

# Education Workshop Summary

The aim of the workshop was to promote awareness about the adverse effects of pollution and the need to protect nature. The workshop was planned as a Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) lesson plan titled 'Respect for the Earth'. The objectives were to inspire everyone and demonstrate, different ways in which the topic could be implemented.

## Introduction: Talk and Group Song

After 160 delegates were welcomed, a five minute introductory talk on integration of human values in daily life pertaining to environmental sustainability was given. Subsequently, they participated in a group song "I am one my Lord, I am one with Thee." This evoked a strong emotion of love for the Lord in everyone.

## Activity 1: Quiz & Video on Waste

The delegates were then divided into eight breakaway groups to discuss the length of time it takes for the disintegration of several common items including plastic bottles (70-450 years), plastic bags (500-1000 years), and tin cans (around 50 years). Thereafter, they were shown a video 'The Majestic Plastic Bag - a Mockumentary'. The video showed the life cycle of plastic bags which end up in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Delegates were alarmed to find out that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is one of four massive dumps of floating garbage. It dawned on them that each of their daily activities contributes to these Garbage Patches, especially using non-biodegradable materials.

## Activity 2: Public Service Announcement

Five breakout groups were requested to make a Public Service announcement i.e. a commercial or an advertising campaign aimed at convincing the public to change their perspective and limit actions that damage the environment. They were given one of the following locations for focus (i) the home, (ii) Sai Centre, (iii) workplace, (iv) school, and (v) the community. Each group was requested to include at least one human value in their one minute announcement. Additionally, each participant was requested to make a personal commitment for protecting nature.

The delegates then shared their deliberations of the following slogans for the announcements:

- Prepare and Prevent, rather than Repair and Repent
- Love Nature, Save Future
- Help Ever, Plastic Never
- Live Green, Live in Love
- Conserve Ever, Waste Never
- Be Calm and Go Plastic Free
- Be Calm and Go Green



## **Sharing Personal Commitments**

The delegates also came up with a range of personal commitments including: making home and workplace plastic free, taking their own bags to the supermarket, harvesting rainwater, installing solar panels at home, carrying a steel or aluminium water bottle, and composting.

## **Conclusion: Song**

The workshop ended on a very energetic note with a song, 'Light a Candle for Peace' followed by Aarthi.

Link to the 'Mockumentary' video: <https://youtu.be/GLgh9h2ePYw>