

My Waste-My responsibility

Theme	Water, waste and energy
Level	Middle or Higher
Academic Objective	Become aware of quantity and kind of waste generated by them
Attitudinal Objective	Sense of responsibility of my waste. Dignity of labour. Children starts thinking how to reduce generation of unnecessary waste
Action Objective	Children will understand much of our waste can be managed by ourselves

Activity 1:

Time taken – 60 mins

- Teacher begin with sharing a story- “ The story of my waste” -
“I live in the first floor of my house . I can see my beautiful garden from there. I see the colourful flowers and beautiful birds and butterflies from there. I have a thing for cleanliness and so arrange everything in the house as well as the garden neatly. I also put my used things back in the right place. I was so proud of myself every time someone praises my house or my garden. I also segregate and dispose my waste in separate bins. There is a kabaadwala who comes and collects the waste everyday. I was extremely happy that he comes and does his job dutifully. Once he fell sick and didn't come for a week. “What a nightmare it was for me!” My waste piled up, it stinked and the wet waste started leaking. I felt disgusted that I couldn't do anything about it. I also did not want to throw it on the road irresponsibly. But this set me thinking and I realized that I should be responsible for my waste and shouldn't depend on anybody else to clear my waste. This seed grew in my mind and I started seeing how I can help myself. I collected all my kitchen waste, fallen leaves and flowers from my garden and put them in a pit. I started covering it with a layer of soil everytime there was a stench. I didn't have to run to the kabaadwala everyday and I was happy that it was taken care of. I just had to dispose my dry waste. I stocked it and disposed it only once in six months to the right person who will take care of it effectively. I consciously also tried to reduce it. I used bottles instead of milk and oil packets . I started going to the local small shops, carried cloth bags to pick up vegetables and groceries. I dug up the pit where I'd put my plant and food waste. I realized that it became into a nice fragrant compost-very nutrient rich for plants. In return I got a good yield of fruits and vegetables. A natural cycle of farm to table and table to farm has established. Now I am a happy farmer and completely responsible for my waste.
- Trigger questions will be given to children to think such as,
 1. In the beginning of the story, do you think I was right in being proud of my cleanliness?
 2. Was I mindful of how my waste was getting disposed?
 3. What do you do with your waste?

- The children are asked to record a log of their activities (*table given below*) and waste generated thereafter in a day right from the time when they wake up till the time they sleep

<u>Activity</u>	<u>What was my waste?</u>	<u>Where did it go?</u>	<u>What happened after that?</u>
Eg - Breakfast	Chillies, curry leaves	Dustbin	Maid cleared it

- Once children do this for themselves, they are asked whose responsibility is it to take care of them- they answer parents; We can ask why? This can lead to my things – my responsibility and further to my waste – my responsibility.
- As a class they are asked if they create any waste . If so what kind, who should be responsible for it and where do they think it goes? Once children articulate this, they are asked to imagine how much waste the entire primary/school would generate. They can be taken to the place where waste is stocked in school and told the duration in which the stock had accumulated.

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