

## Integration of informal waste workers: Hasiru Dala

### Summary:

*Hasiru Dala* (started in 2010) is a member-based cooperative model of social enterprise in Bengaluru. It aims to offer services for waste collection and handling in the cities. The organisation recognises the waste pickers as formal 'green-collar workers' for streamlined waste collection in the city. It focuses on social justice of waste-pickers and waste workers through interventions co-created with the waste-pickers in the areas of identity rights, access to family education, healthcare, housing and skill development. (*Hasiru Dala, 2020*)

### Objectives:

- To formalise the lives of the informal waste workers in Bengaluru.
- To recognise the informal waste pickers as 'green-collar workers' for streamlined waste collection in Bengaluru.
- To provide managerial training support and employ waste-pickers at the dry waste collection centres.
- To provide waste workers with regular trainings on up-gradation of their skills and technical competencies.

### Key Stakeholders:

- Informal waste-pickers and waste workers
- Hasiru Dala
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)
- Citizens
- City governments/ Municipal Authorities

### Implementation strategy:

- In 2011, BBMP, the local body, issued occupational ID cards for the waste pickers (KII with Hasiru Dala)
- In 2016, there was a tripartite agreement between the city (BBMP), the waste pickers and the Hasiru Dala. Hasiru Dala acts as a third party which manages and empowers waste workers and leverages their innate entrepreneurial abilities to be a service provider and to create livelihood opportunities for waste-pickers (*Arjun G. , 2018*).
- The informal waste pickers in Bengaluru address the waste management needs of bulk waste generators (residential and non-residential) by providing destination-assured waste management services in the dry waste collection centres (DWCC), for all streams of segregated-at-source dry solid waste.
- These DWCCs are established by BBMP in each ward across the city of Bengaluru specific for dry, wet and sanitary waste. Infrastructure, land and the cost of setting up the DWCC is completely borne by BBMP (KII with Hasiru Dala)
- The DWCC collects the fees for the door-to-door collection from the citizens. Hasiru Dala collects fees from the bulk waste generators, pricing it to the amount of waste generated following the principle of 'polluter pays' (KII with Hasiru Dala)

### Resource Utilization:

The differential variable pricing model incentivises better source segregation and gives an opportunity for waste-picker entrepreneurs to earn 4 to 5 times more than their earlier income, with better working conditions. With Hasiru Dala, a waste-picker has two sources of income - one is the fixed monthly fee at the collection centre, and the other is the revenue from the recyclables he/she gets to keep (*Jain & Mukerjee, 2019*). The members of Hasiru Dala receive managerial training support and employ waste-pickers at the dry waste collection centres. The waste-pickers also receive training under Hasiru Dala for up-gradation of their skills and technical competencies (*Tata Centre for Development at UChicago, 2020*).

### Impact/ Outcomes:

- The occupational ID cards have formalised the lives of the informal waste workers in Bengaluru. Through Hasiru Dala's effort, more than 6000 waste pickers have been enumerated and given BBMP identity cards.

- Waste-pickers get benefits such as social security, health insurance and access to microfinance, to empower them to raise their standard of living.
- Hasiru Dala, in collaboration with Waste Wise Trust & Jain University conducts a certificate training program for waste workers to up-grade their skills which include managerial and technical competencies. The certificate course is first of its kind in India and is becoming popular within the waste workers' community.

**Challenges/ Lessons Learnt:**

- Leveraging the innate entrepreneurial skills of the informal sector and directly engaging with them as knowledge partners can be a model for cities to address solid waste management systems. This can be a way forward for a sustainable waste management solution at the city level.
- Hasiru Dala has been successful in regularising the informal sector in solid waste management and can be scaled up for policy solutions in other cities as well.

**Replicability & Sustainability:**

- Currently, Hasiru Dala works in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Chikkaballapura, Puttur, Kudur, Mangaluru, Hubli-Dharwad, Davanagere, South Kodagu, Nanjangud, Chamarajanagara and Nelamangala in Karnataka and recently started working in Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh (Hasiru Dala , 2020).
- Directly engaging with informal waste workers as knowledge partners can be a model for other cities to address solid waste management systems.



Sources: (Jain & Mukerjee, 2019)

**Fact Sheet:**

<b>Thematic area</b>	Inclusion of informal waste workers in solid waste management
<b>First-year of the program</b>	2016
<b>Responsible institution</b>	Hasiru Dala and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)
<b>Target audience</b>	Informal waste workers
<b>Coverage</b>	Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mysuru, Chikkaballapura, Puttur, Kudur, Mangaluru, Hubli-Dharwad, Davanagere, South Kodagu, Nanjangud, Chamarajanagara, Nelamangala, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Rajahmundry