

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

NSS

SALESIAN COLLEGE Siliguri Campus

# Solid Waste Management Workshop

SALESIAN COLLEGE, SILIGURI: Solid Waste Management Workshop was organized by the college in collaboration with the NSS unit, Siliguri Campus, Alumni, Siliguri Campus and the department of environmental science on 8 September 2016. Workshop was sponsored by United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. Mr. Shankar Majumdar, Secretary of HNAF, Siliguri and Mr. Roshan Rai, Prerna, Darjeeling were the resource persons for the workshop. The invitees were some parents, novitiate brothers and school teachers from different schools. The event was arranged by NSS unit and department of environmental science. There were around forty volunteers of NSS who participated in the event. A total of around 90 attended the workshop.

The programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp followed by Rev. Rector, Fr. Mathew Pulingathil welcoming the guest speakers and the audience and an introductory note by Father Aju Kurian, Vice Principal. Then there was presentation by two groups from NSS team. One group surveyed in malls, plastic factory. They showed a video how plastic wastes are recycled and produce useable pipes out of it. Another group proposed the construction of bio gas plant in cheaper rate.

After this, guest speaker Mr. Majumdar spoke about E-waste and its ill effects. India holds 5th position in generating E-waste. He said, to work from the ground level in order to stop waste generation. He suggested REDUCTION of unwanted products and planning them before it is made to be used. Another guest speaker, Mr. Roshan Rai enlightened the session on how non-metalized products are harming the environment and that they do not decompose at all. Researches show that, 'non-metalized and tetra packs have no solutions to it. They are not recyclable.' He mostly spoke about how zero waste can be possible giving variety of ideas such as reusable diapers which could be washed and used again and also emphasized on reduction too. Even the waste from Bhutan is accumulated in Siliguri dump yard. Mr. Rai is also a part of Himalayan and Nature Foundation and he is campaigning on Zero Waste Himalaya. He concludes by saying, "SILIGURI IS NOT ONLY THE HUB OF TRADING BUT ALSO OF WASTES."

Towards the end there was a presentation by a group from NSS. They surveyed on chayanpara village which is near dumping ground. They talked how the area is neglected despite of being under the municipal area. They presented few models made out of plastic bottles as to how it can be reused in houses of common people instead of dumping them. The researched reports say, only 3% of plastic bottles are recycled and rests 97% are trashed

They planned to discuss these issues with Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) and to conduct another workshop to search for immediate remedies. The programme was concluded with a deep thought on "reduce, reuse and recycle." The programme officially came to an end with a lunch.

**Reported by:**

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