

CHAMPS

Creating Clean Air Champions

School Awareness Raising Program
2016 - 2017



Pilot awareness raising program conducted with students from four East Delhi schools in September 2016



...we have the
Right to Breathe!!



Background/Problem

According to the World Health Organizations air pollution is the fifth largest killer in India. 13 out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India with Delhi being ranked the most polluted city of the 1600 cities evaluated in 2013.

Even though there were some improvements in air quality in the beginning of the millennium, these gains have long been lost. The impact of the dramatic increase in air pollution has become evident in a 2012 study of 11 628 school going children in 36 schools in Delhi, which found that every third child has a reduced lung function(study by CPCB and Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute of Kolkata 2012).

The World Health Organizations attributes, amongst others, 45 percent of strokes, 40 percent of coronary heart diseases, 46 percent of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and 41 percent of lower respiratory tract infections to air pollution in India. A recent study extrapolated that small particles or PM 2.5 could be responsible for 10,000 to 30,000 premature deaths annually in Delhi. This equals up to 80 deaths per day (study by Apte, Marshall, Cohen, Brauer 2015).

To tackle the issue of air pollution,we do not only need action from the side of the government, but every citizen needs to make an effort to decrease harmful emissions. A first step is therefore to deepen citizen's understanding about air pollution, its causes and ways to tackle it.

In addition, citizens, and particularly those most exposed and most at risk, need to be aware of the link between air pollution and health, the risks they take and how to better protect themselves by e.g. avoiding heavy exertion next to major roads, using masks during peak hours etc.

As adolescents and young adults are key to bringing change to a society and as they are particularly vulnerable to the the ill-effects of air pollution, the Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) and the Forum for Air Quality India (FAQ) created a unique capacity building program on air pollution for school children in Delhi, NCR.

The CHAMP program: Creating Clean Air Champions among School Children

Objective of the program:

The main objective of CHAMP program for creating Clean Air Champions among school children is to change children's (and through them their family's and societies') attitudes and behavior in relation to the problem of air pollution. By making the children aware of the problem, causes and consequences of air pollution and by encouraging behavior that decreases exposure, the program helps in mitigating the

ill-effects of air pollution on human health. The program furthermore motivates the children to adopt environment friendly behavior like refraining from unnecessary burning, using of public transport etc, and encourages the children to conduct small-scale research activities on air pollution in order to find ways to decrease the level of emissions in their respective areas. The program thereby hopes to contribute to decreasing the high levels of air pollution in the city of Delhi. As the program will transform the children participating in the program into Clean Air Champions encouraging and accompanying them to conduct awareness raising activities themselves, the program intends to have a multiplying effect reaching out to a large number of children at their respective schools and neighborhoods.

IPCA and FAQ are currently conducting a pilot phase of the program with 30 students from four different school in East Delhi. Given the very positive response and great interest the program sparked, IPCA and FAQ want to extend the program to a larger number of schools and areas in Delhi, NRC.



Pilot awareness raising program with four East Delhi schools Sept. 2016

Phases of the program:

The one-year program is divided into the following phases:

Phase I: Students are acquiring basic understanding of air pollution, its causes, consequences, trends and solutions to the problem. Two half-day trainings are organized using a variety of didactic methods and techniques including presentations, demonstrations, group work activities and audio-visual material. A pre-post test is being conducted to assess if knowledge on air pollution has increased after the basic training and to guide the following training sessions.

Phase II: Students are joining different teams based on their skills and acquire knowledge of awareness raising and research techniques. Two half-day trainings are organized to deepen student's understanding on air pollution (e.g. an air pollution quiz will be conducted) and to evaluate student's skills in order to have them join respective teams. Apart from acquiring knowledge on awareness raising and research, students are working on action plans to take measures to decrease exposure and emissions levels and to design their own research and awareness raising activities.

Phase III: Students are conducting awareness raising and research activities at their respective schools while being mentored and monitored by IPCA/FAQ. Mentors are visiting the students during the student's activities in order to motivate the students, provide guidance and feedback. Depending on the needs and interests advanced training sessions and/or field trips on specific subjects will be organized.

Phase IV:The student's work will be evaluation and IPCA/FAQ will award the teams with the most innovative and effective research and awareness raising ideas and activities. All champions will get a passing certificate. To motivate the students, the extraordinary champions will be rewarded through coverage, for example, publishing of pictures of excellent work on our websites, in a material price etc.

Phase V:The certified Clean Air Champions who will continue to fight for our right to clean air

Target group of the program:

IPCA/FAQ is targeting students from seventh, eighth and ninth standard from predominately public but also private schools. IPCA/FAQ have been contacting the schools' eco club teachers asking for the nomination of students interested in the subject.



Pilot awareness raising program with four East Delhi schools Sept. 2016

The pilot program has been working with 30 students from four different schools. IPCA/FAQ would like to extend the program to 100 students from 20 different schools in Delhi. As didactic material has been prepared and pre-tested, the extension should be possible at limited costs.

About Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) & Forum for Air Quality India (FAQ)

The Indian Pollution Control Association is a non-profit organization that has worked on environmental and sustainability issues for the past 15 years and the Forum for Air Quality-India is a group of people from diverse fields working for a shared vision to fight Air Pollution. IPCA and FAQ have joined efforts for the realization of the school awareness raising program.

IPCA/FAQ is currently looking for sponsors to enable the scale up of this important program. If you require further information please contact: RadhaGoyal radhagoyal@gmail.com

We would be grateful for your support to help Delhi breathe!