

SOCIO-LEGAL AWARENESS SESSIONS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SEGREGATION

Report on Events Conducted in Delhi-NCR to inform the public of the laws surrounding proper waste management as well as to raise awareness on the benefits and requirements of segregating waste at source.

ABSTRACT: The events aimed to spread awareness of proper waste disposal and management. This was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project, Segregation at Source. The project is based on SDG 13: Climate Action. It is aimed to increase awareness regarding the issue of climate change and the importance of practicing waste segregation. Further, the other purpose of this project is to help and convince organisations to switch from a single bin system to a segregated bin system.

Conducted by:

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2. Ms. Mridula Trivedi, Co-Convener
3. Ms. Bhavya Bahl, Paralegal Volunteer

Under the Guidance of:

Ms. Charvi Kumar,
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I. Concept Note

World Bank estimates show that, globally, we produce approximately 2.01 billion tonnes of solid waste each year.

However, at least 33% of that waste is not managed in an environmentally sound manner and that's an extremely conservative estimate.

The inspiration for this project came from these alarming numbers. It consists of 3 primary elements that are the introduction of segregated bins at the institutional level, awareness sessions, and, the introduction of an integrated platform to connect recycling agencies with our target organisations.

Waste segregation is the sorting and separation of waste types to facilitate recycling and correct onward disposal.

II. Objectives

The main objective of these events was:

1. To popularise the introduction of different coloured bins for the collection of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste followed by weekly collection drives by a recycling agency.
2. To conduct door-to-door awareness sessions on the importance and process of segregation of waste at the source.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, the organisers made the following preparations:

1. Researched on the laws and rules surrounding waste management in India.
2. Gained permission from the necessary venues to hold awareness sessions there.
3. Made posters and pamphlets to help disseminate information in a more orderly and eye-catching manner.
4. Gained permission from Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA to permanently shift to a new system of waste segregation where waste would be divided at source into recyclable (dry) waste and biodegradable (wet) waste.

IV. Conducting the Event

This event was the brainchild of Ms. Aprajita Tyagi and Ms. Bhavya Bahl, respectively the Convener and Paralegal Volunteer at LAC, as well as co-founders of the Millennium Fellowship Project 'Segregation at Source' for the Class of 2022. They were assisted by Ms. Mridula Trivedi, the Co-Convener of LAC and a fellow Millennium Fellow. Other learners who participated were Ms. Bhavya Singh, Ms. Meher Gill, Ms. Sakshi Mehta, and Ms. Shubhangi Singh.

Our entire project was conducted in multiple phases. It was followed by weekly meetings, flag disposal event, awareness sessions in different institutions, E-Waste collection drive, filling of RTIs, social media presence, disseminating waste management directions, and procuring Incineration machine for sanitary waste disposal.

Wazidpur School Awareness Session:

The primary Government School located in Wazidpur already had colour-coded bins, however, no practice of waste segregation was followed. The team visited their campus and taught the students

the importance and the proper way to segregate waste. The team also covered topics like the importance of waste segregation, how to segregate waste, the concept of climate change, etc. through illustrative means with the help of a black board and chalk provided by the School Authorities.

The Team had prepared a game for the students wherein random materials were pasted onto placards and the students had to apply their logic to classify the material into biodegradable or non-biodegradable based on their learnings from our Team's session.

Caterpillar Electric Pvt. LTD:

It was observed that in this office, only one bin was installed for disposing waste. Upon enquiring from the office staff, it was found out that they were not aware of the proper way to segregate waste and did not segregate waste at their residences either. Thereafter, our Team introduced two bins for segregating wet and dry waste with explanatory labels for each dustbin.

This was followed by an awareness session on the importance and procedure of waste segregation amongst the office staff. They were even informed about the correlation between climate change and waste segregation.

V. Response of the Target Population and Outcomes

On completion of the awareness sessions, the target audience expressed that they got a better understanding of concepts like climate change, waste segregation and waste disposal. In addition to that they realised the importance of waste segregation and agreed to inculcate the practice in their daily lives. Overall, the response of the audience was extremely positive.

In Symbiosis Law School NOIDA, the administration first shifted to a wet-and-dry segregated system as a response to our requests.

In addition, the team successfully designed and put-up Notice Boards next to each bin placed at our campus giving illustrative instructions on what can be thrown in the wet waste bin and what can be thrown in the dry waste bin.

The team also designed and placed notice boards in the washrooms so that waste generators are vigilant about their segregation duties and do not throw food waste in washroom bins.

Since the event at Wazidpur Government school, the students have been following the segregated system and they send it for recycling through the Municipal Corporation of the area.

VI. Future Plan of Action

While undoubtedly successful, these events were the first pit stop in the journey towards proper waste management and environmental protection.

In the future, the team plans to hold several more events to raise awareness. Additionally, it hopes that Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA can switch to wet-dry-plastic waste as well as obtain a means of disposing of sanitary napkins in a safe manner.

VII. Suggestions/Feedback

The team members had filed 'Right to Information' Applications at the offices of various Municipal Corporations located in the National Capital Region of India to understand how and if waste

segregation is being carried on along with recycling of waste collected from landfills. Some of us had to file First Appeals to get the responses.

It was found out that in East Delhi though segregation is being done of legacy waste no plastic has been sent for recycling. It was also found that no penalty is imposed on residential societies that do not segregate waste even though it is required for the waste generator to segregate waste by the law of our country.

VIII. Conclusion

The team will like to thank the faculty advisors Mr. Ankur Sharma and Ms. Charvi Kumar for supporting our efforts throughout and our Director, Prof. (Dr.) C.J. Rawandale for getting our budget approved by the University. It would like to acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers Mr. Ankit Agrawal, Ms. Aparna Mangla, Mr. Parth Whorra, Ms. Priyadarshini Singh, and Mr. Akshit Lunial.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT



