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REPORT by



ENVIS CENTRE SIKKIM

On Status of Environment & its Related Issues
Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Department
Government of Sikkim

GREEN SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAMME



Organized In Collaboration







Green Schools Teacher's Training Programme

Venue : Sikkim Science Centre, Marchak

Date : July 27-28, 2010



A Report by ENVIS Centre Sikkim, FEWMD

A two day's Green Schools Teacher's training programme was held at Sikkim Science Centre, Marchak on the 27th and 28th of July 2010, organized by the Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology in collaboration with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi and ENVIS Centre for Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department.



The first day of the training session began with great enthusiasm by welcoming the resource persons from CSE, New Delhi and the participating teachers from the various schools of Sikkim. The Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Shri. M. L. Arrawatia in his address mentioned the Green School Programme being introduced at the state level in all the schools last year-2009 which was conducted by ENVIS (Environment Information System) Centre, Forest Environment & Wildlife Management

Department where 40 Schools participated. Among them, three schools received awards at the national level. He also highlighted the DNA club project on Biotechnology awareness for schools and "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research"-INSPIRE Award, an innovative programme for the young minds in schools which was launched by the Chief Minister, Shri. Pawan Chamling during the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Namchi Sr. Sec. School on October 14, 2009. In context to this, 22 schools were awarded INPIRE warrants (awards) of Rs. 5000/- each by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Minister (DST/FEWMD) Shri Bhim Prasad Dhungel.



Snapshot: Deorali Girls Sr. Sec. School receiving the INSPIRE award from Hon'ble Minister, Shri. Bhim Prasad Dhungel



The resource person from CSE, New Delhi, Mr. Ashish Shah in his address mentioned the objectives of the Green School Programme. The activities that are listed down in the Green School manual are with the motive of helping the teachers and students realize the importance of our natural resources. Eventually, understanding our consumption level and thus managing it efficiently. This would then help us build an

active and aware citizen. He also acknowledged the participation of Sikkim Schools during 2009. At the same time, three Sikkim schools bagging national awards in their first participation is an index of its future, he mentioned.



The presence of the Hon'ble Minister, Forests Environment & Wildlife Management Department and Department of Science and Technology, Shri Bhim Prasad Dhungel added vigor to the programme; in his speech he congratulated the three government secondary schools from Reshi, Linkey and Namcheybong who received national awards for GSP 2009 and encouraged other schools to take initiative in participating the Green School Programme for this year. He also acknowledged the works done by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, in

reaching out to the more than 30,000 schools in the nation as well as praised them for their efforts in implementing such a good programme. He added that programmes like this will be of immense help in educating the students in Sikkim where the teachers and students from the schools itself can manage their resources by following the manual provided by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). This will help the whole generation of students understand the process of estimating their consumption level of the resources they utilize. Eventually making the students conscious of the environment they live in.

He also stressed on the initiatives taken by the state government in making Sikkim Clean and Green, in this context he mentioned the "State Green Mission" implemented by the government and similarly "10 minutes to earth" organized on the 25th of June 2010.



At the end of the inaugural session, 18 Schools were awarded color coded rank certificates based on all-India ratings of green schools.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks by the Senior Programme Officer ENVIS Centre, Shri. Rajen Pradhan; followed by a short break for refreshment.

The Technical session began with the overview of the Manual by the CSE experts Mr. Ashish Shah and Ms Ajanta Sikdar who explained the intricate detail of the manual and its objectives to conserve the environment that we live in. In the session, he explained each of the chapters i.e. Air, Water, Land, Energy and Waste in a simple and exhaustive manner through a power point presentation. The technical session was an exploration of each of the task given in the manual. He

discussed mainly upon the audit parameters in the manual; how the task is to be carried out, the pros and cons of the result obtained from their audit and what should be done about it. He talked about the basic rules of the Green School Programme as how to manage the teams in the respective schools and how to conduct and manage it efficiently. He stressed on the fact that the audit that is done by the schools was to



observe things in the school campus and note down; the reason behind this was to realize the consumption level of the natural resources. If the consumption level was within the admissible limits and not hampering the environment it was to be considered good and in cases where it exceeded the admissible limits, this would be the area where the change was to be made and an area to work upon.

The problems faced by the schools that conducted last year were also discussed. Since, certain task in the Water Chapter like the Rain Water Harvesting which is usually not practiced in most of the schools in Sikkim were brought for discussion. The Resource person stressed on the point that if there are no such practices in the Schools. In future they could try practicing it and cultivate such ideas all over Sikkim.

The Manual being self assessment, Schools could actually evaluate themselves on each parameters i.e water, air, land, energy and waste. The main motive behind the self evaluation is not just scoring and getting marks; the points are but indicators to reflect areas where they are lacking and thus focus on areas where they need to work upon. The resource person added that awards that are given at the state level or at the national level are a source of encouragement that is given to the school for improving and doing better. The schools should consequently not only focus on receiving awards but the prime work is conducting the audit and doing a self assessment of schools.



He discussed upon the basic things we need to understand about the environment we live in and find solutions to improve it and if not improve change the way we live; the formation of a literate generation ahead.

The teachers were very keen about the technical session.



The technical session continued for a period of two days. Towards the end, a feedback session was held where the teachers participated actively. They stated their general problems in conducting such programmes in schools; for example it was sometimes difficult to do a follow-up activity every year, as the teachers get frequently transferred from their respective schools. Teachers who were not clear about certain

task in the manual enquired about their problem. Schools have huge burden of finishing the syllabus and the extra curricular activities that is lined throughout out the year; and then the activities about Green School Programme becomes hectic. In this regard Mr. Shah suggested alternatives like the Green School activities could be done as a class project or summer project etc.

The technical session ended with a positive note. Towards the end, the timeline to carry out the audits were mentioned by CSE experts.



Sr. Programme Officer Mr. Rajen Pradhan ENVIS Centre in the his address at the end of the Programme explained to the teachers about the National Environment Awareness Programme (NEAC) that is conducted every year by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and called for participation of schools for this years campaign. He also thanked the experts for their support and their time in conducting such programmes, the teachers for their participation and cooperation in making this teacher's training a success. He

also expresses his gratitude to the State Council of Science and Technology for their support and cooperating in conducting the Teachers Training Programme.



This was followed by distribution of Certificates of Participation by the CSE experts to all the teachers of the schools who participated in the programme. The programme ended by encouraging all the teachers to participate in the programme and to join hands in making this Green School Programme a success.



The attendance sheet is enclosed.

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