

Workshop on “Solid Waste Management & Self Development” for Sanitation Workers

KKID In collaboration with Coimbatore Municipal Corporation [CMC]

Concept

“One who saves the life of citizens in the border is a soldier...”

“One who saves the health of the citizens inside the border is also a soldier”

Opportunity to refine oneself and hone it further makes one to improve his or her quality of life. When opportunities to improve one's life is provided on a golden plate to someone who is really deserving and longing for generations, we can be sure of its results and excellence.

The above lines fit much with respect to the sanitary workers who have been kept at abeyance from such opportunities for ages. For years, this cohort neither had the opportunity, nor the accessibility and affordability. These social engagements were at bleak for this sector due to historic in specific and other social factors.



A novel approach of conducting two day training on solid waste management with the focus on self and family development sessions by CMC and KKID did enable the sanitary workers to relish and cherish the opportunity. The trainings were conducted in 90 batches which spread through the months of March 2009 to August 2010. About 2000 families benefited out of this programme.



considering the level of absorption and interest of the participants.

Three phase approach

This training on solid waste management was done in three phases with the first for all workers; second for all supervisors; and the third for select workers as Training of Trainers. Basically the training was scaled up

Content

The training module generally focused on solid waste management, family well being, team working and interpersonal relationships. The aspects of alcoholism & addiction, climate change issues, advocacy practices, managerial issues, networking aspects, social support mobilization techniques, training the community members, creating model ward, working in alignment with various local stakes including local body representatives all were focused in different sessions.



Methodology

The trainings were in general participatory and joyful. Sessions were conducted with demonstrations, visual media, photo shooting, street theatre, role plays, psycho drama, visit to the solid waste plant, model making, games, etc.

Outcome of the training

At the corporation level the batches of training has brought out a facelift of the city and change in the conduct of the staff. As one of the readers quote in a letter to the editor, "I see the sanitary workers walking with safety gadgets like shoes, ghouse, apron etc to maintain hygiene and health of the self and society". Supply of these safety gadgets have enhanced the status of the staff as a self and motivated them to work with more commitment and respect their job. As an individual there are more memorable benefits for the staff.

The staff after all the sessions did carry a "portrait of unforgettable memories of life". As many reported the participation certificate given during the workshop which is **a maiden certificate of life time remains a treasure**. The recognition given during the workshops for their talents and **treating them as a fellow citizen of society has boosted their self respect** and sense of belongingness. The discussions on alcoholism and its deleterious effects have enabled many to **come forward to give up the habit and join the training group as a motivation speaker** in the following sessions. Many have realized that they are better paid in terms of salary and **there is no need for the "Inam/tips" given by household members**. There are incidences where people have declined to accept them when post training survey was conducted. In every ward **a minimum of three have been chosen to moderate the model ward and foster better relationship in the community**. This initiative by the CMC and KKID though has created a good change it is only a beginning and a **"drop in the ocean and we have miles to go ahead"**.

KKID is thankful to Thiru. Anshul Misra, IAS., The Commissioner, the Coimbatore Municipal Corporation for entrusting this exciting initiative of capacity building workshops matching our vision of improving the quality of life of every individual.

Mr. T. K. Nathan, Executive Director, KKID

Email to info@kkid.org for support of such initiatives.