

Annual Report 2024-25



**“Accelerating Sustainable Rural Development
for Better World”**



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Report Details

Project Name	Community-Led Solid Waste Management
Implemented By	Navami Foundation
Project Location	Malkhed GP, Kalaburagi
Duration	1st July 2024 to 31st March, 2025
Report Type	Annual Report
Reporting Period	July-24 to March-25

01. Executive Summary

During the period from April-24 to March-2025, the Community-Led Solid Waste Management Initiative achieved significant progress towards improving solid waste management practices in Huda (B) and Nrupatunga Nagar of Malkhed. This report outlines key accomplishments which includes waste collection and recycling metrics, community engagement and educational activities, challenges faced, and the planned next steps for the upcoming month.

Key Accomplishments:

Successfully collected 70.68 Tonnes of total waste; of which, 33.71 tonnes of wet waste, 36.97 tonnes of dry waste was collected.

Through composting technique, recycling of wet waste was done which resulted in production of 2.82 tonnes of compost for agriculture purposes. Also, food waste was used to generate biogas and utilized as fuel for kitchen.

Conducted 14 community engagement & awareness activities. Through these activities, we sensitized and educated about 1200 households and villagers about cleanliness and safety.

Challenges: Despite these successes, the project encountered following challenges

- A delay in the handover of waste by householders leading to time wastage
- No segregations of wet and dry waste by householders, which demands lot of educational activities at community level
- Increased illegal dumping incidents reported in certain areas, highlighting the need for enhanced community awareness and enforcement measures.

Financial Overview: The project completed within budget; efficiently.

Next Steps: Looking ahead, the project team will focus on:

- Train Community members as eco-volunteers
- Establish waste data dashboard for performance monitoring
- Scale composting facilities to double current capacity
- Formation of local waste committees
- Work aggressively on awareness activities for behavioural changes and others.

02. Introduction

The rapid urbanization and population growth in our community including rural areas have led to an alarming increase in solid waste generation. Currently, our waste management system is struggling to cope with the escalating volume of waste, resulting in significant environmental, public health, and aesthetic concerns.

This project outlines the critical needs for an effective community-led solid waste management project to address these challenges and promote sustainable waste practices.

Current Scenario

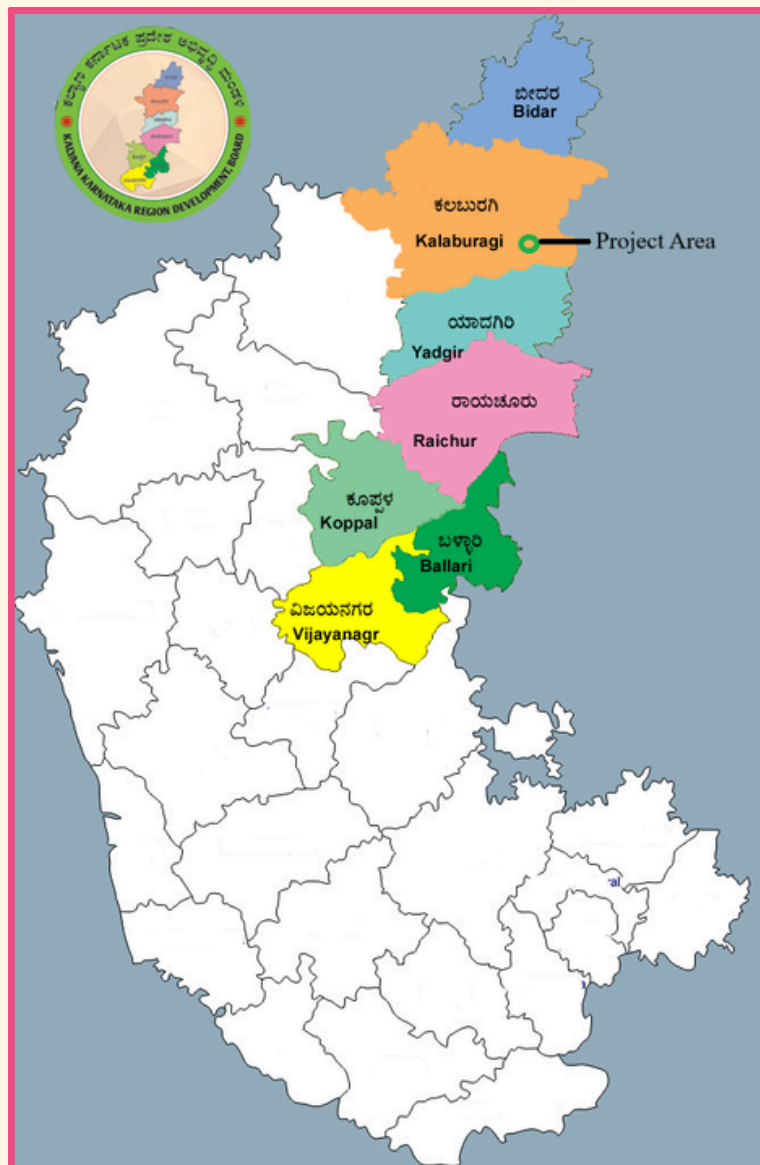
- **Increased Waste Generation:** India generates around 62 Million Tonnes of waste in a year. Only 43 MT of total waste generated gets collected, with 12 MT being treated before disposal, and the remaining 31 MT simply discarded in waste yards. The Indian Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recently projected that annual waste generation in India will increase to 165 MT by 2030. Hazardous, plastic, e-waste, and bio-medical waste generated is expected to increase proportionately, as well. Most of the waste generated remains untreated and even unaccounted for. Inadequate waste collection, transport, treatment, and disposal have become major causes for environmental and public health concerns in the country.
- **Inadequate Waste Management Infrastructure:** The existing waste management infrastructure is outdated and insufficient. Collection services are inconsistent, and many areas are underserved, leading to waste accumulation in public spaces, which attracts pests and poses health risks.
- **Environmental Impact:** Improper waste disposal contributes to soil and water contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, and loss of biodiversity. Landfills are nearing capacity, and illegal dumping has become a common practice, further exacerbating environmental degradation.
- **Public Health Concerns:** Accumulated waste creates breeding grounds for disease-carrying vectors, increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases. Additionally, residents exposed to poor waste management conditions report higher incidences of respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses.
- **Lack of Community Awareness:** There is a significant gap in public awareness regarding proper waste disposal practices and the importance of recycling and waste reduction. This lack of education leads to increased waste generation and poor waste segregation practices.

With the growing technology and rapid increase in population, there is a dearth of human resources who can contribute to the community, not only through financial support, but also through hands-on activities, where they get an exposure to work closely with the community people.

Managing our own waste is the need of the hour for environmental sustainability. By considering these facts, UltraTech Cement Ltd., has decided to engage the communities in managing their own waste, to make the system more sustainable and environment friendly. The company, with the technical guidance of Navami Foundation, will be focusing on environment related issues, with a special focus to Community-Led Solid Waste Management (SWM) in their adjacent villages of Huda (B) and Nrupatunga Nagar of Malkhed Gram Panchayat belonging to Sedam Taluk of Kalaburagi District of Karnataka. This collaboration addresses the United Nations 11th Sustainable Development Goal.

Community-Led Solid Waste Management is an approach that emphasizes the active involvement of communities in managing their waste sustainably. It shifts the paradigm from a centralized, top-down system to a decentralized, inclusive model where local residents, organizations, and authorities collaborate to tackle solid waste challenges.

Map. 1
Geographic Representation of Project Area



03. Objectives

The project strategy will be executed appropriately to cater the needs of the community as supported by UltraTech Cements Ltd. as part of the social responsibility. Navami Foundation vouch for effective implementation of the project for greater impact on local community.

Project Vision: To Promote wellbeing of vulnerable communities by effective Community-Led Solid Waste Management practices around the UltraTech Cement Ltd. (Rajashree Cements Unit)

Project Mission: To improve living conditions in partner villages communities by improving their hygienic practices.

Aim: Nation Building through development of villages by community-Led Solid Waste Management Plant at Huda (B) and Nrupatunga Nagar of Malkhed Gram Panchayat.

Overall Objective: Enhancing Environmental Quality for better living.

Primary Objectives:

Implement Community-Led Solid Waste Management Process; which encompasses

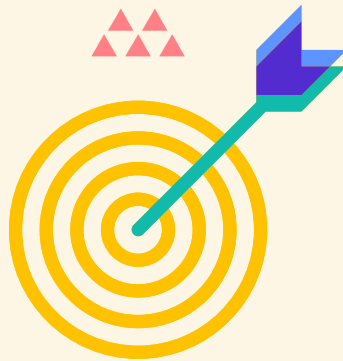
- Reducing waste generation.
- Promoting recycling and composting.
- Improving waste collection efficiency.
- Reducing environmental and health impacts.

Secondary Objectives:

- Provide Employment and Generate Revenue
- Community Engagement & awareness activities.



04. Key Achievements

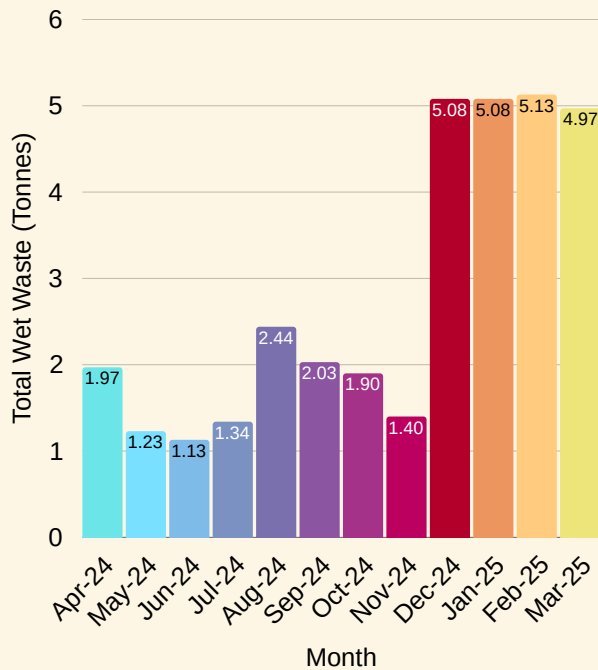


- ➔ **Collected & Processed 70.68 Tonnes of Total Waste**
- ➔ **Totally covered 1200 Households and 30 commercial Establishments**
- ➔ **Produced 2.83 Tonnes of compost used by 5+ local Farmers**
- ➔ **Diverted 100 % of waste from landfill through recycling and composting**
- ➔ **Sent 32.86 Tonnes of non-recyclable waste to Factory Kiln as Alternate Fuel Resource**
- ➔ **Conducted 14 Community Engagement & Awareness Activities reaching over 1200 households**
- ➔ **Created 11 green jobs, including waste collectors and other staff.**
- ➔ **Achieved 100 % Recycle Rate through segregation and processing**

Month wise waste collection metrics

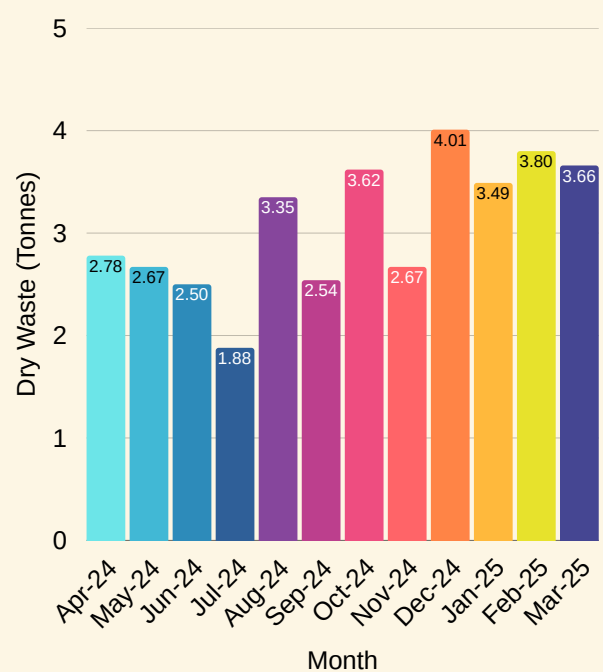
Graph.1

Month wise collection of Wet waste



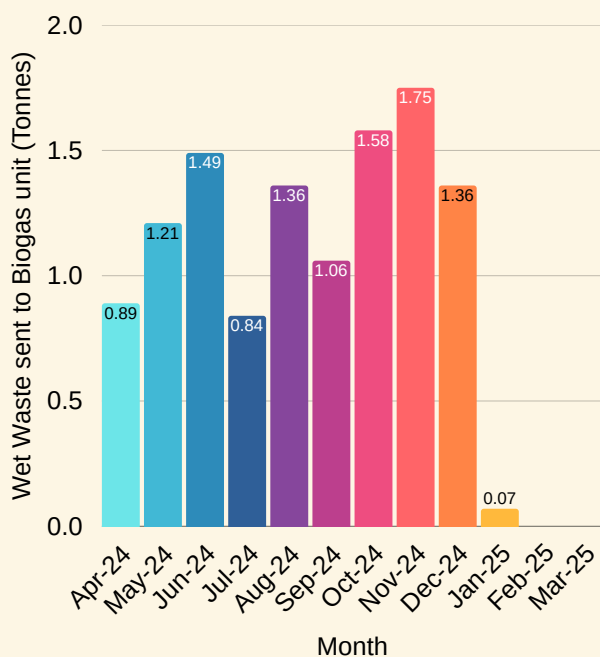
Graph.2

Month wise collection of Dry waste



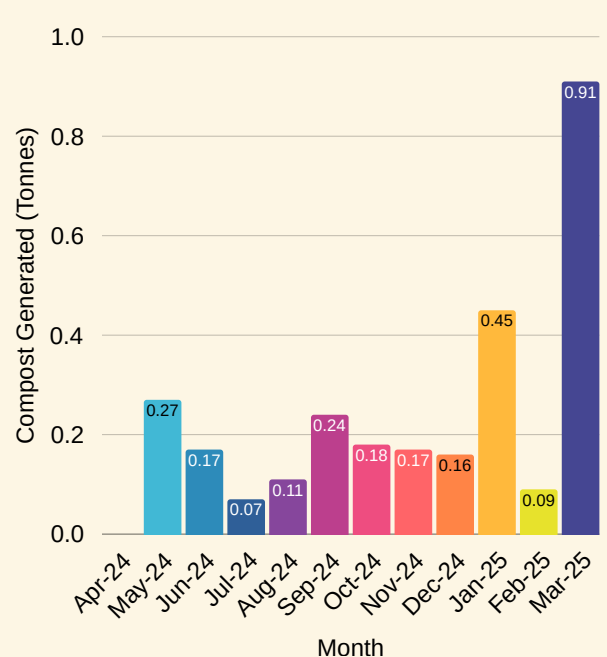
Graph.3

Month wise Wet waste sent to Biogas Unit



Graph.4

Month wise Compost Recovered



05. Activities & Operations

A. Primary Activities & Operations

Primary activities or objectives of the project is to implement solid waste management process at two project villages viz., Huda(B) & Nrupatunga Nagar belonging to Malkhed Gram Panchayat.

As per the objective; solid waste management process is operated in three stages; i.e.,

Stage-1: Waste Collection

Stage-2: Waste Segregation &

Stage-3: Waste Processing

Stage-1: Waste Collection

The first stage of Solid waste Management process involves waste collection from different sources (Houses, Streets, Community Bins, Shops, road sides and alike).

The community consists of households as well as commercial establishments. Majority of the waste generated is from households consisting of both wet waste and dry waste. Whereas, commercial establishments usually generate dry waste and its quantity is comparatively less.

At source, householders usually never segregate waste into wet waste and dry waste, instead they mix all waste in a dustbin or polythene sheets making it easier for householders to dispose off the waste and difficult for waste collectors.

Photos of Waste collection from different sources-1



Photos of Waste collection from different sources-2



Stage-2: Waste Segregation

Waste segregation is second step of waste management process. In this step, the waste collected from different households is transported to the processing unit.

Big items are usually segregated immediately after collection at source itself. Mostly dry waste falls in this category.

After unloading of the waste at processing unit, majority of the waste is segregated here into wet waste and dry waste.

Below picture shows the segregation process carried out by waste collectors.

After segregation, we have 2 types of waste for processing i.e., Wet waste and dry waste

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ಬನ್ನಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಕನ ವಿಂಗಡಣೆ ಮಾಡೋಣ !
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NAVAMI
FOUNDATION

Photos of Waste Segregation-1



Photos of Waste Segregation-2



Stage-3: Waste Processing

After segregation, waste is processed based on its nature.

a) Wet Waste

After segregation, the kitchen waste or food waste sourced from households and hotels is used for Bio-gas production and composting

Examples:

- Vegetable waste
- Food leftover
- Fruit peels and alike

The Bio-gas generated is used as fuel for kitchen. This leads to circulating the waste and save fossil fuels.

And, part of wet waste used for compost and it generated compost for agriculture purpose.

b) Dry Waste

These include both recyclable and non-recyclable dry waste. Dry waste includes items such as bottles, cans, clothing, plastic, wood, glass, metals and paper.

All the sellable dry waste is segregated separately and sold and sent for recycling which encourages circular economy. Whereas, non-recyclable dry waste is sent to Factory Kiln for fuel purpose.

From the month of April-24 to March-25 a total of 33.71 tonnes of wet waste was generated and sent to biogas digester for fuel generation.

A total of 36.97 tonnes of dry waste was generated during the FY 2024-25.

Photos of Waste Processing-1



Photos of Waste Processing-2



B. Secondary activities & operations

1. Awareness Programme

The awareness program on cleanliness was organized to inform and educate community about keeping their surroundings clean. The goal is to increase awareness, encourage action, and promote understanding of hygiene and cleanliness.

This activity was carried out in association with Mining department of the UltraTech Cements Ltd of Rajashree Cement Works.



This activity was held during the month of September-24 at Station Thanda (Hamlet) with the involvement of approximately 300 community members.



Public places like Common assembly points, temples, schools and other similar areas were cleaned to showcase the importance of cleanliness.



2. Distribution of Sanitation Kits

During this activity, workers of solid waste management were provided with sanitation kits. Before the distribution, workers were briefed with the importance of waste management along with hygiene. Both aspects goes hand-in-hand.

The Mining Department of the organization has constantly made sure that the workers maintained their hygiene along with environmental cleanliness.



3. Informal Group Discussion

Navami Foundation Executive Director made a visit to Project location and also SWM Unit. A brief discussion was held with project workers on various aspects.

Focus was given on health and safety of workers wherein, the needs of the workers were listened for implementation. The meeting made sure that the project runs smoothly with increase in effectiveness and efficiency.



4. Cleanliness Drive

Cleanliness drive was held at the premises of Solid Waste Management Unit. Cleanliness was done with the help of manpower and machinery in order to carry out sustainable activities at the premises. Also, the illegal landfill dumped by unknown person was removed completely making the unit zero landfill site of the project.



5. Preparations for Plantation Drive

To promote sustainable activities, decision was made to cover the SWM unit premises with trees; hence preparations were made by marking layout and digging pits for plantation programme,

This was done by collaborating with Local Panchayath, Forest Department and MGNREGA programme.



6. Health Check-up Camp

Health and safety of the workers are top priority in this project. Hence, a health camp was organized in association with Help Age India Foundation.

During this camp, physician carried out check up for routing symptoms for any diseases. Workers were found to be health except two labourers; who were found to have common cold and were given medications.



7. Feedback Collection from Community

As part of Monitoring and Evaluation of the project, feedback was sought from the community members of the project area. This feedback helped us to improve the project and fill the loopholes in the execution of the daily operation. This mid-project feedback evaluation helped us to improve in few operations and there by increasing the efficiency of the project.



8. Capacity Building of Waste Collectors

Capacity development is the sine qua non on the project “Community-Led Solid Waste Management”. The Principle of Seeing is Believing and Learning by Doing is applied in this project, hence regular exposure visits are being organized to our workers.

Workers visited to Taluk Municipal Corporation of Sedam Taluk; the environmental officer Ms. Priyanka briefed about scientific and improved waste management techniques to workers.



9. Plantation Programme (Phase-1)

Environmental Sustainability cannot be achieved not just by management of solid waste; instead it demands various parallel activities and one such activity is planting of tree saplings.

This plantation programme was organized in association with UCWF, Forest Department and Gram Panchayath of Malkhed and held at the premises of SWM unit.



10. Enrollment for Social Security

One of the responsibility of running a Solid Waste Management Project is to take care of its workers; hence enrollment of all the workers to social security was carried out. The accidental insurance scheme was enrolled with the help of Postal Department.



11. Celebration of Farmers Day

The majority of the community members of the project area belong to farming community; hence the celebration of Farmers Day was organized.

During the event, ~250 community members were exposed to various agriculture departmental schemes along with the experience sharing of innovative farmer. Farmers were briefed with Natural farming and its significance.



12. Safety Works at SWM Premises

Safety and security of workers and the SWM unit is as important as the project; hence proper gate was installed to keep out trespassers and avoid illegal dumping of waste inside SWM unit premises.



13. Plantation programme on Youth Day

The Second plantation programme was organized at local school in presence of community youth. Saplings were distributed to youth on the eve of youth day celebration.

Also, village teacher was supported by handing over of white board by Navami Foundation to promote STEM education during summers.



14. Vision Screening of Workers

As part of occupational safety; vision screening of SWM workers was carried out at Eye camp. the regular testing of eyes helps one to avoid severe damage to them. Hence tests were conducted and spectacles were given to few workers.



15. Exposure Visit

Capacity building exposure visit was organized; wherein workers were taken to a National Event i.e., Bharatiya Samskruti Utsav-7.

During the visit, workers got knowledge on waste management at large public gatherings. Also, they got exposed to various other activities and organizations.



16. Installation of Azolla & Vermicomposting Unit

As part of sustainable activities, we installed Azolla and Vermicomposting units at Goshala. Azolla will act as feed supplement for animals and helps to increase protein content of milk; whereas Vermicomposting helps to produce organic manure which can be replaced with chemical fertilizers.



17. Plantation Programme (Phase-2)

The second phase of plantation activities were carried out the premises of SWM Unit. Agro-forestry tree saplings were planted as part of sustainable activity.



18. Awareness Programme on Segregation

Awareness programme was held at Nrupatunga Nagar to address the issue of segregation. Community women were sensitized on waste segregation at source; which saves time of waste collectors making the work more efficient.

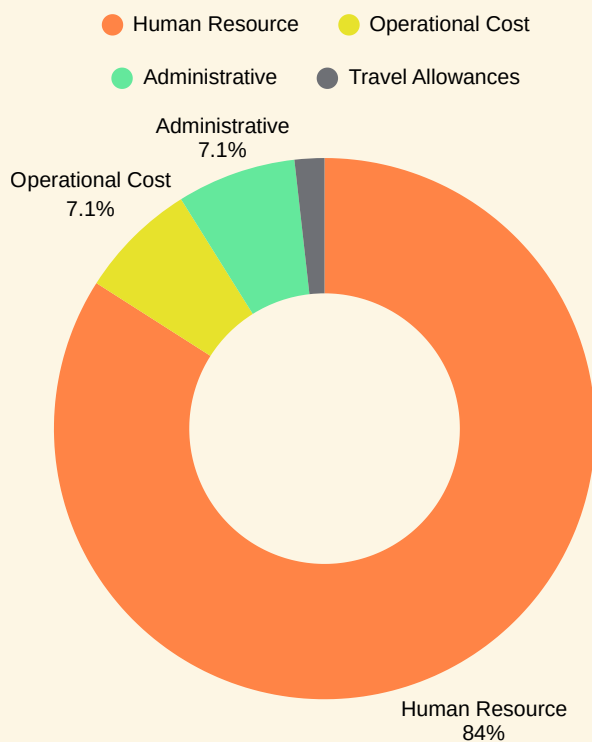
The aim of awareness programme was also to bring the behavioural changes among rural women with respect handling of waste



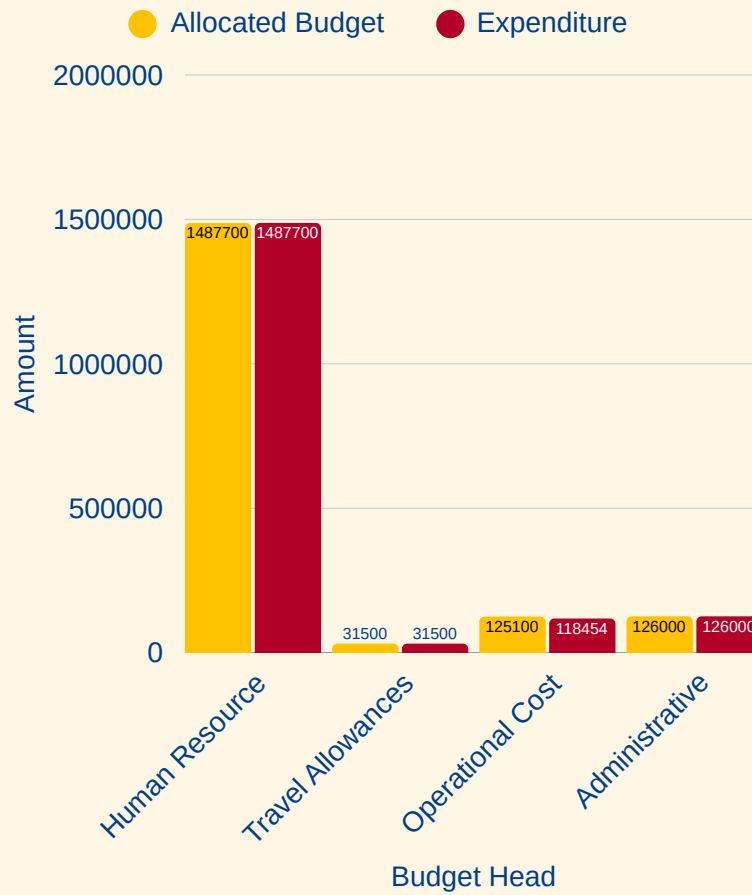
06. Financial Overview

Project Budget Summary (Nine Months)				
Category	Allocated Budget (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Utilization (%)	% of Total
Human Resource	14,87,700	14,87,700	100	84.04
Travel Allowances	31,500	31,500	100	1.78
Operational Cost	1,25,100	1,18,454	94.69	7.07
Admin Cost	1,26,000	1,26,000	100.00	7.12
Total	17,70,300	17,63,654	99.62	100.00

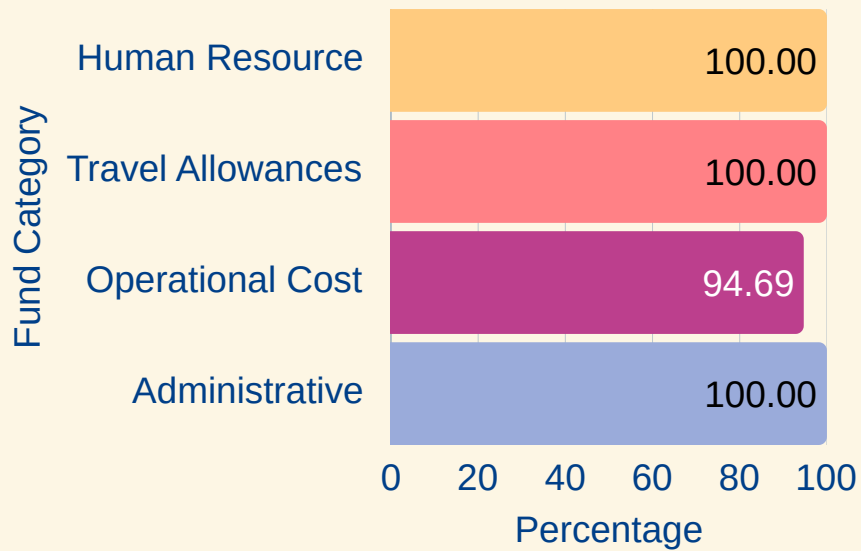
Graph 5
Budget Allocation



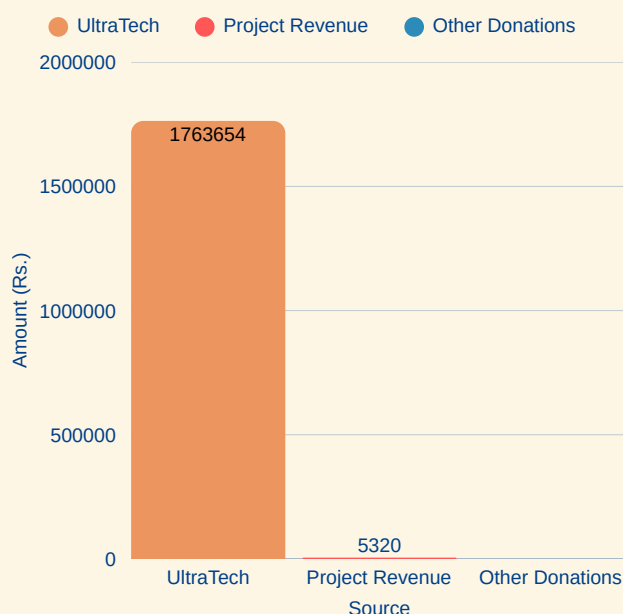
Graph 6
Budget Vs Expenditure



Graph 7
Fund Utilization



Graph 8
Sources of Fund



The project was implemented with a total budget of Rs. 17,70,300 for FY 2024-25, with ~99% of funds utilized effectively.

A diversified funding base including CSR Donor i.e., UCWF, project revenue and other sources were approached for the funds.

The majority of expenditures were directed towards core operations i.e., waste collection, transportation, and other facilities. Human resources consumed major share of the budget because without which project cant run.

While investments were also made in infrastructure and capacity building to ensure long-term sustainability. Only 7% of the budget was spent on administrative costs, reflecting a strong emphasis on cost efficiency.

The parallel objective of the project was to ensure creation of livelihoods for local community.

07. Monitoring & Evaluation

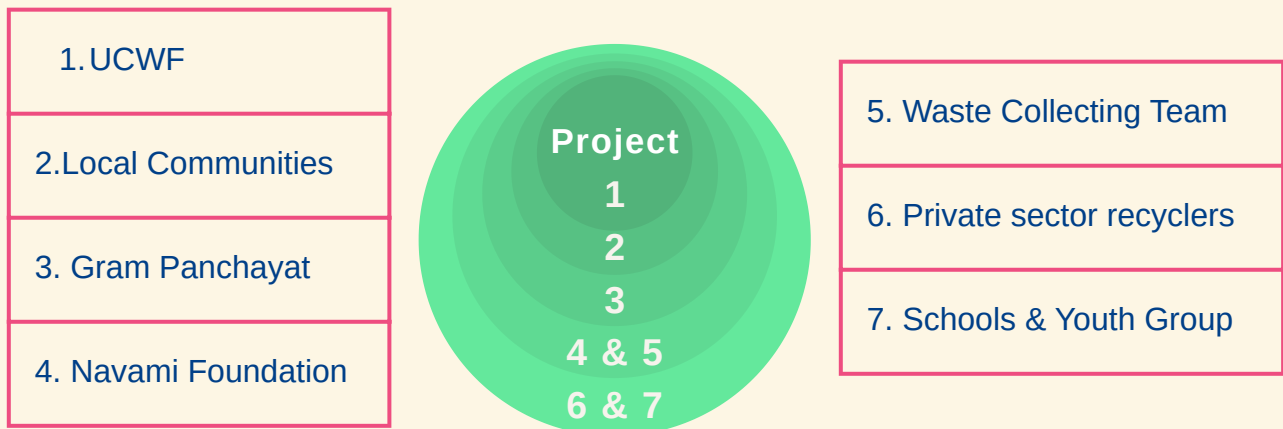
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) played a key role in ensuring the effectiveness and responsiveness of the community-led SWM project. Through regular data collection, community feedback, and performance tracking, the project continuously adapted to improve service delivery and community engagement.

Focus Area	Indicator Tracked	Monitoring Tool	Frequency	Outcome
Waste Collection	% of households served	Collection logs, supervisor reports	Monthly	Increased from 65% to 85% coverage
Waste Segregation	% of HHS segregating waste at source	Spot checks, surveys	Quarterly	Improved from 10% to 20%
Community Participation	No. of participants in awareness campaigns	Attendance records	Per event	80-100 people engaged
Facility Performance	Tonnage processed (compost/recyclables)	Weighbridge data, facility logs	Monthly	70.68 tonnes processed
Job Creation	No. of green jobs created	HR records	Yearly	11 jobs created
Citizen Feedback	Complaints resolved within 7 days (%)	Phone & community meetings	Ongoing	85% issues resolved within target

08. Challenges & Lessons Learned

Challenge	Root Cause	Lesson Learned
Low community participation in segregation	Lack of awareness and unclear guidelines	Invest in regular education campaigns and visual guides
Irregular waste collection in rainy season	Poor road infrastructure and overloaded collection routes	Develop contingency plans for weather disruptions
Recycling vendors not meeting capacity demand	Limited local partners and poor coordination	Establish MOUs with multiple vendors; build local capacity
High contamination of recyclable waste	Improper source segregation and collection handling	Train collection staff and improve household sorting instructions
Delay in waste handover from households	Not aware, no standard timings of collection	Maintain timings, use whistle or bell to inform community about arrival or vehicle
Illegal Dumping	Lack of awareness	Awareness activities
Delay in sending non-recyclable waste to factory kiln	Lack of communication	Fix particular date of every month to send lorry

09. Stakeholder Engagement



Stakeholder Group	Engagement Method	Purpose	Outcomes / Impact
UltraTech Community Welfare Foundation	MOU	Financial Support	Overall Impact
Local Communities	Community meetings, door-to-door awareness	Promote waste segregation and participation	Slight increase in household-level segregation
Gram Panchayat	Coordination meetings, joint planning	Policy alignment, service delivery	Improved collection schedules and coverage
Navami Foundation (NGO)	Partnership for project implementation (MOU)	Project implementation along with education & outreach	1200 Households reached through campaigns
Waste Collectors	Training sessions, feedback forums	Improve skills and ensure safe practices	Increased efficiency, reduced injuries
Private Sector Recyclers	MOUs, vendor workshops	Strengthen recycling partnerships	more recyclable waste diverted
Schools and Youth Groups	Competitions, eco-clubs	Build environmental awareness early	300 students engaged in waste project

10. Environmental & Social Impact

“The Community-Led Solid Waste Management Project significantly reduced landfill waste, improved public health, produced compost and supported inclusive employment, contributing to a cleaner and more equitable community.”

Environmental Impact



Indicator	Impact
Waste Diverted from Landfill	70.68 Tonnes (100% of total collected waste)
Recycling Rate Achieved	100%
Compost Produced from Organic Waste	2.83 Tonnes
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduced	Significant amount of CO ₂ avoided through recycling/composting
Cleaner Public Spaces	85% of public hotspots regularly cleaned and maintained
Plastic Pollution Mitigation	Significant amount of plastic is recycled and incinerated

Social Impact

Area	Impact
Jobs Created (especially for women)	11 jobs created in waste collection, sorting, and composting; of which 7 are women.
Community Awareness	1200+ Households reached through campaigns and events
School Engagement	~500 students participated in eco-education programs
Public Health	Significantly reduced due to reduction in vector borne diseases because of cleanliness
Inclusion	Priority is given for weaker sections of the society
Skill Development	11 workers trained on safety, sorting, and equipment uses



Feedback Collection From Community Members

11. Sustainability & Next Steps

Sustainability

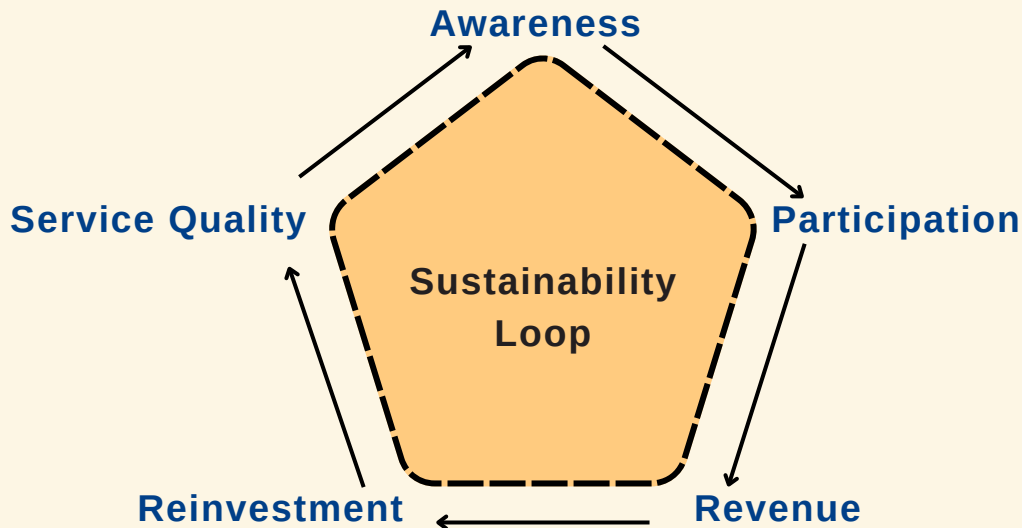
Sustainability is at the heart of our community-led approach to solid waste management. In 2024, we laid the foundation for long-term success by strengthening local capacity, institutionalizing practices, and building financial and operational models that can thrive beyond project support.

Sustainability Pillar	What's in Place / Action Taken
Community Ownership	Working for formation of 10 local waste committees managing collection in their zones
Capacity Building	Trained 200+ community leaders and workers on SWM operations and safety
Policy & Institutional Support	Integrated SWM plan with local Panchayat and working for the support of other institutions
Financial Sustainability	Planning to Introduce user fee models in 70% of households; revenue will be reinvested
Behaviour Change	Regular awareness drives, target to reach 70% of households practicing waste segregation
Partnerships	Agreements with recyclers and compost buyers for sustained offtake

Next Steps...

Planned actions from 2025 and beyond...

Looking ahead, the project aims to expand to three additional communities, improve digital reporting systems, and advocate for policy support that incentivizes local entrepreneurship in waste management. Training and reinvestment remain key pillars in ensuring this community-led model continues to thrive.



- ➔ Train Community members as eco-volunteers
- ➔ Establish waste data dashboard for performance monitoring
- ➔ Scale composting facilities to double current capacity
- ➔ Formation of local waste committees
- ➔ Work aggressively on awareness activities for behavioural changes
- ➔ Implement user fee model on pilot basis.

12. Case Study

Case Study: Transforming Lives Through Community-Led Solid Waste Management – The Story of Ms. Ragini

Client : Ms. Ragini, Waste Collector

Location : Hangnalli Village, Sedam Taluk, Kalaburagi District, Karnataka

Project : Community-Led Solid Waste Management (SWM) Initiative

Partners: UltraTech Community Welfare Foundation & Navami Foundation

Duration: Ongoing (4+ Years)

Background

Ms. Ragini (36) is a resilient woman from a marginalized backward class family in rural Karnataka. Dropping out of school in the 5th grade due to poverty, she faced lifelong struggles—including an abusive, alcoholic husband who later passed away, leaving her homeless with two children and a bedridden 70-year-old mother.



With no stable income or shelter, she relied on community support to stay in Ambedkar Bhavan, lacking even basic amenities like a fan, bed, or proper clothing.

Challenges

- Extreme poverty – No consistent income, food insecurity, and homelessness.
- Social vulnerability – Ostracized by in-laws, no financial support.
- Limited opportunities – Illiteracy and lack of skills and restricted employment options.
- Family responsibilities – Sole caregiver to two school-going children and an ailing mother.

Breakthrough: Joining the SWM Project

Four years ago, while working near a Solid Waste Management (SWM) unit, Ms. Ragini connected with laborers who introduced her to the Community-Led SWM Project—a joint initiative by UltraTech Community Welfare Foundation and Navami Foundation. She began working as a waste collector, earning a stable wage that transformed her life.

Key Changes After Joining SWM:

Particulars	Before SWM	After SWM
Food Availability	Not Sufficient	Sufficient
Income	Low & Irregular	High & Consistent
Savings	None	Postal Bank Savings
Mobile Phone	None	Yes
Clothing	Insufficient	Sufficient
Confidence & Communication	Low	Significantly Improved
Decision-Making Ability	Minimal	Increased
Financial Inclusion	No SHG involvement	Active in SHG & Loans



Impact & Results:

- ✓ **Financial Stability:** Earns a regular income, manages household expenses, and supports her children's education.
- ✓ **Social Empowerment:** Improved self-esteem, communication skills, and decision-making ability.
- ✓ **Future Security:** Now has savings, access to loans, and financial literacy through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ✓ **Dignity & Hope:** From being homeless to leading a self-reliant, dignified life.

Conclusion:

Ms. Ragini's journey from struggle to stability exemplifies how community-driven initiatives like SWM can break the cycle of poverty. Her determination, coupled with the support of UltraTech and Navami Foundation, has not only secured her family's survival but also empowered her to dream of a better future. Her story proves that with opportunity and resilience, even the most marginalized can rewrite their destiny.

NAVAMI

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