

Technical Deep Dive on Solid Waste Management

The Global Informal Sector

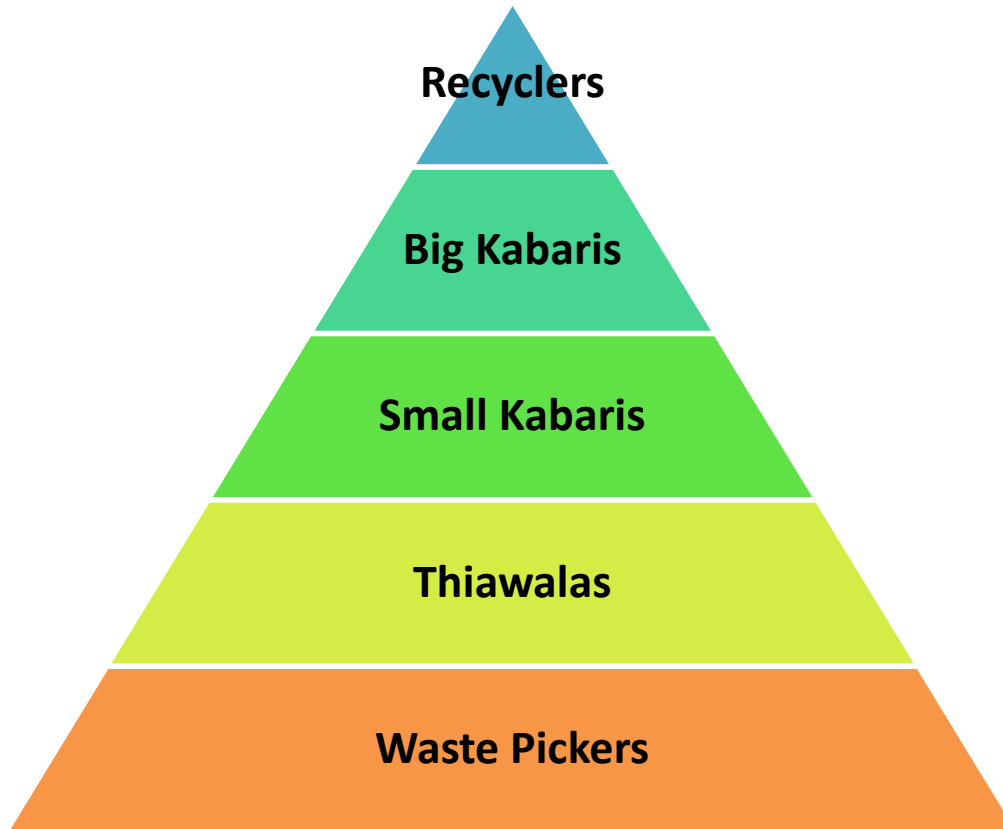
September 25th, 2018

Tokyo





Who Is The Informal Sector?





Who Is A Waste Picker?

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According to the WEIGO, “waste pickers, the general term adopted by the 1st World Conference of Waste Pickers in 2008, can range from people working on dumps or rummaging through garbage on the streets, to informal private collectors of recyclables who sell to middlemen or businesses or transform waste into new products”



Who Is A Waste Picker?

As per the National Solid Waste Management Rules of India, “Waste picker means a person or groups of persons informally engaged in collection and recovery of reusable and recyclable solid waste from the source of waste generation the streets, bins, material recovery facilities, processing and waste disposal facilities for sale to recyclers directly or through intermediaries to earn their livelihood.”



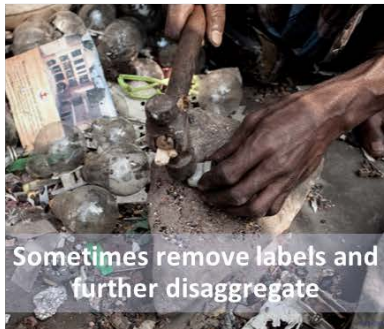


A Global Phenomenon

How Many Waste Pickers?

S. No.	Country	Number of Waste Pickers (estimated)
1.	India	15,00,000
2.	China	2,50,000
3.	Brazil	2,30,000
4.	Italy	1,00,000
5.	Philippines	1,00,000
6.	South Africa	62,000
7.	Chile	60,000
8.	Bogota (Colombia)	13,500

What Do They Do?





Challenges

Health

- Contact with waste
- Working conditions
- Living conditions
- Toxicity
- Poor access to medical facilities



Lack Of Recognition

- Informal
- Legal silences: South Africa
- Stigma: The Romas
- Ignoring the law: Philippines
- Aesthetic nuisance: India





Levels Above Wastepickers

- Rarely ever mentioned outside the EU
- Poorly organized
- Why?





Contributions

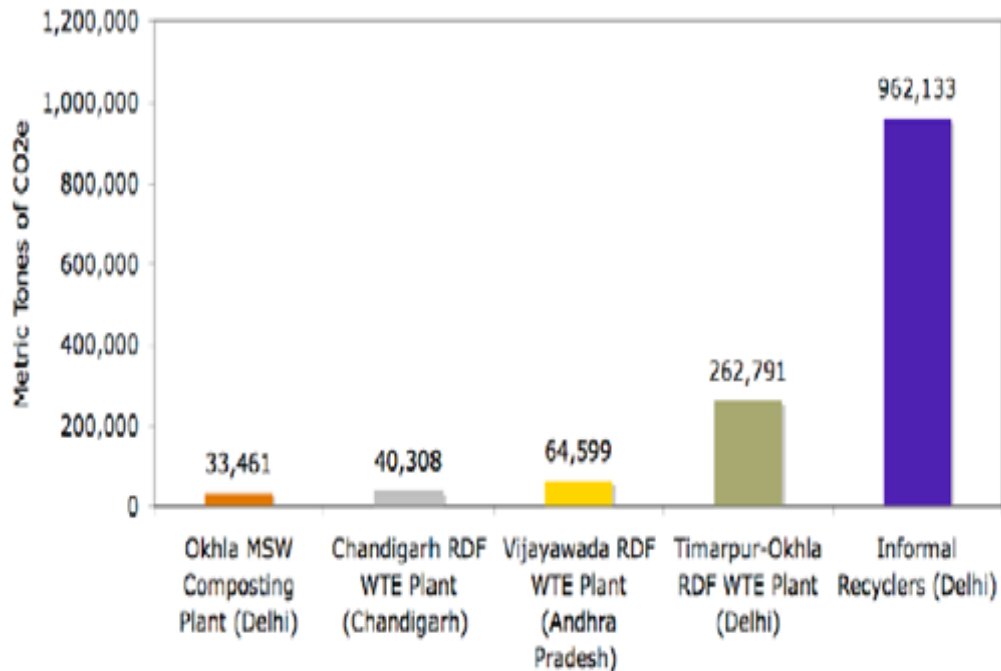
Benefits To Cities

City	Tonnes recovered, all sectors	Percent materials prevented or recovered	Percent recovered by formal sector	Percent recovered by informal sector	Total percent recycled as materials	Total percent to agricultural value chain
Bamako, Mali	392,893	85%	0%	85%	25%	31%
Belo Horizonte, Brazil	145,134	7%	0.1%	6.9%	6.9%	0.1%
Delhi, India	841,070	33%	7%	27%	27%	7%
Dhaka, Bangladesh	210,240	18%	0%	18%	16%	2%
Ghorahi, Nepal	365	11%	2%	9%	11%	NA
Quezon City, Philippines	287,972	39%	8%	31%	37%	2%

Source: Solid Waste Management in the World's Cities, Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities 2010. UNHABITAT

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Estimated Average Annual GHG Emissions Reductions



Financials

Savings to the municipalities

- South Africa: R700 million (USD 48.5 million) annually
- India: Rs.18 million (USD 2.5 million) annually





Across The World

Key Common Demands

- Access to waste: Status Quo or improved livelihood
- Recognition and dignity
- Children's education
- Health
- Social Security



Philippines

- The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, 2001
- National Framework Plan for the Informal Waste Sector in Solid Waste Management, 2009
- National Solid Waste Management Strategy, 2012-2016
- Prohibits waste picking from dumpsites
- Encourages integration of associations and cooperatives



Philippines

- Positive Stories:
 - Quezon city: Payatas Poverty Alleviation Foundation (PPAF)
 - Iliolo city: Setting up of Informal Waste Pickers Association in 2009
 - Metro Manila: Linis Ganda
- Strategic usage/ interpretation of key terms
- Backed-up by civil society actors and church



South Africa

- National Waste Management Strategy, 2011
- National Environment Management Act 59, 2008
- Acknowledges the value of recycling in sustaining livelihoods
- However, no mention of waste pickers or their inclusion in the laws



South Africa

- Lack of recognition and engagement by authorities
- Enter Privatization: Jo'Burg
- Good News: Fryburg and Potschefstroom in N.W. South Africa



Brazil

- Laws
- 1990s: Municipal inclusion laws
- 2006: Presidential decree for federal buildings
- 2007: No bidding needed for wastepickers
- Ease of doing business



Brazil

- Explicitly talks of waste pickers' notion of waste and citizenship
- Political support
- Culture
- Elimination (nearly) of child labour
- Latin American Networks



Colombia

Bogota

- Constitutional Court Ruling of 2011
- Recognised as providers of a public service
- 2013: Payment system for waste pickers

Medellin

- Efforts to include waste pickers
- Still an unfinished task



India

As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

“State policies and strategies should acknowledge the primary role played by the informal sector of waste pickers, waste collectors and recycling industry in reducing waste and provide broad guidelines regarding integration of waste picker or informal waste collectors in the waste management system.”



India

As per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

- **Rule 6 (f)** The local body shall be responsible for engaging civil societies or groups working with waste pickers; and
- **Rule 8 (b)** Responsibility of waste generator to not litter the plastic waste and ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to urban local body or gram panchayat or agencies appointed by them or registered waste pickers

India

- The missing parts : Master plans, top of chain legality
- Doorstep collection popular form of inclusion
- Entrepreneurship
- The challenge of large private players



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Some Observations: Challenges of Inclusion

- Role of wastepickers in a new waste regime: Tasks, service quality and monitoring
- State intervention critical: Inclusion does not work well if contractors are alone responsible. New kinds of contracting
- The case of the EU Harmonization
- They need external support and capacity: Case of Malawi. Columbia is one of the rare cases that didn't need external help
- Space always vital for legality: Shift in land use planning
- Municipal and public attitudes
- How to professionalize their services?

Where to Start?

- Map and count
- Recognize via I Cards etc
- Set standards
- Carrot and stick
- Sign contracts
- Awareness and training for wastepickers also
- Coordinate with other departments
- Build on their entrepreneurship, no one needs charity



Concluding Thoughts

- Wastepickers must be organized if cities are to benefit
- Much more municipal and waste picker capacity building needed for integration
- Multiple forms of integration possible
- Other sections of chain not to be neglected
- We need more recent data and case studies
- Child labour often ignored

THANK YOU!



238, Sidhartha Enclave New Delhi - 110014, India
T: + 91-11-46574171/72/73 F: +91-11-46574174
E: bharati@chintan-india.org W: www.chintan-india.org