

SAKSHI VAYA

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EDUCATION

- **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)** **Expected Graduation**
May 2024
Bachelor of Science, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Major: **Earth, Society and Environmental Sustainability** **Current GPA: 4.0**
- Class 12, All India Senior School Certificate Examination (CBSE)
Sir Padampat Singhania School, (SPSS) Kota, Rajasthan, India **Graduated: July 2020**

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Jeevatva Composting and Recycling Pvt. Ltd.** **Kota, India**
July 2022 - present
Founder Director
 - Set up the waste management start-up
 - Pitched venture idea to investors and secured funding for pilot project
 - Currently managing biodegradable waste for 60 households
- **College of Education, UIUC** **October 2021 - present**
Undergraduate Intern
 - Led and assisted virtual classes of middle schoolers from various countries
 - Facilitated inter-cultural discussion on the United Nation's Sustainability Development Goals.
- **College of LAS, UIUC** **August 2022 – October 2022**
Undergraduate Intern (Teaching Assistant)
 - Facilitated group discussions amongst international freshmen
 - Facilitated cross-cultural communication on sensitive topics
- **Swantree (Environmental Organization)** **March 2021 – July 2021**
Intern
 - Conducted online events, social media promotion, made edutainment videos
- **Vitality Living College** **January 2021 – May 2021**
Content writer
 - Created social media content, blogs, promotional content
- **Saahas Zero Waste (Waste Management Company)** **Bangalore, India**
May 2019 - June 2019
Intern
 - Developed creatives such as placards, posters and collaterals
 - Visited an onsite unit and Material Recovery Facility to understand on-ground operations.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

- Organized by Jindal School of International Affairs **Sonipat, India**
24th Oct, 2020
 - Secured 3rd Position in UNCSW as the Delegate of Canada

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3rd Position & Audience Choice Award **Illinois, US**
13th November, 2022
Women in Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition, UIUC
- Award for most environmentally **sustainable business** venture idea **Illinois, US**
29th April, 2022
Illinois Impact Pitch Competition, organized by GIES College of Business, UIUC
- Red Bison Undergraduate Award for **Environmental Action** within Community **Illinois, US**
4th February, 2022
Presented by Red Bison RSO, University of Illinois
- Third position in 2021 Sustainability Competition for Undergrads **Illinois, US**
December, 2021
By University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- Third prize for Debate on relevance of William Shakespeare **Lucknow, India**
August, 2019
51 national & international teams participated
8th Odyssey International, organized by City Montessori School
- Certificate of Appreciation by 95 FM Radio Channel **Kota, India**
26th January, 2019
Part of 'Special 26' awards
Presented for contributing remarkably towards the city's melioration through various acts of social upliftment
- First Prize for **Debate** on the impact of social media **Lucknow, India**
23- 27th November 2018
70+ national & international teams participated
23rd Quanta 2018, organized by City Montessori School

EXTRA CURRICULARS

- Deputy Head Girl, Sir Padampat Singhania School, Kota **2018-2019**
Helped organize major school events including Teachers' Day, Annual Day, Farewell, Sports Day, as a core part of the **student council**. (School strength: 2300+ students)
- Founder President, The Eco Club, Kota **2014-2019**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Worked with teams on innovating solutions for two organizations working on **food security**
 - The Love Fridge, Chicago
 - FUBAM, ColombiaAs part of the Global Leaders Program, by College of LAS, UIUC **Oct 2021 – May 2022**
- Written a rap for an awareness campaign regarding **prevention of suicidal** tendencies among students, for Sunshine Music Academy **January 2019**
- Founded The Eco Club **August, 2014 - 2019**
A children's non-profit organisation working towards **environmental conservation** and other social issues like gender-based discrimination, illiteracy
- Participated in various **donation drives** for orphanages, flood refugees, old age homes, as a member of Principal's Club, SPSS, Kota **2011- 2017**

HOBBIES

- Poetry
 - Secured the first position in a poetry competition organized by the Centre for Social Action, Christ University, Bangalore, India **May 2021**
 - Presented **self-written poetry** at 8th Odyssey International, a literary fest based on William Shakespeare, organized by City Montessori School, Lucknow, India **August 2019**