

KSHITIJtowards creating a new horizon

(A PROJECT FOR THE CHILDREN RAG-PICKERS OF
BHANDEWARI DUMPING GROUND, NAGPUR)

INTRODUCTION:

Unsafe and unhealthy disposal of Garbage: An Urban Problem

In the last few decades, urbanization had a high growth spurt in India. With the development of cities came the overcrowding population. The increase in the population and the growing affluence of people's lives gave rise to Consumerism, and all these factors contributed to the generation of surplus amount of garbage.

As the time passed the management of garbage and its safe disposal became a grave problem. Garbage is an urban problem. The urban waste is a complex mixture of household, construction, infectious medical waste, commercial and toxic industrial elements. The waste is a combination of bio-degradable, recyclable, non-degradable spare material like concrete used in repair work at home (Balasubramanian, Toxic, Link).

The generation of garbage varies from community to community. However, it has been found that the quantity of Solid Waste generation is directly proportional to the economic status of the generator of waste (Tariq, Toxic Link). Urban India generates 100000 metric tonnes of garbage daily which on an annual basis works out to 40 million tonnes. By 2030 it will reach 125,000 metric tonnes per day.

Shrishti and Tata Energy Institute (TERI) says that the people in higher income brackets have a monthly income of Rs.8000/- and above and they generate about 700 gms of garbage per day. Whereas people living in a monthly income of Rs.2000/- generate just about 200gms per day.

The study carried out by the All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai 2003, of 40, class one cities in Maharashtra states that cities like Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur spent Rs. 1,000 crore to Rs. 1,400 crore per tones on the City's Solid Waste Management. At the national level Rs.10 crore to 12 crore are spent everyday on the management of garbage (The Intersection of Poverty and Solid Waste Management, 2003).

PRESENT SCENARIO IN NAGPUR:

Nagpur has a population of about 2.12 million people (Census 2001) and generates almost 600MT of garbage per day. The waste is collected by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and dumped at the Bhandewadi dump yard. The content is mostly organic and the non-organic materials are taken by rag pickers for informal recycling.

Improper disposal of waste through land filling cause several environmental problems. The emission of gaseous decomposition products as well as organic compounds also affects the health of surrounding population. It is becoming essential to monitor landfill gaseous emissions (LFG) for establishing appropriate analytical methodology and to evolve strategy for their control. Monitoring of LFG has significance from the point of view of environmental impact, energy capture, etc. CPCB, in association with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur and Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Delhi took-up a study on assessing levels of methane generation from landfill sites located at Delhi and Nagpur. Application of flux box method for monitoring landfill gas emission reveals that the rate of LFG emission for Bhandewadi disposal site is in the range of 27.3 to 165.9 mg/m²/sec.

So by glancing at the data one can imagine the magnitude of the problem of garbage disposal. We also observed that the generation of garbage is directly linked to the economic status of the people. Garbage in the city is dumped at a landfill site which is also known as the dumping ground and the people who pick up material from the dumpsite are known as Ragpickers. In other words a ragpicker is one who makes a living scavenging rags and other refuse. A rag picker's work is associated with filth, deprivation and social ostracism. The role of ragpickers is of essential importance for the city's environment and the economy. The people who help to keep the city clean and garbage free risk

their own lives at the dumpsite as it makes them vulnerable to a large number of health hazards and infections and children too are a prey to this.

CHILDREN AS RAGPICKERS

Ragpickers are a sizeable proportion among the poorest workers in the urban informal economy. They earn their livelihood from the collection, segregation and sale of scrap for recycling. Entry into the sector is largely mediated by caste and gender. Many of them are sole income earners in their families.

Ragpickers work in appalling conditions in garbage bins on the streets and at landfill sites where garbage is dumped. Studies have effectively documented that they work for more than 10 hours and walk between 10-12 kms daily carrying heavy loads of up to 40 kg. They manually handle putrefying garbage suffering injuries from metal and glass shards and are frequently bitten by dogs and vermin during the course of their work. Harassed by police and municipal workers, shunned by society, exploited by scrap traders and money-lenders, they are often excluded even in the organizing efforts of NGOs and Trade Unions.

Ragpickers are considered to be self-employed having no legally tenable employer-employee relationship either with the municipalities or the recycling industries to which they contribute. Being unprotected manual workers they are not recognized and do not enjoy any form of social security or legislative protection. As occupational communities they are economically marginalised, socially excluded and politically voiceless and disempowered.

Numerous Indian states are enforcing anti-begging laws and hence the traditional beggars have opted for rag-picking. Most of the rag-pickers are extremely poor, illiterate, and belong to rural immigrant families. Many commence their profession at the young age of five to eight years. Most of them never attend any school or have any formal education. Most of their families are in need of extra incomes from these young children. While they are collecting rags they are subjected to chemical poisons and infections and because of malnutrition they suffer from retarded growth and anaemia. The children are therefore very susceptible to diseases like tuberculosis and cancer due to their exposure to hazardous materials. (K. L. Kamat)

In most cases, there are middlemen who engage these children. They are required to collect, bottles, plastic, metal parts, glass pieces and alike. The middlemen pocket the major share of the sales and pay only paltry to the youngsters.

The conditions here for ragpickers are hot and dangerous with a high risk of disease. Children walk barefoot through rancid rubbish, dodging rusty razor blades, used syringes, broken bottles and discarded medicines, searching for any scrap which can be recycled.

The work is dangerous and unforgiving - trawling through putrid, hazardous waste without gloves or shoes, in 40°C heat, surrounded by stench, filth, flies and mosquitoes. For most of the children, there is no other alternative. It's either this or a life of begging or prostitution.

The children ragpickers commence chewing and smoke tobacco from a very young age and soon they become addicted to alcohol. They are also vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by the adult ragpickers. Beatings, rapes, dog attacks, harassment, injuries and illness are a daily reality and exploitation at the hands of the scrapdealers is common.

The ragpickers live in unauthorised slums in the poorest neighbourhoods, earning on average about 60-70 rupees per day. The money earned by them is required for running the household and most of it is spent on food with hardly any money left over for housing, clothing, medicine, school books and other essential items.

The basic rights of the children of having food, shelter and drinking water are denied at the dumpsite. The working environment is a land filled with toxic materials and city refuse. There is not a single shaded place where the children can relax or sit for some time. There is also no place where they can sit and eat or keep their food safely. The food that they carry gets contaminated by the flies and mosquitos found abundantly on the dumping ground. Most of the children prefer eating in the morning and they work the whole day and then eat food only after they get back home.

The children are exposed to injurious sharps like glass pieces, injections, thorns, nets, nails, blades, stones, metal pieces, rods with sharp edges, tin pieces, wires, carve deep cuts on their hands and legs. Sometimes the bleeding is profuse but immediate help or medical aid cannot be administered as the first aid box is not available at the dumpsite.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT:

To empower rag-picking children to live a life of dignity by providing them with opportunities for development, with special emphasis on alternative education and skill enhancement for alternative livelihood options.

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure that the basic needs and rights of children are protected, like the right to a life of dignity, education, health, nutrition, participation etc.
- To mainstream children into the larger society
- To create a model of alternative education with basic functional literacy skills
- To provide opportunities for alternative livelihood options

ACTIVITIES

- To establish a drop-in centre where rag-picking children will be provided with basic amenities such as a wash room with toilets, drinking water as well as shelter from the scorching sun and the rains.
- To provide non-formal education to the children in the drop-in centre
- To provide one time nutritious meal to the children.
- To provide health care facilities to the children
- To provide psycho-social support to the children
- To impart skills and vocation training to children
- To provide recreation to the children ragpickers
- To inculcate Life Skill Education in children by conducting sessions on Child Rights, Sex and Sexuality, Abuse and Exploitation.

TARGET GROUP:

The target group for the proposed project would include children (boys and girls) aged between 6 to 18 years.

PROJECT PERIOD: 1 Year

STRATEGY:

For the proposed project a teacher will be appointed to impart non-formal education to the children. One time nutritious meal will be provided to the children who will regularly attend the non-formal education classes. The duration of the class will be for one hour after which food will be served to the children. The food will be prepared by a cook.

Life skills education classes will also be held by the Social Workers to enable children to have the abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Sessions on Sexual health, Abuse and Exploitation and Child Rights would be conducted with the children. Children will be equipped with skills such as decision-making and problem solving in order to enable them to face everyday challenges that come with their occupation.

Throughout the day the drop-in centre will be open for all children to take rest as well as use the amenities (water and toilet) provided by the centre. The cleanliness of the centre will be maintained by the children.

The centre will be equipped with recreational games like Carrom Board, Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Chinese checkers and the like so that children can spend some part of their time in enjoyment.

Counselling services will be provided to the children by the Social Workers to cater to their psycho-social needs.

Medical check-up for the children who attend the non-formal education classes will be held every fortnight by a visiting doctor. Awareness programmes regarding sound sanitation practices will also be held in the centre. The drop-in centre will also be equipped with a first aid box for all the children to deal with their daily occupational hazards.

After completion of the non-formal education the children will be provided vocational training skills in association with the Church of North India-Social Service Institute, Sadar to provide an alternate source of livelihood to the children. The vocational training skills that will be imparted to the children will be of a varied nature-paper bag making, rakhi making, candle making, block printing, motor repairing etc. The centre will also help the children who have acquired Vocational Skills to procure a decent job.

Children who need shelter in the night will be provided the services of the night shelter in UMANG.

STAFF STRUCTURE:

Teacher Doctor
Social Worker
Cook

The Project will be implemented through CNI Synod.

MEASURABLE INDICATORS:

- A drop-in centre will be established with facilities such as shelter, drinking water and toilet in the premises of the dumping ground.
- Medical services and awareness about health and hygiene will be provided in the centre.
- A first-aid box will be available in the centre for all the children as well as adults.
- Daily one time nutritious meal will be given to children who will attend the non-formal education classes.
- The drop-in centre will carry out non-formal educational classes for the children.
- The children will be imparted with Like Skill Education on Sex and Sexuality, Abuse and Exploitation and Child Rights to meet the demands and challenges of everyday life.
- At the end of one year 40 children will complete their non-formal education.
- The identified group of children who make decisions for alternative occupational training will be referred to the Church of North India-Social Service Institute.
- At the end of one years 20 boys and girls will be provided vocational skills training.
- The centre will also help the children who have acquired vocational skills to procure a decent job.
- The boys in need of shelter in the night will have the night shelter facility at Umang (shelter for street children) at the Church of North India-Social Service Institute.
- Safe garbage disposable systems in place in residential areas as well as in institutions

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

TEACHER

- To identify and motivate the children to attend the non-formal education classes.
- To maintain individual records of each children (attendance, health).
- To maintain daily accounts.
- To provide medical assistance to the children in case of emergency.
- To sensitise the children regarding health and hygiene.
- To build rapport with the parents, municipal workers, scrap dealers, etc

SOCIAL WORKER

- To supervise the activities of the centre.
- To provide psycho-social support to the children.
- To train the children in Life Skills Education.
- To create forums for sensitizing the residents of Nagpur for safe garbage disposal practices

COOK

- To prepare one time meal for the children.
- To maintain the stock register.
- To supervise and maintain the cleanliness of the centre,

BUDGET FOR ONE YEAR

NON-RECURRING COST CONSTRUCTION COST

Hall, study room, kitchen, toilet & accessories Rs.3 00 000

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

1	NFE Material	Rs 10 000	
2	Development of Alternative Education Module	Rs.10 000	
3	Blackboard	Rs. 1 000	Rs. 21 000

RECREATIONAL MATERIAL

1	Games	Rs.20000	
2	Celebration of National, International Days	Rs. 15 000	
3	Cultural Programmes and festivals	Rs.20 000	Rs. 55 000

SAFETY MATERIALS FOR RAGPICKING CHILDREN

Gloves	Rs. 500 X 50	25 000	
Boots	Rs. 300X50	15000	
Iron Rods		5 000	
Uniforms	Rs. 500 X 50	25 000	
Chappals	Rs. 200 X 50	10 000	
Warm clothes	Rs. 500 X 50	25 000	
First aid measures & medical expenses		10 000	
Toiletries		10000	Rs. 125000

KITCHEN MATERIALS

1	Gas Stove	Rs. 5000	
2	Trunk	Rs. 4 000	
3	Mat & Towels	Rs. 5 000	
4	Utensils (Plate,glass,bowl,spoon,cooking utensils)	Rs.10 000	Rs. 24 000

RECURRING COST PERSONNEL COST

Social Worker	6000 x 12	Rs. 72 000	
Teacher	2500 x 12	Rs 30000	
Cook	1000 x 12	Rs 12000	
Visiting Doctor	1000x12	Rs. 12 000	Rs. 1 26 000

ACTIVITY COST

Meal for 50 Children Rs. 500 X 26 Days X 12 months Rs. 1 56 000

Stationery Rs. 600 X 12 months	Rs. 7 200	
Conveyance Rs. 400 X 12 Months	Rs. 4 800	
Vocational Training for 20 Children Rs. 3000 x 20	Rs. 60 000	
Electricity Rs. 300 X 12 Months	Rs. 3 600	Rs. 2 31 600
Documentation		Rs. 10 000
Monitoring and Evaluation		Rs. 5 000
Reports		Rs. 10 000
GRAND TOTAL		Rs. 9 07 600

ORGANIZATION HISTORY:

The Church of North India is a united expression of unity of Church in India. After 40 years of negotiation and prayer it came into existence. Six major churches joined the CNI. It was inaugurated on 29th November 1970. The six churches are: The council of Baptist churches in Northern India: the Church of the Brethren in India: The Disciple of Christ: The church of India (formerly) known as the church of India; Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon): The Methodist church(British and Australasian conferences): The United church of Northern India.

Presently it has 26 dioceses, with 1.5 million communicant memberships. The CNI geographically covers all northern Indian states. Besides providing regular pastoral ministry, CNI is engaged in various kinds of ministry. It has board to facilitate social development, health, education, Human Potential development, children and women concerns. These engagements are directly operated and managed by the respective, but with accountability to the CNI Synod.

The other details could be accessed from our website www.cnisynod.org

ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES:

The CNI has seven priorities to focus its mission agenda for the first decade of the century. The following are the priorities:

- 1 Re-juvenating pastoral ministry:
- 2 Evangelism within and without for costly discipleship.
- 3 Re-structuring the structure:
- 4 Ministry of Service:
- 5 Solidarity with subaltern:
- 6 Healing communities.
- 7 Equipping God's people for participating learning

BUDGET – CONVERTED TO STERLING

BUDGET FOR ONE YEAR

£1 = 81.18330 R (30 Sept 2007)

NON-RECURRING COST CONSTRUCTION COST

Hall, study room, kitchen, toilet & accessories £3,695.34

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

1 NFE Material	£123.18	
2 Development of Alternative Education Module	£123.18	
3 Blackboard	£12.32	£258.67

RECREATIONAL MATERIAL

1 Games	£246.36	
2 Celebration of National, International Days	£184.77	
3 Cultural Programmes and festivals	£246.36	£677.48

SAFETY MATERIALS FOR RAGPICKING CHILDREN

Gloves	£6.16 x 50	£307.95	
Boots	£3.70 x 50	£184.77	
Iron Rods		£61.59	
Uniforms		£307.95	
Chappals	£6.16 x 50	£123.18	
Warm clothes	£2.47 x 50	£307.95	
First aid measures & medical expenses	£6.16 x 50	£123.18	
Toiletries		£123.18	£1,539.73

KITCHEN MATERIALS

1 Gas Stove	£61.59	
2 Trunk	£49.27	
3 Mat & Towels	£61.59	
4 Utensils (Plate, glass, bowl, spoon, cooking utensils)	£123.18	£295.63

RECURRING COST PERSONNEL COST

Social Worker	£73.95 x 12	£886.88	
Teacher	£30.81 x 12	£369.53	
Cook	£12.33 x 12	£147.81	
Visiting Doctor	£12.33 x 12	£147.81	£1,552.04

ACTIVITY COST

Meal for 50 Children	£6.16 x 26 Days x 12 months	£1,921.58	
Stationery	£7.39 x 12 months	£88.69	
Conveyance	£4.93 x 12 months	£59.13	
Vocational Training for 20 Children	£36.95 x 20	£739.07	
Electricity	£3.70 x 12 months	£44.34	£2,852.80
Documentation			£123.18
Monitoring and Evaluation			£61.59
Reports			£123.18

GRAND TOTAL

£11,179.64