

**A NARRATIVE REPORT ON
E-WASTE AWARENESS PROGRAMME
IN SCHOOLS OF DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL, INDIA.**

Completion Report

Background :

The first Phase Pilot Project on E-Waste Awareness Programme in Schools of Darjeeling with the support from Toxics Link, New Delhi commenced from 1st November 2011 and completed by the end of 31st December 2011.

This Awareness Campaign “Nokia-Planet Ke Rakhwaale” was implemented in the Darjeeling District by Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna with collaboration the other three partner organizations namely Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society and Friends For Trees Forum and Real Rimbick Club.

Waste is an important issue in the Darjeeling Hills with existing solid waste management practices being roll it down the hill without any treatment. Downstream contamination and responsibility has yet to feature in the general discourse on waste management in the hills. The region also has a lot of e-waste with increasing electronics filtering in through the international borders.

Target Schools :

Out of 45 selected Schools in Darjeeling District that we have a relationship with, 25 Schools most likely to partner in the programme were targeted for the First Phase in Darjeeling and its adjoining areas like Mirik, Tukdah Cantonment, Rimbik, and Kalimpong considering that the schools close for winter and examinations are held in the months of November and December. Out of 25 Schools selected and due to busy schedules of schools with final term examination only 22 Schools were completed.

Approach Method to Schools:

DLR Prerna undertook a three rounds of sensitization and brainstorming meetings with the core team members of the partner organizations namely Anugyalaya DDSSS, Friends for Trees Forum and Real Rimbick Club.

All the selected Schools in Darjeeling District were firstly sent a Formal Letter of Request for One Hour Awareness Campaign on e-waste to the head of the institution in the hand of one of the core team member. After a week, every school were visited personally by core team members of the organization for their permission and appointment of Date and Time for the Campaign.

In many schools we approached teachers who are our friends and are active on environmental issues. In number of these schools we have been undertaking development and environment education with special focus on solid waste management.

After fixing dates and time with each school, the core team members of the organizations took the Campaign forward.

A number of Schools also REFUSED to hold this Awareness Campaign because of their approaching Final Terms, ban of mobile phones in schools and winter holidays. Though, these schools are also very interested if these programmes are scheduled during the month of April-May.

Awareness Material :

All the Staff of the participating organizations were trained and informed on the Awareness Material provided by Toxics Link. The Power Point presentation supplied by Toxics Link on e-waste being the key presentation with some changes according to the regional issues.

Z-Cards, Posters, Standy, Comic Books, Recycled Pens, Bookmarks and Nokia Collection Bin were used during the presentation. A brainstorming session resulted in key questions that could be used in the awareness.

Campaign Procedures :

Approximately it took us 60 minutes to deliver the Presentation with 15 minutes of Question & Answer session. In some schools according to the size of School Hall & Class Room, they even granted 2 to 3 Sessions to complete the Awareness Campaign. In some schools the presentation has to be delivered with charts and photographs because of unavailability of electricity and as well as school hall.

During the 15 minutes Question & Answer session, there were always a couple of queries from both students and teachers which were answered satisfactorily by our staff. During the each campaign our staff asked few questions from the presentation to both the students and teachers and those who answered correctly were awarded with the Z-Cards, Comic Books, Recycled Pens and Bookmarks as a token of appreciation.

At the end of each Campaign in a School, a Nokia Collection Bin was setup and students and teachers were sufficiently informed on how and what should be put inside it for recycling later. It was also requested to put only dead Mobile Phones and its accessories inside the Nokia Collection Bin. Collection Bin has been set up and left in schools for a week or ten days as planned but most of the schools requested to keep the bin for longer period of time because of their Term End schedules.

With consultation with the School Head and Teachers, in most of the schools, the School Captains were given the assignment to keep record of the products collected in a prescribed format.

Collection Procedures :

According to the School's request to collect the Bins on later dates we will be collecting the Bins. Though, our target is to collect the bins from all the schools by the end of 2nd week of December.

Feedback from the Schools :

A Feedback Form supplied by Toxics Link has been supplied to all the School Heads and Teachers and these were collected during the time of Collection of Bins. Though, during the awareness campaign the number of school heads and teachers have been very positive of the awareness and felt that the waste management is the need of the hour. It was found that the discussion on e-waste has been a new learning.

Many of the schools have proposed that the collection should include other e-waste as well and it should not be limited within the Mobile Phone Waste, as there are a number of e-waste like computers and its peripherals, telephones, etc.

In some of the schools as Darjeeling Ladenla Road Prerna and its partner organizations has already been working on issues of Environment, e-waste presentation has been an addition to what has been done so far. Collection becomes a positive tangible incentive for the students to take the issue forward as the students have taken the issue in various forums in the school.

Most of the Schools are ready to welcome the e-waste or similar campaigns provided the time is right. Such projects should implemented much better during the month of March, April and May where the majority of the schools have ample of time for extra activities, where there are no school examinations in hand.

List of Schools where the E-Waste Awareness Campaign has been completed :

By the end of December 2011, we were able to complete 22 Schools in Darjeeling District. Though, there are a number of schools who are interested for this campaign to be organized in their schools but will be open for us only during the month of April – June 2012. The list of 22 Schools and whose reports has been compiled are as under :

SL. NO.	NAME OF SCHOOL	DATE OF CAMPAIGN
1	St. Teresas Girl's HS School, Darjeeling	1 st November 2011
2	Loreto Convent, Darjeeling	2 nd November 2011
3	Don Bosco School, Mirik	8 th November 2011
4	Mirik H.S. School, Mirik	9 th November 2011
5	Orange Lake School, Mirik	9 th November 2011
6	Rabindranath H.S. School, Mirik	11 th November 2011
7	Lewis English School, Mirik	11 th November 2011
8	Sardeswari Girl's H.S. School, Darjeeling	12 th November 2011
9	Thurbo H.S. School, Mirik	15 th November 2011
10	Municipal Boys HS School, Darjeeling	16 th November 2011

11	Sri Satya Sai Ratna High School, Darjeeling	16 th November 2011
12	Tukdah Jr. High School, Tukdah Cantonment, Darjeeling	17 th December 2011
13	Griffiths H. S. School, Tukdah Cantonment, Darjeeling	19 th December 2011
14	St. Michael's H. S. School, Darjeeling	14 th November 2011
15	Notre Dame Academy, Darjeeling	14 th November 2011
16	St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong	14 th November 2011
17	Rockvale Academy, Kalimpong	14 th November 2011
18	St. George's H. S. School, Kalimpong	16 th November 2011
19	St. Joseph's School, Kalimpong	17 th November 2011
20	St. Stephen's Academy, Kalimpong	17 th November 2011
21	Rimbik High School, Rimbik	17 th November 2011
22	Notre Dame Academy, Rimbik	17 th November 2011

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The Photographs of the Awareness Campaign in Schools of Darjeeling District :



MIRIK H.S. SCHOOL ON 9/11/2011



THURBO H.S.SCHOOL ON 15/11/2011



LEWIS ENGLISH SCHOOL ON 11/11/2011



DON BOSCO SCHOOL ON 8/11/2011



RABINDRANATH H.S. SCHOOL, SOURENI ON 11/11/2011



ORANGE LAKE SCHOOL ON 9/11/2011



SARDESWARI GIRL'S HS SCHOOL ON 12/11/11



SRI SATYA SAI RATNA HS SCHOOL ON 16/11/11