

...tial auditor. When asked if she sees many  
...ware about the course, she says, "Though the  
...tial subject is compulsory, many students do not  
...e environmental science course can be a good  
...om." She feels that there is more emphasis on  
...ms than environment-related education.

...student, Ajinkya Pathak says, "The course is  
...there is more theoretical knowledge than practical  
...work. Practical knowledge  
...should be more; we should  
...get to see on field all that we  
...have learnt in the classroom.  
...Instead of giving PowerPoint  
...presentations, we should  
...rather be taught out, amidst  
...nature." He is already working  
...for environmental awareness



Ajinkya Pathak

...es in various schools. Though he plans to appear  
...services examinations, he is sure he will keep  
...environmental awareness always. He goes on  
...will don't see many students aware of this stream.  
...are still hesitant to turn to the stream because they  
...w what their future will be if they do this course.  
...students should be made aware of environment  
...jects and streams."

...s apart, how does the issue stand in schools?  
...rio Fernandes, Principal of Loyola High School,

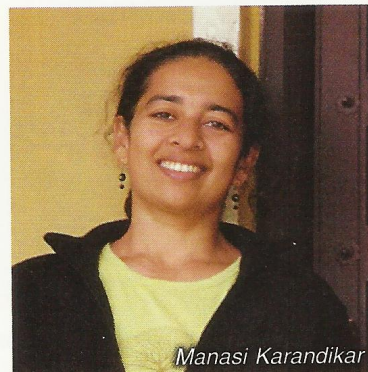


Mario Fernandes

...says, "Our school campus  
...itself is environmental  
...friendly, nestling in the  
...hills amidst lush green  
...surroundings. Our  
...environmental education  
...is geared towards one  
...purpose. It's a very small  
...effort to save the planet.  
...What we strive for is  
...s." Many students are involved in environmental  
...uch as tree plantation programmes. He goes on to  
...are studying the subject because it's compulsory,  
...are not convinced about it. Boys don't see the need  
...re constantly try to educate them about cleanliness  
...pects." He later adds, "Ours is a dying planet.  
...put our hands together to save the planet, we  
...leading towards doom."

Education aside, there are some who have put their  
environmental studies and training to good use. Manasi  
Karandikar, Managing Partner, Oikos for Ecological Services  
(a consultancy in ecological management), says, "A one-  
year PG diploma in 'Sustainable Management of Natural  
Resources and Nature Conservation' conducted by the  
Ecological Society was an eye opener. It gave me an  
integrated approach to look at life, problems in nature, ill  
effects of current developmental trends and environmental  
economics." She is of the opinion that such a course gives  
knowledge and teaches one the importance of nature along  
with the solutions to conserve nature and restore lands. She  
says, "The field visits show the current status of nature and  
help identify problems with the current economic system and  
failure of current trends to safeguard survival of ecosystem  
and biodiversity."

Karandikar throws light on career prospects, "There  
are many opportunities, but not readymade; since an  
integrated approach in any sector is missing in our country.  
But there are many past students who are doing well in  
various areas such as  
research work abroad,  
in industry, social  
organisations to give  
practical solutions, etc.  
Many are integrating  
the subjects in their  
own professions." She  
says that there is not  
really much awareness



Manasi Karandikar

amongst students about such courses. But she explains why  
students should opt for such courses, "Firstly, considering  
the current status of the environment, it is very essential  
to have more people inclined towards preservation. It can  
be through lifestyle changes, policy changes, land work  
or research. This subject needs dedicated people at every  
level." She adds that awareness among masses and school  
children is the need of the hour.

Karandikar concludes, "Students opting for such courses  
must know that there could not be a lot of ready opportunities  
for jobs or very high salaries like in the IT sector. But one has  
to create a position in the current set-up that will encourage  
others to conserve nature. Being an integrated subject, one  
needs to think of surrounding subjects including technology  
and economics." ◀