

MAD Holds Plantation at Race Course

Dehradun's students' activities group, making a difference (MAD) held a community driven plantation activity at Race Course, here today. In their five years of activism MAD has undertaken several plantation initiatives in different parts of the city, but this was unique as it was undertaken in a residential area.

The message, which these youngsters wanted to impart to the civil society, was that coexistence with trees is not only possible but also desirable.

Race course was chosen as the first such location because MAD members wanted to highlight that the reason why cantonment areas and Rajpur are so frequently visited by locals and tourists alike is their conservation of their inherent greenery.

With this message in mind, over fifty MAD members collected outside Amrik Hall at Race Course, Amid heavy rainfall, "five different teams were made and the areas where a dozen saplings each were planted included Shivalik Colony, near Doon Cambridge School, near Punjab National Bank, on boundaries of the Doon vale School and certain saplings were planted on roadsides, wherever space was available, and only where the locals would undertake to nurture each sapling as their own child.

MAD members worked from early morning till late evening constantly to facilitate the plantation activity since roadside plantations required a lot of efforts in digging.

The idea was to sow that it is not always that only trees and plants will make way for road, tiles and cement. Earlier, MAD members had visited Karan Nursery of MDDA at Jogiwala and handpicked the saplings for plantation. These included Gulmohar Neem, Kapoor, amalas, pepal among others.

To make the efforts truly community driven, MAD had roped in the Doon Residents Welfare Front by reaching out to Dr. Mahesh Bhandari, President of the Front to extend his cooperation and that of the Race Course Residential Front Monty.

The Race Course plantation initiative also got support from the "Bikers Breed" who participated into the plantation initiative shoulder to shoulder with MAD members.

Local resident Shevata Rai Talwar also participated in the initiative. With the moral support of elders, MAD members were able to not only plant the saplings and place the tree guards, but also provided a manure base to each sapling to ensure it has a good and long life.

Present in the activity were members Gagan Dhawan, Satvik Nijhon, Rajat Panwar, Saumya Sharma, Saurav Dhandriyal Pallavi Bhatia, Shardul Aswal, Karan Oberok, Saurav Joshi, Swati Singh coordinator Karan Kapoor and Founding President Abhijay Negi.