



E[co]work

**APSWDP - E[CO]WORK
JOINT WORKSHOP ON
PARTNERSHIP & TEAM BUILDING
AND
FUTURE ROADMAP IN
E-WASTE MANAGEMENT**

REPORT

12 January 2025

**Association of Professional Social Workers and Development
Practitioners (APSWDP)**

Association in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations
Affiliated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC) of the United Nations
Accredited with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
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Overview

A one-day workshop on “**Partnership & Team Building and Future Roadmap in E-Waste Management**” was jointly organized by the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP); and E[co]work, India, at Chaudhry Devi Lal Memorial Centre for Learning (CDCL), Sector-28B, Chandigarh, on January 12, 2025.

This workshop was organized with the following objectives:

1. Facilitating the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices of both the organizations.
2. Familiarizing with the environmental, social and health impacts of the e-waste.
3. Learning about the business opportunities in the e-waste management industry.
4. Developing a sense of understanding in preparing a roadmap to achieve various objectives including the setting-up of E-Waste Management facility in the Tri-City of Chandigarh.

A total of 22 participants from E[co]work and APSWDP participated in the workshop.

Dr. Sumit Arora, President, APSWDP welcomed the diverse group of participants from various backgrounds and expertise from APSWDP and E[co]work. He explained about the objectives of this workshop which includes the introduction to both APSWDP and E[co]work, the past work experience and expertise in various domains, and to prepare a roadmap through mutual collaboration focusing on e-waste management in the Tri-city of Chandigarh.

Introduction and Background

The workshop begins with a round of introduction to all the participants. The participants introduced themselves by sharing their background and expectations from the workshop.



Association of Professional Social Workers & Development Practitioners (APSWDP) is a registered, not for profit, membership-based organization of professional social workers and development practitioners working in various social welfare domain across the country. The association deals with various social issues like poverty, livelihood, health, education, water & sanitation, unemployment, disease control programme, climate change, environment conservation, urbanisation, youth, issues of de-addiction, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs), etc.

E[co]work is an innovative social impact startup dedicated to transforming the e-waste recycling sector in India. It provides co-working spaces tailored for informal micro-entrepreneurs engaged in e-waste dismantling, offering a safer and more regulated environment for their operations. The primary objectives of E[co]work includes Safe Dismantling Facilities, Affordable Workspace Solutions and Support Services.

E[co]work offers physical spaces where e-waste dismantlers can operate safely, adhering to environmental and safety regulations. It provides cost-effective workspace options for micro-entrepreneurs, enabling them to access necessary facilities without significant financial burdens. It offers additional services such as marketplaces connecting buyers and sellers, and business support services like insurance, to assist entrepreneurs in scaling their operations.

It is worth mentioning that APSWDP and E[co]work signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 March 2022 for working together to develop and implement joint activities and project on mutually agreed and separately specified topics and terms, including but not limited to community participation activities, educational and awareness raising activities, skill development and entrepreneurship, research and other events.

Ms. Dea Wehrli, Co-Founder, E[co]work and Dr. Deepali Sinha Khetriwal, Co-Founder, E[co]work, India during the workshop emphasized on developing a common understanding of the objectives and goals as outlined in the MoU and aligning on the vision of developing an e-waste management facility in the Tri-City of Chandigarh will help to maintain the focus and foster a sense of unity. This platform will facilitate teamwork, aiding strategic planning, and building a roadmap to develop a project that can be executed by APSWDP in the Tri-City of Chandigarh.

Group Work

The Marshmallow Challenge

It is widely admitted that engaging in an ice-breaking session early, the participants are more likely to contribute actively throughout the workshop. Hence, the workshop was kickstarted through an ice breaking session. All the participants introduced themselves to each other. The purpose of this session was to acquaint each other since all are meeting for the very first time. This session also helped participants to feel more comfortable and ready for the engagement. Ms. Urja Sureka, Business Development & Customer Success Lead, E[co]work, India took the lead in this ice breaking session “The Marshmallow Challenge”.



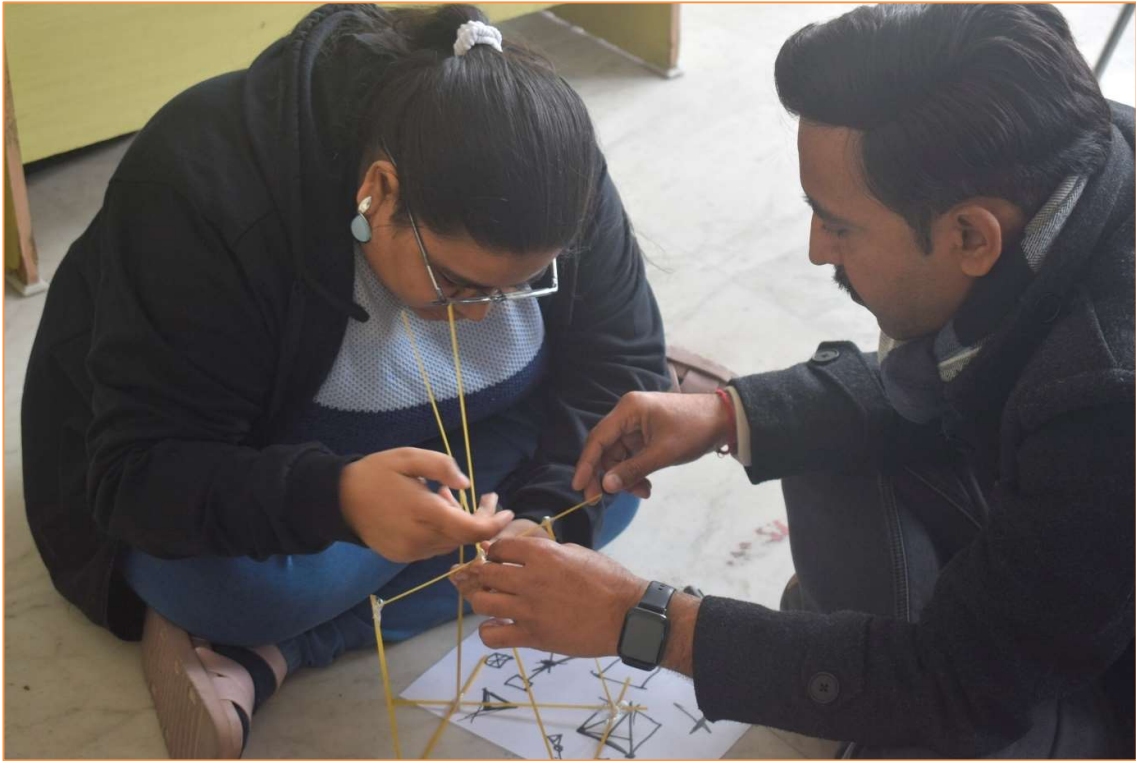
The Marshmallow Challenge teaches people collaboration, to be innovative and creative, and shows people how they truly work together. Besides, it reveals

strengths and opportunities for growth, promote interaction and collaboration among participants, and fostering a sense of community. The challenge is to build the tallest free-standing structure with a marshmallow on top.



During the 20 minutes challenge, all the four teams were engaged in creating the tallest structure by creative thinking and the generation of new ideas. It was also a session on team building, shared vision and goals, defined roles, collaboration and responsibilities, effective communication, and time management, etc.

All four teams did spectacular work by using various items for building the tallest structure. This team exercise encouraged the production of diverse ideas and solutions. It also led to the brainstorming effectively, leading to innovative outcomes.



The Chinese Whispers

Following this activity, Ms. Urja Sureka conducted another activity that highlights how information can be altered when passed from person to person. Two separate lines were formed and the last person in the line was asked to think of a phrase, and communicate it to the person standing ahead.

The instruction was to whisper quietly enough that only the intended recipient can hear it. The second person whispers what they heard to the next person in line, and this continues until the message has traveled around the entire circle and the first person announces the message, they heard out loud. The original phrase is then revealed, and everyone can see how much it has changed from the start.



The results were hilarious and clearly shows the distortions of the original message. It demonstrates the potential for miscommunication and how easily information can be altered as it is relayed, making it a useful tool in teaching effective communication skills.



While concluding the session, it was mentioned by Ms. Urja that effective communication skills are essential for various aspects of personal and professional development. It helps in building relationship at various fronts, be

it family, friends, or colleagues; ensures that tasks are understood and completed efficiently; and support in articulating ideas.

Lastly, it has added that persuasion and influence in everyday interaction, the ability to communicate persuasively can help influence others' opinions and behaviors.

Presentations

E[co]work

The first presentation was made by E[co]work led by Ms. Dea and Dr. Deepali. It was emphasized that to make e-waste recycling safe, it is crucial to mitigate the environmental hazards, social impact and health risks. During the presentation, following points were discussed:

1. E-waste scenario in India;
2. Problems: Improper e-waste management, the environmental, social and health impacts;
3. Problem statement: What is needed for a value-chain that is safe, equitable and creates a positive environmental, social and economic impacts;
4. E[co]work – A co-working space for informal e-waste micro-enterprises;
5. Infrastructure and support for a just transition;
6. Market opportunity to tap into the government and corporate drive towards circular economy; and
7. Impact opportunity on multiple SDGs and overall sustainability goals nationally and at corporate level.



During the presentation, the following points were also emphasized:

- The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, effective from April 1, 2023, mandate that only registered producers, recyclers, and refurbishers are authorized to collect and process e-waste.
- These rules also emphasize on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), requiring producers to collect and recycle a specified percentage of e-waste annually.
- Integrating informal waste pickers into the formal recycling framework through training and certification can enhance safe e-waste handling; eliminating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions for workers in the informal sector.
- Educating consumers about the hazards of improper e-waste disposal and promoting the use of authorized recycling centers can reduce unsafe

recycling practices. Awareness campaigns can encourage responsible disposal behaviors.

- Opportunity to build skilled, industry-relevant workforce for recyclers with high social and environmental performance.

While concluding the session, the presenters focused on the immense opportunities for growth and development in the e-waste management sector including but not limited to recycling and recovery, formalization of the informal sector, EPR, public awareness, government initiatives, technological advancements and innovations, and opportunities for collaboration.

APSWDP

The second presentation was made by APSWDP led by Dr. Vivek Trivedi and Dr. Sumit Arora. The presentation focused on the introduction to the association, vision and mission, key focus areas, ongoing projects and its social impact, various achievements and good practices, and future roadmap. During the presentation, the following areas of interventions were discussed:

1. Promoting Social Work Education for Sustainable Development.
2. Awareness and sensitization Programmes on various social issues.
3. Capacity Building and Training on Climate Action, Sustainable Development Goals for Educators and Youth.
4. Implementation of Grass-root project in partnership with State AIDS Control Societies in Punjab and Chandigarh.
5. Teachers Training Programme and Green Campus Programme in collaboration with The Climate Reality Project India and South Asia.
6. Establishment of Samta Nyaya Kendra for Transgender welfare and empowerment.

7. Institutional Building and Strengthening
8. Holding International, National, and Local conferences on UN themes and SDGs.
9. Strong association with UN agencies including UN ECOSOC, UNFCCC, UNEP, UNEA, UNESCO MIL Alliance, etc. and representation of APSWDP in COP.
10. Building Partnerships and fostering global collaborations towards Sustainability.



Future Roadmap

A future roadmap outlining the strategic direction and action plan for achieving the goals was discussed. The goals were divided into four parts based on its attainability.



Figure 1: Future Roadmap

During the discussion, the following points were emphasized:

Strategies	Ideas
Impossible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Change
Low Hanging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Mapping • Visit to E[co]work Ghaziabad
Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Campus Program • Responsible e-waste management habits • Replication of E[co]work facility Ghaziabad at Chandigarh
Wao Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Teachers Training Program • Engagement of Vulnerable Groups (HIV positive & Transgender) in employment Entrepreneurship

Besides the above, the following points were also discussed:

1. Planning an exposure visit to Ghaziabad project of E[co]work for developing understanding;
2. Conducting research study on e-waste management in Chandigarh;
3. Identify skill training trades in e-waste management and also informal sector in this area for training;
4. Formation of community group and Self-Help Groups (SHGs);
5. Mapping of stakeholders; and
6. Establishment of community-based startup in e-waste collection in Chandigarh.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Vivek Trivedi delivered the vote of thanks for the event. Dr. Trivedi expressed gratitude to Ms. Dea Wehrli, Dr. Deepali, and the entire team of E[co]work for coming all the way to Chandigarh, and for sharing your invaluable insights and expertise. Your knowledge and experiences have provided us with a wealth of information and inspiration, he added.



Dr. Trivedi also appreciated the dedication of the entire team of APSWDP for their participation in this event despite being busy schedule. The active engagement and enthusiasm of all the participants has led to the great success of this event.

Annexure-1: Agenda

E[co]work



APSWDP - E[co]work Joint Workshop on Partnership & Team Building and Future Roadmap in E Waste Management

Chaudhry Devi Lal Memorial Centre for Learning (CDCL), Sector-28B, Chandigarh

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Moderator
11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. <i>(15 Minutes)</i>	Introduction and welcome	Dr. Sumit Arora APSWDP
11:15 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. <i>(15 Minutes)</i>	Ice breaking session	Ms. Urja E[co]work
Tea		
11:30 a.m. to 11:45 noon <i>(15 Minutes)</i>	Introduction to E[co]works <i>(Q/A)</i>	Dr. Deepali E[co]work
11:45 noon to 12:00 noon <i>(15 Minutes)</i>	Introduction to APSWDP <i>(Q/A)</i>	Dr. Vivek Trivedi APSWDP
12:00 noon to 01:00 p.m. <i>(60 Minutes)</i>	Group work <i>(Short Creative Game)</i>	APSWDP E[co]work
01:00 p.m. to 01:30 p.m. <i>(30 Minutes)</i>	Discussion & Preparing Roadmap	APSWDP E[co]work
01:30 p.m. to 02:00 p.m. <i>(30 Minutes)</i>	Conclusion	Ms. Dea E[co]work
Lunch		

Annexure-2: List of Participants

#	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	Vivek Trivedi	Founder and Principal Advisor, APSWDP	9417170356
2	Sumit Arora	President, APSWDP	9814540325
3	Karamveer Singh	Chief Executive Officer, APSWDP	9466076800
4	Hitesh Kumar Gulati	Director General [Hon.], APSWDP	9915400399
5	Ripu Daman Chopra	Deputy Director Projects [Hon.], APSWDP	7710383799
6	Rajeev Kumar Choudhary	Director Capacity Building [Hon.], APSWDP	9915659342
7	Akash Yadav	Director Legal [Hon.], APSWDP	9780329742
8	Amit Joshi	Director Partnership and Outreach Synergist [Hon.], APSWDP	8894867039
9	Gurpreet Choudhary	Director Research and Innovation [Hon.], APSWDP	9041557939
10	Sudeep Agnihotri	Director Education for Sustainable Development [Hon.], APSWDP	9463655110
11	Ankita Rani	Volunteer, APSWDP	9034953255
12	Devashish Kaith	Volunteer, APSWDP	9417170356
13	Deepali Sinha Khetriwal	Co-Founder, E[co]work	9930891172
14	Dea Andrea Wehrli	Co-Founder, E[co]work	+41 79 841 40 91
15	Urja Sureka	Business Development & Customer Success Lead, E[co]work	8080671660
16	Ibrahim	Operations Manager, E[co]work	9971605234
17	Akash	Compliance & Supply Chain, E[co]work	8799779562

#	Name	Designation	Contact No.
18	Shahnawaj	Community & Outreach Manager, E[co]work	8899349083
19	Uma Shankar	Finance & Admin, E[co]work	9599893331
20	Deepak	Operations & Data maintenance, E[co]work	9891202682
21	Rahul	Operations & Compliance, E[co]work	8802958871
22	Madhav	Procurement Manager, E[co]work	9662486925

Annexure-3: Picture Gallery











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