



KEY URBAN ISSUES OF HOMEBASED WORKERS

REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF CITY AUTHORITIES

ON HOMEBASED WORKERS

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About HomeNet South Asia

HomeNet South Asia- *sub-regional network of organisations of home based workers. Has 31 organisations as members*

Born out of the Kathmandu Declaration in 2000, HNSA currently has a presence in 8 countries of South Asia - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;

HNSA strives *to make home based workers's issues visible, ensure secure livelihoods; strengthen their collective voice and organizing efforts in the region*

Kathmandu Declaration, 2000:

- 1) Formulation of National Policy on Homebased Workers by each Country;
- 2) Minimum protection, which would include right to organize, minimum remuneration, occupational health and safety, statutory social protection, maternity, childcare , skill development and literacy programme.
- 3) Access to markets and economic resources including raw materials, marketing infrastructure, technology, credit and information.
- 4) Set up Social Funds for homebased workers, which would provide insurance against risks of illness, death, old age accidents, loss of livelihood assets and contingencies as locally required.
- 5) Incorporate into official statistics baseline data regarding various categories of workers in the informal Sector.
- 6) Urged SAARC to address the issues of homebased workers in the region and take measures to enable them to deal with the risks and opportunities of globalization.

VISION

To take the lead in building regional solidarity among Home Based Workers, especially women workers and empowering them to lead a life of dignity, free of poverty through obtaining decent work and social protection

VISION (contd)

THREE FOUNDATIONS:

- 1) SOLIDARITY ACROSS SOUTH ASIA
- 2) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR HOMEBASED WORKERS
- 3) MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ARE MEMBERSHIP BASED ORGANISATIONS

FIVE PILLARS:

- 1) VISIBILITY
- 2) CAPABILITY
- 3) SECURITY
- 4) MOBILITY
- 5) CONNECTIVITY

Global Project: INCLUSIVE CITIES

Global Project awarded by BMGF to 6 organisations to address issues of Rags pickers, Street vendors and HomeBased Workers.

HOMENET SOUTH ASIA to implement

*“Strengthening the Organizations of Urban Poor Homebased Workers for Greater Visibility and Participation in City Governance”
2008-2014*

Rapid Urbanization:

- ❖ 100 million homebased workers world wide
- ❖ 50 million in South Asia, of whom 80 per cent women
- ❖ Homebased work- important source of employment for economically disadvantaged women in urban areas, In India in 2011-12, home based work represented 32 per cent of women's urban employment; and in Pakistan in 2008-9, they represented 31 per cent of women's urban employment.
- ❖ 2007- National statistics Survey (Thailand) 294,290 households engaged in home work, 73.7%, lived outside of the municipalities while the remaining 26.3% live within the municipal areas;
- ❖ The Asia/Near East Region (ANE) contains **60% of the world's slums**, which in absolute numbers represents about 550 million slum dwellers

Countries and Cities identified: South & South East Asia for preliminary study

- **Bangladesh**- Jamalpur, Tangail, Dhaka,
- **Cambodia**- Siem Reap, Phon penh, Poi Pet,
- **India**- Solapur , Nasik, Bhuvneshwar, Kanpur
- **Nepal**- Kathmandu valley, Hetuada
- **Pakistan**- Lahore, Gujranwala, Faislabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kasur, Multan
- **Philippines**-Caloocan city, Quezon City
- **Sri Lanka**- Kotte, Morutwa (in Colombo) Kandy, Kurunegala
- **Thailand**- Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Khon Kaen

Purpose of study:

- **Purpose:** *The goal of each study was (1) to understand the current situation faced by urban poor home-based workers and identify key issues facing them (2) to begin to identify interventions that will help address some of their main challenges, in line with the priorities expressed by these home-based workers*
- Considered Frontier studies as little was know about working poor urban women and men in cities
- First time HNSA had an urban focus

Issues Identified:

- **Electricity:** Illegal connection of electricity; shortage and high price of electricity, No connection of electricity
- **Water:** Irregular supply, No fixed times of supply, Contaminated water, paying for water
- **Water logging:** Due to low level- often have to spend their savings to buy household accessories
- **Transportation-** no roads or very bad roads, long distance to sell or collect raw materials and meet contractors and suppliers

- ***Housing*** - High rents, eviction & relocation to far off places, No storage facility, cramped and badly lit, no security of tenure
- ***Poor sanitation and sewage system*** – garbage management nil or at best very poor
- ***Disaster*** risks very high – flooding, earthquake, political unrest
- ***Zoning restrictions*** affect Street vendors and indirectly Home based Workers

Adverse effects on Livelihood- Few instances:

- ✓ Prolonged working hours in absence of frequent load shedding;
- ✓ Productive time taken away as to wait in long queue for water;
- ✓ Absence of public transport leads to spending more money and time on private transport for getting raw materials,
- ✓ Poor sanitation system leads to various diseases and in turn spending more time and money in dispensary and hospitals, affecting productivity and costing

WATER ISSUES

Homebased
Workers have to
walk far to fetch
water and also, to
face long queue.

*(Affects their
working hours)*



→ **India**



→ **Pakistan**

Poor Sanitation & Sewage system



→ **Philippines**

*(Leads to infection
and bad health)*



→ **Sri Lanka**

Housing

Poor and cramped houses, where homebased workers engage in the production - no storage - products get damaged and soiled



→ **Cambodia**



→ **Thailand**



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

GARBAGE AND WATER LOGGING

Leads to Health Hazard

FILM ON URBAN ISSUES OF HBWS

Engagement with City Authorities:

A) CITY WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED IN

- ✓ *Pakistan*- 6 workshops,
- ✓ *Bangladesh*- 1 workshop
- ✓ *India*- 4 workshops,
- ✓ *Sri Lanka*- 3 workshops,
- ✓ *Nepal*- 3 workshops,
- ✓ *Cambodia*- 2 workshops,
- ✓ *Thailand*- 2 City Workshops,

B) CITY FORUMS- Two community Forum in *Bangkok (Thailand) , Manila (Philippines)*

C) REGULAR FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS WITH CITY AUTHORITIES - WASA (WATER), Electricity Board, Slum Development, Town planners

Workshops with City Authorities

Study findings presented to City Authorities by Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and some follow-up planned



Dhaka



Kanpur

เรื่อง "สวนชุมชนโลกและการบริการสาธารณะ"
โรงพยาบาลส่งเสริมสุขภาพตำบล



Community forum focusing on public transportation (and transport infrastructure) on 20th Dec 2013

Some interventions initiated with City Authorities:

- ❖ **Dhaka-** *i) MoU signed with Urban Primary Health Care Services- Town Social Service-for health services,
ii) Meetings with WASA, Electricity Department, Local Authorities- Ward Commissioners,
iii) Additional Budget allocated for slum development – 20 million takka (2012)*
- ❖ **Pakistan-** *i) Water connections provided in Faisalabad, dialogues in progress for proper garbage collection and availing Sanat bazaar facility to sell products,*
- ❖ **Nepal-** *Tie up with Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) – a Public Water company that provides water to the city to get water tankers of 5000 or 8000 litres at minimum cost;*
- ❖ **Thailand-**
 - i) BMA has provided additional budget for road maintenance and bike lanes, to improve road conditions;*
 - ii) On street lighting and pedestrian bridge, the Nongchok District Office agreed to cooperate with Metropolitan Electricity Authority to install street lights.*

The way ahead: More Partnerships with City Authorities:

- ❑ Adopting the ASIAN CITIES DECLARATION FOR HOMEBASED WORKERS – a road map for the way forward
- ❑ Implementing the Asian Cities Declaration –
 - Joint programmes to provide better low cost civic amenities to Homebased Workers, low cost houses,
 - In situ upgradation of slums, keeping in mind HBWs livelihood
 - Public Services to be provided- Health dispensary, public transport, Occupational safety & health unit
 - One window service for HBWs to avail civic amenities and schemes