

Informal Workers in Solid Waste Management

Types of wastepickers

- ❖ Dumpsite
- ❖ Bins / Containers
- ❖ Streets
- ❖ Doorstep Collectors



Wastepickers at Dumpsite / Landfills



❖ Worst Working
Conditions

❖ Least Value
Items

❖ Highest Health
Risks



Wastepickers at Dumpsite / Landfills



Risks of Frequent Fires in Summer



Wastepickers at Bins / Containers



Largely Women



Wastepickers at Bins / Containers



The only tools available are Sacks and makeshift Rakes



Doorstep Collectors of Waste



❖ Paid Service Fee by Citizens

❖ Given Handcarts by the
Municipal Corporation



Personal profile



- ❖ 50% are Under 35 Years of age
- ❖ 90% Women
- ❖ 25% Widowed or deserted
- ❖ 30% Head their household
- ❖ 90% Women are Illiterate
- ❖ Largely migrants



The Living Conditions

- ❖ 50% do not have Water connections
- ❖ Most live in undeclared slums
- ❖ 50% do not have Electric connections
- ❖ Most live with families in houses smaller than 100sq. ft.
- ❖ 30% have had dog bites
- ❖ Less than 1 % have child care facilities



The Working Conditions

“We sift through stale food, faeces, soiled sanitary napkins, rotting dead animals, broken glass, sharp metal, needles and what not. All this with our bare hands, in pouring rain, blazing summers for 12 hours a day, 365 days a year”



“If you think this garbage raises a stink, what would I think?”

We save the PMC 11 Crores per annum in Garbage Handling Costs, what do we get?



The Working Conditions

“I am India’s Invisible Environmentalist
and YOU who generate all this garbage,
call me Dirty”



“ If you think I am a thief..... can you
identify the valuables in this picture?”



The Working Conditions

“You don’t want to segregate your waste, you don’t want us to segregate your waste near your houses, you want more public parking space; **But you dont want to allow space allotment for eco-friendly Recyclers**”



“So, whose garbage is it anyway....
Mine or Ours ?”



Child Labour



- ❖ 5% of the total labour in scrap collection is under 18 years of age
- ❖ Most of them are girls
- ❖ 10 % are school dropouts

**If work is good for children,
would you consider
sending your children
here?**



Mean daily Income of Wastepickers



4 USD



Itinerant Buyer



2 USD



Wastepicker



2 USD



Doorstep Collector

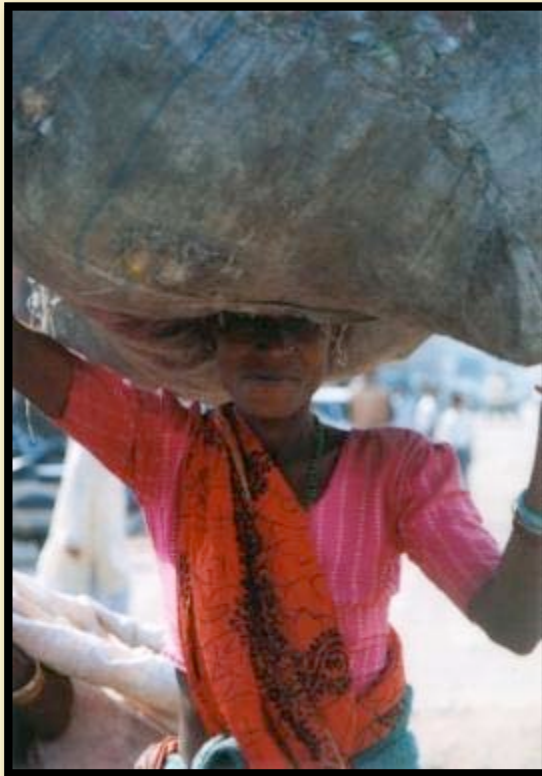


Work includes Collection

- ❖ Most wastepickers source domestic scrap from garbage bins and from the streets
- ❖ They walk for more than 5 hours a day to collect scrap
- ❖ The work more than 8 eight hours per day



Transportation



The wastepicker has to transport scrap on her head or hire private vehicles up till the scrap shop



Sorting



The wastepickers have to sort the scrap by their bare hands or makeshift rakes outside the scrap shop or the scrap trade establishment



Selling



- ❖ Scrap Traders buy the scrap
- ❖ The scrap shops are about 100 – 200 sq. ft. in area
- ❖ There is minimal infrastructure



Selling



Traders encroach into public areas, this results into frequent closures and police harassment and inevitably, the wastepickers are also harassed



Wholesalers

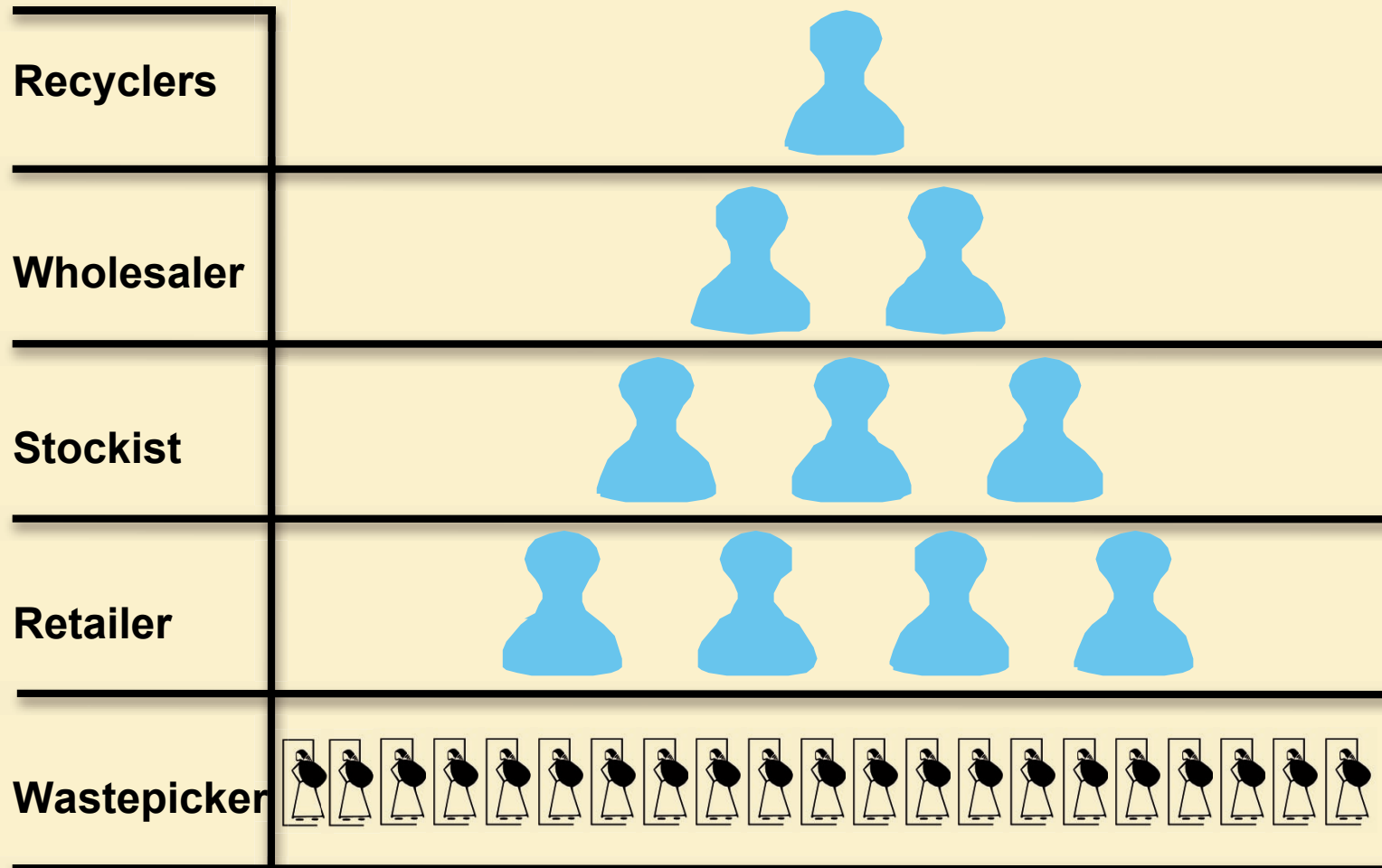


The sorted waste is then sold by the scrap dealers to the wholesalers



The Recycling Pyramid :

The 18 Crore per annum Business Structure



Organising wastepickers

- ❖ Identity
- ❖ Key issues
- ❖ Articulation of demands
- ❖ Collective mobilisation
- ❖ Self representation
- ❖ Advocacy with the State



Mobilisation

Based on the understanding that “Awareness of rights is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for change”, wps have been mobilised extensively on a range of issues:

Against

- ❖ Police harassment
- ❖ Police extortion
- ❖ Municipal apathy
- ❖ Exploitation by scrap traders

For

- ❖ Municipal recognition
- ❖ Children's education
- ❖ Health & Insurance
- ❖ Credit
- ❖ Social security



Organisation



❖ Understanding Wastepickers

- ❖ Contribution
- ❖ Conditions of work
- ❖ Trade Union



Primary Issues



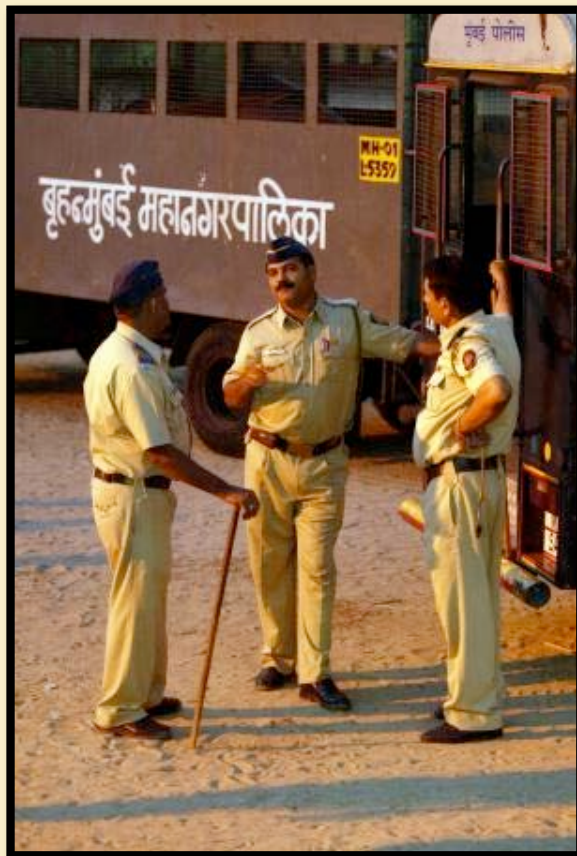
❖ Issue of Identity Cards



❖ Articulated need of the community



Primary Issues



❖ Police Harassment



❖ People's perception



Our Demands



Better Working Conditions



Our Demands



एस. एम. जोशी सभागृह : रोडरी वरुव ऑफ पुणे पायाणतर्फे अरुण साधू यांच्या हस्ते सरुताई वाघमारे यांना व्यावसायिक गुणवत्ता पुरस्कार रविवारी प्रदान करण्यात आला. या वेळी (डावीकडून) पराम करंदीकर, साधू, किशोर पाटील, दीपक पाटील, राजेंद्र खिरे.

‘काच पत्रा संघटनेमुळे मानसन्मान’

संघटनेच्या कार्यकर्त्या सरुताई वाघमारे यांना व्यावसायिक गुणवत्ता पुरस्कार प्रदान

Security of Livelihoods



Our Demands



Recognition as “Workers”



Our Demands



Respect, Dignity and Social Security



Our Strategies



Establish Sustainability



Our Strategies



- ❖ Unionising and cooperating
- ❖ Struggle and development



Demonstrations



Constructive Voicing of our demands



Advocacy



- ❖ Campaigning with elected representatives
- ❖ Engage with administration



Integrating in SWM



❖ Enforcing Segregation

❖ Collection Systems

❖ Space Allocation

❖ Processing Choices



Our 'OWN' Scrap Shop



कष्टाची कमाई
रवडोहोवतो रवलोवो

...The Co-operative Scrap store



We demand Municipal Support

- ❖ We protect your environment

You owe us:

- ❖ Recognition
- ❖ Appropriate policy
- ❖ Promotion of Recycling
- ❖ Space and infrastructure for recycling, sorting and trade
- ❖ Inclusion/integration in SWM



Thank You

Respect wastepickers

