

CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABILITY

2 DAY ONLINE
SEMINAR

AUG 1 & 2, 2020



Circular economy is a systematic shift from a “Take, Make and Waste” approach to a “Circular” strategy that paves way for regeneration and keeping already existing resources, products and materials in several different loops for as long as possible. The shift is also in the idea of how the current system looks at waste and considering that as a part of the design flow instead. There are structured frameworks available which was introduced to help in aligning with, “Closing the loop” ideology. The circular economy framework unravels the underlying inter-connectedness which we do not realize and appreciate often.

The 2-day online seminar brought together disruptive thinkers and changemakers from various fields, who have been working towards this shifting perspective and implementing it on-field. From Desi circular models to Global circular models and applying technology for enabling such shifts, the seminar had something for everyone. One cannot help but notice the different employment opportunities and new avenues to focus upon. The seminar is also an outcome of the 10-day certificate course on “Circular Economy and Sustainability”.

DAY 1

Session 1: Upcycled Fabric for upcycling cycles



Siddharth Muthu entered the social development sector in February where his passion lies and has been working on improving the menstrual hygiene in Rajasthan. The reusable pads and the upcycled products made from fabric wastes helps in eliminating the banana fiber wastes and fabrics getting dumped and burned in landfills. His sustainable business model beautifully brings together a positive environmental impact, a community empowering center and a revenue generating business.

Session 2: Kakul – Eco smart gifting by Kala Kul – A fraternity of Artists

Divya Rajput, President of the Women in Business and the convener for Kala-kul whose products are recyclable, made from eco-friendly raw materials - can be re-used, composted or upcycled further. The products are made from locally sourced materials handcrafted by skilled artisans of India. The variety of innovative and creative products that can be created whilst making a positive socio-economic and environmental impact is amazing. This approach allows for both biological and technical cycles in the circular strategy and adds more meaning to gifting!



Session 3: Accelerating industry towards a circular economy through technology



Jordanna Marshall is the Founder Director of AMBIO-N, a circular B2B textile platform. Ambio-N is a responsible sourcing platform that aligns buyers and sellers of used or certified sustainably sourced materials for a more consciously aligned supply chain. The vision and mission of AMBIO-N is towards achieving circularity in procurement and enabling industry to advance towards a more circular business model. Jordanna's presentation highlights how technology can aid in circularity.

Session 4: Permaculture Design – A sustainable development model

Pushpa Hosangadi is an educationist, permaculture consultant & trainer, and volunteers for rural development amongst several other roles she pursues. Her presentation throws light on the Design aspect of our current systems, right from our homes, farms, societies and to the cities. The Needs-Yields based design, right placement of elements, connecting the dots and the gaps, integrating the functions and maximizing the usage is a much needed infrastructure for circular economy and strategy.



Session 5: Flower based Organic Incense sticks



Deepshika is an undergraduate student and a young social entrepreneur who runs a sustainable business model to empower the differently-abled. She is also a youth leader, leading several initiatives to promote sustainable lifestyle. Incense sticks might seem insignificant at the first look, but Deepshika explained with a systems map – the environmental costs, packaging and disposal, which highlighted the need for circularity and the amount of impact it has and how here organization is overcoming this.

Session 6: Desi Circular solutions

Discussions on sustainability and Circularity can never end without mentions of Indigenous and local solutions. It works the best for a local community while still being aligned to a global vision. Prajna Cauvery gave simple examples from Indian communities - Mitti cool fridge, Jaggery manufacturing process, sun-drying methods and Cow based economy - which have been very inherent processes and have been circular and sustainable. We do not always have to reinvent the wheel for a circular economy. Do share your #DesiCircularSolutions!



Session 1: Supporting Circular economy with Technology



Smrithi Rekha, co-founder of Anaadi foundation has a MS in Information systems from State University of New York and also two decades of experience with Yoga & Meditation, she blends modern science, ancient wisdom and sustainable living practices in all her programs. The presentation touched upon why there is need for circularity today? How can technology support it? Several examples of better governance with aid of technology and a proposal for a “Sharing economy” and “Collaborative Consumption” with engineering technologies!

Session 2: Closing the loop (SKRAP)

Shipra Agarwal leads a minimal waste lifestyle herself and discards less than a bagful of waste every year. She works with SKRAP - a sustainability startup firm, in helping organizations, large events and individuals embrace environmental sustainability. It aims to build awareness around ‘waste’, focus on waste management, zero waste implementations and inspire positive climate action. She presented the protocols followed by SKRAP during events and how they achieve their goals.



Session 3: COVID as an accelerator for a new economic model



With the world surviving through a pandemic currently, Dirk Ziegler - a pioneer in driving health systems, sees this as a unique chance to make the overdue changes to our way of life. He presented how the current system only looks expresses value only in monetary terms. Whereas, for a sustainable model, we require a shift from monetary value and provide the highest value to health, well-being and environment.

Session 4: Industrie 4.0 methodologies for circular economy

Keerthana Balakrishnan is a startup enthusiast and very passionate about behavioral economics and business model generation and growth. Her presentation focused on how there is a steady growth of connected devices, which paves way for new opportunities and future factories. With growing data and information, lot of additional insights are now available. This helps in closing the efficiency gaps, predictive maintenance, remote monitoring, reduction in power consumption, optimum assets utilization, digital labor and reduced scrap wastage & pollutant emissions.



Session 5: Plasma techno innovation and textile processing innovation



Jayashree Venkatesh is an academican, researcher and a sustainability enthusiast. She presented her research works on the focus area of textile industry. The textile manufacturing process is a very polluting industry because of the chemicals, dyes and preparation processes. Jayashree’s research connects water, chemical and process management and overcoming its environmental and economic concerns. It helps in the reduction of water usage, chemicals and dyes. The use of plasma treated bamboo knitted fabric is a wonderful example of reuse and reduce.

Session 6: Refined Sugar – The industry which needs a sustainable overhaul with regenerative principles

Lavanya Arunachalam works in the Office of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. She has several years of experience in the public civil services sector and her presentation highlighted a problem that could have not been noticed by the general public. The refined sugar industry caters to every single household and the current system is a flawed linear model. Due to the ever-growing demand and dropping prices, the system has aided illegal potable alcohol production from the sugarcane arrears. Lavanya proposes a circular model where the wastes in the process can be reused and a proposal to introduce other sugars into the market for responsible and healthy consumption.



Session 7: Exploring circular economy in Sanitary Pads



Kabita Ghimire is a trained social worker in livelihoods and social entrepreneurship. She works towards sustainable livelihoods and tourism, women empowerment and sustainable menstruation. She presented the problems associated with the current disposable sanitary pads, how it is produced and sourced. She focused on how it impacts communities and its ecological footprint. The solution is towards non-disposable sanitary napkins – reusable sanitary pads and menstrual cups. She explained the biological and technical cycles of the reusable sanitary pads.



Session 8: Safe Safai – Clean, Responsibly

Dr. Malavika Neeraj is a frontline covid warrior. As a doctor, she witnesses the amount of waste that is getting generated and being dumped by hospitals every single day and more so during this pandemic. She has assessed the problem space and come up with a solution – A venture called “Safe Safai”. She presented how a lot of chemicals in the sanitizers and cleaning agents have harmful impact on our health and the environment. Natural cleaning solutions for homes in refillable bottles, delivered by Safe Safai to housing societies aims at bridging the gap between raw material suppliers and housing society. Also, additionally inculcating a more circular approach in the existing linear model.



ANAADI FOUNDATION

Anaadi Foundation is a social organization dedicated to inspiring young people to lead a self-reliant, sustainable and fulfilled life. Towards this, the foundation offers programs to enhance the quality of education, wellbeing, sustainability awareness and cultural values. The programs at Anaadi are woven with scientific, historic and psycho-social insights from traditional knowledge systems, epics and content that is relatable and relevant to a modern audience- national and international. The foundation also actively conducts research in the areas of Indian health systems, traditional ecology and technology enabled learning.

CREST

Center for Research in Ecology and Sustainable Technologies

Anaadi CREST serves as an immersive learning and experiential platform for young people to imbibe principles of sustainable living. In tune with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the center integrates various aspects of sustainability including Sustainable Health, Self-Reliant Agriculture, Natural Buildings, Alternate Energy, Waste Management and Chemical free living. The center conducts national and international sustainability field visits, hands-on immersion programs, awareness campaigns and research on sustainable technologies. Sustainability education programs are supported by ESD Expert Net and UN SDSN Youth.

For more information about upcoming programs, visit

anaadicrest.org

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