



# WASTEPICKERS TO ROBUST ENTREPRENEURS

*Creating Stories of Change*



**HASIRUDALA ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015-2016**



**HASIRU DALA** means Green Force. It is a member-based organization of informal waste workers

*Hasiru Dala's aim  
is to provide waste  
workers with  
opportunities that  
will help them fight  
discrimination and  
gain recognition to  
the contribution  
they make.*

Since its inception in 2011, Hasiru Dala has worked towards improving the working conditions of thousands of informal economy workers; waste-pickers and waste sorters. A majority of Hasiru Dala's members are women.

Hasiru Dala aims to integrate waste pickers and other informal waste workers into the changing solid waste management landscape in Bangalore, Karnataka and India.

Hasiru Dala work towards ensuring that each of our members receives continuous access to livelihood, benefits from the various government programs that they are entitled to and is provided social security that helps not only enhance the quality of their lives, but also the educational opportunities for their children.

Above all, Hasiru Dala's aim is to provide its members with opportunities in the main stream solid waste management of the city to integrate them into it. Hasiru Dala's goal is also to help waste workers find their rightful recognition in the society- as 'green workers' who quietly labour towards keeping our cities clean.

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2015 -2016

## JOB CREATIONS AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

- 212 new jobs created with predictable income
- Created over 380 opportunities for additional income for waste pickers
- 265 waste pickers trained for mushroom cultivation
- Over 574 members received identity cards from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) this year. This brings the total count of members with ID cards to over 7500
- 512 educational scholarships processed for children of waste pickers
- 313 new bank accounts opened for members
- Held Aadhaar enrolment camps for 45 members this year bringing the total reach of Aadhar enrolment to over 500 members
- 1797 waste pickers included in Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojna (RSBY)
- 71 applications made towards social security like death & birth registry, Pension and voter ID
- 57 education support loans given, 60 scholarships by Mindtree Pvt Ltd
- 84 children enrolled as members of Book Reading Club
- Facilitated loans for Dry Waste Collection Centre(DWCC) operators: 10 through Mudra Bank and 11 through Rang De

## WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES & OTHER PLOTS FOR INCREASING INCOME

- Provided managerial assistance to DWCCs run by waste pickers / scrap dealers
- Serviced over 19000 households in the bulk generator residential segment
- Operated 5 Bio gas units till November, 2015
- Provided composting services to bulk generators
- Provided composting services to city owned Organic Waste Collectors (OWC) and in wards
- Collected over 1200 kilograms of oil seeds to tap oil wealth
- Provided fair price for plastic

## INNOVATION

- Innovated a decentralized, technology-enabled, franchisee driven waste management model that gives opportunities to entrepreneur-waste pickers for asset creation
- Encouraged Castor, Neem Seed, used oil and coconut shell collection
- Provided Eco friendly wedding and sustainable event waste management services
- Trained waste workers in mushroom cultivation to enhance nutritional intake of the family
- Provided professional services in composting garden waste using bio dynamic method
- Started book reading club for children of waste pickers

## IMPACT OF ADVOCACY

- Piloted 2bin 1 bag concept through citizen engagement
- Policy advocacy with support from citizen groups for the formulation of segregation at source rule
- Inclusion of waste pickers and other informal waste dealers in solid and plastic waste management rules, 2016
- Developed a strong research orientation in waste management and informal economy that helps Hasiru Dala in its policy advocacy.



# SOCIAL SECURITY

*Living Life with Dignity*

# SCHOLARSHIPS



212 children of waste pickers received scholarships this year. The scholarships were issued by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India under the scheme 'Scholarship of parents engaged in unclean occupation'. In addition, the scholarship of more than 300 children were renewed, whose application was facilitated by Hasiru Dala last year.

When the scholarship programme was rolled out, government didn't include waste picking as an occupation in the eligibility list for availing it. The consistent effort of Alliance of

Indian Waste pickers led to this inclusion.

Many organisations across India are pursuing the case of inclusion of waste pickers at the state and municipal level. In Karnataka, it was the efforts of Hasiru Dala which bore fruit.

To avail the scholarship it was mandatory to open a joint savings account in the bank in the name of parents and their children. Initially, banks were reluctant to open zero balance joint accounts in the name of the mother and the child. There is still reluctance on the part of banks to open accounts with zero balance or with rs.100 balance. This remains a huge hurdle in increasing the access of children to scholarships. Availing certification of enrolment of children in the school was another setback.

The current accounts are hosted in State Bank of Mysore, Canara Bank, Corporation Bank and Vijay Bank. Scholarships are open to all children studying in government or private schools. Today, every child receives INR 1850 as a part of the scholarship.

Mindtree Pvt. Ltd. a prominent company in the domain of Information Technology issued scholarship to 60 children of waste pickers; each scholarship was worth around INR 5000.

## EDUCATIONAL LOANS

As the rates of virgin plastic plummeted it became increasingly difficult for the waste workers to afford their children's education. At this point Hasiru Dala joined hands with Rang De, a low-cost online crowd funding platform to give educational loans to such needy parents at a very low rate of interest. Students from 1st std to 10th std received a loan of Rs.10,000 and students from 11th std to 12th std received Rs.15,000. They were given a 12 month period for the repayment of the loans. Rs.7,9000/- loan amount was given to 57 children. This gave them the opportunity to continue their education and reduce school dropouts due to financial constraints.

Educational Benefits for Children of Members	
Mobile library : children's' membership	84
School admission to drop out children	24
School bus pass to drop out children	4
Summer camp	120
Book distribution	80
Hostel admission	12
Scholarship ( govt)	212
Financial Support from Mindtree Ltd for education of WP Children ( Rs. 5000 each)	60
Direct Educational support	02

As an incentive children of waste pickers who are engaged in various waste management services offered to citizen by Hasiru Dala were given books in an event. Totally 80 children were part of this program.

## READING CLUB

During the summer camp organized by Hasiru Dala, children were introduced to book reading by an author of children's books. It was at this time children expressed interest in having a reading club in their slum. As an experiment it was introduced for the children who live in J.C. Road. Today, the mobile book club has 84 members. The children pay Rs5 as membership and pay Rs. 2 for each book they borrow once a week. This has been done in collaboration with Goobe's Book Republic.

## INCLUSION IN NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

Karnataka labour welfare department began enrolment for Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojna -RSBY (National Health Insurance Scheme). 1797 waste pickers in Bangalore have been listed for the scheme. The enrolment is being facilitated by local membership based organizations of informal economy workers (un-organized sector) including Hasiru Dala. In the current enrolment drive- Hasiru Dala plans to facilitate inclusion of more than 5000 waste pickers who have occupational identity cards provided by Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Pallike (Greater Bangalore Municipal Corporation).

Rashtriya Swasthya Beema Yojana (RSBY) is a Union Government Scheme launched on 1st April, 2008 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India. In its intention to reach the lacunas in the health insurance schemes, RSBY is envisaged with a

well-designed concept to avoid all health shocks- threat to life and livelihood of informal economy (unorganized sector) workers.

Under RSBY the beneficiaries are entitled to have coverage of up to Rs. 30,000/- for treatment in hospitals; beneficiaries can avail transportation expense from the hospital Rs. 100/- at the time of discharge and can also avail up to Rs. 1000/- annually for medical needs. The scheme covers both the worker and his/her family members including spouse and three dependents. The beneficiaries need to pay Rs. 30/- as a registration fee while the premium will be paid by the Central and State Government to the insurer selected on the basis of a competitive bidding among the insurance companies.



All informal economy (unorganized sector) workers i.e. street vendors, construction workers, auto-rickshaw and cycle rickshaw drivers, domestic workers, home based workers and many others can enrol themselves in the scheme. To avail the scheme one must have local body authorized occupational identity card and be listed in below poverty line database.

Initially waste pickers and other informal waste workers were not recognized as beneficiaries in the scheme- it took more than a year and half of to and fro trips to Delhi by Alliance of Indian Waste Pickers members to get that ratified. It is first time in India that waste pickers are being enrolled in the scheme. Efforts are being made by other organizations to replicate the facilitation of scheme in their respective states and cities.

Hasiru Dala is part of the citywide citizen Campaign for universalization of health service. In preparation of public hearing in front of the National Human Rights Commission, a video was prepared on the issue waste pickers health status and need for better governance of RSBY in Kannada with English subtitles. This was done in collaborative with other organizations working with informal workers. The video is available at -----

## PENSION

One of the best indicators of the health of any civilization and Nation State is the way it treats its elderly, especially the marginalized. Waste-pickers from Bangalore joined a month-long protest with other informal workers in Delhi, demanding for universalization of pension to all elderly as part of a national campaign by Pension Parishad. The pension amount in Karnataka that was Rs300 has been now increased to Rs500 a month. Hasiru Dala has been also campaigning to increase the pension for all informal workers and universalization of pension through a national Campaign Pension Parishad. In the year 2015-16, 38 applications for pension were made and 10 were approved. Yet, there is a long way before the waste pickers can get access to pension.

## HOUSING EFFORTS

The waste pickers' access to water, sanitation and housing facilities in the cities still remains inadequate. The excessive rain floods their shanties and makes them victims of mosquito borne diseases. The failure of the state to extend social security puts them under the risk of increasing expenditures towards health services. Most waste pickers are housed in informal settlements and at times the ownership the land is either with the government or private institutions and individuals. The waste pickers face constant threat of eviction especially the plans are drafted for the development of given piece of land. Given this situation, housing has become immediate priority of Hasiru Dala. In the year 2015- 2016, 206 applications for permanent housing were made and active follow up is being undertaken for 49 applications in Kamakya & Banaswadi areas.

## OCCUPATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS

The number of waste pickers who have received identity card, since the beginning of Hasiru Dala has crossed 7500. This year...

- 10 enumeration forms were filled at Nelamangala and 10 ID cards distributed to the waste pickers
- 80 enumeration forms filled at Mysore and 48 ID cards are printed
- 196 enumeration forms have been filled in Mysore

## VOTER ID & AADHAR IDENTITY CARDS

Most waste pickers lack any sort of identity - be it a voter ID card, aadhar card or Ration Card. This is in spite of the fact that many of them moved to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh over a few decades ago. This not only makes them anonymous, but also keeps them away from availing basic benefits from the Government and other organizations. Hasiru Dala helps waste pickers to register for aadhar cards. This year 45 waste pickers registered for aadhar cards. 29 waste pickers have applied for voter identity cards, 7 have received so far.

## HEALTH CAMPS

Hasiru Dala organized a health camp on 25th August 2015 in Akmal's godown at Nayandahalli. The camp was conducted with the support of Lions club of Bangalore (west), Lions club of Bangalore- Lalithagiri, Lions club of Bangalore -Devagiri, Lions club of Bangalore-Himagiri, Lions club of Bangalore City princess and Leo club of Bangalore (West). Before the camp, Hasiru Dala's staff members collected data of all the participating waste pickers and according to their need, sent the patients to the related doctors. Facilities in the Health Camp included eye check-up, dental check-up, general check-up, BP check- up, Blood sugar testing etc.

## NUTRITION MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

Rising prices of pulses and meat have impacted the poor significantly. Waste-pickers with little income are left to fend themselves against the high costs of food. Even within waste-pickers, the migrant community members (from other states) are worst off. They have no formal linkage with public distribution system- thus, nothing nutritious and filling left in their diet. Many of the children of migrant waste-pickers are identified with malnutrition and protein deficiency.

The suggestion of growing mushrooms was shared with waste pickers. Many of them were excited about it. The first training was conducted in horticulture department. Very few came as the location was very far and one had to take time out of work to go there. It was decided to host the training sessions in the vicinity of their residence. A total 205 families were trained to grow mushrooms. While some waste pickers were initially hesitant to undergo training, after seeing the harvest the requests for future trainings has grown.

Sl. No	Area	Number of families trained	Results
1	Akshay Nagar	50	Harvested twice
2	Kalakere	36	Harvested once
3	Avalahalli	14	Harvested
4	Devarabisnahalli	15	Harvested
5	Yeshavanthapura	12	Harvested
6	Kamakshipalya	10	Harvested
7	Banashankari	40	Harvested
8	Kamakya	13	Harvested
9	Cement Colony	15	
	<b>Total families trained</b>	205	



# LIVELIHOOD CREATION

*Creating Opportunities for Growth*

# TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Until 2011, Bengaluru, like all other cities in India followed a centralized approach to waste management. Though advocacy towards segregating at source was building up, decentralised processing centres were in the process of being built. Dry Waste collection centres were built in Yelahanka Zone to manage dry waste (inorganic waste) generated in the administration ward. At the same time some experiments with managing wet waste and garden waste at a ward level had began. However by 2012, the growing mounds of waste and protests within landfill communities intensified the decentralization of waste process. The building pressure of the proliferating wastes forced the municipality to issue a notice to segregate waste. First, the municipality indentified bulk generators as that included domestic generators –

- Domestic generators: Apartment complexes with more than 50 units.
- Commercial bulk generators viz hotel/restaurant, clubs, factory, choultry, mall, shopping complex, marriage halls, convention hall, place of worship, institution, office establishment, railway stations, bus stand or any other commercial or public entity which accumulates municipal solid waste of a quantity not less than 10 kg of organic waste per day.

The municipality mandated that they manage their own waste, either by having in-situ facility or hiring an empanelled service provider. It also mandated that the bulk generators specify the categories of 3 waste streams - dry, wet and reject.

With their long experience in waste management, informal waste pickers were the best choice to handle the challenge the bulk generators were facing - the lack of skilled workers. A business venture was conceived by Hasiru Dala to formalize the inclusion of informal waste workers in solid waste management services. And thus, Hasiru Dala's 'Total Waste Management Services' was born. Total Waste Management Services include door to door collection of all kind of segregated waste, transportation and further sorting or processing or delivery of waste to relevant units.

Today, Hasiru Dala provides Total Waste Management Services to more than 19924 households and commercial institutions. As per the city's norm Hasiru Dala collects source segregated waste and sends 9 tons of waste for processing or sorting. 68.5 percent of generated waste is organic, 21 percent is dry or recyclable waste, 10.5 percent is sanitary and reject waste- i.e. sanitary pads, used condoms, fallen hair, diapers, silt, broken glass, used mop etc.

The Wet/organic waste is sent to biogas plants and horticulture department for composting. Dry waste is given to dry waste collection centres and other recyclers, who sort it and send it to manufacturing industry as raw material. Reject waste is given to the land fill as no facility is available for the same. Electronic waste is also collected separately and is being sent to authorize electronic waste recyclers for proper recycling. In past all of this waste was going to nearby dump-yards.

Total Waste Management Services has helped waste pickers to unlock their entrepreneurial zeal and potential. Model of operation of the service is franchise based, where waste pickers become entrepreneur and lead their unit in providing services. The individual unit is referred as van-unit. Each van unit additionally employees four waste pickers, currently there are more than 13 van units. One van unit caters to 1800 households. The collected segregated waste is weighed and sent to their respective destinations. The data related to the weight is updated through a tab and is wired to [www.igotgarbage.com](http://www.igotgarbage.com) database.



Invoices are prepared on the basis of *I Got Garbage*, a Cloud based IT platform by Mindtree that offers capabilities such as an enterprise resource planning (ERP) for waste pickers, citizen engagement platform, waste management services marketplace, and a waste picker benefits tracker.

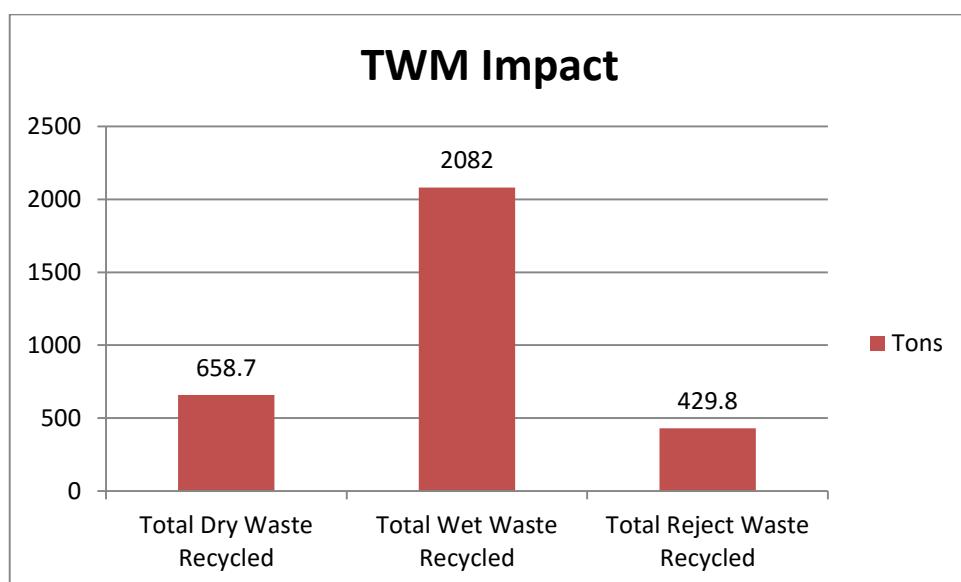
Total waste management has created 72 jobs for erstwhile waste pickers. It has significantly increased the average minimum income of waste pickers to INR 9000, from INR 4500-6000.

Steps undertaken for Total Waste Management Services:

- Training of waste pickers and other informal waste workers was conducted in providing door to door segregated waste collection service and usage of mobile platform for recording the data.
- Awareness creation for segregation of waste in 3 categories and marketing of door to door waste collection services.
- Usage of online interface 'I Got Garbage' for availing business intelligence to bring in new customers for Total Waste Services.
- Setting up of 'One van unit franchise' for waste collection. In one van unit franchise model, waste pickers become entrepreneur and lead their unit in providing services. The individual unit is referred as van-unit. Each van unit directly employees four waste pickers and indirectly 4-5 waste pickers to do the sorting and aggregation of collected dry waste, currently there are 12 van units. One van unit caters to 1800 households. The collected segregated waste is weighed, data recorded in online platform 'I Got Garbage' and sent to their respective destinations.
- Training for driving license: Many waste pickers particularly women would want to have their own van unit for providing services. They lack academic qualification i.e. 10th standard and driving training from authorized driving school. 15 waste pickers –

members of Hasiru Dala, undertook intensive training to clear 10th standard exams and driving lessons.

- Stream-lining collection and transportation of different categories of waste to respective processing, aggregating and disposal facilities i.e. dry waste- recyclables to aggregation centers or Dry Waste Collection Centers, wet waste- organic waste to composting facilities set up in the city, in this case Horticulture Department, Government of Karnataka, private bio gas plants and sanitary waste for disposal at the land-fill site.
- Generation of invoices on the basis of quantity of waste generated, captured by mobile app- I Got Garbage and sent to the customers availing Total Waste Management Services.
- Feeder Service: During our daily operations of door to door collection of waste from large housing complexes, it was found that the collection vehicle is underutilized. To rectify the situation, instead of Hasiru Dala moving the truck for collection, a new feeder system has been introduced where door to door collection is done by waste-pickers on tricycles including one e-tricycle.





## Informal Waste Worker to Entrepreneur: Sohedul's Story

27 years old Sohedul is an entrepreneur who is providing Total Waste Management Services to 5 apartment complexes near Bannerghatta Road. Four erstwhile waste pickers work under him to do the door to door collection of segregated waste.

Sohedul manages the operations of door to door collection. He also manages transportation of the wastes to relevant processing and sorting units, stocking of dry waste for sorting and sale in the warehouse.

He became the part of Total Waste Management Services operations a year and half ago. Before that he had a small team which also included his family members. They used to pick waste from streets. Their income was irregular in nature largely dependent on the scale of collected waste. After becoming a waste management service provider- his monthly income goes as high as INR 25000 and above. This after covering the operational expenses like rent of warehouse, salary of workers and fuel cost. He is one of the very few waste workers who own a vehicle to support in operations. Even if he owns the vehicle- the cost of its operations is very high as it's an old vehicle with high maintenance cost. Hasiru Dala is in the process of raising funds to help him but a new vehicle that could help him increase the scale of its operations.

## DRY WASTE COLLECTION CENTERS

For effective segregation of wastes it is imperative that the processing and sorting units are separate for the various categories of wastes. After consistent advocacy by various citizen and environment groups including Hasiru Dala, the BBMP took the decision to build Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) in each municipal ward.

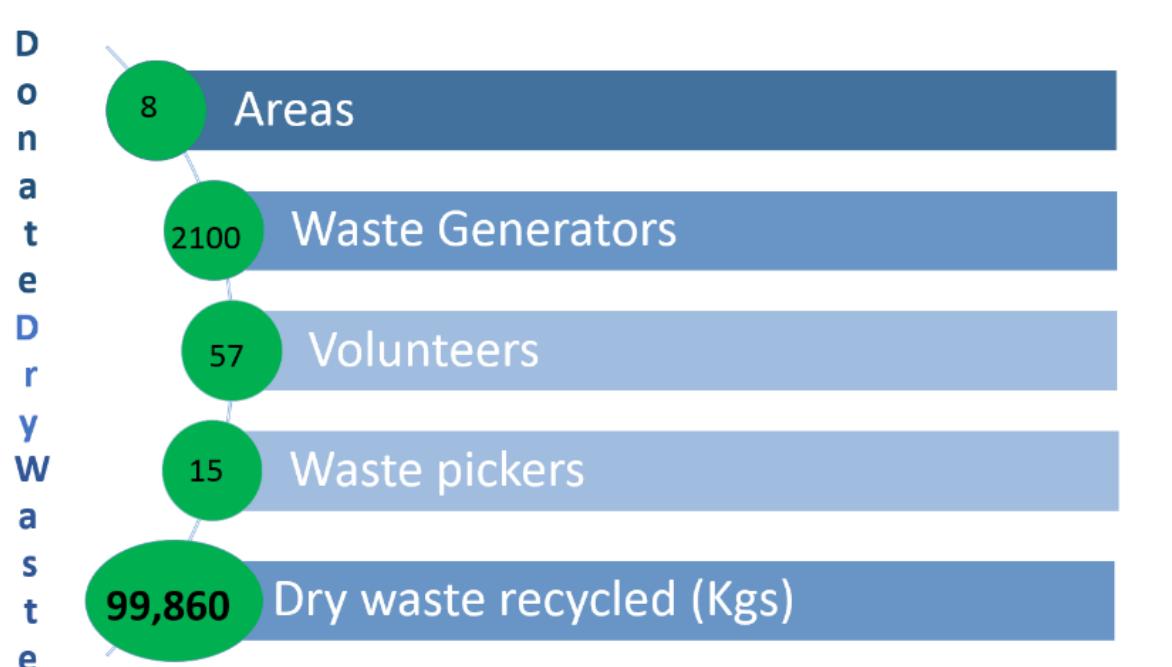
These centres facilitate aggregation of all inorganic wastes (dry waste) generated in that ward. These DWCCs facilitate the grading of dry waste or recyclable waste after door to door collection by city sanitary workers or *Pourakarmikas*. The grading process will also include non-recyclables or low and no value dry wastes, thus diverting all dry waste from landfills. These centres are now known as *Kartavya*. Today, there are more than 150 such DWCCs across the city. And each DWCC has a sorting capacity of 1 ton of dry waste per day.

Hasiru Dala's consistent advocacy on the issue paid off when the city administration directly signed a memorandum of understanding with the waste pickers / scarp dealers to employ them in DWCCs. Hasiru Dala's greatest achievement has been in integrating 108 informal waste workers into the operations of 28 DWCCs.



Informal waste workers operating DWCCs are now availing management services from Hasiru Dala to quantify the stock and flow of dry waste.

- Identification and Training of waste pickers was conducted to run dry waste collection centers, including technological skill upgradation for weighing of waste, data entry for inward and outward movement of waste.
- Advocacy with municipal administration from allotting dry waste collection centres for operations to waste pickers.
- Signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with waste pickers and municipal authorities for managing dry waste collection centers.
- Monitoring the quantity of inward and outward flow of unsorted and sorted waste respectively with the help of the supervisor and submission of the same report to relevant municipal authorities.
- In order to ensure uninterrupted supply of waste needed to sustain the operations Hasiru Dala initiated a pilot '**Donate Dry Waste Programme**' in one ward. As a part of the pilot programme, six citizen activists undertook a survey and awareness campaign in and around Lal Bagh and Basavangudi (two localities in Bangalore) and reached to 200 households in the area. After that they identified 110 households and geo-tagged them through I Got Garbage App. Green ribbon has been tied to the gate to make it easier for workers of Hasiru Dala to collect dry waste. Dry waste from the tagged households is being collected every Saturday between 8 and 12 in the morning. Presently donate dry waste is operating in 8 areas of Bangalore covering 2100 households and has diverted more than 99 tons from landfill.



BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGA  
BOMMANAHALLI ZONE, ANJANAPURA  
WARD NO : 194, GOTTIGER  
DRY WASTE COLLECTION



## Creating Wealth from Wastes: Ajay's Story

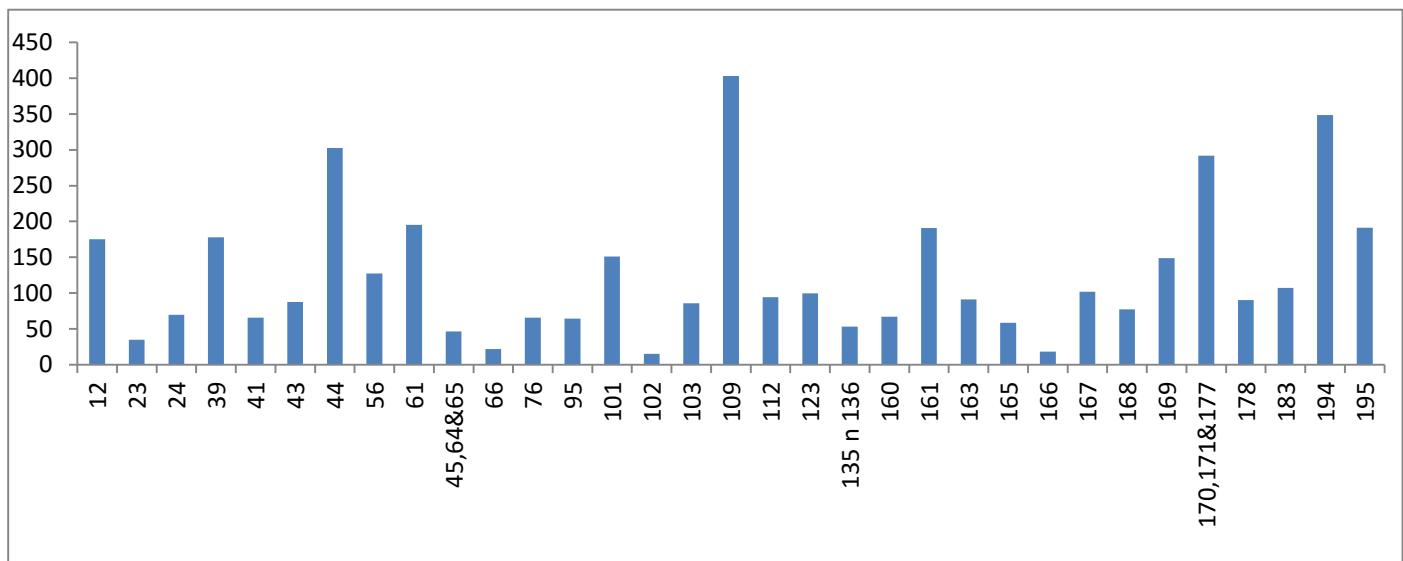
A huge loss in his pressure cooker manufacturing factory and the financial crisis that followed brought Ajay to Bangalore. Having to start life from scratch, he became a waste picker. After a few years in the profession, he met a Hasiru Dala staff member and became associated with the organization.

Today, Ajay runs one of the most successful Dry Waste Collection Centres in the city. It segregates over 1 ton dry waste every day in over 10 differnt categories. His three daughters go to school. Two of them study in a hostel and he visits them every other weekend with his wife. His youngest daughter recently joined a private school. He says he feels happy and settled.

What makes him tick in this business? we ask. " You have to recognize that there is money in this business. I make myself available and accessable at all times. Me and my staf live in the premise of the DWCC and are able to attend to it when the situation demands"

He recently bought a bike that he loves to drive around.

Out of 32 DWCC's , 28 DWCC's are in operations, others are closed as in some BBMP was dumping mix waste and others, because of low market value for dry wastes, were running under loss. Between 2015-16- From 28 DWCC's has processed 4116.8 tonnes of Dry waste.



Graph: Representing total qty of dry waste processed in DWCC 2015-16



## Making Dreams Come True: Annama's Story

Annama spent her childhood on the streets: rootless, homeless, faceless. She along with her four siblings and her parents were waste pickers. They made their living by rummaging through the garbage dumps for paper or plastic to sell to recyclers. The family spent rainy nights under makeshift tents of sticks and plastic sheets, and hot summers in an endless search for scrap. She and her family were shunned by society, harassed by police, and viewed with suspicion. That's until she became a member at Hasiru Dala a few years ago. Now, her ID card gives her legitimacy and a defence against harassment by authorities. The card also entitles her to benefits like health care and a scholarship for her children.

Today, Annamma is the manager of a Dry Waste Collection Center at Kamakshipayla. Garbage collectors bring dry waste, including paper, plastic and glass, to her DWCC. At the centre, other waste-pickers sort through this trash and move what they can up the chain to scrap dealers and other specialized recyclers. Annamma's husband has also joined her at the centre. "Living on the streets, my parents could only think of how to get the next meal," she says. "I am better off now. I am educating my three daughters."

Annamma has come a long way. Not only is she sending her children to school and giving them better opportunities in life, more recently she built a small house of her own. She beams as she describes how the house is exactly how she imagined it to be.

## DRIVING LICENSE

In order to provide waste workers higher mobility and increase efficiency of work, Hasiru Dala is working with them to get authorised driving licenses. This will help them help them drive a small truck, with a higher capacity of transporting waste. Apart from this Hasiru Dala is also working on raising funds for to help them buy these vehicles.

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### First Women Waste Picker to Drive a Truck: Lakshmi's Story



Lakshmi has been a waste picker, a contract pourakarmika, and now works at housekeeping staff at Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences as a part of the Total Waste Management Services program. She completed her driving school recently and received driver's license. She is soon getting her commercial driver's license and will become the first women waste picker in Bangalore to drive a truck- with one ton capacity to transport the segregated waste.

The mother of three children always wanted to learn how to drive. "But I did not have the money to pay the fee to join a driving school. I accompanied my neighbour to Hasiru Dala. They helped me join a driving school in December. My driving license came on December 31...it was my New Year gift," she beams.

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## SUSTAINABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT

As a part of its various waste management services Hasiru Dala has now launched sustainable event management services that helps large scale events to manage and reduce their wastes. Till Hasiru Dala has provided services to 15 events and ensured them to be zero waste, and thereby helped in increasing the income of 377 waste pickers. Following steps were undertaken for zero waste event or sustainable event management.

- Initial training of 54 waste pickers was undertaken; later the numbers were increased to 300 for providing waste management services in the events, which include collection of segregated waste, soft skills and better articulation abilities.
- Marketing of event waste management services through social media platforms like facebook, blogging and mainstream media.
- Managing waste of the event which include weddings, marathons etc. Waste is collected in segregated form. Wet waste is sent to biogas plant. Dry waste to dry waste collection centers.



## Sustainable Waste management at Weddings

When Sowmya Reddy and Abhishek were planning their wedding, they knew that waste management was going to a huge challenge. They were expecting over 20,000 guests and were not sure which organization would be up to the challenge. They approached Hasiru Dala.

Hasiru Dala had earlier managed an event with about 2500 guest, but this was almost ten times that event. Hasiru Dala geared up for the challenge.

The wedding was attended by around 18,000 people, and it generated 2 tons of organic waste that was delivered to bio gas plant for processing; 60 kilos of Dry waste that included water bottles, plastic covers used for packaging of food was delivered to city's Dry Waste Collection Centre for further sorting, grading and recycling. Per capita waste generated in the event was 114.5 grams which is way lower than the average weddings Hasiru Dala has ever managed till date!

## Eco-friendly Marathons

Last year (September 2014) Sindhu avid runner called and shared her concern about huge marathons in the city that leave back large amount of waste along the trail which in many cases ends in landfill. At the same time, Shilpi another professional runner and a volunteer helping in bettering solid waste management approached the organization to look at managing waste of Bangalore Marathon. Sindhu and Shilpi requested the runners to run

with their own bottles and pursued all the organizers to serve hot meals on a reusable plate and hire waste pickers to manage drinking water stations and aggregate generated dry waste, which will be sent for recycling later. Bangalore Marathon with the route scaling 42 kilometres and 8000 runners, only 125 kg of dry waste (paper cups) was generated and sent for recycling by 50 + waste pickers from Hasiru Dala.

## KereHabba- Celebrating Without Waste

For Hasiru Dala, waste management for green celebrations, is a team building activity and an organizing tool! It's a space for demonstrating abilities of waste pickers and their invaluable contribution to the city. This is an opportunity to break the barrier of caste, class based discrimination that is often experienced by waste pickers.

KereHabba or the Lake festival at Kaikondrahalli Lake on Sarjapur Road saw the foot fall of 3500 participants. Waste pickers managed all the waste, with 60 Kilos of organic waste sent for composting. At HasiruHabba, Hasiru Dala's own celebration that's brings together over 1000 waste pickers, steel, plates, steel cups are used for breakfast, lunch and tea – this is for making a role model of sort.

Professionalizing this service and creating a trend for eco-friendly events is the need of the hour. Waste management at events meant late nights, early hours for Hasiru Dala activists. The staff undertook the challenge and rose to the occasion. Marathon after marathon, weddings after weddings we perfected our service.

To curious onlookers at events who asked "how come all waste pickers are happy to do this work?" the answer was "Hasiru Dala is their organization, the organization does not have employee and employer relationship. They are aware that they are responsible for their work. If they do well, more waste pickers like them will have new jobs in events management. If they fail, they will ruin the opportunity for themselves and others." It is that feeling of solidarity among waste pickers that help us grow and create more job opportunities.

Hasiru Dala in past helped manage waste in Karnataka Pension Parishad's public meeting participated by 5000 people in freedom park, 1 Million rising in Cubbon Park, and Women's Day celebration in Malleswaram. It's our commitment to provide waste management services for social justice action that is close to our heart, for the unorganized sector workers and women's rights.

## INTEGRATING GARDENING SERVICES

Waste pickers, who were engaged in waste-picking from streets, are now learning and relearning farming. With that began the journey of Composting and Organic Terrace Gardening training. Many training sessions have been organized to get waste pickers to become familiar with skills required for gardening in small patches and containers.

Separate trainings have also been organized to learn composting techniques. Some of them are very happy to get back in touch with soil.

There are three levels of terrace / urban gardening training set up for waste pickers

1. Introduction to terrace gardening
2. Growing ornamental plants
3. Growing and managing organic vegetable growing.

. Composting and terrace gardening expert Vani Murthy and Hariram P. Sreenath provide the first training of urban gardening, APD, and organization that specialises in training physically challenged to ornamental plant growing, do the second training and Dr, Rajendra Hedge of BRICS train wastepickers on vegetable growing on his farm.

When we initially start with 20 to 22 wastepickers in the first training number of people who complete the level three training will be about eight trained wastepickers.

Typically, training sessions are 2-3 days long, and include a lot of practical exposure. 80 waste pickers have enrolled themselves as to be the trainees in given course. 14 waste pickers providing composting and 3 full time and 8-part time terrace gardening/urban gardening services to apartment complexes and institutions in Bangalore. Currently they are between INR 9000 full time and INR 300-500/day for part time work.

Following steps were undertaken for composting and gardening services:

- Identification of waste pickers interested in providing composting services was undertaken.
- A two day on site training for identified waste pickers was organized in composting.
- Composting in isolation is not feasible. It is necessary to complement it with urban gardening/ terrace gardening for the usage of compost produced. Therefore 80 waste pickers were trained in terrace gardening.
- Through the marketing of Total Waste Management Services and business intelligence availed by I Got Garbage Platform, composting services are being provided to 6 apartment complexes and one corporate office across the city.

### **Managing Organic (kitchen and garden) waste of State Bank of India Head office**

Hasiru Dala participated in bidding contract for managing organic (kitchen and garden) waste of State Bank of India Head office in Bengaluru. With no experience of bidding in past, it won the contract. With INORA method of composting Hasiru Dala is managing kitchen waste, for composting of garden waste, it is using bio design method. The composted material is rich in nutrients, which are much needed by soil. State Bank of India is buying the given compost from the organization after due processing. And its plan is to give it to farmers for free as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility Programme. This is providing employment to four women waste pickers.

## **Waste-picker to Urban Gardener: Lakshmi's Story**



Lakshmi was just like any other waste picker. She looked for items of value in the trash. Hailing from Tamil Nadu, she landed in Bengaluru and became a waste-picker to take care of her 5 children. After waste picking for more than a decade, she realized that much valuable waste is not available on the streets any more. To better her livelihood she started managing the dry waste collection center (Municipal Corporation installed inorganic waste aggregating and sorting units). This was a loss making venture for her. She needed a better source of income. After eighteen years of sorting and aggregating dry waste, she had farming tools in her hands. Now she didn't return to Tamil Nadu. Instead she is today an urban gardener with Hasiru Dala.

## **MANAGING OPERATIONS OF BIOGAS PLANT**

Bengaluru Municipal body installed bio-gas plants across the city. Ashoka Bio-gen was hired to manage these plants. Ashoka Bio-gen subcontracted operations of 5 biogas plants to Hasiru Dala. This employed 15 waste pickers and each waste picker received around INR 8000 as monthly salary + Provident Fund & ESI. Hasiru Dala had to walk out of the given contract due to failure in payment by Ashoka Bio-gen. All waste pickers employed in biogas plants are being employed in other domains.

Job Placements for Waste Pickers	
Job placement in TWM, OWC with ESI and PF	74
Other events like one to two days job placement	327
Kere habba ,other Apartment parties, marathon	30
Terrace Garden regular position	3
Terrace Garden part time	6



Hasiru Dala means Green Force



## EVENTS AT HASIRUDALA

*Expanding Our Reach*

## SEVA CAFE

Seva Cafe is an initiative through which volunteers cook and serve food to guests from their local communities. To complete the full circle of giving and sustain this experiment, guests make contributions in the spirit of pay-it-forward to those who come after them.

In their continuous endeavour to spread the message of service, waste pickers from Hasirudala cooked, served and entertained guests at Paradigm Shift Cafe. The event was held on 10th May 2015. The money raised at the event, was used to give notebooks and geometry to the children of the waste workers who participated in the event. Prior to the event, a discussion was held among wastepickers who were to cook in the Cafe. The main apprehensive for wastepickers was if the guest would eat the food made by wastepickers, we were Dalit. The program was conceived and executed to break the barrier of caste and unclean occupation. Radio Active, a community Radio released CD that had narratives and experience of discrimination they experienced by wastepicker with regards to food and water.

## WASTE WORKERS AT COP 21

Mansoor, who operated Dry Waste Collection Centres in Pattabhiramangar ward, attended the UNFCCC climate change talks in Paris in Nov 2015. Waste pickers from across the globe were invited and were encouraged to exchange information, views and perceptions of how waste is being dealt with in their countries and also methods by which this could improve.

Mansoor was invited to share his views in seven different events that were held across the 9 days he was there. His contribution for COP21 was to engage participants in discussion on informal sector contribution to mitigate climate change. Mansoor represented members of Alliance of Waste pickers at Cop21. He spoke at many events and some of the local news papers and publications at COP21 on the contribution of informal waste workers. Apart from the conference – which was the main purpose of the trip, they spent a lot of time walking around, exploring the city and observing waste management techniques throughout the city.



The United Nations Climate Change Conferences are yearly conferences held in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



## HASIRU HABBA

Hasiru Habba is an annual event of Hasiru Dala where informal waste workers come together to celebrate and highlight their work. This year it was organized at Freedom Park on 17th June. The past two years has provided several opportunities for waste-pickers, the green crusaders of Bangalore to demonstrate their professionalism in providing waste management services to the city and its citizens. Hasiru Habba celebrated their work and contribution in making the city clean.

Waste pickers spoke about and discussed the various waste management services provided by them at the event and were honoured for their contribution.

The celebrations also saw sessions facilitated by Shoonya that focused on art and street theatre performance. Sri U.T. Khader, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Karnataka, spoke at the event. The event was open to all and over a thousand waste workers participated in the event. In addition many citizens participated in the event.

Wastepickers asked the following with the Health Minister.

- Health need of waste pickers:
- Waste pickers need primary health care as cuts and burns are common. We ask for access to generic drugs at subsidised prices.
- Establishment of dynamic centre to dispense medicine throughout the city.
- Access to all health services to waste pickers in par with BPL families. Occupational Id card issued by BBMP to be used as the basis for service.
- Access to primary health care for all migrants especially waste pickers residential area,
- Expansion of RSBY to migrants waste pickers
- As a minister and a representative of state government we ask for the following:
- A state wide enumeration of waste pickers that will facilitate access to social security that is specific to waste pickers.
- Access to food security scheme
- A state level policy for integration of waste pickers in solid waste management system of the urban local government.

- All 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' category waste from all local, state, and central government offices and government aided establishments be reserved for collection (D category waste) and purchase (A, B,C category waste) by micro and small enterprises of waste pickers and other informal recycling workers
- Organizations of waste pickers and other informal recycling workers should be represented on the District Solid Waste Management Monitoring Committee set up under the MSW 2000 rules.

## HACKATHON

On March 2016, Hasiru Dala members (waste pickers & scrap dealers) were invited by Waste Impact and Indian Institute of Science as experts to mentor young students and working professionals to hack the problem of waste mismanagement. The event was initiated by Waste Impact, a trust in collaboration with the Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing (CPDM) & Centre for infrastructure, Sustainable Transportation and Urban Planning (CiSTUP), IISc . This was first of its kind 2x48-hour hackathon at the Institute. The event 'Reimagine Waste Hackathon' brought together students, industry professionals, researchers, designers, thinkers and entrepreneurs along with traditional stakeholders in waste disposal and management over two successive weekends to develop prototype solutions that could potentially become commercial products and bring about positive change.

Around 44 wastepickers participated in the Hackathon. The criteria for the Hackathon were to have at least one wastepicker in each team. Some wastepickers participated the event with their children and enjoyed the experience.



## **DINNER INVITATION**

When one of the e magazines reported the work of Hasiru Dala and titled 'Will anyone invite a waste-picker inside their home and give him chai?', one of the citizen who works with and supports Hasiru Dala read the article and did just that. Malini Parmar invited wastepickers who are servicing their apartment home for a dinner. Couple of other citizens from the area also joined them.

It was a great life changing experience for wastepickers who did not expect any of the citizen who they serve actually call them home and share a meal together. The citizen Malini Parmar said " the most touching sharing by wastepickers was that changing from street collection of waste to collecting segregated waste from apartment keeps our cloths clean".

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

On 08/03/2015 we have celebrated "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY" at "Chandra Sekhar Azad" grounds, Malleswaram, Bangalore. Several organizations (those who are working with women and their development programs) came together and organized the programme related to the "Memory of Savitribai phule". For this programme 3000 women participated.

The programme commenced with remembering the freedom women. After this participants shared their experiences on their experiences on the recent violence against women, women rights, Reservations, Social status of women, Women achievements, Women education, Health, Employment, Gender equality, Achievements in private sector etc.

Over 15 members from Hasiru Dala participated and contributed to the event. Mary, Hasiru Dala member and Waste Collectors also shared her experiences of beginning life in Bangalore and the changes in life style after working with Hasiru Dala.

## **HASIRUDALA RETREAT**

The Hasiru Dala Retreat was conducted on the 11th and 12th of February, 2016 at Biligiri Rangana Betta, Chamarajanagar (District). The team stayed at Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra. The aim of the retreat was to discuss the future annual action plans for our programs for this year. The retreat saw the staff members reflecting on the previous years' work, gathering the learnings and best practices and planning for the coming year.

## **SUMMER CAMP**

Hasiru Dala organized Summer Camp for waste worker's children on 26th May 2015 and 27th May 2015. Shunya, a civil society group conducted activities for children. 85 children

participated in the two day program. Six facilitators from Shunya and 10 staff members from Hasiru Dala supported the program.

Activities on the first day included theatre activities and games and clay modelling. The second day's session included music and dance, making paper caps, and a discussion on animals especially snakes. The children were also given a session on child rights.

Following which GO Books took a session on up-cycling trash : how to make a broom from pet bottles and how to gather and store seeds in empty milk tetra pack packets for plantation. This was followed by a reading session. Stationary such as colouring books and bags were given away to the children. The camp ended with children sharing their feedback on the program.



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## OUR PARTNERS



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