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PRESS-RELEASE

Workshop at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad on ‘Addressing Indoor Air Quality Challenges’; Study in association with University of York, UK meant to ascertain the challenges associated with achieving Clean Air

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in Association with University of York, UK on Saturday conducted a Indo-UK Workshop on **Addressing Indoor Air Quality Challenges in Dhanbad; A Case Study in Global South**, during which focused discussion on Indoor Air Quality were held with different sections of the society including the, security guards, cleanliness workers, household women, elderly persons and children from urban and rural areas.

The workshop coordinated by Dr. Darpan Das, Assistant Professor, University of York, UK as Principal Investigator of the project began in Seminar Room of the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering (ESE) of IIT (ISM) began with the discussion with a group of security guards of the institute on various aspects like their family details, indoor behavioral details, information regarding their health and their perception about Air Quality.

The 45 minutes discussion with the group was the followed by similar discussion of same duration held with other groups of respondents, including, a group cleanliness workers, women of surrounding villages and elderly persons & children.

While elaborating about the study, Dr Das said, “It is meant to identify the key sources contributing to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in rural and urban Indian homes, where the participants are at maximum risk of exposure to Indoor Air Pollutants and also to find out what are barriers to reducing IAQ exposure in rural and urban India”.

Elaborating more about the procedure/ method of the study, including the withdrawal criteria Dr Das said following the workshop being held to identify the challenges associated with different aspects of air quality, training with regard to different low cost sensors will be provided and some of the participants will also be selected to carry these sensor at their homes.

“Finally a feedback session will also be held with participants to ascertain the challenges with regard to barriers associated with use of sensors” said Dr Saifi Izhar, Assistant Professor of Department Science and Engineering Department of IIT (ISM) who is also associated with the project as a resource person along with others including, Dr Gitismita Naik, Assistant Professor of AIIMS Kalyani; Dr Indrani Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Adamas University and Dr Deepanjan Majumdar, Senior Principal Scientist National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Kolkata, a premiere laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Questions meant to understand the reasons for the barriers and challenges associated with the use of sensors will be asked in subsequent rounds which will be followed by a session to understand the challenges in providing and managing air quality in homes.

Regarding the benefits of research to the participants, one of resource persons said, ‘The participants will get aware regarding the air quality problems and also about the possible mitigation measures’ and added that they will also be able to share the challenges and barriers towards achieving clean air.

Rajni Singh
Dean (Corporate Communications)