



Activities Report 2020-2021





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ADDRESS NOTE

Dear Friends,

The years 2020 and 2021 have been challenging for all. NEPRA's activities thus has been in line to foremost ensure the well-being of all its stakeholders.

In the wake of the pandemic, our activities and initiatives to spread awareness, impact positively the lives of Bottom of the Economic Pyramid Members of the sector and our commitment towards environmental sustainability never stopped.



I am happy to share with you NEPRA's annual report for the year 2020 and 2021 covering the details of awareness activities and initiatives. We at NEPRA believe that sensitising citizens about waste management is the first step enabling them to practice efficient waste management at source, leading to sustainable waste management. The awareness activities conducted by our team has proved to be successful in making people more sensitive and informed about climate change, its impact on the environment waste management and better ways to practice it. NEPRA has also rolled out new initiatives enabling- support to waste pickers during lockdown, women empowerment and education of children of waste pickers.

We look forward to your continued support for a better tomorrow.



Regards,

Sandeep Patel

NEPRA FOUNDATION

PREFACE:

The years 2020 and 2021 so far have been tough for all at a personal, and organisational level. With the pandemic hit, most sectors and businesses came to a halt, and thus a large base of informal communities affected too. Among the very few thriving industries, the Waste Management was one that never stopped.

NEPRA Foundation never stopped in creating awareness and reaching out to its stakeholders to ensure the right waste management practices. Amid the lock down when physical reach wasn't possible, our team ensured that the show goes on via virtual connects.

Apart from the ongoing awareness and reach initiatives with ULBs, Schools and Colleges, Residences, Commercial Establishments, Waste Pickers, BoEP stakeholders, etc., the year witnessed new initiatives impacting lives. To name, Lockdown Support for Waste Pickers, Textile Upcycling and Support Education for Children of Waste Pickers.

We as an organisation realise our commitment and responsibility towards the sector, its right practices, environment and all its stakeholders, thus our zeal to bring about the change never ceases. The report 2020-2021 brings to you a detailed read of all our activities, awareness programs and initiatives.

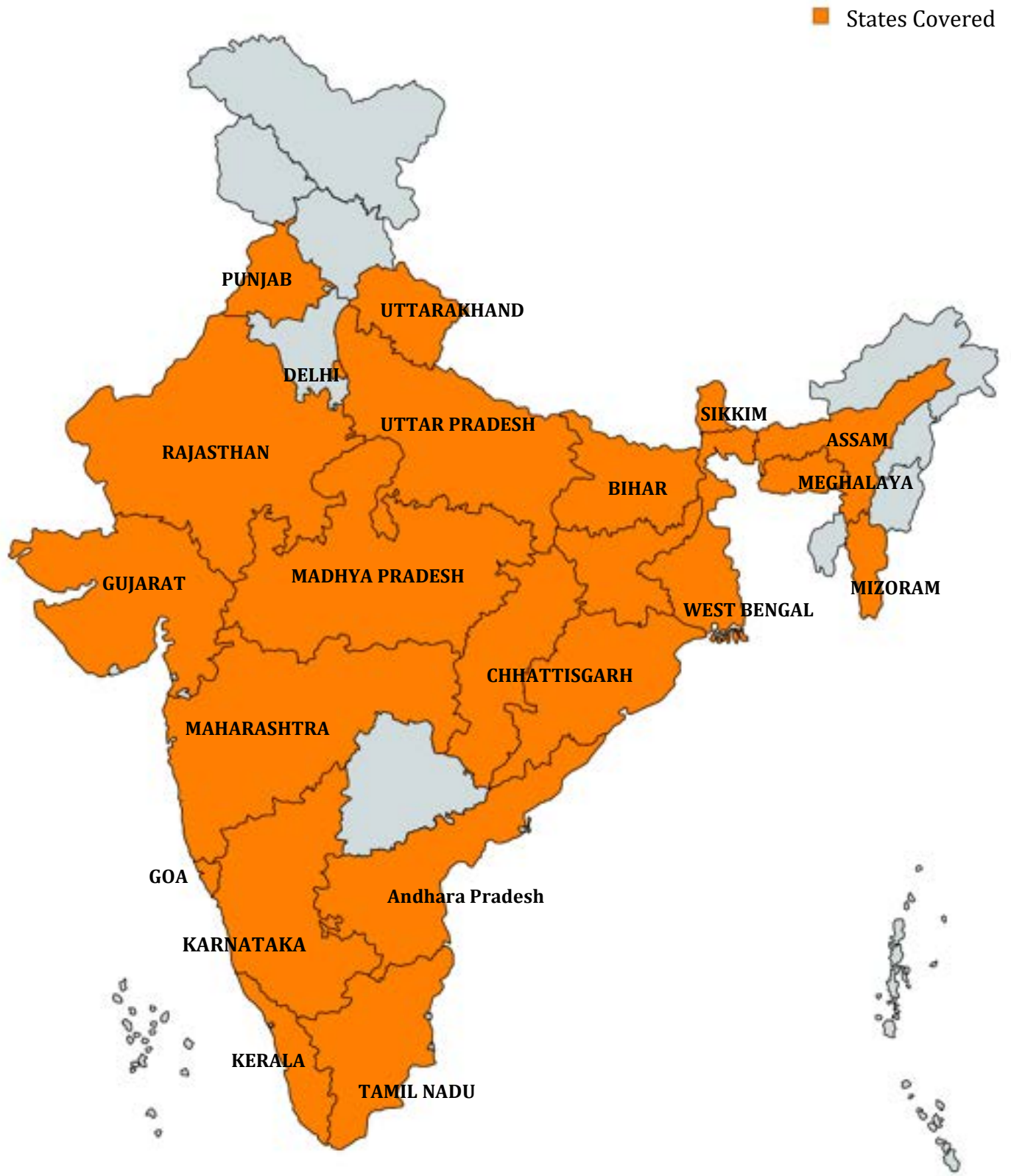


OVERVIEW:

NEPRA Foundation is a not for profit organization working for the upliftment of the underprivileged Bottom of Economic Pyramid (BOEP) workers of the waste management sector and spreading awareness about Dry waste management in different communities of the country. It undertakes awareness sessions in schools, universities, for ULBs etc.

Over the years, the foundations efforts have been in increasing overall welfare of its target groups. Its recent initiative is aimed at empowering local women communities through textile up cycling. The foundation's efforts have been commendable during the pandemic, reaching out to its BoEP stakeholders, ensuring them with provision of basic food supplies.

PAN INDIA COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES:





INTRODUCTION

NEPRA Foundation is a non-profit organisation which was established in 2012 with its main objectives being to empower the waste picker community and spread awareness about waste management in India. We, the team understood the importance of sensitization of both adults and children, to see a long term efficient change in the sector of waste management. We conduct educational programs in schools, awareness programs in corporates, housing societies and educational institutions and cleaning drives in cities. We encourage binding by the PWM Rules 2016 and discourage the use of non-recyclable waste which is required to advance towards a circular economy. We collaborate with other foundations and conduct workshops at on source waste management. The foundation also helps the interested organisations connect with waste managers or recyclers around them.

VISION

Creating a new era of Zero Waste Inclusive World

MISSION

We exist to passionately contribute towards the well being of the BoEP community and other stakeholders in the waste management sector and take care of the environment in a sustainable manner.

VALUES

Empathy- We passionately connect with the people at the Bottom of the Economic Pyramid for them to live a dignified life and work towards betterment if the marginalised sections of the society.

Empowerment- We encourage women to contribute meaningfully in the economic development by taking ownership of their livelihood.

Trust- We value all our stakeholders' viewpoints on an equal plane, and ensure their participation towards achieving the larger goal.

Inclusiveness- We believe that every job is important and must be respected. By taking a collective approach towards integrating and streamlining the various roles of formal and informal stakeholders and duly recognising their strengths, we lead to achieve a collaborative output.

Environmental Stewardship- We believe that taking care of the environment is a collective responsibility, and encourage all stakeholders to work towards attaining a circular economy and a Zero Waste to Landfill Society.

The following are the different areas where NEPRA Foundation educated the people and conducted awareness sessions about waste management:

- **Awareness at Collection Centres and for ULBs**
- **Waste Pickers Awareness Programme and Sensitization Activities**
- **Dry Waste Management Education Initiative**

The content for sessions of each of the above programmes is customized depending on the type of audience attending it and their interest. For instance, Awareness for Waste Pickers focus on recognising different materials and its value chain, importance of health and hygiene while waste collection and on different methods of sorting or segregating waste.

2020-2021 have been tough years for all owing to the pandemic. In view of safety of persons and following protocol of lockdown, the awareness activities in number have been less as compared to previous years. Most of the awareness sessions were carried out in the initial months of 2020, when India wasn't affected by the pandemic. The awareness sessions with ULBs and other stakeholders majorly was conducted virtually in the later months.

AWARENESS AT THE COLLECTION CENTRES AND WITH URBAN LOCAL BODIES

Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) are locations where waste is collected by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Most of the dry waste of the area including Plastics (recyclable as well as non-recyclables), wood, clothes, metals, glass etc. is collected at these centres. The recyclable plastic waste is segregated by waste pickers or DWCC workers.

Small awareness sessions related meetings are usually held for the members of the ULBs on what kind of material is considered as RDF and why it is hard to dispose. Later, NEPRA Foundation carries out awareness sessions for the workers and supervisors of the DWCC. It is important for them to understand that the RDF to be collected should not contain metal, glass, inert and wet waste.

A normal awareness session include topics such as:

Different types of Waste

The workers are sensitised about different types of materials that comprise the dry waste category. They are taught about the feel and texture and how to differentiate the materials.

RDF and its composition

The workers are made aware about what RDF is and how it can be used. They are taught to recognised non-recyclables and further segregate the ones to be used as RDF.

EPR Compliance

NEPRA believes that the workers at the grass route level must be made aware about the EPR Compliance. The reason is psychological, knowing what impact their work will have given them a sense of value, belongingness to work and purpose. This in turn, helps increase their commitment and efficiency to undertake the task.

The awareness session helps the DWCC workers to segregate the right RDF material. Thus, awareness and training for the DWCC workers makes the entire system efficient and speedier.

Most of the interactions with ULBs in 2020-2021 were virtual. The number of ULBs approached by NEPRA's representative are as:

Name of the state/ Union Territory	Number of ULBs approached
Maharashtra	3
West Bengal	2
Assam	3
Uttarakhand	1
Tamil Nadu	5
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	1
Bihar	1
Jharkhand	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Odisha	5
Karnataka	2
Kerala	3
Uttar Pradesh	3
Punjab	1
Andhra Pradesh	1
Total number of ULBs	34

Below is the state wise list of ULBs NEPRA has approached for awareness session:

Maharashtra		
Nashik Municipal Corporation		Khapa Nagar Parishad
MIDC Waluj, Aurangabad		

West Bengal		
SUDA, Kolkata, West Bengal		Baidyavati Municipality

Assam		
Tinsukhiya Municipality		Titabar Municipality
Guwahati Municipal Corporation		

Uttrakhand		
Nagar Parishad Muni Ki Reti-Dhalwala		

Tamil Nadu		
Tiruvannamali Municipality		Vellore Municipal Corporation
Walajapet Municipality		Arcot Municipality
Sivakasi Municipality		

Meghalaya
Shillong Muicipal Board

Mizoram
Aizwal Muicipal Corporation

Bihar
Patna Municipal Corporation

Jharkhand
Ranchi Municipal Corporation

Chhattisgarh
Rajnandgaon Municipal Corporation

Andhra Pradesh
Guntur Municipal Corporation

Odisha		
Vyasagar Municipality		Bhubaneshwar Municipal Corporation
Paradeep Nagar Palika		Rourkela Municipal Corporation
Sambalpur Municipal Corporation		

Karnataka

Bagalkot Municipal Corporation

City Municipal Council Hoskote

Kerala

Kozhikode Municipal Corporation

Ernakulam Municipality Corporation

Kochi Municipal Corporation

Uttar Pradesh

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation

Meerut Nagar Nigam

Jhansi Municipal Corporation

Punjab

Amritsar Municipal Corporation



NEPRA's Representative with authorities at dump sites and collection centres in different locations in Maharashtra.



NEPRA's Representative with authorities at dump sites and Collection centres in different locations in Uttrakhand.

NEPRA's Representative with authorities at Collection centres in different locations in Tamil Nadu.



NEPRA Representative with official at an MRF in Dungarpur, Rajasthan.



At a Collection centre in Assam.

WASTE PICKERS AWARENESS AND SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES

One of the key stakeholders of today's waste management sector in the country are the waste pickers. ***More than 60% of dry waste is collected by waste pickers in India.*** Even after technological interventions in the waste processing mechanism, the last-mile waste collection still is dominated by the informal sector and is carried out by rag pickers and municipality workers. Due to the low level of literacy and awareness amongst them, they face several challenges. They do not adopt the basic hygiene practices such as using a mask and gloves for waste collection which results in the spread of diseases. Due to lack of awareness about ongoing market prices of waste, they get exploited by the middle men or the bigger waste collectors referred to as kabadiwalas. Another major concern is that the informal waste management sector is driven by women and children. Hence, ensuring women health & safety and curbing child labour is a top priority.

NEPRA Foundation's experience suggests that the informal section of the waste management community has a general idea of the materials which have economic value- plastics, E-waste, etc. but they lack detailed knowledge and information about the product. Their understanding about collection of different types of plastic is rare. Thus, these awareness sessions make their work more efficient and get them higher economic value.

NEPRA Foundation firmly believes that by uplifting the waste picker's community, the entire waste management sector can be made efficient. Thus, NEPRA Foundation trains the waste pickers on different methods of segregation, gives them an understanding on waste collection and ensures that they take safety precautions while waste collection.

A general waste picker awareness programme consist of the following topics:

Health and Hygiene: It is to make them understand the importance of using PPEs like gloves and masks and also to ensure proper Health and Safety measures are taken while picking the waste (which will be later utilised for EPR Compliance).

Different kinds of Plastics and Their Values: Different plastic materials have different values. Hence, it is important that the waste pickers are made aware about it. For example, MLPs, which is usually considered of no use by Waste Pickers, has a value attached to it now. This information is transferred to waste pickers through awareness programmes. How to get more value out of the material?

Glimpses of NEPRA Foundation's Waste Pickers Awareness:



Sensitising Waste Pickers at Silchar, Assam about different kinds of wastes and identification of different types plastics.



Waste Pickers Awareness and distribution of Safety gears in Dungarpur, Rajasthan.



Personal Interaction with Waste Pickers in Ahmedabad and awareness about different types of waste and hygienic sorting practices.



NEPRA in Pune surveying about the hardships faced by them. Waste pickers were engaged in a discussion about segregation practices.

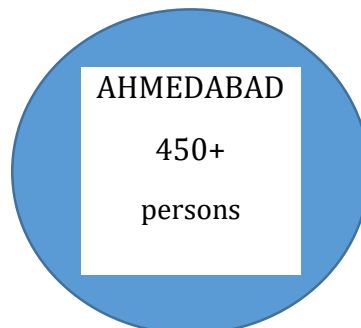
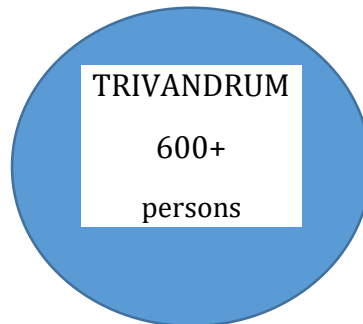
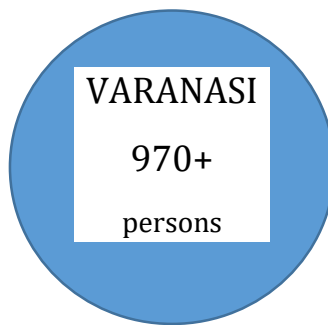
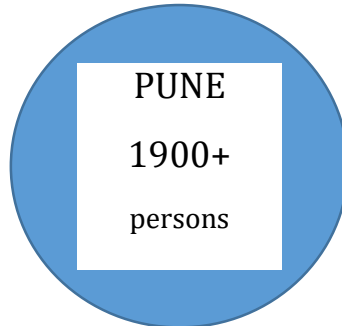
DRY WASTE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION INITIATIVE

NEPRA Foundation opened the New Year, January 2020 with schools and universities awareness and activity programs. 17 schools and universities were covered collectively in the states of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala. Below is the list of all schools and universities covered against the number of total persons sensitised during the workshop. The persons here include students, teachers, parents and other school staff members.

DATE OF EVENT	SCHOOL/ UNIVERSITY	CITY/ STATE	NO. OF PERSONS SENSITISED
11/1/2020	Bharati Vidyaoeeth Sr. Sec. School Dhankawadi	Pune, Maharashtra	165
16/1/2020	Jadhawar Madhyamik School	Pune, Maharashtra	460
18/1/2020	Kendriya Vidyalaya, Southern Command	Pune, Maharashtra	440
24/1/2020	Bhartiya Vidyalaya, Sr. Secondary School, Dhanakwadi	Pune, Maharashtra	265
25/1/2020	Sarhad School, Katraj	Pune, Maharashtra	525
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar School, Thiruvallam	Trivandrum, Kerala	100
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar Higher Secondary School, Kowdiar	Trivandrum, Kerala	100
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar International School, Kowdiar	Trivandrum, Kerala	100
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar Public School, Attingal	Trivandrum, Kerala	50

22/1/2020	Christ Nagar Public School, Maranaloor	Trivandrum, Kerala	50
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar Central School, Kuchappuram	Trivandrum, Kerala	100
22/1/2020	Christ Nagar Central School, Kowdiar	Trivandrum, Kerala	100
23/1/2020	Nivedita Girls School	Varanasi, UP	398
24/1/2020	Guru Nanak English School	Varanasi, UP	423
28/1/2020	A School of Gurukul	Varanasi, UP	153
8/1/2020	Anant University x Sciences Po	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	54
31/1/2020	Mahatama Gandhi Institute of Labour Studies	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	400

CITY WISE PERSONS SENSITISED THROUGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS



PERSONS REACHED:
3920+ IN ONE MONTH

KERALA

A mass awareness program was held for 7 different schools under one roof in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.



Venue: Christ Nagar Central School Auditorium, Kowdiar, Keston Road, Trivandrum

Number of participating schools: 7

Number of students reached: 600+



Preparing for the grand welcome of the Chief Guest with flower girls, NCC and band members

Set up for Badges, Seed Pens and Pamphlets for the students. The students were given Pens that after use can be planted into a tree. The pamphlet had fun information on waste and on what children can do at their level to be influencers.



Lighting of the lamp





Anticipating the correct quiz answer

Skit prepared and performed by the students.



Enthusiastic children rushing to submit their solved waste management crossword on the pamphlets to claim their prize.

*Presentation by NEPRA- focusing on the 3Rs,
Segregation and Plastic & MLP Awareness*



Address by Mr. Bharat Govind G.S., CEO Climatehood

*Pledge taken to do our own bit for
the environment through efficient
waste management practices.*



MAHARASHTRA

In the month of January, 2020, our dry waste management initiative was highlighted in the city of Pune in Maharashtra. 1900+ persons were sensitised through activities held at 5 schools in Pune.



The list of schools in where the awareness activities were conducted are:

- Bharati Vidyapeeth Sr. Sec. School, Dhankawadi
- Jadhwar Madhyamik School
- Kendriya Vidyalaya, Southern Command
- Sarhad School, Katraj



UTTAR PRADESH

In the month of November 2019, NEPRA team was in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. NEPRA Foundation along with PepsiCo and Hindustan Times launched a Dry Waste Management Program. The launch event comprised of over 500+ students from various schools hosted at DPS Varanasi. Post the awareness session, as part of the planned flow of events, Team PepsiCo, NEPRA and Hindustan times carried out awareness sessions across different schools in Varanasi in the month of January 2020. The awareness sessions were held according to NEPRA's toolkit for the Dry Waste Management Education Initiative.



As part of the program, dustbins customised with kids loving art work were donated to the school sponsored by PepsiCO and prepared by ScrapShala. The event witnessed great media coverage owing to one of the partners, Hindustan Times.



The dustbins were designed to look attractive and child-friendly. The dustbins were designed and made by ScrapShala, Varanasi.





Guru Nanak English School students being attentive to the awareness talk

Nivedita Girls School's being taught about the different bins- the importance of segregation



A School of Gurukul students gleeing with their solved crossword puzzles.

GUJARAT

NEPRA is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. For its dry waste management, education initiative, NEPRA covered two prominent institutions in the city. Slightly different from its school programs, these events were held for college students. The two colleges covered were: Anant University and Mahatama Gandhi Institute of Labour Studies.



The education initiatives were conducted for students between the age group 18-24 years. The focus of the sessions were on awareness about proper and efficient waste management, MLP and what can be done to solve the bigger environment problem. Since the target audience was the older section of students, the focus was also on job opportunities in the waste management sector, internships available at NEPRA and the power of youth to be influencers to help bring about an environmental change.

By fair chance, NEPRA also got to talk about waste management situation in India and the efficient practices of managing the large quantum of waste of the growing population with 7 students of Science Po, Paris. The students were part of an exchange program at the Anant University. The brainstorming session and talks helped compare waste management practices, behavioural change towards environmental ownership, etc.

The students of Anant University and Mahatama Gandhi Institute of Labour Studies, both showed interest towards volunteering with NEPRA to increase the influence of Awareness creation.



Brain storming session and activity with students of Anant University and Sciences Po.

Awareness talk and Presentation on Dry Waste Management with a focus on plastics and Multi- Layered Packaging (MLP).



The students of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Labour Studies being talked about the statistics of the waste management scenario in Ahmedabad and in India.

The picture talks of itself, while the students are being talked about different types of plastics and ways to identify them, a student picks up a PET bottle and looks for the type of plastic that it is.



NEPRA Representative talking about the potential of college students to bring about a change and how they can collaborate to help spread the word about efficient waste management practices.

LOCKDOWN SUPPORT TO WASTE PICKERS

NEPRA Foundation realises its responsibility towards the waste pickers. It understands that the waste pickers are its important stakeholder and a strong force behind recyclables collected. The waste pickers are daily wage earners, who get paid on a daily basis in accordance to the waste they collect and sell. A waste pickers earning differs city to city. In Ahmedabad, a waste picker on an average earns Rs. 300-700 a day.

The year 2020, marked a lockdown affecting several daily wage earners. The waste pickers were one of the vulnerable community affected. Deprived of daily waste collection and absence of regular selling points, it became difficult for them to make ends meet. On the announcement of lockdown, NEPRA Foundation sprang into action. Aware of the impact of lockdown on them, the foundation made arrangements to ensure that food and essential items reach the waste pickers households, and no one is deprived of basic amenities.



Food Supplies and other essentials being loaded in trucks being ready to be sent to the waste pickers



Door to door distribution of food supplies and essentials to waste pickers

EDUCATION CENTRE FOR WASTE PICKER'S CHILDREN

With the belief that each child deserves and equal opportunity, NEPRA Foundation has initiated an Education Centre with a partner NGO, SHWAS for the children of the waste pickers in Hatkeshwar area of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



NEPRA Foundation has partnered with SHWAS for the initiative educating over 50+ children daily. The centre started in later months of 2021. The kids are divided into batches based on age. Apart from curriculum followed, the children are also taught basics of health and hygiene.

The children love the centre as it's a place for them to meet, paint, dance and learn in these tough times when schools are not working. Shwas team and the foundation ensure utmost care and safety at the centre.



Focused learning based on age at the centre.

Shwas is a non for profit organization that works for educating underprivileged kids in Ahmedabad since the last 13 years. Currently they are working with 650 kids by educating them every day. They also admit potential kids to private school by taking care of all of their expenses. NEPRA has collaborated with Shwas in Ahmedabad to educate the children of the waste picker community.

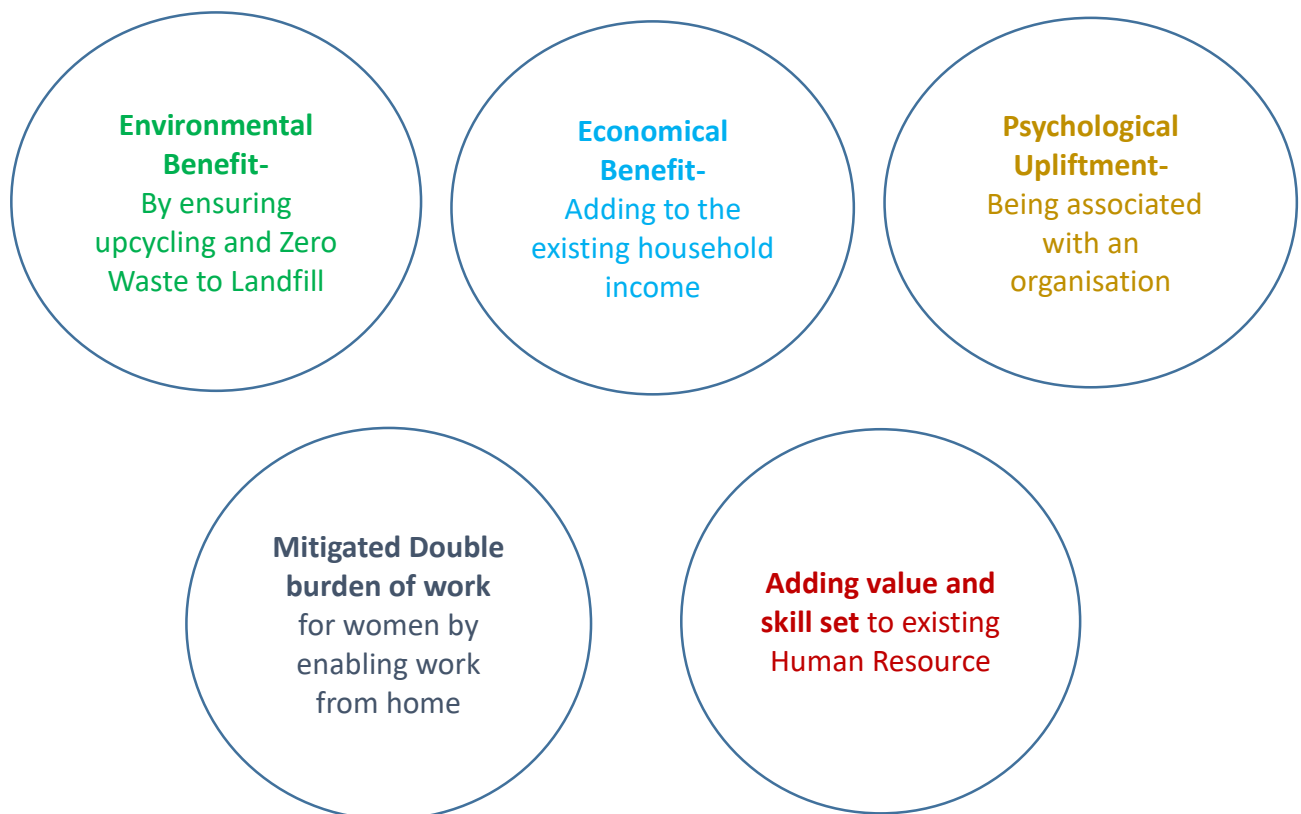


TEXTILE UPCYCLING- AN INITIATIVE EMPOWERING WOMEN

2021 began on an environ-social note for NEPRA. It dwelled into the territory of upcycling Cloth Waste. Through NEPRA Foundation, cohorts of women in the closed doors of Gulbai-Tekra and Naranpura, Ahmedabad were skilled to make quilts, masks and kids wear from chindi (textile scraps) received from cloth manufacturing units and designer stores.

The women belong to lower financial backgrounds. The foundation ensured drop and pick up of chindi and final product to and from their house, enabling them to work from home, ensuring them to balance their work-household duties.

The initiative has helped:





Name: Hansaben Mali

Age: 36

Background: Hansaben lives in a small locality of Gulbai Tekra, Ahmedabad. She has 2 sons and her husband is a service industry worker.

Story: With basic understanding of stitching and sewing, NF roped in Hansaben to make masks and quilts. With the pandemic having drastically impacted the family's income, Hansaben has now taken charge of helping meet the families need. She proudly recalled how she was the one paying rent for the house they are living in!

Women of Naranpura

Age: 34-61 years

Background: The women reside in a chawl area of Naranpura, Ahmedabad. They belong to the same community and have basic skill of stitching and sewing.

Story: NF works closely with them to undertake upcycling of the chindi received. Given the pandemic, the children of these women are at home. Also, many of their husbands lost jobs during the lockdown. The women now, without facing any double burden of work, are able to earn by up cycling products from the comfort of their homes.



The fluff used inside the quilts is made out of the chindi and Post-Consumer Textile Waste.



Snap shot of a few Products

WAY FORWARD

NEPRA Foundation's activities are in line with its vision of bringing a social-environmental and economic change and ensuring well-being of all stakeholders connected to the waste management sector. The activities of NEPRA Foundation are designed to sensitize people about sustainable waste management practices, stressing on the attributes of responsible citizenship. NEPRA understands the need of awareness and tries to use all the platform that can directly or indirectly affect society's behaviour towards proper waste management.

The plan for the way ahead is to cover regions left untouched within the country and to maximise the number of citizens and people reached and sensitized, directly and indirectly. NEPRA Foundation shall always strive to become more efficient with each passing day and meet all the needs of the brands and producers it's working with. In these challenging times of the pandemic, NEPRA Foundation strives to ensure the holistic well-being of its most vulnerable impact group- the BoEP members through several initiatives and activities.

NEPRA hopes that its activities, help achieve the ZERO WASTE TO LANDFILL dream for PAN-India at a faster pace than before.



www.neprafoundation.in

