

SSVAJKS, Bhopal, India



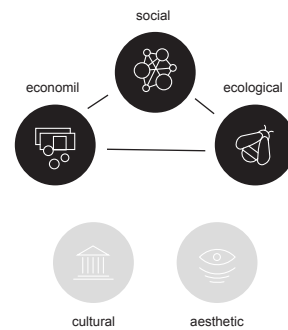
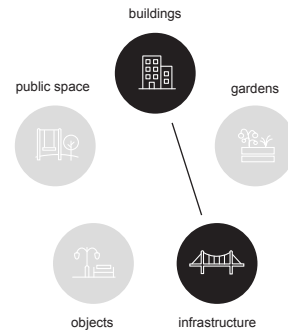
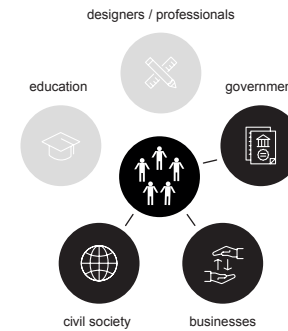
Bhopal, India
2008 - ongoing
<https://undp.shorthandstories.com/gef-sgp-no-longer-going-to-waste/>

images: SSVAJKS

The ngo, Sarthak Samudayik Vikas Avn Jan Kalyan Sanstha (SSVAJKS), has been working with waste collectors in Bhopal since 2008. SSVAJKS initially developed a sustainable integrated waste management system for five wards in the city of Bhopal, which served as a model for the creation of a plastic waste management policy at the state level in 2011. This innovative model, recycles and processes plastic and reuses it in the construction of roads, benefiting over two million people. Not only does this model contribute to ecological values, it also helps 'ragpickers' – the local term for waste collectors who are mostly poor and illiterate women - to double their wage and gain a better position within the Indian society by forming self-help groups.

Enablers

"It's a win-win: not only do the waste-collectors - one of the more vulnerable cohorts in Indian society – double their wages, something useful is done with the plastic litter."



Resources

Bhopal generates ≈800 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste per day. Around 120 metric tonnes (or ≈15 per cent) is plastic waste, and approximately 60-70 per cent of the total waste is dumped into landfills. Through the single powerful objective of reduce > reuse > recycle, waste collectors in Bhopal and Indore are working to prevent cast-off plastic from entering the environment in the first place. Approximately 10 tonnes of plastic waste are collected at five recovery centres in Bhopal every day.

Actors

The following actors play a role in the project – the ngo SSVAJKS, waste-pickers, municipality of Bhopal, UNDP and local industries.

In 2010, in close collaboration with the municipal corporations of Bhopal and the Municipal Commissioner, SGP provided an initial grant that enabled SSVAJKS to conduct focussed interventions in five wards of Bhopal Municipal Corporation. Part of the interventions included organising waste-pickers into self-help groups (SHGs).

Spatial elements

By collaborating with local government bodies, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation allocated 230m2 of land for waste collection centres.

In 2014, five plastic waste collection centres were upgraded to plastic waste recovery centres in Bhopal. This included fitting the centres with plastic shredders, compressor scrap baling machines, and other necessary machinery. The centres are facilitated by SSVAJKS and managed by the women's self-help groups.

Values

The initial ambitions "to recycle single-use plastic and to provide better financial conditions for 'ragpickers' who are often poor, illiterate, female, and come from socially marginalised castes" contribute towards to

- economic value: the women earn a better wage + are enrolled in health insurance schemes
- ecological value: non-recyclable is not burnt but stored in tarmac roads,
- social value: the women are connected through self-help groups which provides them with a better position in society