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# Meet the Mumbai students who won awards for their recycled objects

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There's a huge movement towards recycling and saving the environment and the more awareness that is generated about it, the better. It's also heartening when students take up this cause. Recently, two Mumbai students of Billabong High International School (BHIS) Malad did so and were felicitated for it. Duscha Yadav, of class 6 bagged 1st prize for her project 'Bird Feeder' and Anvi Maheshwari of class 8, was among top five students in the final selection for her 'Paper Journal and Paper Fan' project. In a chat the two reveal more about what they did and about the importance of recycling...

'It was not the prize, but getting the message across that mattered'

The young students received the accolades on World Earth Day and are thrilled. While Anvi says, "I feel honoured to have won such prestigious

award through my art, but the awareness matters," Duscha echoes the sentiment and adds, "Yes. While I was creating my project the prize was not the first thing that came to my mind but how I can help get the message across that the environment is as important as us human beings. I feel that the environment around us is alive and we should treat it like we treat ourselves." Her project is a bird feeder and she came upon the idea to do that at home. "From my room's window, I often see birds and parrots hanging around on the cables and the building next to us. I wondered where they would find food and water in the hot summers as lockdown only made it tougher for them. To make the project, I used waste material. I took a used aerated drink pet bottle and inserted two discarded wooden spoons from the kitchen into it, in such a way that the seeds would flow on to the spoon on its own. I also used coconut shells and stuck them on the handles for water. Then I decorated it with some bird stickers that were lying around to attract them and possibly send them a signal what this was for."

Anvi explains what she did and says, “The project was all about making best and useful things out of waste material. So, I used old notebook pages and newspaper to make reusable hand-made paper and from which I made a journal. I made two holes on the side and tied a string through it. I even tinted a few pages green and blue by adding paint to the pulp. As this is handmade, you can embed anything in the paper including glitter, dried leaves or flower petals. It was done and it looked really nice, too!”

The need for recycling





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The two students are glad to drive home the message through their works. Says Duscha, “I feel it is extremely important to recycle or we may run out of natural resources within our lifetime as they are not infinite. I am sure if we all lend a hand, we can create more treasures as well as lift the burden off the environment and not wait till the environment puts a stop on us like it just as we have seen in the COVID-19 pandemic.” Adds Anvi, “Recycling is definitely the way ahead for us all on Earth. It saves energy and allows us to preserve our precious resources. Projects like these are fun and they gather interest from other students, too”

