

Be a part of the Chintan effort

Chintan welcomes donations to help us sustain our learning centres and other programmes for child wastepickers. Every donation, however small, and whether one-time, monthly or annual, is a help. Regular donations help us plan and sustain our programmes more successfully.

If you live in India, you can make a cheque in the name of *Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group* and post it to 238, Siddharth Enclave, New Delhi - 110014. All donations are eligible for tax exemption in India under section 80G. If you live in the United States, you can donate through Give to Asia (www.give2asia.org), which has already inspected Chintan via a due diligence process (please specify that you would like to donate to Chintan). If you live anywhere else, please email us to ask how to wire us your donations.

Here's what your money can do for children in our learning centres:

- **Rs 100** pays for three boxes of colour pencils.
- **Rs 300** helps us replace old *chatais* and *durries* in a classroom.
- **Rs 500** will buy a month's supply of pencils and pens for a class.
- **Rs 1,000** pays for a notebook each for 100 children.
- **Rs 2,000** allows us to buy educational aids for a single subject.
- **Rs 3,000** is one teacher's monthly salary.
- **Rs 5,000** pays for a one-time basic health camp for a class of 40 children.
- **Rs 7,000** is one full-time social worker's monthly salary.
- **Rs 8,000** helps us pay the monthly rent for one learning centre (a set of two rooms).
- **Rs 10,000** pays for two educational outings by bus for a single learning centre.
- **Rs 12,000** enables us to hire a specialist for a month to train our teachers and help us refine our curriculum.



Any of these amounts can also help us meet several other expenses that go towards running our learning centres, ranging from hiring supervisors to organizing extracurricular activities.

We also welcome donations of unused or little used notebooks, text books in Hindi that follow the CBSE syllabus (up to class 8), PCs and laptops in usable condition, and DVD films and audio CDs of stories for children (in Hindi or in simple, beginner's English).



CHINTAN

For more information, e-mail us:

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We are available at:

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What was it like to be a child?

Did you enjoy school?

Did you skip classes?

Did you love games but

detest exams?

Did you have a best friend?

**What if none of these applied to you?
What if instead, you spent your life as
a child in the city's trash?
Your day would have been spent
picking up waste you could sell-paper
envelopes, discarded coffee cups, cans
and glass bottles. That's not the kind
of childhood you'd want, would you?
Sadly, many children have to pick out
and sell trash to survive.**



Children are meant to have a childhood. Unfortunately, several hundred Indian children are just not that lucky. They spend their childhood in trash, working for their next meal. This work means going to the waste dumps and picking out things they can sell to recyclers. With the money they get, they feed themselves.

There are several reasons why children live like this. Although school education in India is free, these children are so poor, that going to school means not being able to eat, because there is no one else to look after them. Many live alone and have to support themselves. Others come from extremely poor families and have to work for their sisters and brothers to be able to eat. Sometimes, they have very ill parents who can no longer work. The government has schemes to make schools free, but no system that gives poor children and their families food and social security so that children study.



What is worse, this work makes them ill.

When Chintan studied their health, we found that 84% of the children were severely anemic. Also, 14% of them had tuberculosis and 24% of them complained of frequent fever. On a single day, we saw that every child we met was suffering from 4 or more health problems. UNICEF



says that 57 million Indian children are malnourished. This is comparable to Ethiopia. The more children work in waste, the more they are exposed to toxins, worsening their health. In other words, if these children go on working in trash, they will continue to be ill and poor.

When India is a nuclear power and a software superpower, what is tragedy, if not this?

Let's get children out of this!



**Chintan's vision:
No Child in Trash.**

Chintan's vision is that every wastepicker child should be out of working in the trash. We believe that quality education is an essential way for us to open up a bright future for them.

We run learning centers for these children. Initially, they come to study in the afternoons, when they are not working. We prepare them for school. In our learning centres, children not only study, but learn to articulate their fears and concerns, understand their rights, treat themselves with respect, make friends, help others, discover hygiene and start dreaming of their futures.

As each child is ready, we seek admissions for them in municipal schools. The children then attend another Chintan support class, designed so they don't drop out. The poorest get a fellowship, so they can buy food for the family and still come to study.

Our team visits the homes of these children, and works with the many problems they face. We do whatever we can to ensure they can stop wastepicking.