

Punjab trains 50 Master Trainers in SWM



As many as 50 master trainers comprising of Sub Divisional Engineers, Junior Engineers, IEC and Capacity Building Specialists from the proactive districts of Punjab were trained in the various aspects of solid waste management (SWM) in rural areas, including the technical knowhow.

The one-day state level workshop was organised by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Punjab with the support of Feedback Foundation at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration on March 5, 2021.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Ms. Parneet Shergill, Mission Director SBM(G). Both organisers and participants adhered to the COVID-19 guidelines.



Addressing the participants, Ms. Shergill emphasised that adequate and efficient management of solid waste in the rural areas was the need of the hour. She insisted that all SBM teams visit villages to guide and motivate the Gram Panchayats to take up solid waste management projects in their villages under SBM(G) Phase II.

Thereafter, Mr. Ajay Sinha from Feedback Foundation oriented the participants on the various aspects of solid waste management, focusing on the following:

- What is Solid Waste Management?
- Need for Waste Management
- Different waste perspectives
- Policy Framework and rules related to SWM
- Strategy options for SWM
- Group Work: Creating a 'zero waste' village/GP based on circular economy

At the outset, during the context setting session, the participants discussed the concept and origin of the waste, deliberating at length on the need for proper waste management.



To provide a deeper understanding of the concept, the trainer linked the recommended activities with the traditional methods followed by elders such as reusing things again to prevent the generation of unnecessary waste. He stressed that if waste items were effectively managed it would be turned into nutritious plant manure, providing immense benefit to the communities. But for that to happen, a conscious effort would be required by the entire community.

On site selection, creating infrastructure, engagement of waste collectors and operation and maintenance of SWM plants, he provided vital information. Participants were also guided on framing SWM plans for a village, based on its population and area.



All sessions were interactive, and the last group session required each group to create an action plan for a zero-waste village. While small gifts were given to participants that gave correct answers, the group that performed the best was rewarded. Presentations were evaluated based on the understanding of SWM concepts, data analysis, and innovative ideas.

What participants said:

“The training provided us with new perspectives towards waste management, and encouraged competitiveness among participants,” said **Amandeep Brar, Subdivisional Engineer from Bathinda.**

“It was a refreshing training that helped brush up my skills. All the sessions were highly informative and given that our team bagged the prize for the best performing group, I was thrilled,” said **Ms. Sumita Soffat, Community Development Specialist from Sangrur.**

Overall, the workshop proved to be fruitful for the trainers, honing their skills in solid waste management in the villages. It is left to them how they would motivate and build capacities of Gram Panchayat functionaries.

Inputs: Ms. Sevy Sharma, Community Development Specialist, DWSS