations. This event aimed to foster deeper understanding and awareness about the environmental impacts of recycling practices. With an increasing global emphasis on sustainable living, the debate explored both sides of the issue—whether recycling offers a true solution to environmental challenges or if it poses its own set of problems.



The debate provided a platform for students to express their views, backed by research, on whether recycling is truly beneficial or whether it creates more environmental challenges than it resolves. The event was graced by distinguished faculty members, including Dr. Seema, Dr. Rajrani, Dr. Rahul, Dr. Neha, Dr. Sonia, Dr. Maliya, and Mr. Akashdeep, who actively participated in guiding and evaluating the debates.

The event began with an opening address by Dr. Ritu, who highlighted the importance of integrating environmental awareness into daily life and the role of young minds in shaping the future of sustainability. She emphasized that the event was an opportunity for participants to critically engage with the concepts of recycling and its potential effects on both the environment and society.



Following the introduction, participants took part in an intense debate, divided into two groups: one advocating for recycling as a boon and the other highlighting it as a bane. The proponents of recycling discussed its advantages, such as reducing waste, conserving natural resources, and decreasing pollution. They argued that recycling plays a crucial role in fostering a circular economy and mitigating the adverse impacts of industrial waste on the environment. Conversely, the opposing team raised concerns about the effectiveness of recycling, citing issues like the energy consumption involved in the recycling process, contamination of recyclable materials, and the limitations of current recycling technologies.

The debate was marked by intellectual engagement and critical analysis of various perspectives, with participants making compelling arguments based on research and current global practices. The co-conveners, Dr. Parmila and Dr. Seema, facilitated the debate, ensuring smooth proceedings and encouraging active participation.



The debate on recycling served as a significant reminder of the need to critically assess the practices that shape our lifestyle choices in relation to the environment. As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of waste management, climate change, and resource depletion, it is essential to have open discussions on the true efficacy of solutions like recycling.



This event aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13: Climate Action. By exploring the complexities of recycling, the event encouraged participants to think critically about how they can contribute to sustainable development, both in their personal lives and through broader societal changes. It highlighted the importance of responsible production and consumption patterns that minimize waste generation, pollution, and the overuse of natural resources.

Additionally, it contributed to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, where effective waste management and recycling play crucial roles in making cities more sustainable and livable. The debate underscored that sustainable practices, such as recycling, need to be continuously improved and adapted to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The event was attended by 16 participants, all of whom actively engaged in the debate, presenting their arguments and counter-arguments with confidence and clarity. The format of the event allowed participants to not only express their opinions but also to critically evaluate the information presented, fostering a deeper understanding of recycling's complexities.

The debate inspired students to think about their own lifestyle choices, encouraging them to make more informed decisions regarding waste and resource management. It also sparked discussions about the role of policy-makers, businesses, and communities in creating a more sustainable future.

The debate on "Recycling – A Bane or Boon" at Baba Mastnath University was an enriching experience that allowed students to explore one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time. Through engaging discussions, the event emphasized the importance of questioning and evaluating the sustainability of widely accepted practices like recycling.