

## **Gandhi and Pedal Power**

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What this session was about:

This session's objective seemed to be to make us realise how much we were exploiting our planet's resources, polluting it, and not cleaning up after our mess and causing global warming, and at the same time to give us hope, that there was still time left, where we could reduce our consumption, switch to more sustainable sources and to help improve the planet's condition as a result. We do not have much time though, and hence we must act quick. This talk gave the example of pedal powered appliances and machines as an alternative to our current devices while also connecting it to various such examples around the world. This talk was also about how activists like Greta Thunberg were trying their best to make people understand how dire the situation really is. Finally, it also connected the use of pedal power to the father of our nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhiji, and about how he himself encouraged the usage of cycles in the past.

What I liked about the session:

- The various anecdotes and videos used in the session made me realise how versatile pedal power really can be and made me realise that it has a lot of potential to be used in a variety of situations to lessen our work, while not wasting nonrenewable energy sources.
- The session also gave me insights about how important it is to really start working towards a sustainable lifestyle and about the gravity of the issue at hand.

What I did not like about the session:

- A few solutions mentioned did seem extravagant and not feasible, but they did promote a unique way of thinking, which I liked.
- Not a lot of emphasis on the Gandhi part of the title in the talk. A highly informative talk regardless.

My takeaways from the session:

We must work towards improving and integrating renewable and sustainable sources of energy into our daily life. We cannot stall any further, for it is too late already. We can implement solutions like pedal power on a small scale, as it is very versatile and can be used in many scenarios, while moving our power consumption (not necessarily reducing) to renewable sources such as solar power or hydroelectricity. Any more pollution of our planet will drastically speed up degradation and hence, we must take notice and move towards a more sustainable way of living.