

Environmental Re-engineering for Enhanced Living.

On 1st & 2nd Oct.2010 a two days seminar on 'Environmental Reengineering for Enhanced Living' was organized for rethinking and redesigning of the process or actions leading to better performance and quality environment. The papers invited were strictly based on practical demonstrations, case study or personal actions contributing to enhanced living. It was for the first time that P.C.E.R., New Panvel had organized a seminar at the national level and the excited students and teachers all participated enthusiastically in its preparations.

The youngest trustee of Mahatma Education Society, Mr. Franav Pillai in his inaugural speech expressed his concern about the deteriorating environment and emphasized on the importance of environmental reengineering at the individual level, at the national level and at the global level. He congratulated P.C.E.R., New Panvel for the selection of the theme and also for catering to the intellectual, emotional and skill development of the individuals.

The key note address was given by Dr. Kulwant Singh Pathania, Professor in commerce and Director at UGC Academic Staff College, H. P. University, Shimla. He stressed on creating awareness among the people towards environmental issues. He urged the participants to implement eco-friendly and economically feasible practices in their daily life and emphasized that the management and teachers need to play role model for the students to get inspired.

Professor Sudhakar Solomonraj from Wilson College, Mumbai, the resource person for the sub-theme 'Conservation of Natural Resources' said that we must not fail to see and take responsibility for individual actions. We need to be able to inculcate a thinking process which is open, eclectic and proactive. We need to go beyond clichés and see real change.

The resource person for the sub-theme 'Solid Waste Management', Mrs. Seema Redkar, officer on special duty-BMC, shared her experiences of her work at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. According to her BMC cannot work in isolation. The society at large and the educated in particular have to extend a helping hand in saving the environment.

The next session saw a presentation by the Haryali group, an NGO, represented by **Dr. Neelima Kulkarni**. She shared the activities of the Haryali group and encouraged the students to take up eco-friendly practices that can be taken up at the individual level.

On the second day, the sub-theme Energy Management was taken by **Dr.Chitra Natarajan** from Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, TIFR, Mumbai. It being the 2nd of Oct, she briefed everyone on Gandhiji's environmental philosophy and then gave an enlightening presentation on energy and the laws of nature, energy use and the quality of life, diminishing fossil fuel resources and energy conservation.

This session was followed by various paper presentations and demonstrations which included making various articles by fusing plastic bags; making utility boxes from greeting cards and old files; making purses with strips cut from plastic bags and a crochet or knitting needle, making coco-soil mix for planting, and making compost from vegetable waste. The audience was excited to see pretty, decorative and useful articles being made from useless waste.

At the Valedictory function, the Chief Guest, Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai addressed the audience articulating his anxiety over the current scenario about environmental issues. He said, it is only quality education that will help us alleviate social problems.

The interesting delivery of the Valedictory address by Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Professor and Dean, Yashada, YCMOU, Pune held the audience in their places. The year 2010 is the year of biodiversity and he showed an audio-visual on the biodiversity found in and around Panvel area. He also shared many innovative ideas and tips useful to maintain health, at the same time help save natural resources. This seminar had definitely charged every mind to bring changes in our lifestyle, changes in the way we think for our environment and to act responsibly, holding ourselves accountable for our actions, thus enhancing our living.