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KASHTAKARI PANCHAYAT TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17

ABOUT

KASHTAKARI PANCHAYAT TRUST (KP) was registered in 2010 primarily to support waste pickers and their families and their collectives. The support ranges from direct financial assistance to indirect support in the form of training, facilitation and research. KP would best be described as a bridge, connecting people to each other, connecting ideas to people and people to resources to implement those ideas. It facilitates and celebrates the interaction between one section of humanity and another, to create a better world for all.

Key Focus Areas 2016-17

In 2016-17 KP's key focus areas have been on education, training, awareness generation on the Right to Education, livelihood enhancement, empowering waste pickers, visibility and voice for waste workers, developing the waste management systems set up in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad through Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP) and SWaCH.

Training for waste pickers:

Forming of parent's committee-During last year,40 parents have been elected from different communities. These parents, all of whom are waste pickers, meet on a monthly basis in two locations to discuss issues related to the education of their children and make action plans for the month to come. A group of 40 parents are part of the committee. The parents are also trained to identify and take up issues related to education of their children. The following topics have been covered with the committee-- Training on the central government scheme 'Pre-Matriculation Scholarship for Children of those engaged in " Unclean Occupations" ; Matters related to Right to Education- a training plan for dissemination of information and identifying eligible children (2 sessions) ; Action planning for distribution of notebooks to children of waste pickers; Enrolment of children into school; Discussing the issue of child marriage and how it can be addressed at the community level; Concerns regarding day care and working women, accessing scholarships of the PMC called 'GhanBhatta' and the required documents for the same, Accessing Govt of India scholarships called 'Shiksha Sahayog Yojana' and the required documents for the same, Safety and Protection of children and legal steps that can be taken in the event of abuse.

Trainings on the Right to Education -In the months of January and February 2016, 45 trainings were conducted across different communities where 1084 parents were trained on the RTE. fliers were handed out to all parents who attended the trainings who were present in order to pass on information to others whom they think could be eligible for admissions in their communities. The main point of discussion by the parent groups was to focus on the provision of section 12.1.c that mandates reservation of 25% of seats in private unaided schools for children belonging to disadvantaged and economically weaker sections. Posters were pasted in strategic public spaces identified by the parents in the community for the same.

Enrolment into schools- In the months of April- May 2016, waste pickers identified other children of waste-pickers who were out of school and till June. Through communication with Government school authorities and help in filling up due procedural forms some parents were agreed to send their children school.

Training for youth

Youth and their environment

This process was started in the previous year and has met with limited success. Group meetings have been conducted in the Fursungi, Aundh and Shivaji Nagar slums. Youth discussed issues directly affecting them and their living environment. Due to examinations of the students, the first half of the year saw fewer activities of youth engagement. Youth are discussing about the threats posed by the occupational waste picking and safer ways of disposing wastes. Among other issues they are discussing about scholarships, child marriages, examinations etc. some youth are also helping their parents in creation and maintenance of organic wormy compost in housing societies around Kondhwa and Pune university, and Kothrud.

Youth leadership

The focus this year among the community was to identify, build and train the youth of the community to identify and take up issues regarding concerns of their community and their environment. Some youth are taking active part in RTE enrolments and campaigns

It took time till April to motivate youth to take up leadership initiatives in their communities; however the process has started in 5 communities.

Internship – there are 10 youth currently doing their internship with Kashtakari Panchayat. Till now 7 youth have been involved to fill Applications forms for various scholarships available for children. More than 1850 scholarship application forms have been filled by youth representatives and 62 children have been enrolled in schools by the youth.

Training on soft skills -

In slums near Chandannagar area of Pune the youth representatives are motivating other children to take up spoken English and personality development classes that are offered under a CSR initiative of a notable multinational company. Around 20 children and youth including youth representatives are regularly attending these classes after school or college hours. Youth representatives are regularly attending leadership training programs organised by other tdh partners and sharing the information with other children in their communities. Youth representatives have attended 3 trainings on Children rights, Ecological rights of children, Leadership skills and local governance.

Advocacy for Education and other government benefits for children of waste pickers

In the previous year the Hon minister for social justice and special assistance of Maharashtra state presenting the situation education among the children of wastepickers. The minister assured the parents that he would ensure that till the “last child” was not enrolled, he would not rest and the financial year would not be a constraint. In April 2015, the Education Officer visited the KP office to collect the data of the list of schools where children of waste pickers study. While the situation of implementation is ‘bleak” we are still hopeful that the 440 children who were enrolled will receive money. The media has also given sustained support to the issue of denial of child rights. After that no progress was made. In January 2016 a small group of waste-pickers met with the social welfare officer of Pune Municipal council, They waited for 3 hours and finally upon the request of the CEO of the Municipal council the officer in charge agreed to talk to the parents who were demanding the promised scholarships for their children. Yet again the government has assured to all the parents saying that their children would receive scholarships shortly.

One waste picker and one field worker were part of a national level consultation of waste pickers and their inclusion into the National Safai Karmachari Federation (NSKFDC) and the scheme available for vocational training, enterprise and education under the NSKFDC. As part of this process, the secretary of the federation visited Pune to understand the work of waste pickers and the educational levels of children of waste pickers.

In November 2016, one gathering and a public event was held around police inaction regarding a case related to POCSO. Following the public action, the police filed a charge sheet and the matter was taken to court. The girl was also moved out of her environment where she was facing the abuse and had been shifted to a safe location.

1 waste picker leader has been part of the school for democracy in Rajasthan that works on strengthening grassroots action for a socially just society. They were called for an interview and have been accepted to the program in December 2016.

Public Programs on Education and Youth Convention:

Public Programs - In January 2016 a small group of waste-pickers met with the social welfare officer of Pune Municipal council to demand scholarships for their children to follow up on the earlier promises made by the government.

A delegation of 5 parents met with the Hon Secretary of Social Justice at Mantralaya in Mumbai on the 3rd of March 2016. He took full notice of the situation and spoke with the Commissioner of Social Justice who called a joint meeting with the newly appointed officials.

Youth and Children's convention – Annual Melwa was planned in the last week of December however it was postponed in February 2017.

Campaign for Child rights:

Members of waste pickers organisation have sent the Municipal Commissioner a letter with the following demands,

1. Currently, one creche at School No 14 (Opposite Congress Bhavan) is insufficient for the entire ward. PMC was advised to make provision in its annual budget allocations of 2016 to start additional day care and after school centres for children slums in each ward with large population wherever it is needed.

2. The planning committee of the PMC is responsible for expansion and building capacities in the wards. Through the letter the committee was advised to use participatory methods for addressing needs and demands of all working women waste pickers in the city, especially those from the unorganised sector.

3. Other clauses demanding improvement in working conditions and upliftment of educational status of children waste pickers were also elicited.

4. Children from all over Pune signed for Signature campaign event to promote rights of children during Happy streets event

RTE Support (Admission and GR) Cell

200 posters and 1000 fliers were printed and distributed across 45 slums in Pune and PCMC. Helplines were set up to guide parents and youth on the process of admission and the required documents. KPreceived 875 calls and enquiries from parents from all across Maharashtra. Direct support was provided to 200 parents for admissions of their children.

Campaigning for enrolment of eligible children under 25% clause of RTE began in December. So far, 240 children have been identified and the number will increase in the coming years.

Potential partnership were explored this year is the possibility of running help centres for parents at the time of applications in the coming year. Discussions are on with NASSCOM, still at a preliminary stage.

Educational Incentives:

So far this year, children have been supported under the higher education program. Some girls, were supported for their college fees; A girl was supported towards hostel fees after her family wanted her to be married. Boys were supported for classes for Standard 12th. One boy is taking

coaching classes to join the military services. Total number of children supported through direct and indirect measures is listed in outputs.

Support for Extra Curricular Activities for 50 Children

In the month of June 2016, a football workshop was organised for 35 girls from 4 communities in the Yerwada, Kharadi and Vishrantwadi areas. The girls were given training by coaches and also provided with theoretical inputs on the game and the rules of playing. The objective behind conducting the workshop was to make the girls aware of their right to play and to give them an opportunity to learn something new. While football as a sport has been around for a long time, most girls from disadvantaged homes are unlikely to have played the sport. Typically, girls are not allowed to leave their homes once they are back after school and the workshop offered them a chance to step out of their homes.

Support for Vocational Training and Professional Courses –

5 children have been supported for higher education programs. Collage fee of 2 girls, hostel fee for 1 girl, fee for supporting classes of 1 boy in std XII and professional coaching fees for 1 boy who is aspiring to join Military has been provided.

A total of 13 children have been supported for pursuing different vocational activities – 1 Pathology Lab Assistant, 1 Military, 2 for 4 wheeler driving, 1 for Tally and 1 for pursuing Industrial training courses.

Participation in Happy street events –

In the month of May 2016, 25 children of waste pickers participated in different open street events.

1. Happy streets, a two Day event organised by a leading daily newspaper. Parts of the city were reserved for children and general public for some hours in the early morning children had the opportunity to play games, dance and play various musical instruments and showcase their talents. Nearly 25 children from PimpriChinchwad slums participated in this event.

2. Pinkathons are 3,5 and 8 km mini - marathons organised for women in cities over the country. This year nearly 30 girls and women from Chandan Nagar participated in Pinkathon organised in Koregaon Park, Pune. Similar event will be conducted in the November 2016.

Child Marriages –

4 cases of child marriages were stopped by intervention by waste pickers during this year. Cases have been notified with child protection officers for the same. 1 criminal case was also filed under POCSO

Training to Waste picker Leaders

Since August 2016, every month, representatives from among waste pickers are trained on different issues. Resource persons who are experts in their fields are called in to train leaders on various issues. The entire leadership training is being carried out in partnership with a local rotary club. Training to waste picker leaders has been on the following issues.

Session 1 was an introduction to LEADERSHIP and that these sessions have been designed to enhance leadership and organizing capacity of waste pickers so that they can advocate for improved sanitary and health conditions. Participating waste pickers are henceforth considered “waste picker leaders.” There will be monthly workshops related to leadership, education,

government schemes and health, with the hope that the existing group of leaders would be regular and also contribute to the content of the trainings.

Session 2 was on: Cleanliness, Governance and Sanitary Waste – dealt with how urbanization is taking place, how the perception of cleanliness is leading to greater landfills, treatment of waste and the core issues to consumption and waste generation.

Session 3 - Introduction to Indian Economics & Demonetisation was conducted in December 2016 to help waste pickers understand the economic and social implications of demonetisation, which is having a major impact on daily life for people across India, economics professors from Pune University were invited to give an introduction to Indian economics and demonetisation.

Session 4- Welfare/Scheme Benefits for waste pickers- This session included comparing the structures, issues, revenue, expenditure, overheads etc. of family, government, KKPKP and SWaCH. The main purpose of this training was to give information on taxation, revenue, budgeting, schemes started by the Central, State, Local Government, KKPKP and SWaCH.

Session 5- India's Caste System-The session was conducted by Anjali Mayadeo from Karve Institute of Social Service and was organized to help waste pickers reflect on how caste has affected their lives, the changes that have taken place over the years and how caste oppression manifests itself in our lives today.

Session 6 - Chalwal (Women Movements)/ Feminism in India-The session conducted by Medha Kotwal looked at different movements in India and tried bringing together the women's movement- workers movements- dalit movements and discussions around where they all stand today and waste pickers' experiences of participating in these movements

Session 7- Laws and The Constitution- Focussed on the legislature, executive and judiciary as the 3 pillars of democracy and their respective roles and on the 3 levels of jurisdiction for all government programs—Urban Local Body, State Government and the Centre. All this was linked to structures and systems within the waste pickers organisation and the Pune Municipal Corporation in the context of waste and therefore very easy for waste pickers to relate to and then within the legal framework guiding principles, directives, laws and bye laws were discussed and analysed in terms of who determines, makes and implements.

Training for waste pickers

In the month of January 2016, a session on Child Sexual Abuse was conducted for waste picker leaders. The discussion on the issue was initiated by a performance of a play by the Mumbai-based organisation Mel Jhol. The play 'Bol Bindhass' was a simple way to raise the issue and discuss how parents should respond to the issue. There was some discussion on the POCSO act as well and how to ensure that the police book all cases related to child abuse under POCSO.

In the month of December, 1800 waste pickers were trained on cooperative management and the responsibilities and duties of members of a cooperative. They also underwent training on Solid Waste Management and why integration of waste pickers is critical in today's scenario.

Training to waste pickers on Safety of Children and Child Sexual Abuse was conducted in the month of May. The training was conducted by resource persons from Aalochana. They began with a ppt that would help identify different types and ways wherein a child can be sexually abused. Starting from who can be a threat for a child to how one can address it, to what is the law and how can the accuser be penalized, everything was discussed in such a way that all were very attentive and were involved thoroughly. An animated film "komal" was shown towards the end of the session, which had a greater impact on the topic. It ended with question and answer session between the participants and the entire Aalochana team. All waste-pickers were given printed pamphlets containing basic information about Child Sexual Abuse with contact numbers for reporting and handling such cases.

2100 waste pickers also underwent training on the issue of disposal of sanitary waste--They were asked about this ongoing campaign which was started in February 2017. They were asked to describe what Red Dot is for us. They were made aware of the law wherein they had rights to receive the sanitary waste in different packet from the citizens. They were reminded of the case study and 'send it back' campaign of 2013 when KKP KP had filled 3 bags full of sanitary waste and sent them to the manufacturers of the sanitary pads and Diapers, to make them aware of their responsibility of managing the disposal of sanitary waste products. Health issues emerging from handling of sanitary waste was also discussed. Waste-pickers were trained to approach the citizens on their own and explain how to dispose sanitary waste by marking Red Dot on the packet, through role-play and discussions conducted by waste-picker representatives. An emphasis on not to depend on field staff was also made. Two short films based on this campaign were shown. A few waste-pickers' shared their experience and citizens reaction following the commencement of the Red Dot Campaign.

Advocacy for entitlements— Pimpri Chinchwad – August 2016 to June 2017

The struggle for Labour Rights Continued in PCMC with waste workers still being denied their entitlements-

August 2016 – September 2016:

The hearings for the first Minimum Wage claim continued during this period with submission of affidavits and cross examination of witnesses by the PCMC. Frequent delays were experienced due to the PCMC and Contractors legal representatives not being present for hearings and demanding frequent adjournments. The delay was exacerbated by a change in the Asst. Labour Commissioner hearing the matter.

Several rounds of meetings were conducted with the newly appointed Municipal Commissioner and Head of the PCMC Health Department to appraise them of the issues with wrongful payment of minimum wages, access to provident Fund and Employee State Insurance, harassment by contractors etc. The Municipal Commissioner and HoD Health Department agreed to organize Jan Sunvairs (Public Hearings) in each of the 6 Ward Offices for hearing complaints of waste-pickers and resolving pending issues.

October – November 2016:

Ward-wise written complaints were taken from waste-pickers and other contract workers of the PCMC as well regarding the various issues faced by them in the PCMC's contract system. One round of discussion was held with each ward office to decide the schedule and mode of

organizing the hearing of workers complaints. Thereafter meetings were conducted with 20 – 30 workers in attendance at each of the ward offices.

December 2016 – January 2017

Based on the complaints submitted by waste-pickers and other workers and the discussion with each office, an interim report was submitted to the PCMC outlining the discussions and demanding changes in the contract system of the PCMC to ensure proper implementation of labour welfare laws. During this period, the PCMC declared a new tender for managing solid waste on an end-to-end basis through large contractors. Meanwhile hearings at the Labour Welfare department proceeded with the Contractors' lawyers not attending proceedings. After consecutive absenteeism on hearing dates, the Ast. Commissioner declared that the contractors would not be allowed to cross examine the witness who had submitted her evidence in writing. A 'No-Cross' order was issued.

February – March 2017

Since local elections were due in February 2017, little was achieved by interactions with the administration. However, effort was made to interact with the newly elected representatives to gather support for waste-pickers and contract workers and for ensuring changes in the contract system. Written submissions were made to the PCMC as well as the state government asking for full and fair integration of waste-pickers in the proposed new tender of the PCMC which seemed to transgress some basic rules and regulations of the SWM Rules, 2016 of the Central Government.

April – May 2017

The top administrative layer of the Municipal corporation was once again changed with a new Municipal Commissioner and new HoD of the Health Department. The Municipal Commissioner was contacted and appraised of all the issues with respect to the contractual system and the shortcomings of the tender proposed by the PCMC for waste management in the city. Presentations were made to the Municipal commissioner and representatives of the Urban Development Department of the State Government regarding contribution of waste-pickers to solid waste management, the for their integration into the city's formal systems and the specific suggestions regarding their inclusion / exclusion in PCMC.

June 2017

The hearings regarding arrear claim of minimum wages at the labour welfare department were delayed with another change in the Asst. Labour Commissioner handling the matter. The new asst. commissioner issued summons to all parties relating to the 2nd Minimum Wage Claim and has set dates for final cross examinations in the proceedings of the 1st Minimum Wages Claim to be heard in August. Waste collection drivers protested the non-payment of wages on time and struck work for a few days. Though waste-pickers were not involved in the same, they were not able to work for those few days. Representations were made to the new Municipal commissioner to institute a system where if contractors don't pay on time, the PCMC should pay workers' wages directly and then recover from the contractors as per the Laws relating to payment of wages.

Pensions

The struggles for Pension this year has been low-key given that the city was going to elections and a lot of the committee meetings that were to take place for the approval of applications was

stalled. Moreover, the struggle for universal pensions at the centre has also taken a back seat with no purchase from the Ministers in charge of social justice and empowerment.

Moving up the value chain

Scrap Shops- Over this year, we have lobbied with 42 scrap dealers to issue receipts and give bonuses to waste pickers on an annual basis. To facilitate this process, every month, scrap dealers buy a pre printed receipt book from the union office and maintain receipts of all transactions made between the shop and the waste picker selling her recyclable material there. At the end of the month, the used receipt book is submitted to the union and a new one is purchased by the scrap trader. A new fair-trade scrap shop has also been started in Katraj. This scrap store is run by a waste picker member of the union and her son maintains accounts and records of the shop. Waste-friendly Youth Group in Chandwadi

Composting as an alternate livelihood

Chandwadi, the tiny settlement in Fursungi village near Pune, has long standing association with waste, both for good and bad reasons. Bad because, by living within the vicinity of dumping yard for years people here are exposed to air and water pollution on day to day basis. Good because, for years waste picking has been a source of livelihood for local people. Many families in Chandwadi, especially women, have run their families through waste collection and still continue to do so. Being waste pickers the people here know the real value of the waste. Now the younger generation too is drawn towards the waste, albeit for an altogether different reason.

A group of 10-12 school and college going girls and boys have taken to composting of household organic waste, an oft promoted yet less practiced measure of waste management. Interestingly Chandwadi children cherish their micro-initiative started in November 2015, which certainly assumes significance at macro level.

SWaCH (Solid Waste Collection and Handling or, officially, SWaCH Seva Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit, Pune), a collective of waste pickers instilled the idea and motivated some school going children along with inputs to manage small scale composting pit. First a group of girls, studying in Class VI and VII started and pursued it by learning while doing, rectifying mistakes. Over the period it has not only been sustained, but also spreading as more and more young children as well as college going youth are getting drawn into it.



Research on Solid waste management Value chain of Multi Layer Plastic

A Brief Economic, Environmental and Legal Analysis of Technology Options for Sustainably Processing Multi-Layered Plastic Waste was carried out by Kashtakari Panchayat. A significant proportion of this packaging stream consists of single use multi-layered or multi-material plastics. These plastics are made up of multiple layers of thin polymer film that are designed to provide enhanced resistance to humidity and improve product shelf life. In India, the food processing sector is a large contributor of this form of packaging waste - accounting for approximately 9% of the total manufacturing industry and a significant portion of the overall plastic waste production.

The annual production of multi-layer packaging (MLP) in India stands at over 12 lakh tons and is likely to see an average annual growth of 6%³. Packaging options include a variety of plastics (primarily PE, PP, PVC, and PET), but polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) account for approximately 62% of the polymer usage⁴. While the plethora of functional benefits offered by multi-layered plastics makes them the preferred material for the food and beverage industry, the complex polymer composition and non-removable adhesives pose significant challenges from a recycling point of view. Traditional plastic processing technologies available locally are not designed to separate the different layers, limiting their recycling into high-purity mono-materials. The result is that multi-layer plastic processing options are limited, and a large portion of the plastic ends up in unsecured landfills or is burnt openly, leading to severe environmental impacts.

The purpose of the study was to identify and analyse the flow of post-consumer multi-layered packaging in urban Indian cities and explore options to process the waste sustainably. In addition to considering the economic viability and environmental sustainability of the various options, this report also studies the legal constraints associated with each processing option and attempts to provide a summary assessment of each.

The Executive Summary of Recommendations included the following:

- Multi Layer Plastics cannot be landfilled due to the specified waste hierarchy which prevents waste being directly disposed into the landfill without pre-processing.
- If Multi Layer Plastics are co-incinerated it means this category of waste is established as non-recycled material since the process can only accept non-recyclable waste.
- If Multi Layer Plastic is sent to a Plastic to Fuel process then can be called recycling since it creates a product but it is the end of the recycling line and therefore to be treated as the least optimal process.
- Recycling option 1. If Multi Layer Plastics can be made into gitti (a raw material for making plastic products like pipes) we establish MLP as a recyclable material. However, after research there is only one firm that claims to recycle this material successfully EREMA. However, there is

no evidence that this is scalable or even operational as yet. The recommendation is that ITC further researching this process further.

- Recycling Option 2: Multi Layer Plastics can also be processed to produce poly-al boards (lumber). It can be considered a replacement for plywood boards. This technology is in its nascent form and again it is worth further research.

Innovations for enhanced livelihoods



Figure 1 THE KATRAJ SHOP

Waste pickers work on the fringes of modern society and are considered the “invisible” recyclers. Rummaging through waste brings unwanted attention and many consider what waste pickers do undesirable and lowly. Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat a trade union established in 1993, with a current membership of over 10,000 waste pickers and itinerant buyers has already undertaken several initiatives to upgrade the livelihood of its members. The union believes that access to safe, decent and secure livelihoods is the cornerstone of progress among this marginalized population. The Union demonstrated in a pilot program started in 2005 that free roaming waste pickers can transform themselves to become service providers – as door to door waste collectors. Almost 150000 households were covered under this pilot program. The Union then actively advocated with the Pune Municipal Corporation to give the contract of door to door collection to waste pickers. SWaCH cooperative was thus formed as a Public Private Partnership. It got its first 5-year contract in 2008 and an improved contract was renewed in Jan 2016. Today, the waste picker members of SWaCH cater to almost 5.5 lakh properties.

While a rightful and consistent access to waste at the door step stabilizes the waste pickers income, the sale of retrieved recyclables continues in highly exploitative circumstances. The

waste pickers who are at the bottom of the recycling pyramid, and are instrumental in ensuring the running of this sector, reap the lowest rewards. The first point of exploitation is at the hands of scrap shop owners who dupe typically illiterate women by giving lower rates for their materials, do not give receipts, cheat on weights etc. In 1997 some waste pickers decided to establish a flagship scrap shop to demonstrate the potential of a scrap shop working on cooperative principles. This shop is running successfully even today. Women get fair and market prices, all the rates are clearly indicated on printed receipts and the materials are weighed properly. All the profits of the shop are distributed among its 40 waste pickers based on how much material they have sold at the shop. Beyond the 40 waste pickers who are direct beneficiaries, it is estimated that at least 250 other waste pickers in this area are benefited from using this shop for advocacy with their own shop. They are able to sometimes openly and often tacitly threaten their scrap dealers to oblige or risk the waste pickers taking their materials to the Union's shop

In Katraj, another shop has been established. SWaCH the cooperative of waste pickers had been given access to the katraj sorting shed for sorting purposes for past several years. In 2012, the space had been given to a scrap dealer with the sole purpose of ensuring fair scrap trade practices. 3 bids were invited by the union. The terms of the contract ensured transparent rates, formal printed receipts and a bonus at the end of the year. When in September 2016, the scrap dealer violated these terms by not paying a yearly bonus, the union took the step to vacate the shop. 48 members of the union met and made the decision to start a union run shop at this facility.

On Feb 8th, the shop started and one manager was hired to ensure the shop began both purchases and sales as per the terms that had been laid out by the group of women.

The shop is run on the following terms:

Bonus: any profits would be distributed as bonus to women depending on the amounts they had sold at the shop.

Receipts: Only printed receipts are given to waste pickers

Material quality: the manager can check quality of materials sold and had the discretion to reject materials if the quality of sorting was not up to standard.

Rates: rates continued to be benchmarked against the shop in Pimpri, however they are also compared to rates in the area. As an example LD no 2 (mixed waste) is purchased for Rs 5 in Pimpri. However, in Katraj the rate was retained at Rs 3. Firstly, since all other shops were offering this price, secondly, the quality of material is inferior compared to Pimpri (most the waste comes from large establishments and companies in Pimpri, whereas in Katraj the material is sourced from households), and lastly, the rates were also determined by the wholesaler's price. He is offering a buying prices of Rs 5.

Pick up by tempo: While during the initial meeting the waste pickers had agreed to weighing materials at the shop, it was far more practical to weight materials on site. Therefore, a charged weighing scale was taken on location for material weighing. All transactions happened on site (receipts and money was given and material was loaded on to a truck). It was the waste pickers responsibility to ensure that the tempo was not half full so as to maximize expense on transport. The minimum amount of material per tempo is Rs 2000. A tempo owned and managed by a waste picker member of the union was deployed for material pick up. This had the dual advantage of supporting a waste picker but also that the waste picker aided in ensuring quality

of materials. Aba Kasbe the waste picker, often checked material and even fought with other women to ensure quality. This greatly helps in ensuring the feeling of ownership of the shop by waste pickers.

A separate bank account: The bank account is fully operational.

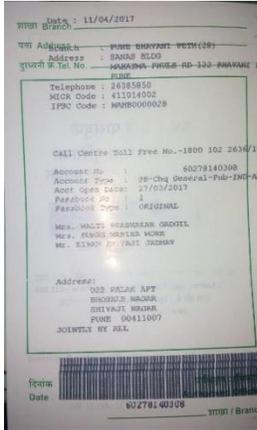


Figure 2 The bank account with Bank of Maharashtra

DATE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	BALANCE
21/04/17	BY BANK	1000.00	1000.00
21/04/17	BY BANK	1000.00	2000.00
21/04/17	BY BANK	1000.00	3000.00
21/04/17	BY BANK	1000.00	4000.00
21/04/17	BY BANK	1000.00	5000.00

Figure 3 First entry into the bank account from Shop



Figure 4 Cheque book of the newly opened bank account

Managing the shop: Several second-generation children of waste pickers have been approached for managing the shop. Their training and potential hiring will be completed in the next quarter.

Every sale to the shop is recorded and following is the list of women who are currently selling at the shop.



Figure 5 The segregation of plastic by the wholesaler

Based on the initial list of 48 waste pickers, 38 sold at the shop. There are municipal workers (bigari) who also sell small items they pick from the trucks in the shop. One waste picker (balubai) had left some material behind which was purchased by the shop. Waste pickers such as Aba Kasbe, Suman Mariba More, Mohan Bhise, Ashok Fasge have become natural leaders.

Improving the informal waste pickers' working conditions through upgrading of spaces around waste collection sites

SWaCH, the cooperative of waste pickers has been operational in Pune since 2007. More than 3000 waste picker members of SWaCH are engaged in door to door collection of waste from more than 500,000 properties in Pune. As part of the first (2008) and second contract (2016) with the Pune Municipal Corporation, it is incumbent upon the PMC to provide sorting spaces for optimal recovery of recyclable materials. Such centers can vary in size and design and are called sorting sheds or materials recovery centers. In most cases these centers are temporary, and are constructed with little consultation with the waste pickers who will use them or the citizens who must view such centers in their residential areas.

The project aimed to generate interest and invoke stakeholders to participate in an open discussion such that the centers satisfy the needs and requirements of waste pickers, resident citizens, the municipal authorities and the local area councilors.

The project had a strong focus in background research, stakeholder participation, design and construction, documentation and advocacy. During the first phase of this project three sites had been identified for upgrading existing sorting spaces.

1. Bhosale Nagar, ICS colony 2. Ganga Satellite, Kondhwa 3. Kapil Malhar, Aundh

Bhosale Nagar came permanently under dispute due to two groups of citizens, one who opposed the site and prevented further construction, and the second group that supported and agreed to the need to reconstruct the existing temporary structure. The second site outside the residential complex called Ganga Satellite, became embroiled in differences between the local councilor and the residential complex.

Kapil Malhar Shed - 40 waste pickers

SWaCH decided to become the subcontractor on an existing project tender that was issued by PMC in March 2016. The construction of the shed would have two phases. The first phase was to reconstruct the tall existing structure. The height had to be lowered, walls had gaps from which the rain came in which were fitted with jutting out roofs to prevent rain water from entering the center. The floor of the existing structure was at least 3 feet above the ground without ramps. This could not be changed, however, the new structure which was built was raised considerably and a small slope was introduced. The second phase involved constructing new sections and considerably increasing the sq footage of the center. This was done to ensure all 40 waste pickers could be accommodated within the center.

Citizens Outreach:

Extensive citizen outreach was done in this site prior to building. Several meetings were held in PMC as well as on-site with the community group called Aundh Vikas Mandal (aundh development group). During the construction phase, some citizens stopped by at the site to view progress. One family came with their young son who wanted to do a project report on “waste” for school. The project was undertaken entirely by the Pune Municipal Corporation and all designs were officially approved by PMC’s Junior Engineer and Dept Engineer as well as the Ward Officer

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Factual details

The Need

- Recyclable materials are categorized in up to 60 different categories, graded and packed in the Recovery Center thus ensuring optimal recycling and better rates for the waste pickers
- Offers a secure place for saleable recyclables
- Provides some comfort and protection to waste pickers and waste from the elements
- Increases recycling rates as there is no threat of eviction unlike sitting on foot paths, open plots etc.
- Is citizen friendly as sorting happens within dedicated premises as opposed to on the streets
- Is mandated by (city, state and central Rules- PMC draft bye laws, Maharashtra non-biodegradable Act, National Solid Waste Management Rules 2016)
- Is critical to a decentralised solid waste management models, which emphasizes resource recovery via source segregation over centralized, burn technology

Features

Special Features of this centre that make it appropriate for waste pickers in general and this area in particular:

- Light and Ventilation - There are large ventilated “windows.” Even the ceiling has optimal ventilation. Both air and light permeate easily

- Secure- There are iron bars and shutters to keep the workspace protected from bird menace or theft
- Flooring - Indian patent stone (IPS) flooring is low cost, optimal for sorting of waste and easy to maintain
- Dedicated spaces for each waste picker couple/group -There are clearly marked spaces for each waste picker to prevent disagreements
- Protection from the rain-The overlapping roof structure and overhangs prevent rain water from entering the workspace
- Tempos - This was a special requirement of waste pickers in this area. Most waste pickers here use tempos for waste pick up. Each tempo can enter the shed from a clearly marked entry, drive up to their designated space, unload and drive out of the exit. The entry and exit ways prevent vehicle backups
- Sale of waste -Since there are large number of waste pickers using this workspace, there is a special access for a dealer who can use a front gate for loading a 407 vehicle. Group sales increase rates and regularize scrap trade
- Bathrooms - There are bathrooms for men and women located behind the Materials Recovery Center

At a Glance:

No of Waste Pickers: 42

No of Households serviced: 10,000 – 12,000

Amount of Waste Recycled: 1 tonne per day (10% of all waste)

Space requirement/waste picker : 70-90 sq feet