



**CHINTAN**  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH  
AND ACTION GROUP

# The Story of Your Waste

A Quarterly Newsletter for Residents of New Delhi Municipal Council  
June 2013

## A Note from the Chintan Director

Dear Friends,

Delhi is becoming bigger, but also, dirtier. Much of our waste is also becoming more toxic, such as batteries and electronic waste. Although we often wish the municipality did more, it is also upto us to make that difference in our colonies.



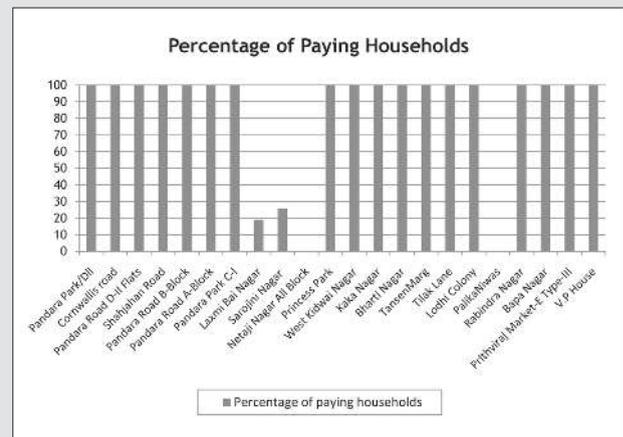
I live, and have lived for most of my life, in the NDMC area. Earlier, we used to work as a community and push for the colony to be clean, green and happy for everyone. That has changed with a changing city. But as residents of the NDMC, we still can't give up being responsible. To begin with, you can help clean your colony if you ensure that those not part of our doorstep waste collection join us. Perhaps your neighbour? Your friend? And second, volunteer to help us in your own colony. You can help get people to segregate, help people join our services, maybe ensure that those with servants' quarters also give their waste or come up with your own ideas. Let us know at [info@chintan-india.org](mailto:info@chintan-india.org) or at **011-41014171**. and we will be happy to include you in Team Chintan.

### About Chintan

Chintan is a registered NGO that works with wastepickers and with residents to create cleaner colonies, and to help put children wastepickers in school instead of working. If you ever see a child working in our doorstep collection, inform us at once at **011-41014171**. We do not allow, encourage or in any way enable children working in our projects.

## Our Performance from April to June, 2013

Chintan has been offering doorstep waste collection in several colonies of the NDMC. The table below shows the work that has been done.



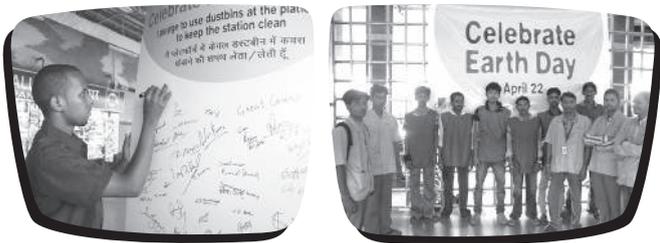
As you can see, in majority of the areas people do pay for the service rendered by the wastepickers helping us give you a higher quality of service. However, many do not want to give their waste at all. And those that do give are reluctant about giving monthly payments for the service. The monthly payments go towards payments to those who help keep your colony clean, maintaining the rickshaws for waste collecting. There is not enough money for the uniforms of the wastepickers, printing receipts and this newsletter or the helpline. This is done from other donations. So do help us in giving you a more efficient service by giving us both your waste and the monthly payments. **We have also circulated a helpline, which is the ONLY way we can respond to complaints or ideas. It is 011-41014171.** We will be doing an awareness campaign about this soon. If anyone would like to volunteer, please let us know!

### Chintan News and Activities

“Efforts on to make stations garbage-free”  
HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times New Delhi, April 22, 2013

“Ragpickers swear passengers to green oath”  
Neha Lalchandani, TNN Apr 23, 2013, 05.05AM IST

# The Story of Your Waste



Pledges to keep station clean being signed by the public at New Delhi Railway Station

- Chintan and Safai Sena, a registered organization of waste recyclers, celebrated the 43rd Earth Day on April, 22nd, 2013 at New Delhi Railways Station, where we handle the waste. Waste pickers educated passengers on helping in keeping railway platforms and tracks clean by disposing waste only in the dustbins. A constant stream of visitors, men, women and children were drawn to the pledges and happily signed them.
- “Are we doing enough for the environment?”  
HT Correspondent, Hindustan Times New Delhi, June 05, 2013



Recycled Products displayed at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket

- Chintan organized a one week workshop for women waste pickers from Bhopura, Mangal Bazar, Uttar Pradesh, sponsored by Hindustan Tin Works Private Ltd. In this workshop, metal scrap was converted into highly usable products. These products were displayed at the World Environment Day event on 4th and 5th June, 2013 at Select Citywalk Mall, Saket. Some of them were sold and the money was given to the women waste pickers.

## Know Your Wastepicker

### Khokun Hamid – Your friendly neighbourhood wastepicker!

Khokun Hamid is a 35 year old wastepicker who collects waste from about 80 houses at Pandara Park. He came to Delhi with his mother in 1977 after fleeing from Ghutari Sharif located 32 km from Kolkata due to the insecure life in his village. He studied till class 8 and then had to give up his studies to support his family; his only option was that of wastepicking.

Khokun lives in Nizamuddin and supports his family of 6 members. He takes care of his parents, wife and two children. Though his wife too supports him by working as a maid in nearby houses, Khokun struggles to meet the expenses of his old and ailing mother and that of his school going children from their meager incomes. Khokun now



wishes for his children to secure good jobs and make a decent living. His daughter studies in class 9 and son in class 7 at the local government school. After school they attend the Chintan study group run for children of wastepickers and child wastepickers.

Khokun does not shy away from hard work and works from dawn to dusk. “It’s not only a means of livelihood for me but I also help in keeping Delhi clean,” he says proudly with a big grin on his weathered face.

See Khokun’s photograph and say hello to him the next time you see him. If you treat him with politeness, then he will enjoy his work and clean your colony even better.

## Helpline

Do you have a complaint about your doorstep waste collection? Did the waste not get picked up today? Do you need more information? Do you have suggestions? If so, please do not hesitate to call Chintan on our HELPLINE.

Telephone: **011-41014171**  
Monday to Friday: 10 am to 6 pm

The helpline and waste collection service is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

## Waste Trivia

“Did you know that only 5% of the hospital waste is hazardous?”

## Are Your Gadgets Polluting the Planet?

Anything electronic that can't be used anymore like old computers, televisions, mobile phones, laptops etc. is termed Electronic waste or E-waste. E-waste can be toxic. So ensure that it is properly disposed off. Chintan requests you to donate your e-waste for safe recycling. Call our HELPLINE and a Chintan agent will be at your doorstep to collect your old mobile phone, computer, laptop and any other electrical device. Or invite us for an e-waste collection drive at your workplace! If you would like to drop off E-waste locally, please do so at DI/108, Rabindra Nagar.

Recently, Chintan has been authorized by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act as an e-waste collection centre. For more questions, call our e-waste helpline: **08130021721**.

If you would like to give us feedback, get in touch us at [info@chintan-india.org](mailto:info@chintan-india.org) or become our friend on Facebook. (<https://www.facebook.com/ChintanGroup>). We would love to hear from you!



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