CHITKARA UNIVERSITY

CHITKARA UNIVERSITY Centre of Excellence for Sustainability

Understanding Microplastics Underwater

Name of Resource Person

Dr. Chingakham John
(CRIO, Chitkara University)

Participants

Students of Civil Engineering

Session 1 (Basics)

10 December 2024

Session 2 (Advance)

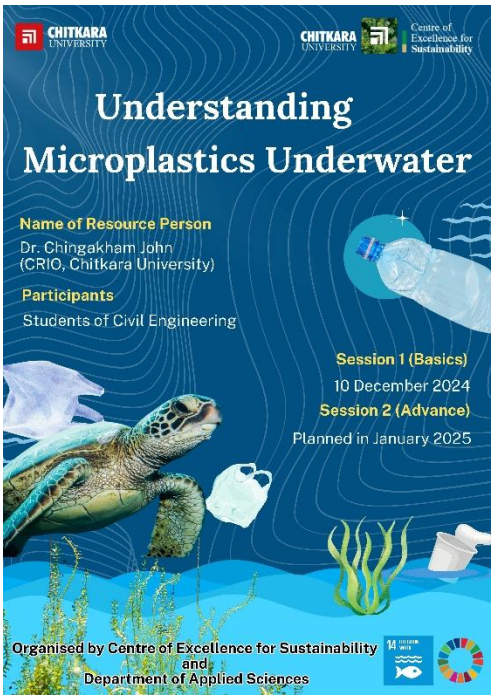
Planned in January 2025

Organised by Centre of Excellence for Sustainability and Department of Applied Sciences

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Event Name	Understanding Microplastics Under Water
Date	10 Dec 2024
Venue	TG019, Turing Block
Organizer	Centre of Excellence for Sustainability and Department of Applied Sciences
Resource Person	Dr. Chingakham John, Assistant Professor at Centre for Research Impact and Outcome (CRIO), Chitkara University
Number of Participants	55
SDGs Covered	14

About the Activity



Centre of Excellence for Sustainability and Department of Applied Sciences and the Department of Civil Engineering, in collaboration, organized an expert session titled "Understanding Microplastics Underwater". This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the increasing issue of microplastic pollution in aquatic ecosystems and its implications for marine life and human health. The session was conducted by Dr. Chingakham John, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Research Impact and Outcome (CRIO), Chitkara University, who provided valuable insights into the subject.

Key Topics Covered

Sources of Microplastics:

- Synthetic fibers released from clothing during washing.
- Microbeads found in personal care products like scrubs and toothpastes.
- Fragmentation of larger plastic items into micro-sized particles due to environmental factors.

Impact on Marine Ecosystems:

- Microplastics are ingested by a wide range of marine organisms, from plankton to large aquatic animals, causing health issues and disrupting ecological balance.

Human Health Concerns:

- Highlighted the ingestion of microplastics through contaminated seafood and drinking water.
- Discussed potential long-term effects on human health due to bioaccumulation of these particles.

Solutions and Call to Action:

- The session emphasized the importance of improved waste management practices to prevent microplastic pollution.
- Encouraged students to brainstorm innovative and actionable solutions for addressing microplastic issues, fostering alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14): Life Below Water.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, inspiring students to use their creativity and scientific acumen to develop sustainable solutions for this pressing environmental challenge.

Conclusion

This expert session served as a significant step in educating the community about microplastics' adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems and human health. It also empowered participants to contribute towards global efforts in combating pollution and safeguarding marine life.