

Paparsali –Tewari Khan - Kasar Devi clean-up plan

Background

This area is composed of villages bordering Almora town. As it does not come under the Nagar Palika, there are no safai karmcharis appointed to sweep the streets and pathways or to clear waste from households, hotels and shops. Yet, this area attracts a number of tourists, both Indian and foreign, with many prestigious hotels as well as small guest houses and restaurants located in it. Most people either burn or dump their waste in the forest or along the roadsides. The dustbins installed when the Simtola Eco-park was set up by the Forest Department are no longer in use as no arrangements were made for clearing them. Mountain paths in the forests are also littered with snack and drink packaging discarded mainly by children on their way to and from school.



Door-to-door visits have been done to obtain the consent of households and shops to this scheme. A list of 32 contributors from Paparsalli, 18 from Tewari Khan and 14 from Kasar Devi (Total 64) has been compiled. The Hotel and Resort Association, Almora is printing flexis that will be posted at various locations along the road.

Aims

- To prevent littering, dumping and indiscriminate burning of waste;
- To promote segregation of waste at source and recycling of as much waste as possible;
- To ensure that the streets are regularly swept and that pathways are cleared;
- To promote organic farming with the compost produced from kitchen and garden waste.

System proposed

- The area will be divided in three – Paparsalli, Tewari Khan and Kasar Devi – and a *parayavaran mitra* employed to service each area twice a week. Each area will have a shed for storing recyclables, a pit for composting and a wire mesh structure for quick burning.
- The sweeper will be equipped with brooms and dustpans and a hand cart with three compartments, one for green waste, one for recyclables and one for insanitary waste and road sweepings.
- He will sweep the main road and collect these three types of waste from each household or commercial establishment. In the first phase only those houses, shops and hotels along the main road will be serviced. Later, arrangements will be made for the villages that are off the road.
- Kitchen and garden waste that is not fed to animals will, as far as possible, be converted into vermi-compost in each household or commercial establishment. If there is no garden space for a pit with earthworms, bokashi – an anerobic method of composting in an air-tight container – can be adopted.
- The sweeper will put the organic waste collected into the compost pit and ensure that it is kept damp and dark for the earthworms to multiply. The recyclables will be stored until a sufficient quantity is collected for sale to kawadis or to the Nagar Palika, if they are compacting and transporting plastic and paper to a recycling facility.
- The insanitary waste will be put into a wire mesh ring and burned once a week in a place where there are no houses.
- Each household and commercial establishment will pay a monthly contribution to the salary of the sweeper and the cost of equipment and transport at the rate of Rs. 50 per household, Rs. 100 per shop and Rs. 1,000 per resort. This will be collected at the beginning of the month by the two volunteers in charge of supervising the work of the *parayavaran mitra* in their area. The monthly contributions are estimated at Rs. 7,000 per month, sufficient to cover the operational costs but not the investment in infrastructure.

Infrastructure and equipment

Funds are being sought for the following:

Construction of a shed (12'X15') for sorting and storage of recyclables	Rs. 20,000
Handcart	Rs. 5,000
Bukhari for incineration of non-recyclables and insanitary waste	Rs. 4,000
Brooms, dustpans, gloves, etc.	Rs.3,000
Printing of handbills and receipt books	Rs. 3,000
Bokashi buckets for those without composting space	Rs. 5,000
Total	Rs. 40,000

Timeline

The scheme will begin in the month following the sanction of funds.

1. The shed and bukhari will be built, a compost pit dug and the hand cart and other equipment purchased.
2. A contract will be signed with the Parayavarn Mitra.
3. A meeting will be held in Paparsali and Kasar Devi with residents to present the plan and elect the volunteers responsible for each area.

4. Shramdaan will be organised to clean the garbage pile up before door-to-door collection begins.
5. Sign boards will be put up.
6. The volunteers of each area will collect the monthly contribution and put it in the bank account of Green Hills.
7. A training on composting and bokashi will be organised for those who express interest in these.
8. The recyclables will be either sold to kabadis or transported to the recycling factory in Kathgodam.
9. Once in three months a meeting will be held in each area to get feedback and make necessary modifications.
10. Activity and financial reports will be submitted at the end of each year to local authorities.

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