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KASHTAKARI PANCHAYAT TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

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 2015-16

In 2015-16 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.

Education

For the past 20 years, waste pickers in the city have been campaigning to ensure that their children have better educational opportunities and Kashtakari Panchayat has collaborated with the waste picker organisations to realise this aspiration.

2015-16 marked the first year of partnership between waste pickers in Pune and PCMC associated with Kashtakari Panchayat and TDH, for a project aimed at providing enhanced access to education for the children of waste pickers in slum areas of Pune.

A pool of aware and active youth who act as change makers in their communities was created. Three youth groups have been formed in Shivajinagar, Hadapsar and Vishrantwadi. To initiate the process of youth groups, a training programme was held on the 8th of March 2015 with youth representatives from different slum communities from around the city. The goal of this training of youth was to dialogue with them about how to proceed with the youth programme and a design of the same was laid out before them. A total of 62 youth have come forward to join the groups. Amhi Ghadau Peedi Udhyachi was a youth melawa organised for children of waste pickers of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad.- The melawa, was held on the 27th of December 2015 (Sunday) was an opportunity for adolescent and adult children of waste pickers to be exposed to a world of possibilities that lies ahead of them. The event was a celebration of their youth and a chance to dream about a future, for themselves and their parents. The 500 participants of the melawa were all adolescent and young adult children of waste pickers between the ages of 13 and 20.

The first half of the day had the youth visiting stalls on different themes. Many organisations volunteered on the day to bring different messages to the youth. Some of the themes were -- Environment and Ecological Rights (Waste Management, Wildlife, Biodiversity) ; Governance and Civic duties (Public transportation, Schemes of the PMC- Urban Community Development, Roles of the E-Seva Kendra, Police, Fire Department), UN Convention for the Rights of the child and associated themes (Right to Play, Right to Leisure, Education, health); Stalls on education and careers, Gender and Sexuality etc.

TRAINING TO PARENTS- RTE

On the 16th of each month in Pune and the 17th of each month in PCMC, groups of parents come together and different issues related to education are discussed with them. So far, 12 such trainings of workers have been held and the topics discussed have ranged from distribution of notebooks, access to the Pre matriculation scholarship for children of those engaged in unclean occupations, scholarships offered by the PMC, Opening of Bank accounts for children, Right to Education and grievance redressal under RTE. 5000 pamphlets were printed and distributed to parents in 50 slums of Pune and PCMC that shared information on the admission to private unaided schools under the clause 12 .1.c of the RTE act that makes it mandatory for schools to reserve 25% of their seats at the point of entry for children belonging to disadvantaged and backward

groups. A short film on the legal aspects of the RTE is currently in its draft stage. The film deals with different facets of the act from the point of view of parents with a legal expert addressing a gathering of parents. In the next year, the film will be used in different slums and communities at the time of admitting children into schools. The monthly trainings in Pune and PCMC have continued throughout the year and have continued to deal with different issues- the topics discussed between July and December are as follows- current status of the RTE 25% implementation and the scenario in different states, different government scholarship schemes. A poster on admissions for the coming year under RTE was designed and printed. This will be displayed in different communities and parents within the community will be trained in this matter in the coming months.

Right to Play

In March, a joint program hosted by KP, KKPKP, TDH and Tathapi Trust was organised to raise awareness on the issue of 'Right to Play'-- youth from across the country who were in Pune to attend a workshop and children from different slums and construction sites in Pune were present on that day. The event received good press coverage given the novelty of the idea. In the month of May 2015, a football summer camp was held at the School Raosaheb Patwardhan Vidyalaya between the 10th and the 27th of May. The main objective behind organising the camp was to create an opportunity for children residing in slums, especially girls, to play. Typically, girls in slums play a few games in school- these are largely more "traditional" forms of play that do not require access to equipment or a lot of space-- very often, a small vacant patch near the school suffices. Play grounds in school and at home are usually the domain for boys.

When the idea was discussed with the girls, some of them were extremely excited, though one could sense the apprehension in the room. Many girls reported that they would confirm their participation after talking to their families. Brothers of the girls present and other boys from the slum were quick to join in the meeting. On the first day, most of the girls were waiting in the blazing summer sun, many without shoes; many with borrowed shoes. What they lacked in footwear, they made up for in enthusiasm.

"Amhi Kalakaar" took place with the objective of finding the stars hidden inside the children of waste pickers. 45 children and youth participated in the event in the categories of singing, dancing, musical instruments and art. Experts in these fields were also called upon to identify potential talent from among the participants. 12 children were shortlisted based on a rating system that looked at talent, support of parents to encourage the talent and the willingness of the children to learn further. A follow up meeting with the children and their parents was held on the 22nd of December to identify classes and teachers who might be willing to help these children learn further and excel in their talents.

Each year, notebooks are distributed to all children of waste pickers who are in school or college. The activity allows for contact with all the children of the union and understand if any of them has faced and problems with their education. The activity also allows for updating the data base at the start of the academic year. Till June, notebooks had been procured and were being distributed to the students. There were three points in the city where parents could come and collect notebooks- Bhawani Peth, Kothrud or Pimpri. Interest- free soft loans have been offered to three children of waste pickers for their higher education. In a first, a waste picker also took a loan to educate her daughter-in-law who had dropped out of school after Class XII. The girl was interested in pursuing her D.Ed after school but was married soon after thus putting an end to her dreams of a higher education.

412 students have submitted applications to the LIC of India for the Shiksha Sahayog Yojana. The scheme entitles up to two children an annual scholarship amount of Rs. 1200 for parents who are enrolled in the Janshree Bima Yojana/ Aam aadmi Bima Yojana.

ADVOCACY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN-

“GHAN BHATTA” or Cleanliness Allowance scholarship for children of sanitation workers of the Municipal Corporation. In 2013, we got to know of a programme of the Pune Municipal Corporation that provides for an annual scholarship for children of their permanent sanitation workers. Waste pickers also contribute to the sanitation of a city without costing the municipal corporation a paisa. Given this situation, a proposal for inclusion of waste pickers in many welfare schemes of the PMC was put up. In May 2014, the standing committee of PMC accepted the proposal. However, there was no movement in the general body of the municipal corporation. In the month of february, waste pickers lobbied with their local elected representatives meeting most of the important people and on the day of the General Body meeting on the 23rd of February 2015, 1500 waste pickers were present at the GB to ensure that their elected representatives backed their proposal. On the 26th of February, the matter was passed in the house thus making approximately 400 children of waste pickers studying between Classes VIII and X eligible for an annual scholarship of Rs. 5000. This money would go a long way to ensure that the sudden cost of higher education that parents have to bear from Class VIII would be easier to deal with. Media coverage and a brief report of the same are attached as annexure 5. In October 2015, we organised an enrollment campaign to fill out the forms of the eligible students under this scheme-- a total of 139 students' application forms have been filled out for this.

“UNCLEAN OCCUPATIONS “ or Central Government Scholarship called ‘Prematriculation Scholarship for Children of those engaged in Unclean Occupations’. As a central government scholarship, there was no mention of waste picking as one of the occupations that is eligible for this scholarship. From 2006-2013, waste pickers from around the country met with the different ministers and made presentations to members of the planning commission to include their occupation as well. In May 2013, the then Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Kumari Seilja issued the order for

inclusion of waste pickers as eligible for the scheme as well. However, the government of Maharashtra was slow to react to this. Therefore, in August- September 2014, waste pickers worked with the state government to ensure implementation of this scheme and in December 2014, the state government issued letters to all the Zilla Parishads to implement the scheme.

Pamphlets with all the information were printed and circulated among all the waste pickers of the city and parents and field workers visited schools where parents faced problems. Banks also showed reluctance to open accounts without “instructions”. In spite of all the intervention of parents, only 440 forms were filled till the 15th of March. On the 25th therefore, we met with the Hon minister for social justice and special assistance of maharashtra state presenting the situation to him. 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 the month of April, 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. From July, forms for the coming year will also be filled up.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

In the fourth year of implementation of the act, pamphlets giving information on the provision for 25% reservation for children belonging to socially and economically backward groups in private non aided schools.

A press conference was organised in partnership with ARC, a child rights network of many groups here in Pune, on the 30th of April that brought to light problems with the GR and how it would impact the learning of children. Following that, an online campaign on change.org was launched by ARC. ARC also made a film on the impact that the GR would have on students and their learning and development. A copy of the ARC film is enclosed as annexure 6.

In a parallel move, a consultation of parents was held where parents highlighted what problems they were facing due to the GR. The parents also decided to launch a post card campaign where each parent wrote three postcards- one to the chief minister, one to the education minister and a third to the chief justice of the high court asking for the GR to be revoked. Approximately 750 postcards were sent out between the 10th and 15th of May. We also met with Shri Vinod Tawade and the secretary Shri Nanda Kumar raising our concerns about the GR. The Government has taken the stand that the matter is in court and they would follow the orders that the high court issued.

As part of our efforts towards advocacy under the Right to Education, we are part of a national level network called the RTE Resource Bank.

There have been regular meetings with Ministers and Secretaries regarding different issues related to education. the focus of these advocacy meetings have been-
Implementation of the 'Pre Matriculation Scholarship scheme for children of those engaged in "Unclean Occupations"' of Social Justice and Special Assistance
Implementation of the 25% clause under the RTE act
Grievance Redress under RTE
Inclusion of children of waste pickers under the scholarship offered to cleaning workers of the PMC.
Declaring dates for admission under the second round of the RTE.

Green School Program

As part of the efforts to increase awareness among school students about the environment, especially with regard to waste management, various sessions were held in schools in Pune and PCMC about waste management. The table below shows all the sessions held at the schools. For the green school program, we have translated an existing comic book on ewaste into marathi. The comic deals with the environmental hazards of electronic waste and what students need to do to ensure safe disposal of ewaste on their city.

In partnership with CEE, we have extensively used the game 'Web of Life' for the students to understand how different aspects of the natural world are linked and connected and how the chain of recycling also works in a similar way.

Empowerment and Education of Women in Cooperative Organizations

Strengthening waste pickers' savings credit cooperative

A core requirement of this informal sector is access to loans to ward off the prevailing unjust and exploitative money lending systems. The waste pickers who were already vulnerable while working on the streets also fell into the hands of money lenders who lent money at exorbitant rates. Since the mid 1990s, beginning with savings groups (70 groups) and later through the establishment of the KKPKNPS in 1997 or "path pedhi" waste pickers have been able to get loans. Over the last twenty years 3 crores of loans have been accessed by 1600 loans applicants The last few years have seen a decline both in loan taking as well as repayment. As part of this project we assessed some needs and issues of this 20 year old organization to develop a plan that would once again meet the needs of waste pickers and have an equitable system where most of them were paying back the loans.

Vasti/Slum visits: In analyzing the pat pedhi data, it became evident that there were several old defaulters. This information was first relayed to the waste pickers through a series of meetings. These women, armed with information began a program to meet the old defaulters repeatedly to convince them to pay loans. Some of the old loans have since been paid off due to the efforts of this group. Deeper contact, not only with loan

takers but also those who were saving has been re-established with regular vasti/slum meetings. Two activists have been given this task. This has reduced the number of defaulters in the period between Jan and March 2016.

Positive re-enforcement and rewarding of “ideal waste pickers”: In the past twenty years of the pat pedhi, there have been several waste pickers who have been model savers, and loan takers i.e. saving regularly and repaying loans each month. During the period between Jan and March 2016 as part of the project, we purchased and distributed a simple saree (2000 sarees were purchased) to all the waste pickers who have savings of minimum Rs 500 and have never defaulted on a loan payment. In addition, we began the process of depositing a one time deposit in their accounts for further encouragement.

Developing women leaders: In order to sustain this organization there has been an effort to develop new leaders in the community/vasti/slum. Some of these leaders are older waste pickers, however, some have emerged as new leaders. We began with giving a list and data to the leaders and they distributed the sarees in the community. While the list was based on certain criteria, the leaders were empowered to take decisions on distribution. On one occasion an old worker had recently lost her son. The leader felt that she should get a saree in spite of not having paid her current years’ dues to the organization. The leaders have now assumed responsibilities of taking loan repayments and savings.



The case of Arun Kondiba Gaikwad:

Arun has been a member of the union and the pat pedhi for several years and in 2011 he took out a loan of 50,000. Subsequently, he applied and successfully received a loan in the name of his wife and mother and at least 5 other women in this slum. He appeared to have shared the loan amounts with some of the women. Arun quickly became a defaulter and in March 2016, he owed the organization almost 90,000 in interest payment alone (for him, his wife and his mother). A large group of women went repeatedly to his home and convinced, cajoled, negotiated and strategized - all skills that women have developed and honed – until he promised to pay off this large outstanding amount. In April 2016, Arun paid Rs. 90,000 towards his interest payment and another Rs. 10,000 towards interest payment of other women who had been used as proxies. This was the success of a collective to exert pressure on an errant member to ensure that an organization that had helped fight injustice persisted.



Women in their new sarees participated in the One Billion Rising Feb 14th 2016



Women leaders in Bhimnagar exerting collective bargaining
Saru Waghmare selecting the saree Jan 2016

One of the leaders

power to safeguard the Pat Pedhi interests March 2016

Livelihood enhancement of waste pickers

All waste pickers collect recyclables and sell them in scrap shops. This relationship is usually fraught with exploitation due to stark demographic differences between shop owners and waste pickers. The former is usually a man, literate and from a higher class. Waste pickers tend to be illiterate, poor and mostly women. The first collective scrap shop in 1998 with the sole intent to ensure women got good rates for the recyclables they collected and at the end of the year got a share of the profits of the shop. This shop called Kashtachi Kamai in Pimpri has over 40 waste pickers selling at the shop. Two other shops have since been opened, but for a variety of reasons such as political interference etc. these shops were closed. In the last one year there has been a steep decline in the rates of recyclables and most waste pickers have received either no bonus or a very small amount.

Project Activities included data collection, formation of small groups who will then jointly have higher volumes. This would allow them to bargain for better rates and bonuses. We also invited reprocessors to purchase directly from waste pickers which can ensure better rates and better terms and conditions. Towards this end a representative of a plastics reprocessor from Mumbai and a paper recycler from Amritsar have already visited Pune.

Developing waste pickers' entrepreneurship

SWaCH, a waste pickers cooperative in Pune, does door step collection of waste from approximately 4 Lakh households. As an outreach program the cooperative developed "v-collect" in which citizens could dispose several unused items in the house such as children's toys, e-waste, shoes, clothes etc. The cooperative got an overwhelming response to this program especially for old clothes and several tons of clothes have since been collected (since 2014). This led the cooperative to develop resources and spaces for the management of old clothes. Also, these clothes although old for the donor were in good condition and could be recycled or reused. Through the cooperative's network and workers we realized that the clothes would find a market in the slums. The slum dwellers informed the cooperative that they required these clothes for interviews or on the job, were willing to pay for them, but could not afford retail prices.

Thus the "old clothes resale" program came to being. By the end of 2015 the cooperative was selling approx. Rs 8,000 worth of clothes per month from its 1 retail space – the cooperatives own office.

Program Activities included expanding Collection for which collection drives were organized in many societies, and IT companies where we raised awareness and proactively collected donations. Simultaneously there was an expansion of the sales channels: We began experimenting with an entrepreneurship model where women would take clothes in bulk from SWaCH's space and then sell them in smaller areas. In this way the entrepreneurs would have access to new clothes and would be able to experiment with a business model that best fits their sales style and the needs of the community they were selling to. As of now 3 such entrepreneurs have begun selling clothes. The sales have almost tripled in the Feb (Rs 21,000) and March (Rs. 22,000). We hope to keep expanding this program in the next few months and plan to develop a cart that would augment sales by having a better display for clothes, training for the young entrepreneurs.



A collection drive in a society in Baner Jan 2016

WIEGO hosted a panel at the [#UrbanThinkers](#) Campus titled, "Informal Livelihoods and Inclusive Urban Planning". As part of the preparatory process for [#Habitat3](#), UN-Habitat has initiated the World Urban Campaign (WUC) as an advocacy and partnership platform for cities. The Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTC) are an initiative conducted under the WUC.

For the WIEGO panel, the keynote speaker was Namrata Bali of [SEWA](#) Academy. Other panelists included Laxmi Narayan of KKP and [SWaCH](#) in Pune, Arbind Singh of [National Association of Street Vendors of India \(NASVI\)](#) and Home-Based Worker Sector Specialist, Shalini Sinha

Ms. Narayan talked about the dilemma that each and every waste picker of our country faces today. She explained this notion by showing two very short videos on the life of waste pickers. A video was shown on how the waste pickers are obligated to segregate the waste at the landfill site. They expose themselves to hazardous conditions so that the recyclable materials can be segregated and recycled. Another video was shown on women waste pickers of SWaCH (Solid Waste Collection and Handling) , these women travel 12km everyday and collect wastes from houses which are then segregated by them at the landfill site. These women are content in working for the society, however, they just wish to be paid more in return for their service.



Improving existing Waste Management Systems

Research and Audit of waste in Aundh Ward

A waste audit, or a “sample and sort” of household waste in one Ward of Pune Municipal Corporation was conducted to better understand the composition of waste and develop a techno economic feasibility report for in situ handling of organic waste, in collaboration with the PMC. The examination focussed on quantities, composition, economics and logistics.

This waste audit analyzed waste at the point of generation at the neighborhood level. Samples were taken directly from the doorsteps of “societies” (communities of households). The waste audit was carried out by researchers from MIT and the Imperial College of London in conjunction with the waste picker organizations KKKPKP and Swach.

Methodology of Audit involved that waste-pickers go along their existing routes of waste collection and collect waste as every day, collected segregated wet and dry waste collected as far as possible, met at the place where they usually sort the waste into recyclables and non-recyclables after. The supervisor and the waste pickers set up the equipment (readying of the scale, putting out the tarp) to facilitate the sorting and

weighing. After the collection of waste from the allotted area, the waste was sorted into the 47 sub-categories (10 material types) by the waste pickers with the guidance of the supervisor and visual guide. Often times, waste of some less-common categories was not present. The weighing scales were able to measure weight upto 200 kgs with accuracy of two decimal points. The sorted category was placed into a bucket / basket / mother bags (large woven plastic bags), and the supervisor weighed it and its contents. This was carried out for all the waste, and then the residue (mixed small fragments and dust) was also weighed.

The detailed data entry of all the above parameters was completed after. The data was categorised as per income Groups. The waste routes were chosen from 3 separate income / residential groups of Lower class, Middle Class and Upper class. Slums where waste-pickers were providing door to door service were identified as lower class. The middle class groups were further broken into lower (small cooperative housing /apartment complexes, mostly 1 BHKs), middle (large / relatively affluent housing societies, 2-3 BHKs) and Upper Middle (Affluent row housing / 3+ BHK housing societies). Exclusive gated bungalow communities were taken as the sample for Upper class. The waste generated by residential maids / housekeepers was considered as waste generated by the lifestyle of the upper-class residents and the number of residential maids/ housekeepers/ drivers etc. was excluded in the population count. The classification of routes was also based on local knowledge and in-person survey.

Waste data was collected from 11 different areas covering over 1700 households and 7000 individuals. Slums (438 households, 2395 individuals), Middle Class (1035 households, 3966 individuals) and Upper class (261 households, 999 individuals). The audit was carried out over a period of 8 / 9 days in each area. One day was reserved for conducting a population count of the area by visiting each individual house serviced by the waste-pickers. Waste-pickers were given basic training and outline of the proposed activities. Thereafter, sorted waste was weighed for each day of the week – ideally from Monday to Sunday, and in case where Sunday was a weekly off on the Monday immediately following. Wherever composting was being carried out by the building / bungalows in-situ, the amount of wet waste was recorded prior to deposition into Composting. The day, date, collection commencement and completion, sorting commencement and completion and time taken for recording of data were all noted in the waste audit sheet. The auditor also answered questions related to the wetness of the waste and if it had rained recently. The wetness of the waste can significantly increase the weight of the waste, and thus it was important to know if such was the case. The start and end time of waste collection and sorting was also noted. Lastly, the

auditor and the waste pickers' names were recorded to allow researchers to follow up with the individuals about particular data points or questions about methodology.

The following analyses was compiled based on the data entry:

1. Average Household Size – Derived from the Population Survey
2. Wet waste – Volume by weight (Ltr/ Kg) and weight by volume (Kg//Ltr) – Weighed 80 litre
buckets filled with wet waste.
3. Area-wise and Class-wise Averages – of weights collected over 7/8 days
 - a. Total waste generation per capita
 - b. Wet and Dry waste generation per capita
 - c. Category-wise waste generation per capita
 - d. Sub-category generation per capita
4. Composition of household waste - Percentages of sub-categories for each class and total averages