

## **Industrial Visit to BWSSB Tertiary Treatment Plant Cubbon Park**

The visit of the III Shift II-year BA Journalism-Sociology students to the BWSSB Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) on 31 August 2023 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm was both educational and eye-opening.

The Plant Manager, Mr Srikanth, an Environmental Engineer by training, provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the facility's significance in addressing Bengaluru's escalating water needs. We learned that the plant processed an astonishing volume of sewage water, primarily sourced from prominent areas such as Vidhana Soudha, UB City Mall, and their surrounding localities. The manager walked us through the intricate stages of the treatment process, including primary, secondary, and tertiary treatments, highlighting the critical role each phase played in producing clean water. We had the opportunity to explore various plant units, from the wet well where untreated water is initially stored to the aeration chamber, chemical zone, and the laboratory that ensured water quality. Witnessing the clean treated water was a remarkable experience, emphasising the BWSSB's commitment to sustainable practices by reusing sewage water to meet the city's growing demand. Additionally, the visit provided insights into the existence of larger STPs operating throughout Bengaluru, underlining the city's dedication to water management and conservation.

## **Guest Lecture on Water and Waste Management in the City of Bengaluru**

The Guest Lecture organised by the Department of Sociology and Industrial Relations, School of Humanities (Shift III), was held on 31 August 2023 in the AV Room, Arrupe Block from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. The Resource Person, Dr Renukumar, Additional Chief Engineer (Design), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board was invited to enlighten Journalism-Sociology students as a part of their core paper on Urban Sociology, which has a dedicated unit on Urban Governance, where students explore the critical role of organisations such as BWSSB in ensuring effective water supply and sewerage management in our city of Bengaluru. Dr Renukumar's presentation on Bengaluru's escalating water demands shed light on a pressing issue faced by the city's burgeoning population. With expanding city limits and a surge in urbanisation, the strain on the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to provide adequate water coverage has intensified. The speaker astutely identified alternate water sources as a crucial strategy to meet future demands, emphasising the pivotal role of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in recycling and reusing wastewater, a sustainable approach that's gaining traction. Furthermore, the presentation underscored the significance of collaborative efforts involving various stakeholders, including BWSSB, civil society organisations, NGOs, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), and individual citizens, to

ensure equitable access to water. This inclusive approach recognises that addressing the water challenge in Bengaluru requires collective commitment and innovative solutions.

The guest speaker's engaging session drew to a close with a dynamic exchange of ideas. Students displayed a keen interest in the topic of water, and their questions spanned a wide spectrum. Some inquiries delved into the effects of water quality on everyday concerns like hair fall, highlighting the real-life impact of water issues on individuals. Others raised concerns about the alarming presence of toxic foam in certain lakes within Bengaluru, showcasing the city's acute environmental challenges. The diversity of questions demonstrated not only the students' engagement with the topic but also their recognition of the broader implications of water-related issues, making it a thought-provoking and insightful conclusion to the session.

The other dignitaries present at the event were Fr Maxim Dias, Director, Shift III; Mr Clement D'Souza, Dean, School of Humanities and Mr Prashanth Kumar, Coordinator, Shift III.

For the Images of Industrial Visit and Guest Lecture on Water and Waste Management in the City of Bengaluru, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery: <https://www.sju.edu.in/gallery/35>