Beauty out of dump

Thanks to ‘Daily Dump’, a few terracotta pots is all it takes to make composting an enjoyable endeavour at home, says Manoj Rammohan.

A cobbled pathway with plants on one side and an elephant made of clay greets you. Designer pots in different shapes line the stretch. As you climb down the stairs near the entrance, a small yet spacious room with stacks of books, two computers and a few chairs takes you by surprise.

This is the workplace where a group of five people churn out an assembly of terracotta pots to convert kitchen (or garden) waste to manure for plants and trees. For the Bangaloreans, ‘Daily Dump’ could be the right excuse - not to waste the ‘household waste’.

A brain child of Poonam Bir Kasturi, the ‘compost at home’ concept is slowly getting into the public domain. And this brand, as she calls it, came into existence this April. “Till now, we have about 100 customers who have bought the products,” says Kasturi.

Passion

An urge of creativity matched with unrelenting passion for design and greenery saw the emergence of three models - Mota Lota, Kambha and Gamla. Apart from their names, they differ in size and shape. To ensure the aesthetic appeal of the terracotta pots, they are specially ordered and made from Palamner village, near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

For Kasturi, a qualified industrial designer from the Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, composting is a technology that belongs to nature and would like to dispel the notion of ‘it’ being unhygienic, as perceived by many.

These products painted in different colours and patterns can be placed inside the house or in the garden and does not need elaborate arrangements. Those who don’t have time for maintenance can seek the help of Daily Dump, which does the service for a fee.

Also, you can separate handbooks for all the models to understand the working better. The price varies from Rs 100 to 700. It is not just a matter of being environment friendly.

Have a look at the working team - Kanyika and Shashwati are fresh out of college, Subhash Deshpande is an electronics engineer and Pratima is working in the field of education.

Great potential
As Shashwati remarks, “there is lot of fun in working and surely, a design paradigm is taking place here.”

Interestingly, the whole strategy of making these compost products will be on the internet soon and anyone can download the information free of cost. Once you realise the potential of this venture, the question of ‘what next’ is irresistible. “We are planning mechanised models using solar energy to convert the waste. In a bigger aspect, our aim is to establish a community compost system or at least trigger such an initiative in the society,” elaborates 44-year-old Kasturi.

A cursory look at her visiting card painted in yellow reflects both simplicity and an aesthetic sense. There is no designer to search for. Instead, there are just words - ‘Compost Wali’.

For further information, contact Poonam Bir Kasturi at 2992, 12A Main, HAL IInd Stage, Bangalore - 560008, phone: 9844239660.

Dump these!
Fruits, vegetables
Bones of fish, chicken, meat
Tea bags, nPaper tissues
Cooked food

NO WAY!
Coconut husk, shell
Plastic bags, foil papers
Medicines

Batteries, cigarette butts

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