

Community Managed Solid Waste Management in Jabalpur City



A Case Study



PRERANA

1274/ 20A, Swagtam Chowk, J P Nagar,
Adhartal, Jabalpur 482 004
Email: mail2prerana@gmail.com

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1. Introduction

PRERANA is a secular and non political not for profit organization registered under the societies act. Operational in Allahabad and Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh and Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, PRERANA is focused on undertaking and supporting professional initiatives to find lasting solutions to the challenges faced by the society. In the past 10 years PRERANA has worked extensively with rural as well as urban communities and has a rich experience in facilitating their transformation from being inert recipients of government programs to becoming active partners and owners of the program and thereby taking charge of their own development.

PRERANA, with its decade long rich experience in facilitating community based management of common property resources and having successfully facilitated community management of public toilets, extended a similar approach to community led solid waste management in Jabalpur city of Madhya Pradesh state. PRERANA has implemented an integrated model of segregation of garbage at source, door to door collection of garbage and vermicomposting of bio-degradable waste. Following is a brief summary of PRERANA's experience in implementing this programme and the process which led to the success of this model.

2. Community Managed Solid Waste Management program in Jabalpur City

The sight of overflowing dustbins and the stench rising from them is a common phenomenon to Indian cities. People hardly make a note of them – or those who do make a note curse the municipal corporations, cover their nose, spit and speedily walk past. Rapid growth of population in cities has resulted into a substantial increase in the generation of solid waste. The ways in which these wastes are handled, stored, collected and disposed of pose risks to the environment and to the public health.



However, common perception that the onus of managing urban solid waste lies only with the municipal corporations is a big irony and greatly undermines the contributions that urban communities can make to keep their cities clean.

PRERANA has designed its intervention by intensively involving local communities in judicious handling and disposal of urban waste.

• Identification of the target communities and type of waste generated

Shaheed Gulab Singh ward, Gupteswar ward, Pt Banarsidas Bhanot ward, George-de-Silwa ward and Swami Dayanand Ward (Napier Town ward) of Jabalpur city constitute contiguous area and presented a grim picture of dirt and filth. These wards having a number of slum areas displayed pathetic sanitary conditions. PRERANA, in partnership with Jabalpur Municipal Corporation (JMC), initiated the pilot program in these five wards of Jabalpur city in order to convert them into garbage free wards.

Table 1: Details of project coverage

Sl	Particulars	Numbers
1	No. of Wards	5
2	No. of Families	11,722
3	Total population	49,606
4	No. of Vacant houses/ plots/ shops	979
5	No. of Schools (Govt./ Private)	55
6	No. of Hospitals/ Clinics	113
7	No. of Shops	3,624

As the first step, PRERANA undertook a comprehensive door to door survey of the program area and identified the actual number of population to be served in residential and commercial establishments. The survey also focused on the type of waste generated by them and their existing practices of waste disposal.

• Stakeholder consultations and program design

In order to ensure community participation PRERANA carried out an intensive awareness campaign by disseminating information on the program and its objectives through print media, cable TV, radio



networks, street plays, audio-visual shows, posters, hoardings and distribution of pamphlets in five wards. It was followed by consultations with various groups of stakeholders. Separate consultations with the communities and JMC were conducted first. Based on the issues identified in the consultations joint workshops with JMC and community representatives were organized and final shape to the program design was given. Considering that one rickshaw may take about 3-4 hours in door to door collection of garbage from about 200 households, the wards were further divided into smaller units as blocks of 200 households each. Separate blocks of commercial and residential areas were made. Thus, a total of 55 residential and 22 commercial blocks were demarcated in the program area.

- **Formation and capacity building of RWAs**



PRERANA motivated the residents in these blocks and formed their Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs). It also developed the capacity of RWAs by training them in operational aspects such as organizing meetings, awareness programs for their members, record keeping, collection of user fee etc. As a result, RWAs started communicating with their members through meetings, distribution of pamphlets on their own. PRERANA facilitated interactions of RWAs with JMC and helped them define various categories of waste generating sources and the user

fee applicable on them for the door-to-door garbage collection program. The list of identified categories and applicable user fee, as agreed by all RWAs, is given in the [Annexure 1](#).

PRERANA facilitated meetings between RWAs and JMC health workers, ensured coordination between both the parties for program implementation and helped them decide their respective responsibilities. Accordingly, each RWA signed an agreement with JMC which clearly defined the roles and responsibilities of both the parties. PRERANA supported RWAs in conducting meetings with its members and information dissemination on the modalities for door-to-door collection of garbage.

- **Segregation at source & door-to-door garbage collection**

As per the cooperation agreement JMC provided rickshaws and containers to each RWA for door-to-door collection of garbage. RWAs recruited rickshaw pullers whose salary was paid from the user fee, collected by the RWAs. In the first phase, the residents were motivated to get habituated to the practice of handing over garbage (in plastic bags/papers etc.) to the rickshaw pullers appointed by their respective RWA. As a part of coordination with JMC trucks were organized in each block which collected the garbage from rickshaw pullers and further transferred to the dumping site. With the relative success of this initiative, PRERANA further guided RWAs in educating their members on segregation of garbage at source. The residents were motivated to keep two dustbins at home one for wet bio-degradable garbage and the other for dry non bio-degradable garbage.



PRERANA conducted training of rickshaw pullers and educated them on how to behave with the residents and motivate them for segregation of garbage at source. In order to further motivate the rickshaw pullers they were allowed to keep sale proceeds from the dry waste collected as incentives. After having streamlined the door-to-door collection and segregation of waste at source PRERANA has facilitated removal of waste bins from the blocks so that the cleanliness could be maintained. At present JMC is composting this segregated waste in the vermi compost units at its landfill site. PRERANA



plans to facilitating vermi composting by RWAs itself so that they could reduce their dependence on JMC for waste disposal and make additional earning by production and sale of the compost.

• **Empowering RWAs as Monitor of JMC workers**

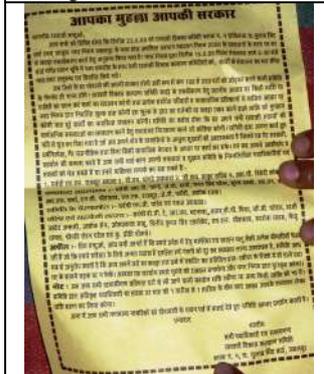
Having streamlined the segregation at source, door-to-door collection and management of garbage by RWAs PRERANA took this initiative to the next level and empowered the RWAs to monitor the works of JMC workers viz. sweepers and drain cleaners to ensure cleanliness in the program area. PRERANA facilitated dialogue of RWAs with JMC as a result of which the RWAs were given the responsibility of deploying JMC workers in their area as per their requirements and in order to improve the effectiveness of its employees JMC has further linked the payment clearance of drain cleaners and sweepers to the satisfactory recommendation of RWAs.

Rehwası Vikas Kalyan Samiti, Shaheed Gulab Singh Ward: At a Glance

	No. of blocks (Residential)	13
	No. of blocks (Commercial)	1
	No. of Families	2,560
	No. of families living in own houses	2,052
	No. of families living in rented houses	508
	Total population	10,497
	No. of Vacant houses/ plots	619
	No. of Schools (Govt./ Private)	11
	No. of Hospitals/ Clinics	12
	No. of Shops	389

Activities being carried out by the RWA

- Social mobilization for segregation at source
- Regular door-to-door collection of segregated waste
- Awareness programs & plantation in the ward
- Regular collection of user fee – Recovery 98%
- Monitoring daily works of JMC workers
- Effectively taking up municipality tax related grievances of the ward members with JMC



Salient features of the RWA

- Democratically elected executive body
- Highly motivated and competent office bearers
- Social development approach
- Collective decision making
- Transparent information system



• **The road ahead ...**

The pilot project in Jabalpur is near completion. About 80% of the households in the program area are regularly providing segregated waste to the door-to-door collectors. A team of JMC and UN-Habitat made an assessment of the program in November 2009. Excited with the success of PRERANA’s program interventions, the team is working out next steps to roll out the program in remaining wards of Jabalpur city. Replication of the interventions in other adjoining cities is also being discussed. PRERANA, on the other hand, is making efforts to bring sustainability to RWA’s operations by exploring alternate sources of income for them and motivating them to continue carrying out their functions responsibly beyond the project period.

Discussions with JMC are also being held to use RWAs as collection agents for corporation taxes in their localities which would not only provide an alternate source of income to the RWAs but it would also offer an advantageous proposition for JMC.