

Green School Teacher's Training Programme

Forest Conference hall

1st - 2nd & 4th - 5th August 2011



A Report by ENVIS Centre Sikkim

Declared as the year of innovation by the Sikkim State Government, the year 2011 has been an eventful year towards environment education in schools. The momentum towards environmental education began with the mission started by Forest Environment & Wildlife Management Department under the Chief Minister's vision of creating **100% Environment Conscious Citizen in Sikkim State by 2015**. Thereby to materialize this vision it was sought necessary to target the children, considering the characteristics suitable for children in the school environment.

Consequently, the thrust towards this mission began with the constitution of the prestigious Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy and the hosting of the State level Green School Awards Ceremony on the eve of World Environment day, 5th June 2011 at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok. The award scheme is based on the performance of the schools in the Green School Programme being implemented in the state since the year 2009.

The whole environment seemed encouraging for the schools in Sikkim to partake in the Green School Programme (GSP). Therefore to effectively enroll schools for the GSP, training programme

for the green teachers was imperative. Training programme was organized by ENVIS centre, Forest Environment & Wildlife Management Department with the help of Resource persons from Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi on 1st - 2nd August and 4th - 5th of August 2011-12 at Forest Conference hall, Deorali Gangtok. This training was provided to all Green Teachers from Senior Secondary and Secondary Schools (Government, Central and Private Schools) within the state in two batches of two days each.

To encourage the participating Green teachers, Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Bhim Dhungel was present to grace the occasion. Forest Department officials too were present to gain an understanding about the Green School Programme.

Since the programme was conducted in two batches of 60-70 teachers each, for the first batch i.e. on 1st-2nd of August 2011, all senior secondary and secondary (Government, Central and Private) schools from North and East district were invited; and for the second batch i.e. on 4th-5th of August 2011 South and West were invited.

The first day of the training session began with much interest from the participating

teachers. The programme began with a welcome address by ENVIS Programme Officer Miss Sandhya Pradhan welcoming the Chief Guest Hon'ble Forest Minister Shri Bhim Dhungel, Forest Department officials, Resource persons Mr. Ashish Shah and Ms Ajanta Sikdar from CSE and the participating Green Teachers. Khadas were offered to the guest resource persons by the Hon'ble Forest Minister.

This followed the address by the PCCF-cum-CWLW Mr. N.T.Bhutia, who welcomed all the teachers for the training programme and thanked them for their support in making the World Environment Day a success.



He also expressed his gratitude to all the teachers for taking their time out from their busy schedule and attending the programme thereby extending their cooperation with the Forest Department in achieving the vision of creating "100 percent Environment Conscious Citizen in Sikkim State by 2015". He specifically laid emphasis on the Forest Department's

mission and vision for spreading environmental consciousness in Sikkim. He highlighted the State level Green School Awards and the constitution of Chief Minister's Green School Rolling Trophy during the World Environment Day; and thus urged the teachers to carry the Green School Programme in their respective schools and make this programme a success in Sikkim.



The resource person from Delhi Mr. Ashish Shah was overwhelmed by the response from Sikkim schools and their willingness to participate in the Green School Programme. In his address, he mentioned the initiative and the effort taken by the Chief Minister of the state towards environmental consciousness, which could create a befitting example of a Green School state and could further be replicated by other states in the nation. He spoke about how Green School Programme can help bring about a change in one's life even though it may take place at a small scale. The magnitude of the GSP involves not only students but other members of the society. He elaborated on

CSE's effort to make Green School Programme transparent by hosting a separate Green School Website to make it more students friendly.

The presence of our Hon'ble Forest Minister, Shri Bhim Dhungel was sheer encouragement to the teachers. His concern towards such programmes has given the department an encouragement



to do even better along these lines of spreading awareness. He was very glad to be a part of this Green School Teachers Training Programme and congratulated the top five winning schools who were given the state level awards on World Environment day. Further, he expressed his happiness towards schools from Sikkim who were gaining national recognition where Middle Camp Secondary School and Lower Samdong Secondary School were awarded National Awards by CSE, New Delhi for being one among the top ten Green Schools in the nation for 2011. In his address, he spoke gravely about the changes that have taken place in the environment, the

change we have witnessed from the past to present; from being nature worshipper to slowly emerging as destroyer. Focusing on the grave environmental concerns he stressed on everybody to bear the responsibility to save our environment, the shift being from need based rather than want. In his address he specifically mentioned that the teachers who will be coordinating GSP in schools should not take this GSP an extra burden but take it as a social responsibility. The work done by them may not give immediate results but the teachers need to realize that this is a long term initiative at the same time understand that we need not base our works on receiving an award but persevere to work towards the environment and save it from further degradation.

He listed a few schools visited during the Chief Minister's tour in the state like Dentam Sr. Sec. School, Rong Sec. School etc who have taken extra initiative to keep school surrounding clean and beautiful by planting ornamental plants, creating flower beds, herbal garden etc and maintaining it; which reflects the efforts taken by the school student, teachers and the administrative staff for their incredible job in keeping the school clean and beautiful. In the note he also highlighted the richness of Biodiversity in

Sikkim and urged people to maintain this asset and work towards conserving this rich biodiversity of our state.

He also mentioned DNA club project on Biotechnology awareness for schools and "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research"-INSPIRE Award, conducted by Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology, and requested green teachers to enroll their school for such activities as well.

He appealed to all the teachers to actively partake in environment activities and join hands in protecting the future of Human race by conserving nature thereby making an important contribution towards spreading environmental awareness for a global cause.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks by DFO (EPC) Shri S.K.Thatal; followed by a short break for refreshment.



The technical session began with the overview and concept of National Green Corps (NGC) by CCF (LU&E) Mr. Pradeep Kumar, he briefed the session about the functioning of NGC Programme in the

state. There being about 354 eco-clubs established in the state.



He informed the teachers that the NGC programme in the state is supported by the Sikkim Ecology fund and Environment Cess Act within the state. He acknowledges the work done by CSE and state that the manual was exhaustive and if followed would help students understand the concept of sustainability thereby conserve our natural resources.

Thereafter the resource persons from New Delhi Mr. Ashish Shah, Deputy Coordinator from CSE, New Delhi gave an overview of Green School Programme to the Green Teachers. He talked about environmental problems today's world is creating and facing; the amount of waste that is generated every day and the increasing amount of pollution that is growing day by day. He gave a general picture of how the wastes are produced and the factors responsible for the production of such waste and the problem of disposal of such waste. He

outlined the system responsible for the environmental problem that is consuming our society.



In order to help teacher get a clear idea of what is being discussed, short length documentaries were shown to the teachers to help them understand the whole process of the environmental problem and areas where change be brought about. The overview were given to help teachers understand the role that Green School Programme plays in bringing about a change to prevent and conserve the degrading situation of our environment.

The training session for the Green School manual began after lunch where the resource person Mr. Ashish Shah and Ms. Ajanta Sikdar took turns to explain each chapter i.e. Water, Air, Land, Energy and Water in detail. For each chapter the tasks were explained in detail. Since the manual were made keeping in consideration the national standards the parameters were explained in detail. Sikkim is a hilly region there were many problems faced by the schools in tallying with the national standards and therefore

their shortcomings were discussed at length.

During the training session the teachers laid down their problems they would face while conducting the audit and considering the strain and difficulty that laid ahead in the task the problems were sorted out. Few of the problems discussed were shortage of water in few schools, frequent theft of ablution taps form the school campus, the limitation of school playfield area, absence of proper electricity in schools. Since a total of 123 schools were present in the training session with each batch containing 60 schools each school had their own problem and likewise the teachers interacted with and helped each other solve their problem.

The training sessions were very interactive and thus highlighted the Green teachers' interest to conduct GSP in their respective schools.



Towards the end of the training session a briefing on the pattern of submission of report for discussed to enable trouble-free evaluation of the report by the experts.

The responses from both end the Green teachers and the resource persons were positive. The training session ended on a positive note.

