

# Ark VOYAGE



News Letter of Don Bosco Animation & Research Kendra, New Delhi

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## Captain Speaks...

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



*Don Bosco Animation and Research Kendra under the leadership of Fr. Joe Arimpoor, sdb was privileged to conduct an Evaluation of GyanSarovar Project of Deepti Foundation engaged in the rehabilitation of the poor people especially the children, who are living on Rag Picking from the **Bhalaswa** Dump Yard in Delhi. Hence this issue of ARK VOYAGE is **dedicated and focused on this noble and challenging Social Work Intervention of the MST Fathers.***

*Where there are humans, there is trash*

**W**hen will the human beings get preference over the waste, and the animals in India?

**T**here are men and women of "Good-Will giving up their time and comforts for the Welfare of their fellow-beings.

**KUDOS TO  
GYAN SAROVAR!**

Developed countries strictly follow the practice of waste segregation at source. This helps them identify waste that can be recycled, which does go to respective recycling units. The non-recyclable waste is then treated in some waste treatment plants and finally buried in a landfill site. Another practice that developed countries follow is incineration. Because of their lifestyle most of their waste is dry waste and is fit for incineration process. Composting is also a great methodology that's followed in developed countries.



*The Municipality Continues to dump "Trash"*

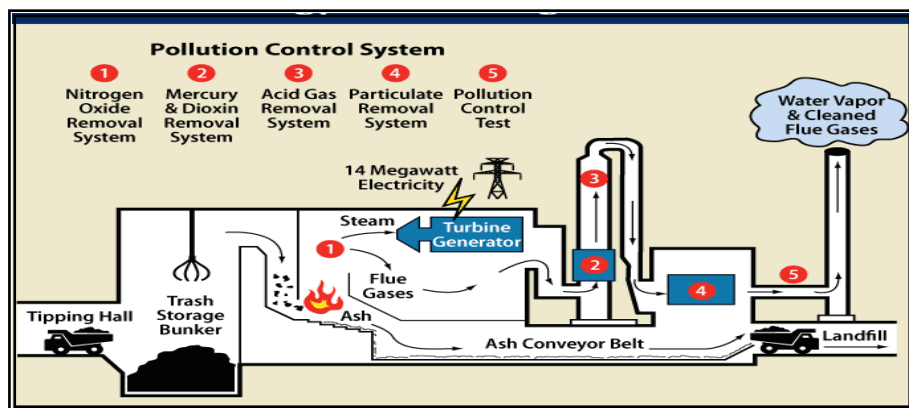
# Captain Speaks...(Contd.)



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**Effective Waste Segregation**



**Modern Technology to Incinerate**



**TRASH Being Openly Burned**

But in many undeveloped and developing countries there is no option but to use dumps for disposing rubbish, creating massive sites full of hazardous materials. It is openly burned as well. These practices create serious health, safety, and environmental consequences. Poorly managed waste serves as a breeding ground for disease vectors. Residents, especially the urban poor, are more severely impacted by unsustainably managed waste. Further it also contributes to global climate change through methane generation, and even promotes urban violence.

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA**

The solid waste policy in India specifies the duties and responsibilities for hygienic waste management for cities and citizens of India. This policy was framed in September 2000, based on the March 1999 Report of the Committee for Solid Waste Management in Class 1, Cities of India to the Supreme Court, which urged statutory bodies to comply with the report's suggestions and recommendations. These also serve as a guide on how to comply with the Management of Solid Waste (MSW) rules.

However in India, the collection, transportation and disposal of MSW are unscientific and chaotic still. Uncontrolled dumping of wastes on outskirts of towns and cities has created overflowing landfills, which are not only impossible to reclaim because of the haphazard manner of dumping, but also have serious environmental implications in terms of ground water pollution and contribution to global warming.

# Captain Speaks...(Contd.)



Majority of our waste is made up of organic waste. But incinerators need waste with a high proportion of paper, cardboard and plastic. Indian waste, on the other hand, contains mostly non-recyclable, organic material with high water content. This means it burns poorly; generating little energy. For incineration to work properly, household waste must first be segregated so the right components get burned. We do not have effective waste segregation practices. Recycling has remained to be an informal sector working on outdated technology, but nevertheless thriving owing to waste material availability and market demand of cheaper recycled products. ‘Rag pickers’ have traditionally been part of the informal recycling system in India— although they do this not in relation to incineration, but to find items they can sell



In Delhi and in other developing world cities, thousands of families of waste pickers live near landfill sites, making a living off the recyclable materials they extract from the city’s waste mountains. For rag pickers, rubbish is a resource and a survival strategy. Even under unhealthy conditions, their work earns them enough to support their families. And in the absence of a municipal recycling system and segregation of waste at source, such as people’s homes, they play a key part in the city’s waste management.

## *Rag pickers Survive by This “Mountain”*

The city of New Delhi has a population of 25 million. Each day its inhabitants generate about 10,000 tons of municipal solid waste, according to the Municipal Council of Delhi (MCD). This waste is deposited in the Narela Bawana, Bhalswa, Okhla, and Ghazipur landfills, which have a combined acreage of 316.

Landfills have been the most common method of organized waste disposal and remain so in many places around the world. There were three landfills in Delhi that had reached full capacity: Ghazipur in the east of the city, Okhla and Tughlaqabad in the south. Bhalswa was commissioned in 1993.



*Citizens,  
Since you do not segregate,  
We do it for you!*

# Captain Speaks...(Contd.)

**BHALSWA DUMP YARD IN NORTH WEST DISTRICT OF DELHI**



*The Landfill Growing to a Mountain— “The Black Mountain”*

Bhalswa is situated in North West District of Delhi, India near Jahangirpuri. It is governed by Municipal Corporation of Delhi. As per provisional reports of Census India, population of Bhalswa Jahangirpuri in 2011 is 1,97,148; of which male and female are 106,388 and 90,760 respectively. More than 76% are Hindus and 22% Muslims. The percentage of Muslims is much higher here as compared to Delhi as a whole, which is 12%.

The Bhalswa landfill site became functional in 1994. But due to lack of any garbage management laws, the site soon turned into a mountain of garbage. It became the latest addition to the city's waste mountains. It started overflowing in 2003, ran out of space in 2007 and has been operating without certification from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee ever since.

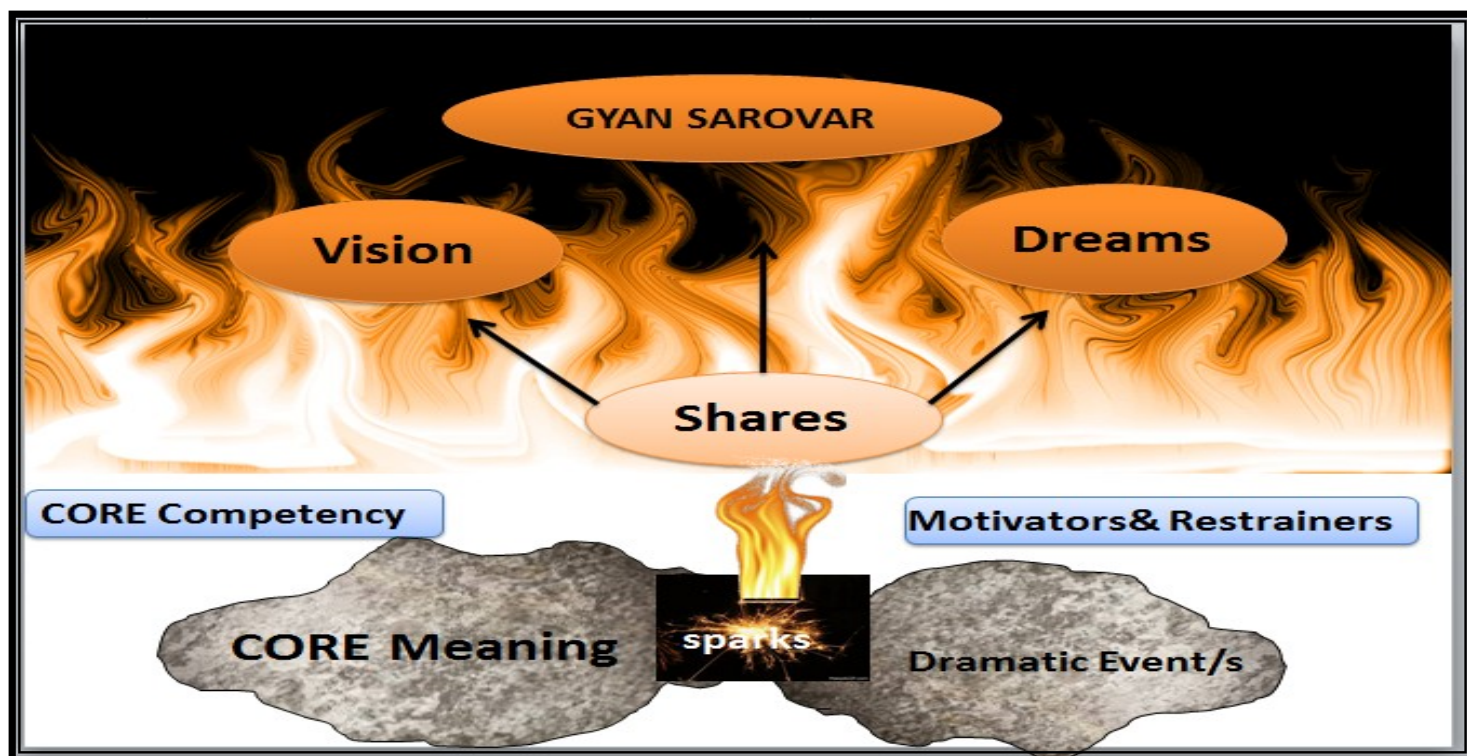
The municipality continues to dump trash here in the absence of space elsewhere. Except for Narela Bawana, the newest landfill, the others have been exhausted, though waste continues being dumped upon them. Bhalswa, which was to be closed when garbage reached to a height of 22 meters, still operates, although garbage is now up to 60 meters. In 2013, to counter the exhaustion problem, the MCD sought approval from the Delhi Development Authority for an extra 500 acres, where a new waste disposal site could be set up. In India, 20 percent of the methane gas produced emanates from its landfills. The International Energy Agency reports that New Delhi could generate 25 Megawatts of power if methane was effectively tapped for such purposes from the New Delhi landfills.



# Captain Speaks...(Contd.)

**An NGO gets involved in the lives of the poor people engaged in Rag Picking**

The Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle (M.S.T.) is a Catholic Organization founded in 1968 in Kerala. When Fr. Santosh Gervasis, M.S.T. had witnessed the pathetic situation of the people particularly that of the children engaged in rag picking at the dump yard of Bhalswa Dairy he was moved and wanted to respond to them in a meaningful way. That is how Gyansarovar Project was started. It is now four years that they have been working with these poor people that depend on this BLACK MOUNTAIN – THE SOLID WASTE DUMPYARD.



*From his Vision the Gyan Sarovar Project was Born*

## THE MASTER PLAN FOR REHABILITATION



**Fr. Santhoshmon Gervasis (MST)**

This NGO, DEEPTI FOUNDATION developed a well thought out and well-designed Social Work Intervention to enhance the quality of the poor people, especially the children engaged in rag picking for their livelihood.

Their multi-pronged approach consisted of Welfare, Developmental, and Rights and Organizational Interventions. It demanded a lot of courage and commitment to venture into this work, considering particularly the unhygienic conditions under which they had to work. The infra-structural facilities were pathetic too. Not many Social Work Agencies will be eager to get committed to such involvement to work for the liberation of these underprivileged.

**Fr. Joe Arimpoor, SDB**



## ***“BLACK MOUNTAIN” TO “GREEN BELT”***

**( Bhalswa Land Fill going to be transformed into an Eco Park)**

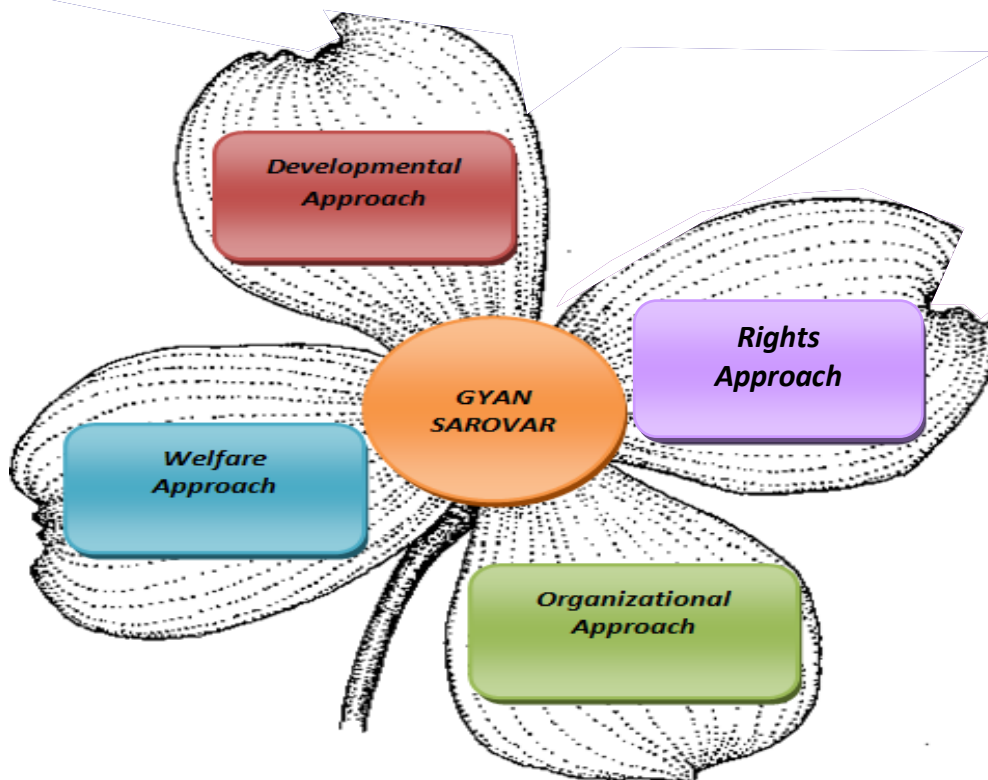
The Bhalswa Land Fill, in Delhi has grown to the proportion of a mountain, that it has been nick named as “Black Mountain”. The poverty of our country has reached so low that thousands of poor people live by this “Mountain” of solid waste. These people come mainly from, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, and Bangladesh.




The very process of collecting the waste and segregating is done in a very inhuman and unhygienic way. Such a condition makes them prone to various diseases like T.B., Skin diseases, HIV Aids, etc. In addition to these job hazards, they were also exploited by the middlemen who would make profit on the sale of solid waste, picked up and segregated by these poor people. The situation was further exacerbated when children were forced to become rag pickers. These children were deprived the opportunities to education, joys of the childhood, and the possibilities of good health.

***Man Buried in the Dumps! How Inhuman !!***

It is at this juncture that a joint venture of the Deepti Foundation, New Delhi, Holistic Child Development India (HCDI), Pune, and ERIKS Organisation, Sweden was born. They ventured into responding to the challenges of all sorts to provide a better quality of life to the dependents of the ‘Mountain’.





 While on the one side, they focussed on the immediate needs of Welfare, they also ensured their future by providing them with educational facilities, and job opportunities. On the third front, they trained the people in 'Rights Approach', and organized them towards 'movements' to mobilize the resources that were their due, as citizens of our country.

## Welfare Approach



*Mid- Day Meal*



*Regular Check- up*

## Developmental Approach



*Skilling the Under-Privileged Youth (DB Tech)*



*Educating the children of Rag Pickers (NFE)*

## Rights Approach



*Girls Youth Group*



*'Nine Is Mine'*

## Organizational Approach



*A Rally for World AIDS Day*



*Forming SHGs (Self-Help Groups)*



The fruits of the multi-pronged approach of Gyan Sarovar Project of Deepti Foundation will be seen in the success stories of the young getting rehabilitated through education, skilling, and job placements.

Fr. Joe sees Deepti Foundation taking the lead to organize social power towards the transformation of “BLACK MOUNTAIN” to “GREEN BELT”

The real acid test of the strength of Deepti Foundation will be seen in their capacity to mobilize the other like-minded NGOs and working together to get the public support to ensure that the dependents of the Black Mountain are well rehabilitated in the process of closing the land fill and converting it into a Green Belt. They need to get the Media support as well as the involvement of other social activists to make the cries of the poor heard by the policy makers as well as the other significant actors who will be involved in the process of converting the landfill to a park.

The rehabilitation process will have to focus on a) Decent habitation, b) Adequate job opportunities, c) Appropriate skilling opportunities, d) Ensuring the involvement of the people in the work of transformation – Land-fill to an Eco Park. They enjoy their rights to be the beneficiaries of



Fr. Joe foresees the leading role of Gyan Sarovar in the transformation of the lives of the dependents on the 'Black Mountain' enjoying the changed scenario of the 'Green Belt'



New Habitation of Present Rag Pickers



Once Rag pickers! Now Enjoy the 'Green Belt'!!



## Release of the Evaluation Report



**Fr. Santhoshmon, MST, Director and Mr. Lalu Mathew, Coordinator of Gyan Sarovar  
Receive the First Copy of the Report from the DB ARK Research Team.**

# Published by

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