



ONE DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS GOAL 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

DATED: 6TH APRIL 2019

VENUE: AAKSHAR, KAIMBWALA, CHANDIGARH



ORGANIZED BY:
SWARMANI YOUTH WELFARE CLUB, CHANDIGARH

TECHNICAL SUPPORT BY:
**ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS
(ASPWDP), CHANDIGARH**



Introduction:

A one day awareness cum training session was organized by **Swarnani Youth Welfare Club, Chandigarh** with technical support by **Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), Chandigarh** 6th April 2019 at Aakshar, a not for profit society at Village Kaimbwala, Chandigarh. The NGO is working for the social empowerment of marginalized children through education and providing them with an improved quality of life.

It is well known fact that Children are the agent of change and have the potential to bring social transformation in society. Considering the fact and striving for improvement in the education of these students, various issues pertaining to climate change, UN-SDG Goal No. 13 on Climate Action and learning the principles of 5 R's given by United Nations (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle). The students taking evening classes were ranging from 6th standard to 12th standard and majority of them were pursuing their education from Government schools.

The awareness session was started by **Dr. Sumit Arora** from APSWDP by talking about the importance of trees around and how it can improve human health and prolong our life span. It was significantly discussed as to what we all can contribute to make it a better place to survive. Dr. Arora deliberated on the importance of tree plantation and stated the since the beginning of our birth on this earth, we all have been taking all the benefits for our survival from our mother earth but in return we are not contributing anything concrete. Moreover, we are further degrading our environment by the way of pollution.

It was further taken to discussion for the remedial action which we can take for making this earth a better place to live, Dr. Arora added. He primarily focused on the use of plastic bottles and polythene bags in our day to day life which is playing a leading role in deteriorating our environment. He introduced the principle of 5 R's, i.e. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle, the concept of which has been given by United Nations.



Refuse: While discussing the first limb given by the United Nations, he mentioned that we are not been taught to say 'No' to certain things that are not required by us or can harm.

our health. He gave an example that while going to market, we usually do not carry our bags with us of containers made out of metal which can be used for various purposes and in lieu, we all rely on polythene bags and plastic pet bottles that are for the purpose of single use. He requested all the students to learn how to say 'No' to such items.

Reduce: The next was to emphasize on the reduction of such items. At some point of time, we are not in a fit position to say 'No' to certain things which can also be circumstantial. For instance, while going to vegetable markets, sometime it becomes inevitable to take some assistance from the vendor in the form of polythene bags. However, we can always reduce the content of such items which are otherwise not required or can be compensated.

Reuse: While talking about the third limb, it was mentioned that even if we have availed some items that are otherwise not required, we can always try to reduce the same by utilizing it or by handing over the same to those who are in need of it. It will continue the flow of this strategy and majority of the things can be circulated for further use.

Repair: This strategy was discussed while giving an example of the use of mobile phones which are these days used and through. He mentioned that majority of the electronic items these days are available at a moderate cost and can be afforded by a layperson. Moreover, our clothes these days are not been repaired as the clothes are also easily available in the market at an affordable price. Dr. Arora motivated the students that we should never forget that whatever we purchase can be repaired back. It will no doubt save a lot of money but also reduce the waste burden on the corporations, waste collectors, segregators etc.

Recycle: The last of the strategy of 5 R's was concluded by discussing the benefits of recycling in our life. As told by Dr. Arora that majority of the items possessed by us are recyclable in nature. For instance, simple plastic bottle which is not even taken away for



a scrapper can be utilized for making a green wall. Moreover, the curtains in our house can be used for making cloth bags which can be utilized by ourselves or can be sold in market at a minimum price.

While ending his session, he encouraged and motivated all the students to say ‘no to plastic and polythene’ as they are causing harm to our environment. Also, he asked all the students to carry their own cloth bags while going to market for purchasing any item, and especially while moving to purchase vegetables from market. Lastly, he further inspired all the students to share these good practices with their parents, brothers, sisters, friends, relatives and with all other nearer and dearer for making this habitat a better place for human survival.

The next session was taken up by **Mr. Rohit Kumar** from Swarmani Youth Welfare Association who is also ‘Youth Icon’ and has been involved in plentiful youth activities. While talking about protecting the environment from human interventions, he encouraged all the students to understand the importance of tree plantation. While moving this talks, he introduced wall plantation since the permission has to be granted by Government for allocation of space for plantation.

He then took the discussion to the practical side of wall plantation and introduce a mechanized way of making the plastic pots out of waste plastic bottles that are causing harm to our environment. Meanwhile, he took some ornamental plants for the purpose of beautification of the wall which gives a warm impression of being very close to the nature. During his session, the other members of Swarmani Youth and Welfare Club were also introduced to the students and the process was initiated.

Lastly, Mr. Rohit Kumar encouraged all the students to plant more and more trees, especially of occasions like birthday of family member of any special occasion which otherwise is celebrated by using environment non-friendly products. It will not only save our present but also provide a healthy platform to our future generations. Both the speakers were appreciated by all the students as well as the Civil Society Organization working tirelessly for the upliftment of youth students by teaching them such aspects which are not been covered during their routine education. They further mentioned that



such kind of sessions are motivating for them as well as for their students to adopt good practices in their lives and enrich their surrounding with such learnings.

The one day session ended with vote of thanks to Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), Chandigarh and Swarmani Youth Welfare Club for making this event happened. Also, they have requested to take another session in near future of similar nature for boosting the moral of the students and also to understand as to whether any good practice has been adopted by them or their family members.

PICTURE GALLERY



Mr. Rahul Mahajan addressing the students



Dr. Sumit Arora while instructing the students to plant green wall



Students planting green wall



Volunteers of Swarmani Youth Welfare Association