

Summary Report on ROW/SOA Training Workshop and Site visits

Siksha O Anusandhan (SOA) deemed to be university, April 27-28, 2023

This workshop by the Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation (USA) in collaboration with the Siksha O Anusandhan (SOA) deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, included a comprehensive training in water, waste management, and climate change areas. There were 24 participants, mostly PhD and Masters level students in Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biomaterials, and other related fields who attended the program.



Participants at the workshop with some of the training faculty members

The classroom (in-person) training workshop on Day 1 was followed by a site visit and field training on water testing and evaluation of water bodies to impacted rivers near Bhubaneswar on Day 2, April 28th, Friday.

Interactions between the local organizations, NGOs, SOA University students, faculty members and the experts from US, and India provided a great learning environment for all covering the latest science and local knowledge/practices. Detail presentations followed by discussions were covered on the following topics/agenda items.

Day 1 (April 27, 2023)

1. Climate Change (2.0 hrs.)

- a. Impact of Climate Change on Odisha Rivers (Dr. S.C. Sahu)
- b. Global impacts of Climate Change – Building resilience and reversal of global warming (Subijoy Dutta)
- c. Q&A

Break - 10 minutes

2. Status of Rivers in Odisha (1 hr.)

- a. Mahanadi Bachao Jojana (Prof. Anil Kumar Kar)
- b. Q&A

3. Lunch (1 – 2 PM) (provided by SOA)

4. Municipal Solid Waste – Waste to Energy Options (1 hr.)

- a. MSW - Options for treating/Disposal of MSW (Mr. Subijoy (Dutta)
- b. Q&A

5. Community Engagement for a Comprehensive Waste Management (30 min.)

- a. Engaging with Communities to practice a comprehensive waste management – case studies (Mr. Subijoy Dutta)
- b. Q&A

6. Women involvement and Community Interaction (Mrs. Bichitra Biswal, NGO) .

A few pictures from the classroom below



Day 2 (April 28, 2023)

Visits to Daya River and other nearby streams and rivers – conducting training on water testing and collecting data pertaining to land use and other relevant information on rivers and streams.

Two PhD students in Environment and Climate science participated in the field program.

A few pictures from the site visits are below.



Water testing at Daya River – measuring pH, Turbidity, Total dissolved solids (TDS), Conductivity, and Temperature.



Gangua Nala – a highly polluted drain on the South-SE side of Bhubaneswar with limited safe access to the drain (nala) at this location.



Ms. Susmita Behera conducting the TDS testing of a water sample while Mr. Roshan Beura is observing.



Mr. Suresh Soman, Rivers of the World (ROW) Engineer, checking the pollution level of Gangua Nala.

Overall, the Workshop was very successful with 78% of the participants completing the training/workshop successfully scoring 80%+ and will be receiving the certificates from ROW and SOA jointly. The experience gained by remaining others will allow them to become more effective in the class during the training when offered next year.