

INTERSECTIONAL AND GENDERED IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLECTIVISATION AMONG WASTE WORKERS IN SHIMLA, INDIA

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International Conference on Urban Health, Atlanta 2023





WASTE WORK AND THE CITY

- Expansion of the city vis-à-vis but no proportionate increase of door-to-door garbage collectors
- Increasing informalisation of door-to-door garbage collection
- Exercise of discretionary powers and erosion of rights
- At least 50% of the workforce are women belonging to a range of socio-cultural identities. However, all the supervisors are men





WOMEN WASTE WORKERS AND COLLECTIVISATION

- Collective of door-to-door garbage collectors dominated by men, but exercise transactional power with the state
- Decisions on demands and strategies mainly taken by men
- Participation of women confined to small numbers and performative
- Issues specific to women (health & wellbeing) missing from demands of the collectives.



ENABLING SPACES FOR WOMEN TO LEAD

- Consistent dialogue between women workers and researchers
- Exposure visits and interactions with collectives led by women



- Women are increasingly articulate and are demanding leadership space
- Increasing understanding among men and women about leadership spaces being intersectional



ONGOING LEARNING

- Collectivisation is a long-drawn process
- Capacities for leadership exist, but need strengthening
- Creative ways to circumvent gate keeping by men
- Disrupting patriarchal thinking from system stakeholders

Differences in leadership by women, and its outcomes yet to be seen



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.

