REPORT OF TECHNICAL SEMINARS AND E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE
March 2019

By TechPioneers (Computer Science Society, Aryabhatta College)

Abstract

TechPioneers organized Technical Seminars on Artificial Intelligence and Environmental Hazards of e-waste on 28th February 2019. An e-Waste Collection Drive was also organized on 26th & 27th February 2019.

REPORT OF TECHNICAL SEMINARS (28th February 2019) AND

E-WASTE COLLECTION DRIVE (26TH & 27TH FEBRUARY 2019)

TechPioneers, the Computer Science Society of Aryabhatta College, organized its Annual Technical Fest (CELESTECH '19) on 27th February 2019 and Technical Seminars on 28th February 2019. Along with Karo Sambhav, the society organized an e-Waste Collection Drive on 26th & 27th February 2019.

Artificial Intelligence-The Double-Edged Sword

Prof. Vasudha Bhatnagar (Head, Department of Computer Science, University of Delhi), was invited to enlighten the students on the topic **"Artificial Intelligence-the Double-Edged Sword".**

The seminar began with a brief introduction of Artificial Intelligence; its significance in the modern day and implications on human society with further development. Dr Bhatnagar discussed the history of how the concept of AI originated, and how the term was coined.

Types of intelligence and how human intelligence influenced machine intelligence was discussed. The speaker continued to enlighten the students on the evolution of AI with

gaming AI's, different levels of Artificial Intelligence, the current stand of our technology and the impacts of super artificial intelligence on the humanity. Progress was also being made in other fields, including medicine, speech synthesis, and natural language etc. which resulted in the current AI technology.

The seminar concluded with a video on Artificial Intelligence consequences possible with Prof. Vasudha Bhatnagar answering questions and resolving queries from the audience.

Awareness Drive on Environmental Hazards of e-Waste

An awareness drive by **Karo Sambhav,** one of the India's leading Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO) on the topic **"Environmental Hazards of e-waste"** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY), was organized**.** Ms. Ritika Jain, Manager (EPR); Ms. Sakshe Vasudeva, Karo Sambhav Ambassador Programme Coordinator; and Mr. Kevin Valsan, Manager (EPR) were the guest speakers.

The programme is also being supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **Karo Sambhav** is currently spread across 29 states, 3 union territories, and over 60 cities working countrywide with producers and globally trusted brands like Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, Cisco etc. to implement their Extended Producer Responsibility(EPR) service.

In the beginning, the students were made aware about e-waste and its inappropriate management across India, explaining the harmful hazards they pose to human health and environment. In India, about 4.5 lakh child labourer, (age 10-14), are observed to be engaged in various e-waste activities without adequate protection and safeguards in various yards and recycling workshops. The lack of awareness about e-waste management has made India the

fifth largest e-waste generator in the world. Karo Sambhav is involved in collecting the e-waste across India and delivering them to the recycling units following appropriate methods of managing e-waste with no child labour.

The speakers briefed the audience about how Karo Sambhav spreads awareness on importance of proper e- waste management They invited students to join hands with them and to work towards the social cause. Following the speech, there was a wonderful interactive session where the students interacted with the speakers asking various questions and clarifying their doubts.

Interesting games were organized, in the end of the session. Students won exciting prizes made out of recycled items. It was indeed an informative session which motivated the students and faculty members to handle e-waste properly by handing it over to the authorized recyclers.

The session ended with the Karo Sambav team presenting an Acknowledgement Certificate to our Principal, for the college's participation in the awareness campaign.

E-Waste Collection Drive

Understanding the importance of proper e-Waste management, TechPioneers, along with Karo Sambav planned an **E-Waste Collection Drive** on 26th & 27th February 2019. Students, teachers and staff were encouraged to bring their e-waste.

The collected e-Waste was taken by Karo Sambhav, who would sort the waste and send it to e-waste recyclers empaneled with them.

Seeing the encouraging response, TechPioneers plans to periodically organize such collection drives.