

Day 26

Mobilise



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The project that we have decided to implement is to make incense sticks from the floral waste that is enormously generated in our city from temples, weddings and domestic waste.



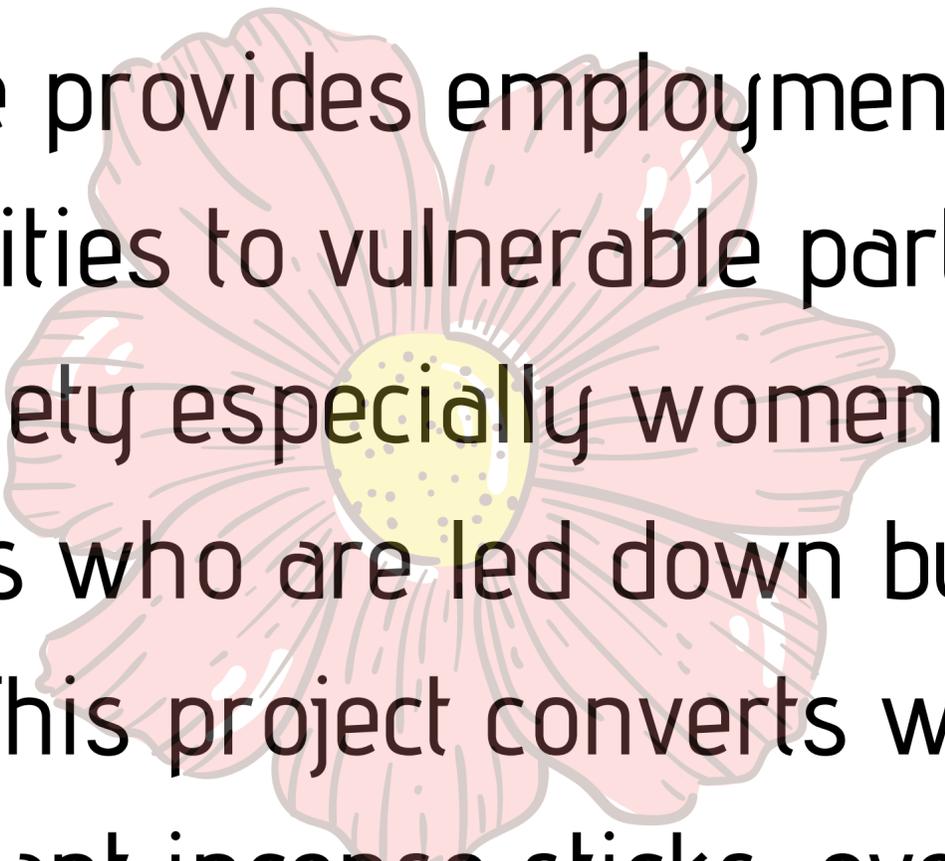
Inspired by 'Help Us Green'

What climate related issue/s do you want to focus on?

India is a country of culture and is known for religious practices and superstitions. There are various pilgrimage locations and temples where people offer flowers also in the form of garlands to the idols and deities, but what happens next to these hugely generated floral waste, not only temples but festivals in India are marked by use of flowers and floral garlands by hanging them on the threshold of doors . So we decided to work on this floral waste, the accumulation of floral waste is the major problem in India and this waste is let into the holy rivers and this water then gets contaminated with the pesticides used to grow the flowers or the perished flowers lead to deterioration of water quality.

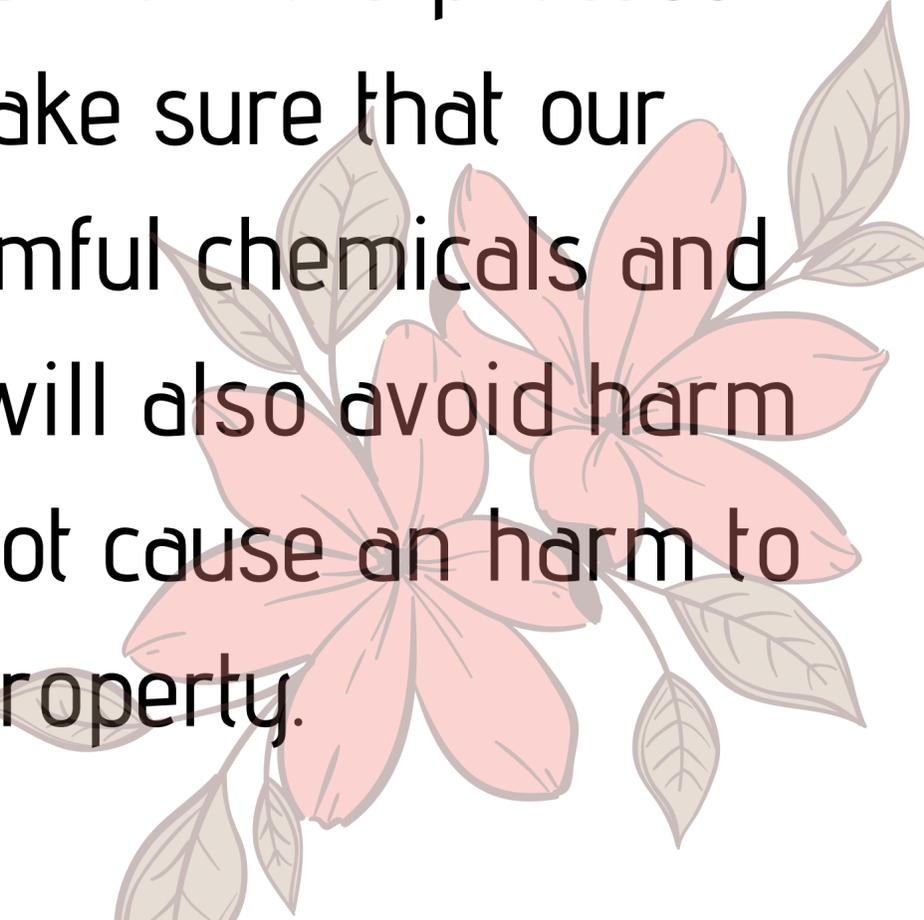
Why does this particular project resonate with you?

We went through various videos on youtube which had utilised the floral waste, but we found this project resonating as it engages manpower, hence provides employment opportunities to vulnerable parts of the society especially women of minorities who are led down by the society, This project converts waste into fragrant incense sticks, over-all this project ensures employment security, avoids pollution of water bodies and land , complete usage of waste and is completely organic, makes no use of machinery.



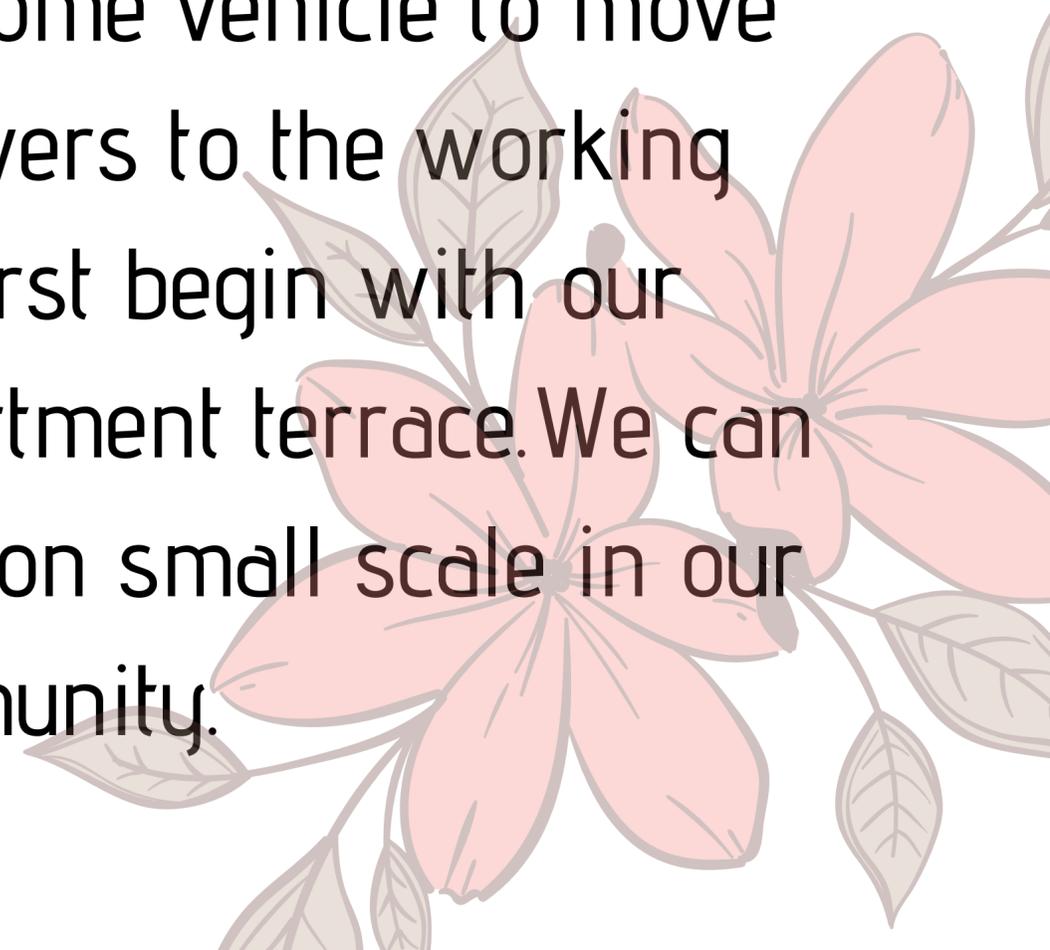
How will you synthesize and apply the knowledge you have accumulated during PGC?

For manufacturing the product we will first collect the flowers from the pilgrimage locations and we will make sure we are using fair trade practices, no green washing, fair treatment to employees in terms of wages , food and health security, protect their communities, make no use of products obtained from petroleum, use packaging which can be recyclable or which is made of paper and is biodegradable, audit the waste that has been generated from the process and try to tackle it, make sure that our product contains no harmful chemicals and is free from toxins. We will also avoid harm to residential area nad not cause an harm to the natural property.



**What are your short and long term goals for the project?
Consider if they are attainable on your campus or in your
community currently.**

The major goal would be collecting the floral waste and making the population aware that they should not be offering flowers to the river as they end up polluting the river, yes we have 5-6 temples in our locality and we can easily collect flowers from there, what we only need is some open space where we can make flowers ready to convert them into incense sticks and provide safe and hygienic place for employees to work, we would not need some vehicle to move these loads of flowers to the working area, we would first begin with our house porch or apartment terrace. We can surely implement it on small scale in our community.



Why do you think this project is necessary?

We decided to take this as project for climate action because generally in India there is huge amount of floral waste being generated during the months of July to August as there are maximum festivals during this tenure and in the other half of the year also there is floral waste generated at temples which are well known for tourism , along with this the waste from the decorations of weddings is also accumulated which is in huge numbers and we felt the need to actually utilise these flowers and let them not accumulate as waste and end up polluting our resources.

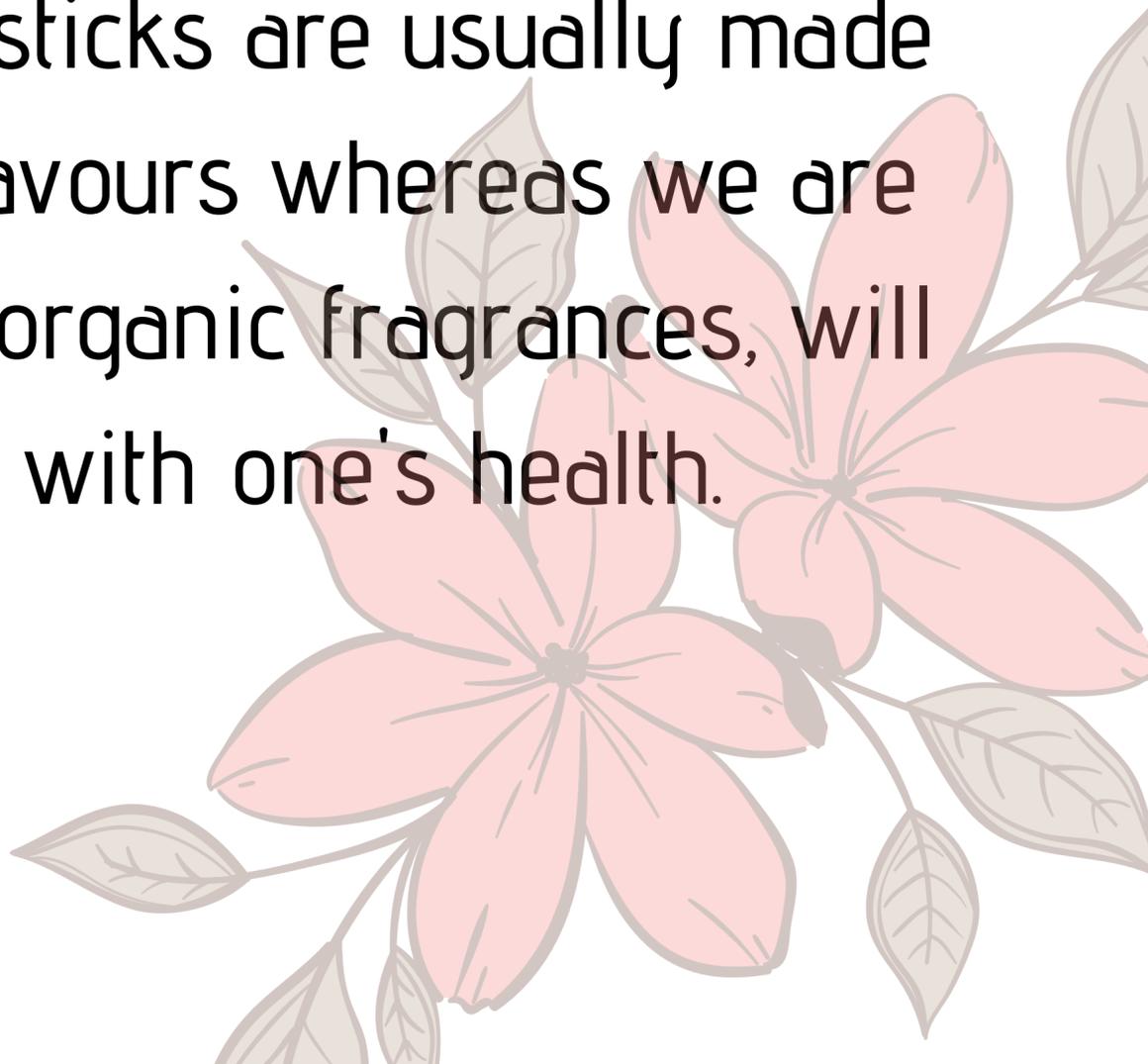
Hence we needed to work upon this project as there is no such special use of waste flowers being made in our community or premises.



Who and what does your project benefit?

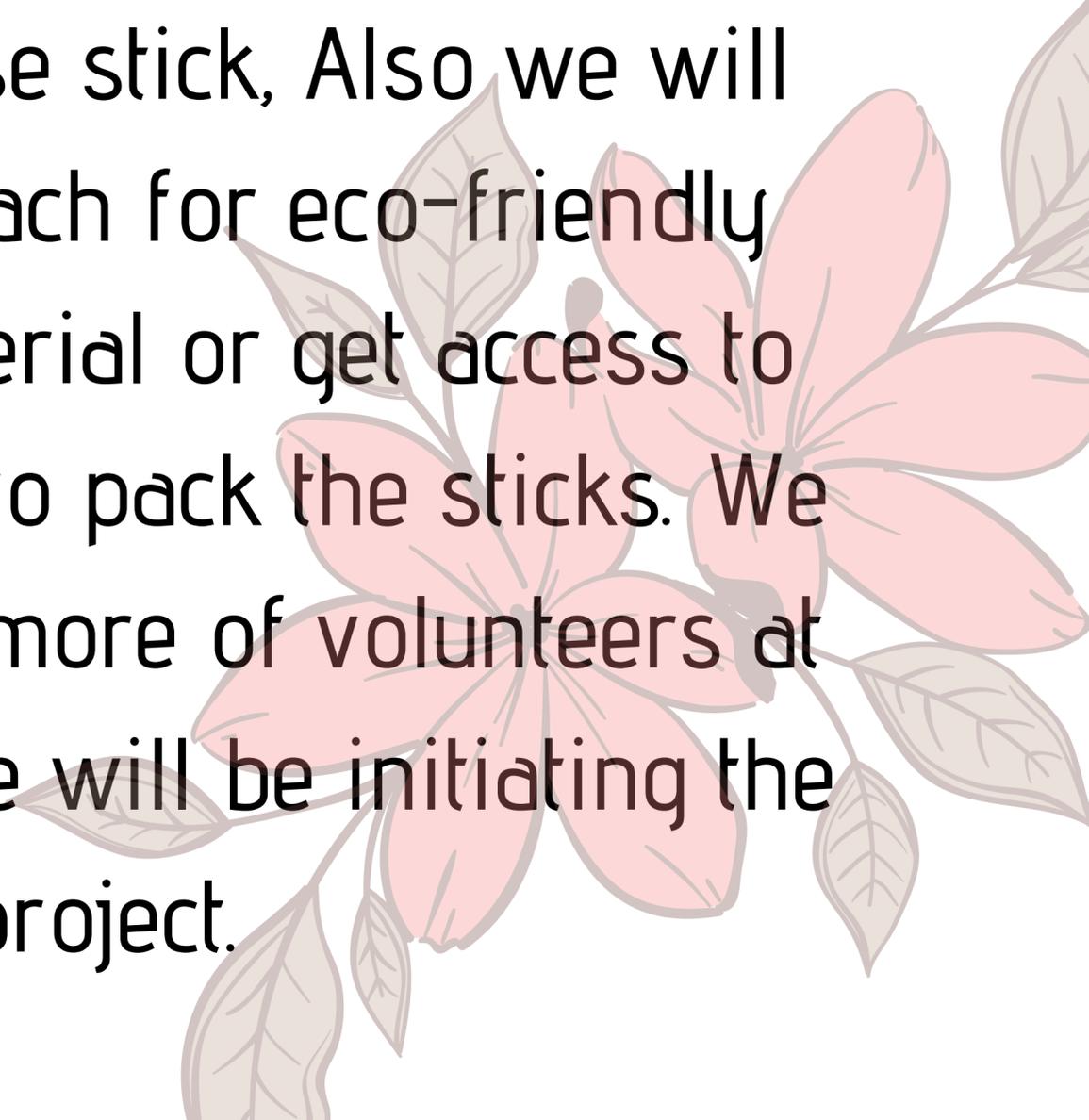
This project will first benefit the nature, the rivers will remain deprived of pollution and will remain clean and this will also ensure employment to the vulnerable parts of the society by giving them employment opportunities, will make population aware of how floral waste can be turned into useful product.

It will also benefit humans as people who use incense sticks are usually made from synthetic flavours whereas we are completely using organic fragrances, will not interfere with one's health.



Who will you need to involve in the early stages of your project to support you?

We will need some volunteers who can help us with collection of the floral waste from vendors, temples or rivers. For the next step we will need people who can segregate flowers and we will need a research fellow in fragrance who will tell us how we can utilise these waste flowers and convert them ideally into a good finished incense stick, Also we will have to approach for eco-friendly packaging material or get access to recycled paper to pack the sticks. We probably need more of volunteers at first stage as we will be initiating the project.

A decorative illustration of a pink flower with several leaves, positioned in the bottom right corner of the page. The flower has five petals and is surrounded by several green leaves with visible veins. The illustration is semi-transparent and overlaps with the text.

What are the costs associated with seeing it through?

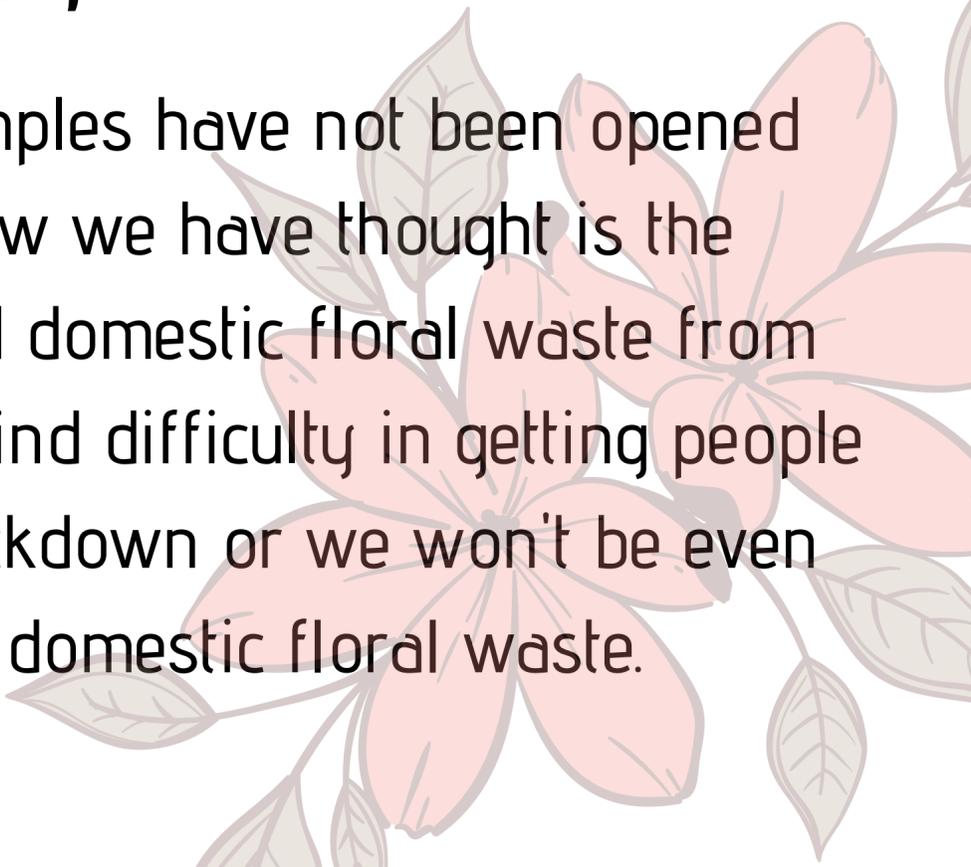
The transportation costs, the processing costs , the wages that have to be provided to the employees, their food provision, packaging expenses, certification process(B-Corp, organic) etc.

How will you accommodate COVID restrictions?

We will make sure we are using PPE's and also we will make use of sanitizers and practice social distancing, we will also need to sanitize flowers in order to avoid contamination. We will take permission from the respective authorities in order to work for this project. We will also carry oxymeter.

Has the pandemic influenced your choice of project? If yes, how?

Yes, due to the lockdown the temples have not been opened yet , but the only waste for now we have thought is the flowers from wedding decor and domestic floral waste from festival celebrations. We would find difficulty in getting people who would volunteer durle to lockdown or we won't be even allowed to go to collect the domestic floral waste.



What skills or expertise would be great to have to bring this project to fruition?

Women can easily roll out incense sticks, one should have proper knowledge of how the flowers need to be separated from the thalamus and the unwanted parts of the flower, one should also know proper sterilization technique to avoid contamination and infection during this pandemic.

What are the desired outcomes?

Eco-friendly incense sticks,
Appropriate usage of floral waste,
Employment opportunities to vulnerables,
No pollution of water bodies,
Increased awareness among people,
Flowers would end in incense sticks that would mesmerize everyone's house.

