



POLYBRICK - Simple Solution for Perpetual Problem at Sirmour

Littered in our surroundings, making soil infertile, causing air and water pollution, choking sewage networks, water nallahs, the single use plastic like carry bags, bottles, cutlery etc. and multilayered plastic used for packaging chips, biscuits etc. have become an eyesore for all. Collection, transportation and processing of poly waste is a challenge as such waste has no resale value. Further, 100 % segregation at source is still a distant dream. There is no easy method to manage the plastic waste scientifically.

While dealing with the issue of plastic waste in district Sirmaur, a need was felt to manage it in a way that was free from economical and infrastructural encumbrances. Dry waste mostly consists of single use plastic in the form of packing material, toffee wrappers, plastic bottles, plastic carry bags, toiletries wrappers etc. The central idea was to find simple solutions and make a product that could be used for asset creation.

Sand filled plastic bottles being used in Africa to create masonry bricks led to the idea of filling plastic waste into

bottles to make a viable product. It was decided to fill the plastic bottle with used, litter and shredded plastic. This is the genesis of a poly brick, used for construction of benches, mini poly stadium, poly toilets, poly brick boundary wall etc.

Poly-brick is an empty plastic bottle filled with used/ littered plastic with the help of poly stick to make it compact resulting in a rigid bottle packed with plastic.

Easy to adopt, a zero investment initiative proved to be a cost effective solution to create durable assets that would bring behavioural change in society, mitigate pollution and is a viable solution for littered single use plastic

Through educating people of the ill effects of littered waste (e.g. micro plastic in salt) among the common masses led to awareness. The idea was shared on social media to inspire and request all stakeholders to 'Make Your Own Poly Bricks'. Consistent efforts have led to a huge movement that has gained momentum in



Sirmaur District. A mass movement involving rallies, awareness campaigns, Pad-Yatra (7 Panchayats participated in 8 Kms walk), morning assembly lectures for school children was organised on war footing to make the district Sirmaur polythene free.

Households were encouraged to segregate dry and wet waste at source. Two empty bottle theory (one in kitchen and one in bathroom) was propagated to collect single-use plastic, at source. In every classroom of the schools, one empty bottle was kept to collect toffee, chocolate and other wrappers.

Intensive IEC campaigns were taken to sensitise people. The concept of 'Poly Brick' was an important point of discussion in all inter-departmental meetings convened at District Headquarters.

Bench, flower-pot, mini-stadium, boundary wall were constructed using poly-bricks as a visual demonstration for

How to make a POLY BRICK ?



What goes in?

all soft plastics (chips wrappers, toffee wrappers, chocolate wraps etc. or any used plastic packaged material)

What says out? ... food, batteries, paper whatever can be recycled

Final test stand on the bottle

It should be solid as a brick and no dent in, no hollow sound... If it does, keep pushing more plastic in.



POLY TOILET

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स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) कायम रखकर किये गए प्रयत्न

शिक्षण में विशेष महत्त्वपूर्ण समूहों (SHGs) के प्रयत्न

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the majority of people visiting the Collectorate as also the Block-Offices and Schools situated along National Highway. Sensitisation camps were organised for Panchayats, Mahila Mandals, Self Help Groups and Yuvak Mandals.

Under the programme, Ek Din School Ke Naam – one day, one hour every fortnight, students would collect waste plastic around a 500 metres radius of their schools and make poly bricks. In Ek Din Panchayat Ke Naam initiative every first Sunday of every month was fixed for collecting waste plastic and making polybricks at all Panchayats. One Mahila Mandal/ SHG was allotted one ward, to make it polythene free.

People of Sirmaur themselves are also making Poly bricks. More than 12000 Kgs of plastic waste has been converted by the public into 24072 poly bricks. In case the poly bricks are not sufficiently compacted, the same are given to cement plant as a refuse derived fuel (RDF).



Markanday (River) Cleanliness Drive was undertaken with the involvement of 8 Teams from 7 Panchayats having 1037 citizens and 144 officials of District Administration who collected 2500 Kg. Plastic Waste from and around the river. A sense of belongingness and cleanliness towards healthy environment was inculcated through public participation,

Under 'Polythene Mukt Sirmaur Yojana', replacing plastic bags with cloth bags was envisaged. Customarily, cloths are donated to the deities during Puja in certain temples across the District. After Puja, the cloth was discarded. The District Administration inspired groups to prepare carry-bags from the Puja cloth. 15,000 carry bags made of such cloth were distributed.

Durable Assets created by using poly bricks in all 6 blocks of District Sirmaur. In Shillai block, flower

pots, poly-stair and poly boundary walls have been built. In Paonta Sahib block a poly toilet, flower pots and poly benches have been created. In Nahan block, besides flower pots, poly-benches and boundary wall, a stadium has been constructed. In Pachhad, Rajgarh and Sangrah blocks ply-benches have been constructed.

