

Part of the ARISE work in India is steered through The George Institute for Global Health, India (TGI, India), focusing on 'waste pickers & waste picking communities' which represent urban informality at its most marginal.

Shades of informality : Working with waste pickers in ARISE

Background

Accountability for Informal Urban Equity (ARISE) Hub is a consortium of interconnected and interdisciplinary research and action groups across Africa, South Asia, and the United Kingdom, funded by GCRF/UKRI under their Interdisciplinary Research Hubs scheme.

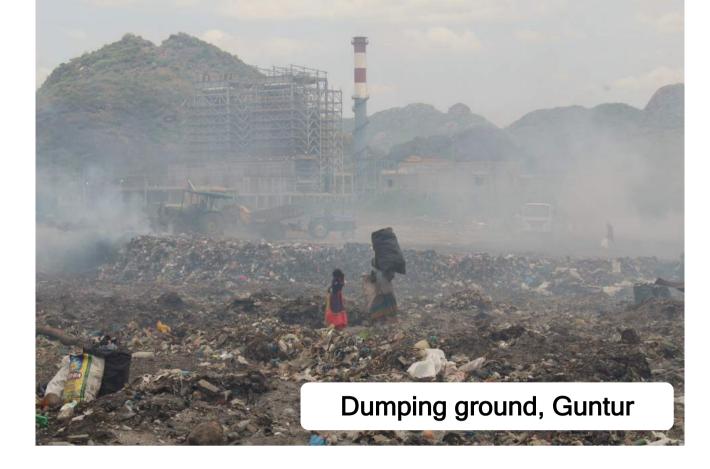


Sanitation for sanitation workers is conspicuously absent; the dirtier and more dangerous the work, the lower the pay and the more physically taxing the work conditions

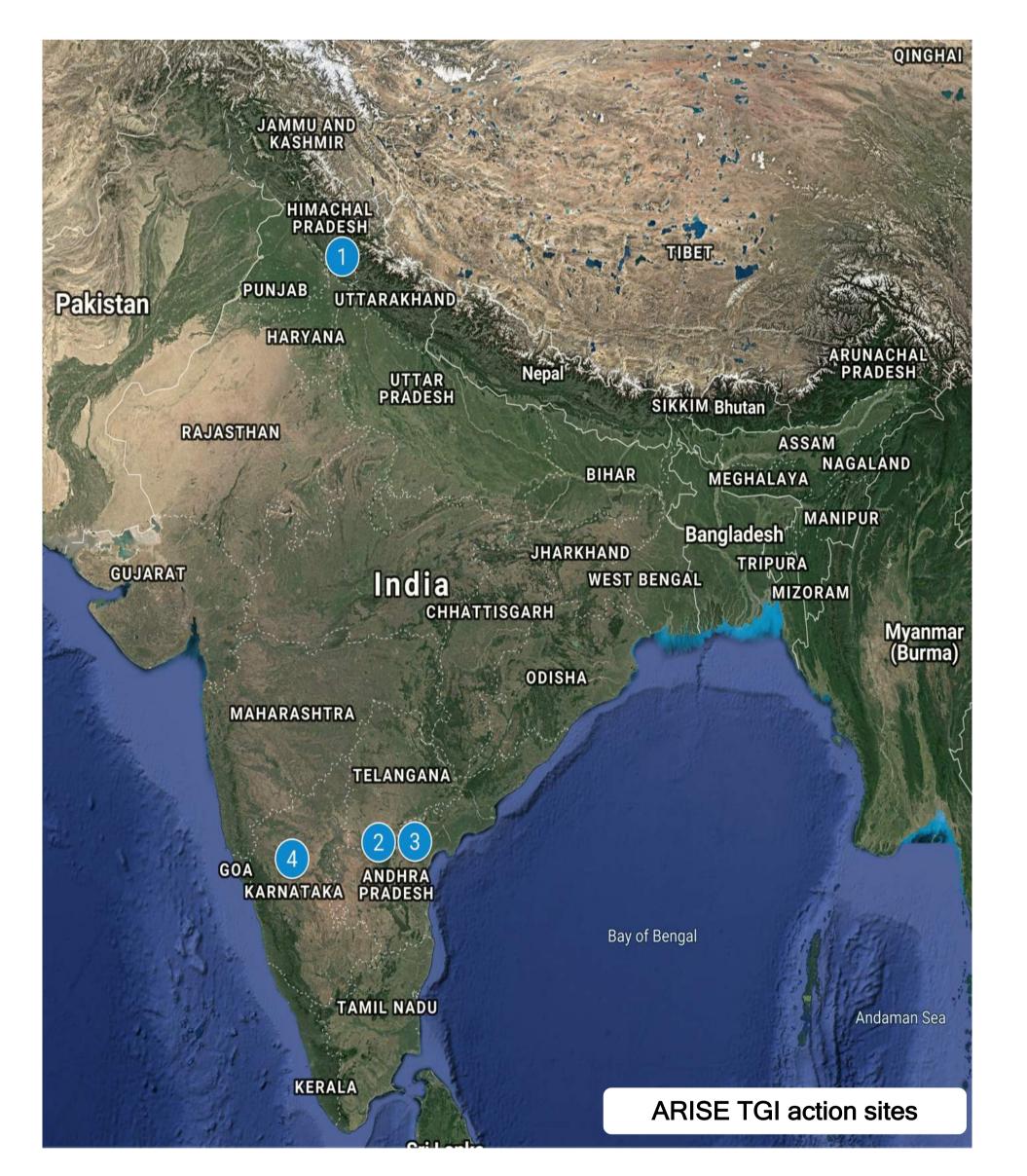
- Barbara Harriss-White, 2019

Aim: to understand and describe how accountability arrangements can be strengthened for people living and working in informal urban spaces in order to improve equitable health and well-being.

India's informal waste economy consists of socially, occupationally, and economically differentiated categories of '**waste people**' - an integral part of the 'waste-to-resource' value chain.



Action sites and approaches



1. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Collaboration with the union of government sanitation workers -'Safai Mazdoor Union' - within the municipal corporation, to study the governance and accountability mechanisms for the health and wellbeing of the workers within the government

Guntur, Andhra Pradesh &
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Collaboration with a rights-based organised collective of Dalits -'Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre' (DBRC) - to study rights-based approaches to governance and accountability





Waste collection centre, Bengaluru

4. Bengaluru, Karnataka

Collaboration with a non governmental organisation (NGO) -'Hasiru Dala' - to study governance and accountability vis-à-vis livelihoods of the waste picking communities

Research programmes in ARISE

- 1. Conceptual and methodological development
- 2. Empirical case studies
- 3. Co-construction of accountability strategies
- 4. Building and sustaining an equitable partnership

Phases of research

Exploring problems with waste picking communities through	Initiating project- oriented research and cooperatively	Participatory action research activities
qualitative research	chosen action	Continuous action and reflection
Initiating/generating a dialogue on conceptual issues	Facilitating processes and interactions (with local municipalities, state governments)	Piloting of strategies co-developed by the research team and
Identifying opportune	otato goronnonto,	the communities
spaces for interventions	Building context- specific metrics for	
Creating fora for	accountability and well-being	

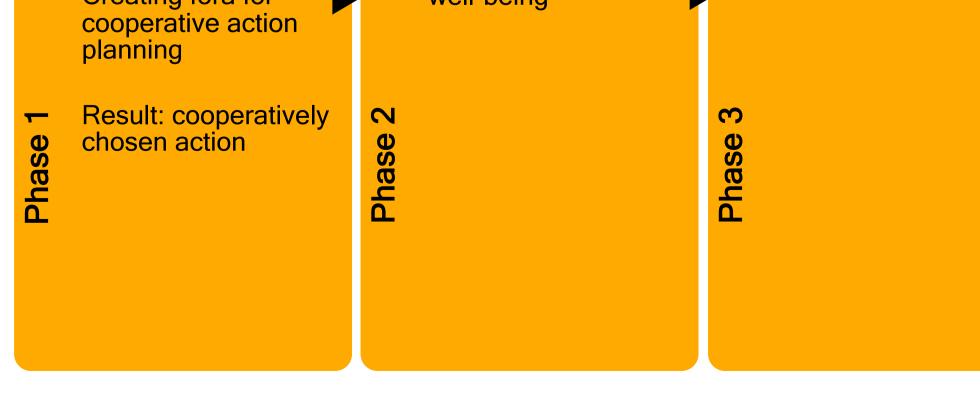
Methods

- Literature review, policy landscaping, & key informant interviews
- Health and well-being survey; participant observation; in-depth interviews; focus group discussions; & individual illness narrative interviews
- 3. Participatory action research methods, for mapping, deliberating issues and brainstorming collective

solutions: governance mapping; service mapping; social mapping; ranking/scoring exercises; problem

trees; photovoice/digital storytelling; stepping stones exercises; community timelines; & participatory

self-assessment



Ethical considerations

1. Power differentials in consent and assent, and in participation: minors, disadvantaged population groups

2. Conveying the distinctions among traditional research, implementation, activism, and ARISE work

3. Potential for social and professional harm to participants/co-researchers in ARISE work

4. Possibility of collectivisation and strategising not leading to success

5. Potential for tensions between researchers and civil society partners

Contact: Surekha Garimella (sgarimella@georgeinstitute.org.in)

ariseconsortium.org



UK Research and Innovation

The UKRI GCRF Accountability for Informal Urban Equity Hub is a multi-country Hub with partners in the UK, Sierra Leone, India, Bangladesh and Kenya which we call ARISE. The Hub works with communities in slums and informal settlements to support processes of accountability related to health. It is funded through the UKRI Collective Fund.



@ARISEHub