

Women led integrated solid waste management Programme

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The NSS cell, comprising of about 220 students had organised a Women led integrated solid waste management workshop in the slums of Bagbazaar Paschim Banga Matshya Unnyan Samity Bagbazaar, Kolkata-03, Ward No. 07 on 31st March, 2017. It is one of the two areas they had adopted. 40 students had participated in this programme. The workshop narrated the workings of the project funded by ITC and implemented by BITAN, a very much well-known NGO for its expertise with the issues related to Reproductive & Child Health Rights, and Solid & Liquid Resource Management. The entire programme consisted of two parts: technical session and interactive session. In the first session the students were shown a detailed documentary film on how actually the solid waste management programme is being diligently conducted by BITAN organization in the suburban and rural areas of West Bengal by local women since 2014. In a thriving metropolis like Kolkata, waste management becomes extremely essential to ensure the overall health and hygiene of the masses. Densely populated and unorganised areas like this particular locality can be breeding grounds for various sanitation related diseases, but on an optimistic note, with a few management measures and spread of awareness, areas like these can be great producers of organic manure. The film focused on several environmental issues and demonstrated the students how kitchen waste collected by the underprivileged women is being used to produce organic manure which is a healthier and safer solution to the chemical fertilizers. A Women self-help group was used to generate a pool of money from waste management which was further utilised to empower these underprivileged sections of the society. In the interactive session, the participating students were encouraged to put forward their views and opinions and play their part in planning how solid waste management programme can be initiated in the adopted slum of the NSS Cell of Presidency University. A campaigning at the adopted area of Bagbazaar was also conducted on the 18th April, 2017 with the hope of spreading awareness and encouragement.

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