

Report
on

**Workshop on "Managing E-Waste for a Sustainable Future" at
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University (KKHSOU), Khanapara, Guwahati
on
30th August, 2024**

Event Details:

Topic: Workshop on **Managing E-Waste for a Sustainable Future**

Organised by: Guru Prasad Das School of Interdisciplinary and Vocational Studies, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University in collaboration with the Yuva Tourism Club of the University.

Participants: Learners, Research Scholars, Faculty members, officers and employees of KKHSOU

Date and Time: 30th August, 2024 and 10 am to 1.30 pm

Venue: Conference Hall, Block C, 6 Floor, Khanapara Campus, KKHSOU

Introduction of the Event:

A workshop titled " **Managing E-Waste for a Sustainable Future** " was organized by the Guru Prasad Das School of Interdisciplinary and Vocational Studies, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University in collaboration with the Yuva Tourism Club of the University on 30th August, 2024. The workshop which was held at the Khanapara campus of the University was attended by learners, Research scholars, faculty members, officers and other employees of the University. The main purpose of the workshop was to create awareness about the importance of proper e-waste management and the environmental and health risks associated with improper disposal of electronic waste. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Nripendra Narayan Sarma, Director of the Maniram Dewan School of Management and Director of the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, KKHSOU.

Details of Resource Persons:

The resource persons for the workshop were-

- Er. Ankuran Pathak, Asst. Executive Engineer, Pollution Control Board, Assam,
- Achitra Borgohain, Founder & CEO of Binbag Recycling Services Pvt. Ltd.,
- Subimal Sinha, Managing Partner, AXOM Refurbisher and
- Barun Barpujari, Active Volunteer and Advisor of Earthful Foundation, Guwahati.

Details of the sessions:

The workshop began with the inaugural speech by Professor Nripendra Narayan Sarma, Director CIQA, KKHSOU who highlighted the transition from minimalism to consumerism in recent times, which has led to an increase in electronic waste (e-waste). He emphasized on the significance of sustainable practices in managing electronic waste, particularly in the context of rapid technological advancements and the increasing use of electronic devices.

Presentation 1:

Er. Ankuran Pathak delivered the first presentation. In his presentation, he focused on the environmental impact of e-waste and how it can be managed in a scientific way. He mentioned the growing exposure of e-waste in the 21st century and its impact on the overall health of the children. Pathak also discussed the legislative framework of e-waste management, including national and international regulations aimed at minimizing the negative impact of e-waste. In addition, Pathak introduced the concept of a **circular economy** as a sustainable solution to the e-waste problem. In this model, e-waste is not only managed but also reused and recycled, creating a system that conserves resources and minimizes waste.

Presentation 2:

Achitra Borgohain delivered the second presentation on the topic **E-Waste Management: Current Scenario and Opportunities**. In his presentation, he focused on the potential for recycling e-waste and its economic opportunities. He cited the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** as a successful example, where all the medals were produced using metals extracted from recycled e-waste. Borgohain emphasized that with proper systems in place, e-waste recycling can become a lucrative industry that not only conserves resources but also creates job opportunities.

Interactive Session

The two presentations were followed by an **interactive session**, where participants raised many questions to the speakers and clarified their queries. The session facilitated a deeper understanding of the practical challenges and solutions in the field.

Presentation 3:

Mr. Subimal Sinha presented on the **Refurbishing** of electronic products. He elaborated on how refurbishing could extend the life of electronic devices, reduce waste, and create a new entrepreneurial pathway for Startups in the state of Assam. Sinha encouraged local youth and entrepreneurs to explore this emerging sector.

Presentation 4:

The final presentation of the session was delivered by Mr. Barun Barpujari who focused on the topic of "**Managing E-Waste: Citizen's Awareness and Responsibility**". In his insightful presentation, Mr. Barpujari emphasized that awareness and responsible e-waste management are vital components in promoting environmental sustainability. Mr. Barpujari highlighted the pivotal role of the

Government in addressing the growing issue of e-waste. He outlined key responsibilities, such as creating public awareness, developing responsible citizens who are conscious of the environmental implications of e-waste, and expanding the network of collection centres, recyclers, and refurbishers. This would facilitate more effective and accessible recycling processes. He further stressed the importance of the Government's role in information dissemination, the continuous updating of regulations and implementing effective monitoring to ensure that e-waste management policies are properly enforced. In addition, Mr. Barpujari urged that the disposal of e-waste must be conducted through authorized entities to prevent illegal handling, which often results in environmental degradation.

Conclusion:

The workshop concluded with an urge to all the participants to actively engage in promoting awareness and best practices for e-waste management for a sustainable future. Learners, faculty members and other officials of the University actively participated in the workshop. Dr. Antara Mahanta Barua, Assistant Professor, Discipline of Electronics, GPD School of Interdisciplinary and Vocational Studies, KKHSOU offered the formal vote of thanks.

Some photographs of the event:





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(Dr. Antara Mahanta Barua)
Coordinator of the Workshop