

Safarnama/सफ़रनामा

December 2015, January 2016



संभावनाकार्यक्रम...

End of December, as the mercury dropped in Himachal and life slowed down in Kandwari, things were getting intense on the Sambhaavnaa campus. We had a group of 28 motivated young people for the Winter School on Rethinking Development called Nayi Dishayein.

This time we restructured the program and incorporated sessions that looked deeply into three themes: Food and Agriculture; The Energy Scenario and Employment Inequality leading into the larger question of 'What is development?'

Sessions were kept, as usual, interactive and were co-facilitated by Praveen, Alex, Manshi and Himanshu ji. We had Abha Bhaiyya from Jagori and Rakhi Sehgal from New Trade Union Initiative as additional resource persons.





संभावनाकार्यक्रम ...

Before we closed for the winter break, from January 4th to 12th, we conducted a program called *Pahar aur Hum: Rethinking Development in the Himalayas*.

Focusing on socio-economic, political and environmental issues facing the Himalayan region, this was the third time we held this program with participation from young people and grassroots workers from Sikkim, Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal and Nepal.

We are in the process of compiling a video blog on this event and will share it soon..

The program was impactful for the participants and helped in evolving a deeper perspective for many who had little exposure to macro-issues.



Upcoming Programs...

Post the winter break hustle bustle begins at Sambhaavnaa again with the following line-up of programs:

Land: Whose Property? A 5 day school on land rights
25th to 29th February

What is Sustainable Tourism?
10th to 12th March

Buniyaad: A 15 day workshop for young activists
15th to 29th March

Barefoot Academy's 2 week course on Grassroots Governance
3rd to 16th April

Buland Iraade: A self Reflective workshop on Gender and Sexuality
18th to 22nd April

India Youth Jam
28th April to 6th May

Jeevan Vidya: A Life-skills Workshop
9th to 16th May

Thought for Food: A 5 day workshop
18th to 22nd May

Nayi Dishayein: A 6 week Summer School on Rethinking Development
24th May to 4th July

Nayi Dishayein: A 10 day Summer School on Rethinking Development
5th to 14th June

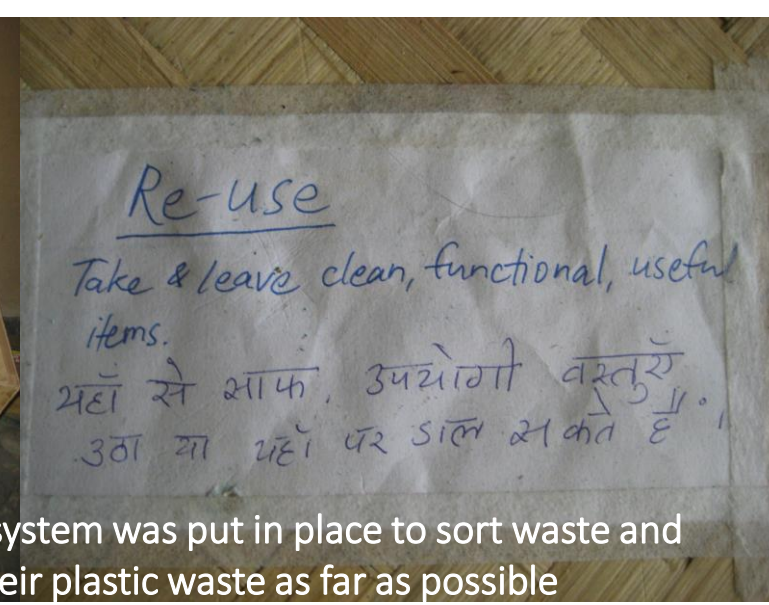
'Wasting' our time...

While some on campus still think it's a 'waste' of time dealing with waste on campus, our associate and eco-warrior Alex, spent a great deal of time helping us out on this.

Here is what he says, "At Sambhaavnaa, we aspire to minimize our contribution to the waste crisis in a number of ways, with an aim towards being a Zero Waste institute, by applying the "5-Rs": Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", in that order. In other words, we will prioritize the prevention and avoidance of waste first, and only look at 'management' of it afterwards, since 'management' is today so often a euphemism for "dumping on someone or someplace else."



Before the Nayi Dishayein workshop a system was put in place to sort waste and participants were asked to take back their plastic waste as far as possible



Despite this we recovered this much Plastic after



A trip was made to the local kabadiwala to drop the plastic bottles and other waste. Paper was given to the paper recycling unit at Mcleodganj

Farm to Plate

Once the programs for the season were up the tea garden got a make-over! The farm staff with assistance from the kitchen team and some not-so-experienced volunteers pruned and shaped the tea-bushes clearing out the weeds and thorns.



....Farm to Plate

The first step towards zero waste is to prevent its creation. To prevent/avoid waste, we are:

Trying to grow as much of the Institute's own food needs from our on-site organic farm/garden and orchard, which is by definition unpackaged. Much work needed to improve this!

Gradually trying to replace items we purchase from the market with substitutes hand-made on site (e.g. soap, bread)

Continuously assessing our purchasing decisions, seeking alternatives to single-use, disposable plastic packaged products in our shopping for the campus' food and other needs.

We are in the process of talking with shopkeepers who supply some of our groceries, making arrangements for receiving our orders in bulk, without plastic.



Gup-shup Chabootra

The construction of the Faculty and Seed House is finally complete! We are hoping that the new buildings will be put to good use by its occupants.



Faculty House



Seed Bank on the campus



Udaan School: Sarabjit urf Saabu takes the pre-schoolers for a bird watching trip to the forest