



Toxics Link  
for a toxics-free world

**Public Lecture  
On**

**'Hazardous Waste'**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**India International Center, New Delhi**

The Health and Environmental Public lecture, an initiative by Toxics Link to spread awareness about issues of environmental concern got a very enthusiastic response from students of School of Environmental Studies (SES) in Delhi University. The lecture on 'Hazardous Waste' organised by Toxics Link in collaboration with School of Environmental Studies, held on 28th January in the campus was attended by students as well teachers of the department apart from TL members. Dr T K Joshi, Occupational and Environmental Health Expert from Maulana Azad Medical College was the main speaker. Dr Joshi, citing many of his experiences in professional life said that occupation and health is closely related.

He stated that waste management is one of the most problematic and challenging environmental issues. Earlier Priti Mahesh of Toxics Link opened the debate making a presentation on hazardous waste and the challenges India is facing to deal with it. She briefed the students about the current scenario related to Hazardous Waste Management in India. She also focused on e-waste and the laws and regulations that are being set up for the proper handling and disposal of e-waste. "These regulations remain open ended with lots of loopholes in it, resulting in lack of self-regulation and implementation," she pointed out. She also highlighted the health hazards of the labourers who are engaged in manual handling of hazardous waste. The students appeared so curious and were with full of questions when Dr Anu Agarwal of Toxics Link opened the debate on Bio-medical waste. Anu talked about the history of Biomedical waste. She explained the students that how biomedical waste was treated in India before 1995, Toxics Link's contribution towards setting up the guidelines on biomedical waste in the country and its subsequent follow ups for sustained interest and its implementation. Besides, Anu also talked about the health hazards of mercury and why this needs to be eradicated.

Dr. Mihir Deb, Director, SES, DU delivered the inaugural address. He expressed his warm gratitude towards Toxics Link for collaborating with SES in organizing an event like public lecture for the young students. Concern for the environment was very much visible among the young audience and they were keen to ask questions and get the answers. Everybody including the panelists and teachers seemed to be enjoying the interaction. Dr Joshi even commented that “the company of youth makes him feel young and energetic.”

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