

4 Social Leadership

Power of one!



OBJECTIVES :

1. Be able to explain importance of creating social change and different ways of creating a change, in their own words.
2. Be able to develop the confidence to take steps towards creating a social change.
4. Be able to initiate a lifestyle change as the first step towards making a social change.
5. Be able to identify a social problem, design solutions, develop and implement a plan for intervention.

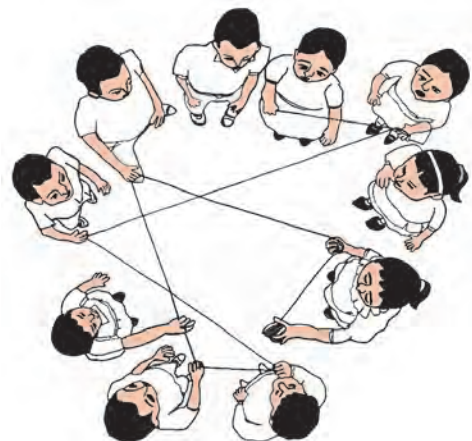
1. The Social Web

Play Time :

- Ten students stand in a circle with one chit each.
- The student who has the bundle of thread should hold one end of the thread tightly and start the game.
- He/she should then pass the bundle to anybody else in the circle and ask what is written on the other student's chit.
- The first student should then say how the word on their chits are connected. e.g. First word **Birds**, Second word **Trees**. Sentence can be - "Birds make nests on trees" or First word **Pollution**, Second word **Rivers**. Sentence can be - "Pollution harms the rivers."
- The second student should then hold the thread tightly in his / her hand and pass the bundle to somebody else and talk about how the names on their chits are related to each other.
- Repeat the same activity till all the ten students are covered at least once.
- It will create a web. See the picture below for reference.
- Tap at different places on the web. Observe what happens.

Prepare ten chits. Write one of the following words on each chit - Man, rivers, air, birds, pollution, plastic, animals, water, trees, soil. Distribute the chits between ten students. Make them stand in a circle. Take a bundle of long thread.

Give the bundle of thread to the first student.



POINTS TO PONDER

When you tap anywhere on the web, everybody feels the vibration. This shows that everything in the environment is connected to one another. Any change in one element will have an impact on the others.

Similarly, all human beings are also interdependent. Eg. People in the cities depend on people in the villages for cultivating food crops. Raw material required for many urban industries comes from mines in rural areas. Thus problems of people in rural parts can create problems for people in urban parts and vice versa.

2. Interdependence

Will this affect you? How ?

1. Increased use of vehicles leads to global warming.
Will it affect you?



Encourage students to discuss each of the issues.

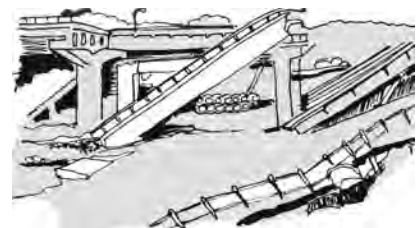
Ask the students if these are their problems too?



2. Inefficient disposal of plastic leads to plastic accumulation in the soil which makes it infertile.
Will it affect you?



3. Scarcity of resources in some parts of the country leads the people there to give up farming and migrate to towns and cities in search of jobs. Will it affect you ?



4. Sometimes there is a delay in developing infrastructure and bad quality of important public projects like bridges, dams, schools etc. are built.
Will it affect you ?

POINTS TO PONDER

Any social problem in one part of the world can trigger a chain of inter-related problems which could affect all of us.

Thus the social problems around us cannot be simply dismissed as somebody else's problems. Sooner or later, they are bound to become our problems too !

Thus it is time for us to take some action. Even one person can make a change !

3. Different ways of bringing in social change

There are many ways in which an individual can contribute to social change. There are a few examples given below. Find information about people or organizations doing similar work in your neighbourhood.

A. Community Service

Providing essential services which are found to be lacking in the society is a way of bringing in social change.

e.g. Baba Amte is known for the selfless service he provided to patients suffering from leprosy who were treated as outcasts at that time.



B. Creating Infrastructure

Implementing projects to offer long term solutions to problems is another way of bringing social change.

e.g. Dr. Rajendra Singh has been instrumental in building close to 4,500 small dams called Johads through people's participation in Rajasthan. His work has had a great impact in raising groundwater levels.

C. Research

Developing new solutions for eradicating social problems through research is a very effective way of bringing in social change.

e.g. Dr. Abhay and Dr. Rani Bang have been instrumental in reducing child death among children who developed pneumonia in Gadchiroli district. It was because of their research and efforts that the death rate amongst infants due to pneumonia was brought down.



D. Activism

Creating awareness about the rights, responsibilities and needs of a community and uniting the community to fight for their rights can also bring in social change.

Let us Learn

These are a few more examples of all the 4 ways to bring social change.

| Community Service | Creating infrastructure | Research | Activism |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Volunteering at an orphanage | Building roads | Developing better tools for agriculture | Bringing people together to eradicate forbidding rituals. |
| Enrolling out-of-school children in schools. | Setting up solar powered lights | Developing new medicines / vaccines | Bringing people together to fight Water and air pollution. |
| Providing medical care in remote rural areas | Building toilets | Studying the causes of social problems | Creating a movement for water conservation. |
| Donating books for libraries in schools. | Waste management. | Research for use of technologies in education. | Awareness for obeying traffic rules. |
| | | | |

Can you think of other examples for each of these modes of making change?

Make a list of organisations and people in your area who are trying to bring about change.

Complete the table with your own examples in your notebook.

4. The power of one

Following are a few examples of how ordinary people have been able to transform the world around them with a strong will power and relentless hard work.



Malala Yousafzai is the youngest Nobel Laureate. She was just 15 when she dared to challenge the Taliban ban against girls going to school in the northwest region of Pakistan. She has been tirelessly working for women's education and empowerment.

Encourage the students to research on any other person who has worked hard to bring about some social change.

Ask them to write a small note on the person's work and share it with others.

Gehlor is a small village in Bihar. The path from the village to the nearest town was blocked by a rocky hill. The villagers had to walk 50 Km to reach the town. **Dashrath Manjhi**, a native of the same village bought a hammer and a chisel, and started cutting the rocks of the hill. Everyone laughed at him, ridiculed him and told him it was not possible. He refused to be de-motivated. It took him 22 years to cut a road through the hill but he did it.



Bindeshwar Pathak is a social reformer working in the field of sanitation and waste management. He established 'Sulabh International' - a social service organization.

Earlier a lot of people especially women faced great difficulty due to the unavailability of public toilets. Sulabh has been building toilets at public places like bus stands, parks etc. Bindeshwar Pathak has been awarded the 'Padma Bhushan' by the Government of India.

5. Personal change project



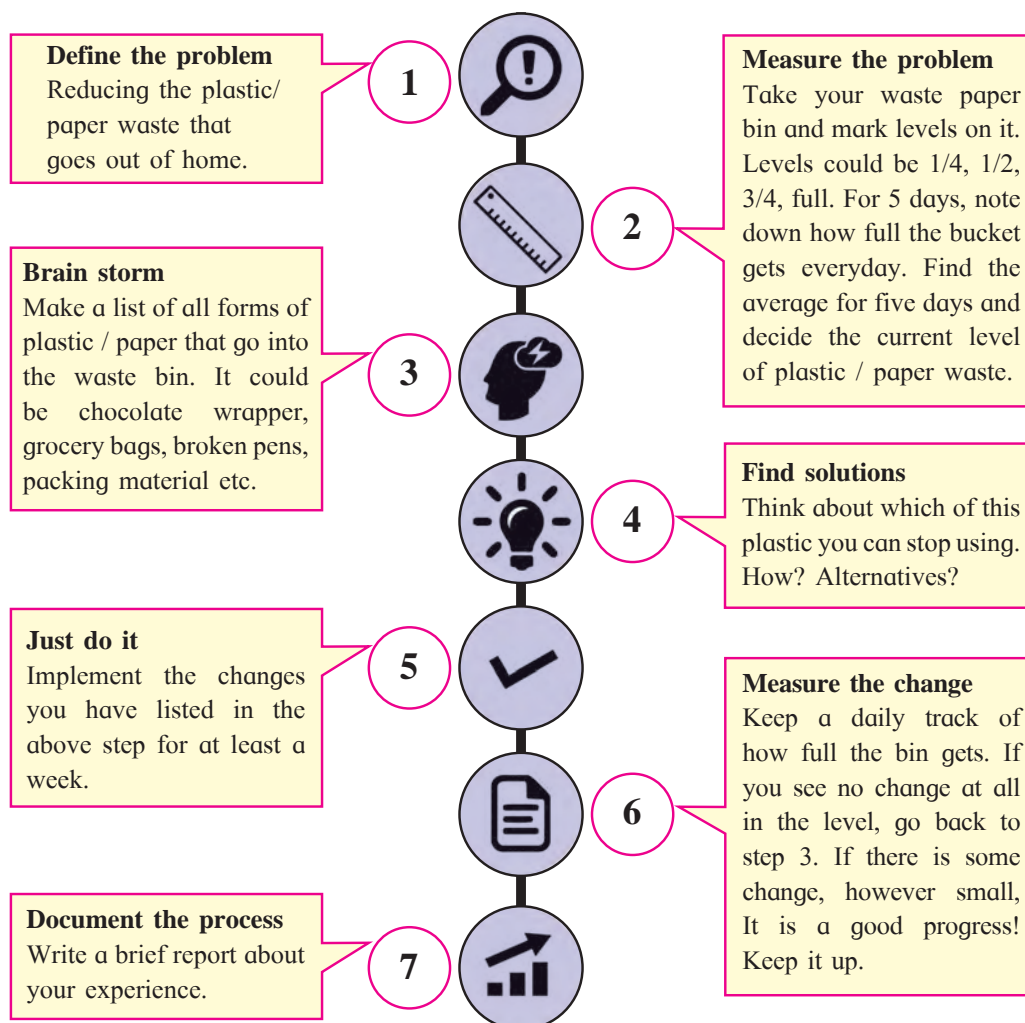
“Be the change you wish to see in the world” - Mahatma Gandhi

- When one thinks of creating a change in the society, one should first begin with changing herself/himself.
- It helps to gain confidence to convince others to join in.
- The personal change project has to be completed individually.
- Following is a guideline for completing the personal change project.

The projects mentioned in the next page are just examples. The students have complete freedom to choose a project that is meaningful to them personally.

The steps in the flowchart are meant to serve as a guideline only. This project should be implemented for at least one month. Students should document their project.

Title : Reducing the use of plastic / paper at home



Some personal change project ideas



Reducing the electricity / petrol / water consumed per month



Reducing your mother / father's workload by one hour everyday.



Teaching some illiterate to read and write for an hour every day.



Making progress in a subject that you are lagging behind.



Helping your brother / sister or friend in his / her studies for an hour everyday.



Start segregating home waste into organic and inorganic.
Making manure from organic waste.

6. Community Change Project

Now that you have gained confidence by doing the personal project, it is time to look beyond yourself.

Look at the problems in the community around you and make a difference.

The steps for implementing the project have been outlined below.

The students can do this project in groups. They can take up to three months to complete the project. The teacher should guide the groups to identify meaningful feasible projects taking into consideration the availability of resources and local social conditions.

STEP 1 : Identifying social problems



- It is important to correctly identify a problem in order to bring about a change. Try to remember if you have ever been moved by somebody's pain?
- Have you been touched by a situation and were close to tears? Do you think you can do something about that problem?
- Alternately, you can conduct a survey of friends houses near you and ask people about the social problems they face. Make a list of all such problems

STEP 2 : Choosing a problem to work on



- Examine all the problems listed out by you and ask yourself the following questions –
 1. Is the problem too big to be undertaken? e.g. Making everybody in your city literate .
 2. Is the problem too small to be undertaken? e.g. Planting a tree/trees in one's own backyard.
 3. Will your group be able to raise the required resources like money and manpower ?
 4. Do you have the necessary expertise for it?
 5. Will you be able to measure the change you make?



STEP 3 : Clearly articulate the problem in words

- Articulate the problem clearly.
e.g. The problem is illiteracy. We want to make 5 people literate so that they would be able to read and write simple sentences. The problem is, we want to so that



STEP 4 : Think of solutions

- Brainstorm for ideas within the group, consult your teachers/parents to solve the identified problems.

e.g. Incase of adult illiteracy, the solutions could be -

1. Encouraging adults to become literate.
2. Teaching these adults at a convenient time.

Your solutions will depend a lot on whom you are working with and what suits them.



STEP 5 : Present the plan

- Prepare a plan about how you will implement the solution.
- Present the plan to your classmates and seek feedback.

STEP 6 : Implement solutions

- This is the toughest part.
- You might face obstacles and would have to make your way around them.
- Ask your teacher or parents for guidance whenever you feel stuck.



STEP 7 : Measure the change

- Review whether you have been able to make some change.
- Any small improvement from where you started is also a success!!
- If possible try to quantify / verbalize the change.
- If there has been no change at all, try to reflect on what went wrong and why.



STEP 8 : Document the change

- Whenever possible, take pictures or get a letter of appreciation from the people who have benefitted.
- Attach all this in your notebook.

STEP 9 : Pat your back!

- Whether or not you are successful, it is important to try!
- If you think you have done your best, pat each others back !

Some example projects for social change have been mentioned below. However you are free to choose a project that you might like.

1. Improving the conditions of the school toilets.
2. Putting up a system in place for maintaining the cleanliness of the school.
3. Planting trees around the school campus and taking care till they grow up.
4. Classifying the waste from your apartment or society into wet and dry garbage and making compost out of wet garbage.
5. Teaching a few persons in your surroundings who cannot read and write.

My Appreciation Card

Make your own appreciation card detailing how you tried to create social change and how it went. Appreciate yourself for the effort.

ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

| Weightage : 20% | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| Criteria | Very Good | Satisfactory | Not - Satisfactory | Marks obtained |
| Completion of personal change project. | Completed the Power of one project sincerely. | Completed the project. | Very vague or indefinite answers, no clarity about the project. | |
| Completion of Community change project. | Completed the Community change project sincerely. Could articulate the process he/she went through and answer the queries raised. Collected photos and feedback of the project as evidence. | Completed the Community change project sincerely. Could articulate the process he/she went through and answer the queries raised. Did not collect photos and feedback of the project as evidence. | Very vague or indefinite answers, no clarity about the project. | |

