

A short film
"Nagara-Nyrmalya"

Progressive solid waste management

This film is developed as part of an ongoing campaign of Environment Support Group, a Bangalore based non-profit organisation, to encourage communities to work with solid waste workers in maintaining healthy and clean neighbourhoods, and develop a sustainable approach to solid waste management at community levels.

Nagara-Nyrmalya addresses the complex issues involved in solid waste management and the problems faced by *Pourakarmikas* (solid waste workers, also known as *Safai Karmacharis*) in their efforts at maintaining healthy neighbourhoods in Bangalore city.

This entertaining human drama in Kannada with subtitles in English (11 mins) presents the efforts of Santhimmi, a *Pourakarmika*, as she motivates people in her neighbourhood to adopt safe solid waste management techniques.

The film highlights how such small efforts could help vastly improve our approach to solid waste management in cities, big and small.

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http://www.inep-karnataka.org/proj_pourakarmikas.htm

'People use cowdung!^@#?'

Child delegates attending the International Children's Conference on Environment held in Victoria, Canada produce their own GT.

In May this year, 800 children gathered in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the second International Childrens Conference on Environment, . Besides showcasing their work in schools and communities in their respective countries, the children also had a fun time attending environment workshops and accompanying experts on field trips into the beautiful forests and beaches of Vancouver island.

On a more serious note, the children put their heads together on major challenges facing the planet today. They nominated two members from amongst them to deliver a set of challenges to the heads of states gathering in August in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Leave it to us! was the slogan of the conference.

The Environment Education Unit of CSE organised a workshop for participants at the conference where they put together a special issue of *Gobar Times*, the beginner's supplement to Down To Earth. The issue was released at the closing ceremony. Children from the developed (read fossil fuel) world like Canada, USA and Western Europe were most amused by the name *Gobar Times*. Many eyebrows were raised when they learnt that a majority of Indians use cowdung and other biomass as fuel. It was a unique oppurtunity for children from different parts of the world to learn from each other.

The next ICC is scheduled in 2003 in Conneticut, USA. You can read more at the website: www.ICCC2002.org



 **IN THE NEWS**

On June 5, 2002, "World Environment Day", The Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) put an advertisement in two leading national dailies, (*The Times of India* and *The Hindu*). The advertisement presented plastics as a solution to large scale deforestation and stated that there is a need to use plastic so that 20 million trees matured over 10 years could be saved from being used, especially for packaging purposes. Environmentalists are angry. They say that GAIL a public sector organisation has no right to squander public money by bringing out such misleading advertisement.

Bharti Chaturvedi of Chintan, an organisation working with ragpickers in Delhi, questions the tactics of the plastic industry and now GAIL in limiting the plastic argument to polybags. Plastics is not limited to only packaging, She says. It has not only sought to replace forest products like paper (often from wood pulp), but also several other products which have provided for a rich crafts base like earthen surahis, coir mats, coir ropes and a whole lot of other products.

Sudarshan Rodriguez of Reef Watch Marine Conservation says, "Plastic entanglements are killing up to 40,000

 **WRITE IN**

We are adopting two corporation gardens where we will be cultivating rare variety of ferns of western ghat. We sensitise school children towards environmental issues and involve them in activities. I have received one issue of G:NET. I need your cooperation.
 Mrs Lalan Prabhu <lalanpr@rediffmail.com> Belgaum

I wanted to write to you, after what I read in the newspaper Times Of India, on June 5, which is World Environment Day. Gail [Gas Authority of India Limited] were bombarding the papers saying that use of plastics should not be stopped, and that plastics helped save trees, and so were good for the environment. Do you agree with them or not? Because I don't think so, but I don't