

This project is the direct outcome the Defence Colony's intervention. The media coverage of the successful implementation of zero waste management led to the visit of senior officers of CRPF to see the project. Then CRPF made Deputy Commandant Mr. Vikas Yadav in-charge to have a similar project implemented in their upcoming colony at Dwarka. Toxics Link initiated this project after its first meeting with DIG CRPF at their Delhi office. The project was formally launched in October 2007.

The colony was under construction then. Though a large number of flats continue to remain vacant, the occupancy profile is gradually improving as about 400 household have moved in the Type 2 and Type 4 flats. The colony is meant for the employees of CRPF, who are predominantly from the lower ranks, belonging to the lower middle income category. The employees have a transferable job and usually stay for a maximum period of three years. Thus the composition of residents keeps changing frequently.

It was therefore planned to introduce the concept and practice of zero waste as a mandatory part of the living in the colony. The residents were provided with two differently coloured bins at the household levels for primary segregation of wet and dry waste. The compost pits were prepared right at the time of initiation of the project.

The programme began with the orientation workshops on solid waste management with residents. Along with awareness campaigns all the residents were provided with the kitchen posters to facilitate segregation at the source. Puppet shows and thematic camps proved to be very effective and residents actively participated in these activities. The awareness led to the convincing of residents to contribute a monthly fee of rupees fifteen every month for the salary of waste collectors. At present three waste collectors are involved in the door-to-door collection along with a staff of CRPF as supervisor of the entire project. Three compost pits of 6x10x3.5 Sq ft were constructed for the waste management. The initial cost was largely borne by the Toxics Link while the recurring cost is gradually being met by the CRPF authorities.

Employment, earning and waste generation:

About 400 households currently occupy different types of flats in the colony. There are two waste collectors hired by the project. The residents currently pay Rs.20/- pm towards the user charges, which generates Rs. 8000/- per month and this amount is equally divided between the two waste collectors. The supervisor for the project, who is an employee of the CRPF is paid his regular salary. Although there was no survey conducted to estimate the amount of solid waste generated by the CRPF Colony, the interaction of the evaluation team with the CRPF officials and waste collectors suggests that about 500-600 gm of wet waste and about 200 gm of recyclables was generated per household per day. The revenue generated from the sale of recyclables per waste worker/per day was in the order of Rs. 40-50. The amount thus earned by each waste collector worked out to be in the region of about Rs. 5,700-6,000/- pm.

Outcomes and limitations:

- The project on community based solid waste management geared towards achieving zero waste status seems to have achieved its goals with the help of the CRPF authorities.
- The objective of primary segregation has been achieved in some measure though regular transfers and addition of new residents create temporary disruption.
- Impressed by the success of the project the CRPF colony in Srinagar and other places have sent in their request for replication of the same model.
- Currently, the model can't be adjudged as community-based as the stake holder is primarily the CRPF, which is yet to incorporate the project /activity in its regular budget.
- Given the nature of the locality which is a colony of staff quarters the CRPF authorities must support the initiative of creating the colony as a zero waste zone primarily as the locality is seldom and adequately covered by the MCD.
- There is no residents' welfare society in the locality which may oversee the functioning of the project. But an organization on the lines of Armed Forces Wife's Welfare Association can be created for this purpose. In this regard, as has been the case with the Armed Forces, the initiative must come from the Officers'.
- The CRPF has put in its request for receiving a recurrent grant of Rs. 20,000/- per year for meeting the cost of recurring expenditure in the current financial year. Once approved this activity may become a regular feature of the colony.

