



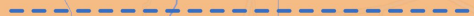
WASTE WARRIORS OF DELHI

LOCATING OUR WASTE PICKER COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE CITY

“

We help keep the city clean but we have to live in filth. We work but are not recognized. We ask for the right to our identity and right to access waste.

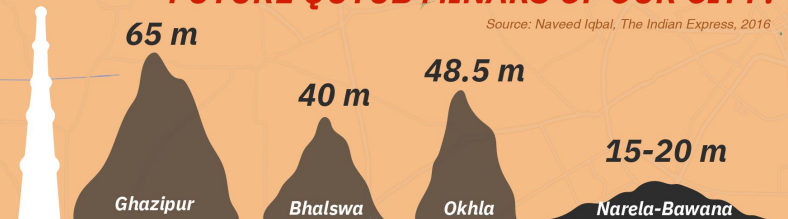
- Jagruti Devi, Waste Picker



72.5 m

FUTURE QUTUB MINARS OF OUR CITY?

Source: Naveed Iqbal, The Indian Express, 2016



Recycle the waste collected and reduce quantity of waste to be sent to dumpsites or incinerators

Reduce emissions and our collective environmental burden

Generate livelihoods for a marginalized group

Make our cities healthier and cleaner

Save resources and energy of the municipality by providing waste management services

4 Rs of Waste pickers' Demands

- » **RECOGNITION** and integration into the waste management system
- » **REGISTRATION** and enumeration of waste pickers at the city level
- » **REPRESENTATION** in waste management related policymaking
- » **RIGHTS** and social protection

KEY

- Waste Picker Communities (Red bag icon)
- Operational Landfills (Black irregular shape icon)
- Closed Landfills (Grey irregular shape icon)
- Waste To Energy Plants (White factory icon)

MULTIPLE CHALLENGES

Despite their immense contributions, waste pickers face many challenges including lack of recognition and workers' rights, lack of formal space for work, social stigma and harassment, and health hazards due to the nature of their work.



JOURNEY OF A WASTE PICKER IN THE WASTE CHAIN SYSTEM

WASTE PICKERS ARE THE RECYCLERS OF OUR CITY!

MIXED WASTE DRY WASTE

WASTE-TO-ENERGY PLANT

DO YOU KNOW?

Delhi only recycles 9% of its waste out of which 95% of the waste is recycled by the informal sector.

Source: UN, A New Circular Vision For Electronics, World Economic Forum, 2019

95%

RECYCLING FACTORIES

I have been recycling plastic since years and can differentiate all its types



I collect, sort and transport 10-15 kgs of waste everyday and earn only 3000-5000 per month. The coming of compactors has reduced my income by 30%



DHALAO

PRIVATE COMPANY OR MCD VEHICLE COLLECTS TRASH DIRECTLY FROM HOMES OR PICKS FROM DHALAOS

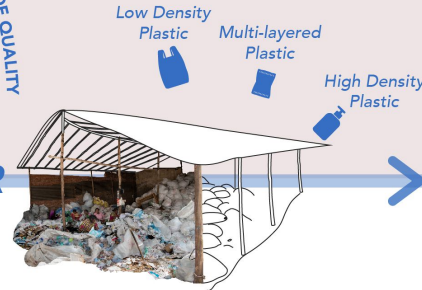
SECOND LAYER OF SEGREGATION ON THE BASIS OF QUALITY

RECLAIMING THE WASTE

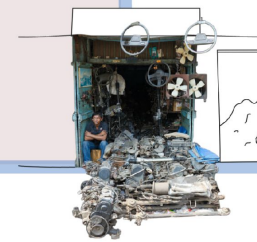
WASTE PICKER COLLECTS DRY WASTE FROM DHALAO



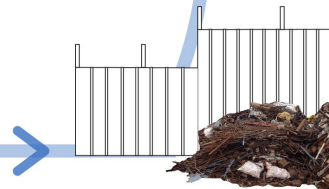
WASTE PICKERS' NEIGHBOURHOOD



PRIVATE GODOWN



SMALL SCRAP DEALER



WHOLESALE SCRAP DEALER

FIRST LAYER OF SEGREGATION AT DOOR-TO-DOOR OR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEVEL



PUBLIC AREA



COMMERCIAL AREA



RESIDENTIAL AREA

SOURCES OF WASTE

Waste Pickers play a critical role in taming the wild and growing beast that is solid waste in Delhi. They need proper allocation of space for their work, such as: space at the neighbourhood level for primary sorting, material recovery points and recyclable markets.

SOURCES

Locations of waste-picker communities have been sourced from the membership data of the Delhi Roundtable on Solid Waste Management, and is not an exhaustive listing of all such settlements in Delhi.



SOCIAL DESIGN COLLAB

Illustrated by: Anchal Sayal & Nishtha Kashyap

HOME AS PLACE OF WORK

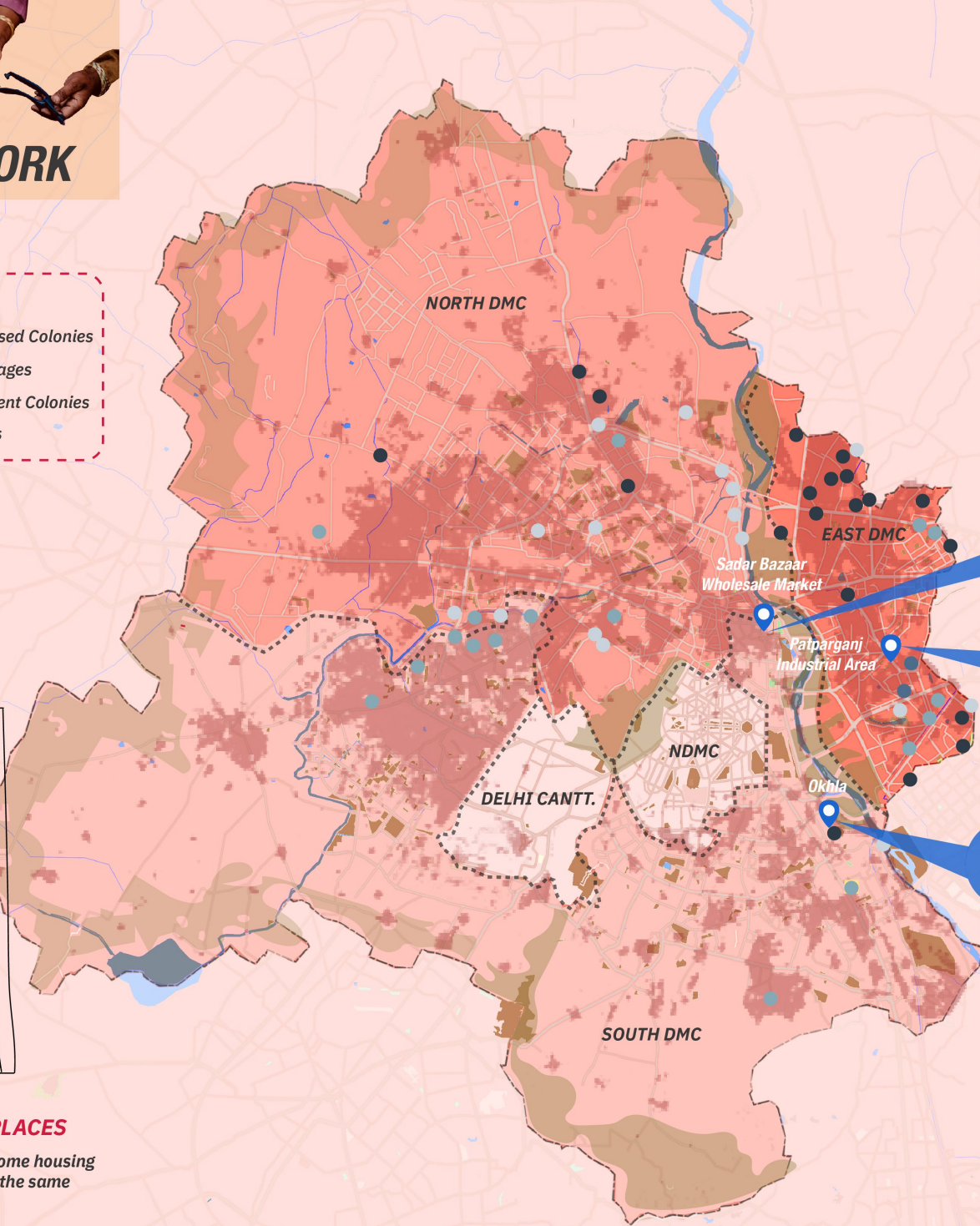
KEY

- High density built-up areas
- Home-based workers in Unauthorised Colonies
- Home-based workers in Urban Villages
- Home-based workers in Resettlement Colonies
- Home-based workers in JJ clusters



OUR HOMES ARE ALSO WORKPLACES


Most home-based workers live in low-income housing categories where work and home occupy the same space.



LOCATING THE HOME-BASED WORKERS OF DELHI

Home-based workers produce goods or services for the market from within or around their own homes. There are many home-based workers throughout Delhi, many of whom are women, who contribute immensely to the city's economy.


They are an **invisible workforce** who face many challenges as they use their homes as their workplaces.

 Many self-employed home-based workers source work from local wholesale markets and supply it back there.

 Work is out-sourced from factories in industrial areas to home-based workers who complete the work from their homes.

 Some home-based workers receive work orders that can be traced back to global brands, and some are for domestic brands.

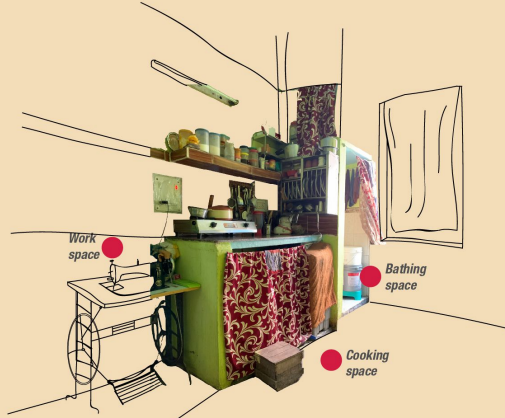
Home-based work in this map of Delhi includes one or more of the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Embroidery/ Embellishment |  Bindi making |
|  Thread cutting |  Mala making |
|  Envelope making |  Sandal strap cutting |
|  Stitching |  Tag tying |
|  Kitchen tools making |  Artificial flower making |
|  Bead work |  Vegetable peeling |
|  Toy packaging | |



HOME AS PLACE OF WORK

Story of a Neighbourhood



A small house hampers productivity, as a home-based worker cannot take bulk work orders because she cannot store raw materials and finished goods, and she cannot work continuously as there are competing needs for the same space.



Sometimes work spills over into the adjoining areas such as the platforms in front of their homes.



The dwellings of home-based workers are typically small and crowded, of poor quality, with little natural light or fresh air. The size of the house specially has implications on women's work burden.

Delhi is a patchwork of diverse neighbourhoods ranging from planned colonies on one hand to self-built informal settlements on the other. These include JJ clusters (Jhuggi-Jhopdi clusters) commonly known as "slums", resettlement colonies to which JJ clusters are often relocated by the government, unauthorized colonies and urban villages. Home-based workers, like other urban poor citizens, live and work in such neighbourhoods. The aerial view below shows the vibrant economies they sustain.



Because their home is their workplace, home-based workers are more affected than other workers by government housing policies and practices to do with slum evictions/upgradation/relocation and tenure security; zoning regulations; as well as the provision of basic infrastructure services like water, sanitation, electricity and transport.

STATE OF HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE



Crammed spaces and lack of adequate light and ventilation



Lack of access to uninterrupted water supply, sewage and electricity



Many home-based workers live in informal settlements where access to services is a daily challenge. With no piped water supply, proper sanitation, or waste collection, women have to spend longer on household chores and care responsibilities. This has a direct negative impact on their productivity and earnings.



SOURCES

This is a non-exhaustive mapping of home-based work clusters collated from different sources including membership data of SEWA Delhi and research studies on home-based work conducted by WIEGO and partners.



SOCIAL
DESIGN
COLLAB

Illustrated by: Nishtha Kashyap and Anchal Sayal

BUILDING SAVDA GHEVRA

Life at margins

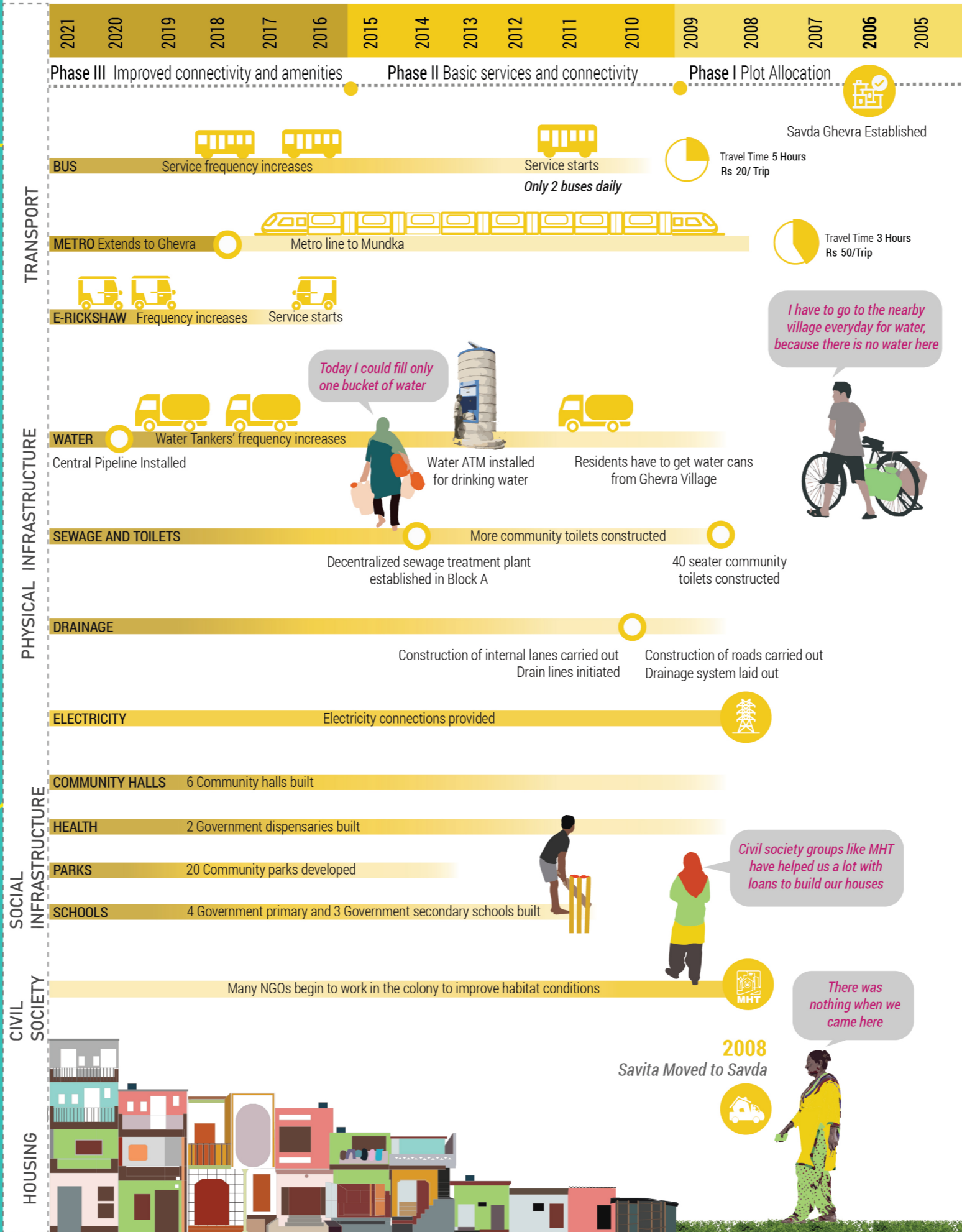
After being pushed further into poverty due to the sudden resettlement, the residents of Savda Ghevra have created a bustling neighborhood over the years. This timeline captures the gradual growth of the neighborhood.

25 kms

Savda Ghevra, Delhi



RESTARTING FROM SCRATCH...



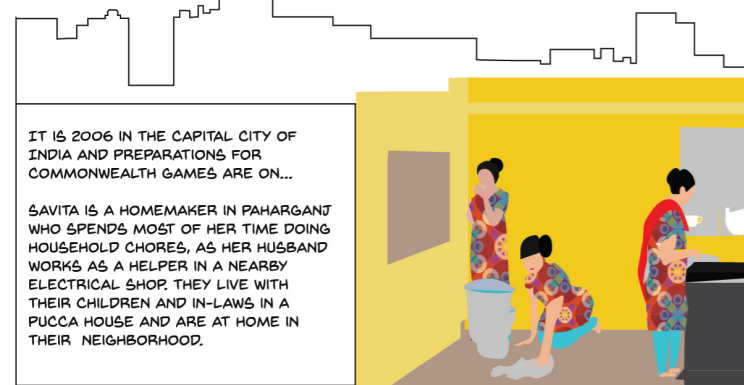
0 km
Paharganj, Delhi



When first established, Savda was surrounded by agricultural land with no basic amenities available nearby – no schools, health clinics, shops, public transport...

Rebuilding a Life in a Resettlement Colony

The story of Savita



IT IS 2006 IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF INDIA AND PREPARATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES ARE ON...

SAVITA IS A HOMEMAKER IN PAHARGANJ WHO SPENDS MOST OF HER TIME DOING HOUSEHOLD CHORES, AS HER HUSBAND WORKS AS A HELPER IN A NEARBY ELECTRICAL SHOP. THEY LIVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND IN-LAWS IN A PUCCA HOUSE AND ARE AT HOME IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD.



How can we move? Our jobs are here, our lives are here!!

?!?!?

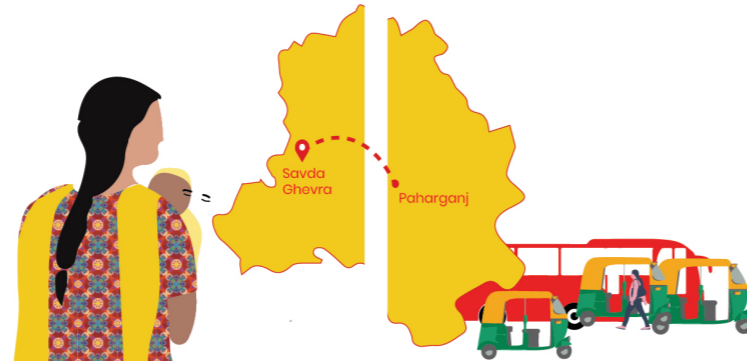
But atleast they are offering resettlement. Do we have any other option??

It is so far away from the city. We have been thrown out!!

But what will we do there?? How will we make a living?

SUDDENLY HER LIFE IS THROWN UPSIDE DOWN WHEN THEY RECEIVE AN EVICTION NOTICE.

THEY WERE RESETTLED TO THE EMPTY PLOTS OF LAND IN SAVDA GHEVRA IN 2008



There is nothing here at all, just wide expanses of farm land and jungle for as far as I can see...

The grass on our plot is as high as my shoulders, the land has not been serviced in any way. There are snakes and insects and I am so terrified all the time! My children are small and I am scared to put them down even for a minute!!

ON HER FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SAVDA GHEVRA, SAVITA IS TERRIFIED.

THEY HAVE TO PAY RS.7000 TO GET A 10-YEAR LEASE FOR AN EMPTY 12.5 SQM PLOT. IN THE PROCESS, SAVITA'S HUSBAND LOSES HIS JOB AND THERE ARE NO OPPORTUNITIES AROUND IN THE NEW PLACE.

THE NEXT FEW YEARS ARE FILLED WITH HARDSHIPS FOR ALL THE FAMILIES RESETTLED TO SAVDA GHEVRA. SAVITA BUILDS A MAKE SHIFT HOUSE WITH A TIN ROOF AND FLIMSÝ WALLS. THERE IS NO WATER SUPPLY AND VERY LIMITED TANKERS LEADING TO DAILY QUARRELS.



STATE OF HOUSING

STATE OF WATER

STATE OF TRANSPORT

Today, I have to get into the bus!

Arre, get in fast!!!

Every day I miss the bus; how will I earn money if I do not reach Paharganj?!!

STATE OF SANITATION

THERE ARE VERY FEW COMMUNITY TOILETS AND PEOPLE HAVE TO WAIT IN LONG QUEUES FOR THEIR TURN. IN THE NAME OF TRANSPORT, THERE ARE ONLY TWO DAILY BUSES TO THE CITY BECAUSE OF WHICH PEOPLE HAVE TO FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER TO GET SPACE ON THE BUS. MANY GET LEFT BEHIND.



AT FIRST, THE ONLY WORK AVAILABLE FOR SAVITA AND HER HUSBAND IS AS FARM LABORERS IN THE NEARBY FIELDS. LATER AS HER HUSBAND BECOMES A CONSTRUCTION WORKER, SHE BECOMES A FARM SUPERVISOR. BUT FARM WORK PAYS VERY POORLY AND TAKES A TOLL ON HER HEALTH.

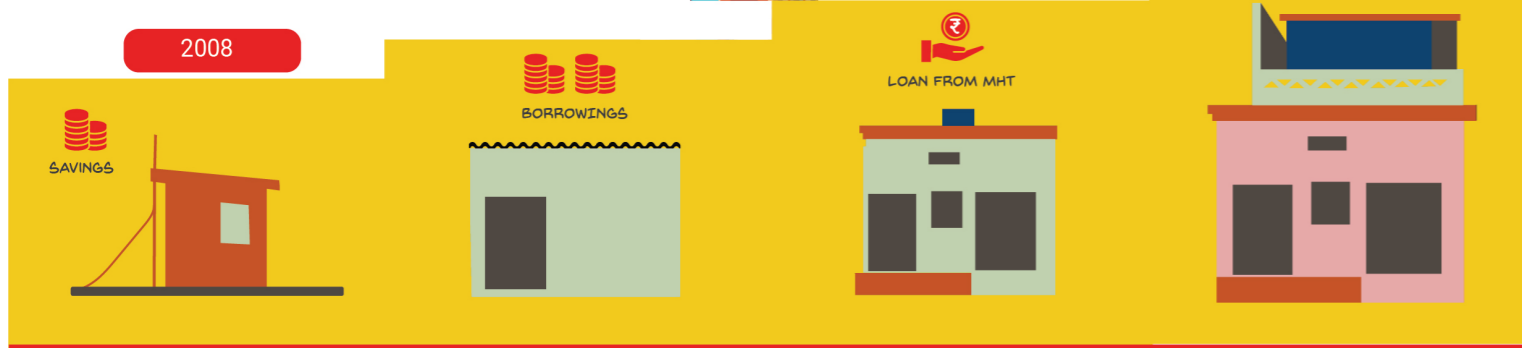
SHE GOES ON TO WORK AS A CONSTRUCTION WORKER, A SECURITY GUARD, AS A HOUSE-KEEPER IN A HOSPITAL AND AS A WORKER IN A NEARBY FOOTWEAR FACTORY

I need the work; we need the income to run the house. But it's so difficult to manage my home and look after my children; employers always expect you to do overtime. They don't think about how we will get back home safely and who will look after our children.

There is no work available here, how will we earn any money?

WHEN CONTRACTORS START BRINGING HOME-BASED WORK TO SAVDA, OCCASIONALLY, SAVITA ALSO TAKES IT UP

FAR REMOVED FROM THE SOURCE OF THEIR LIVELIHOODS, SAVITA AND HER HUSBAND ARE FORCED TO TAKE UP DIFFERENT KINDS OF JOBS TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND STRUGGLE TO MAKE ENDS MEET..



2008

BORROWINGS

LOAN FROM MHT

2018

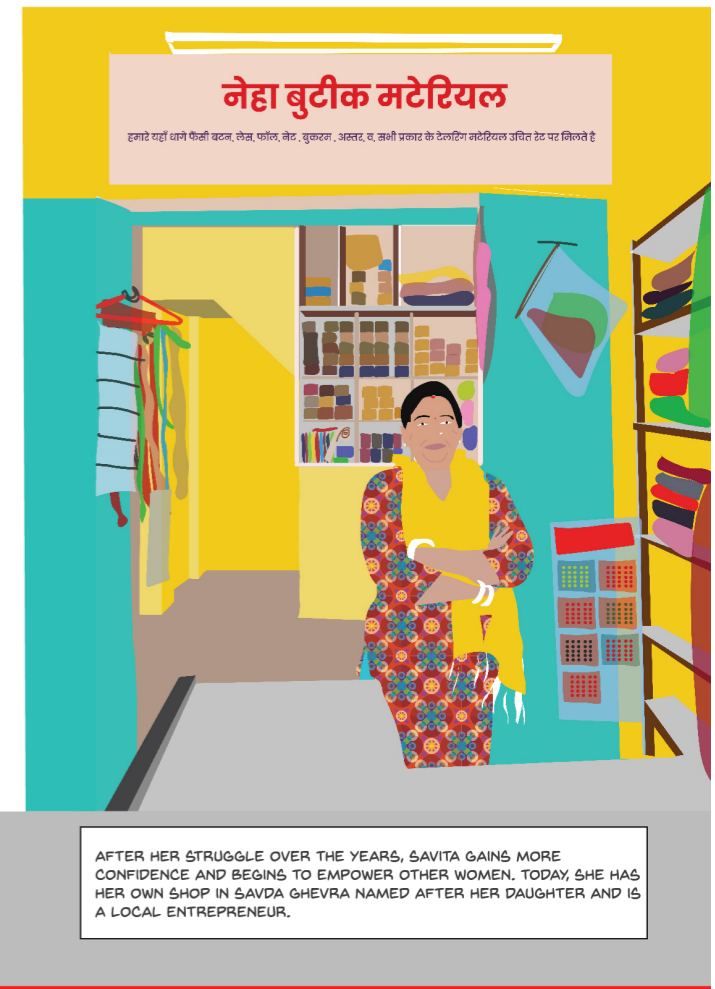


IN 2019, SAVITA JOINS MHT AS A COMMUNITY LEADER AND STARTS BECOMING AWARE OF HER RIGHTS.

There are so many things I didn't know before - what our rights are, what government schemes we are eligible for, and what we can do to access them.

If we work together, we will emerge stronger!!

SHE BEGINS TO EMERGE AS A STRONG VOICE IN HER COMMUNITY



नेहा बुटिक मटेरियल

AFTER HER STRUGGLE OVER THE YEARS, SAVITA GAINS MORE CONFIDENCE AND BEGINS TO EMPOWER OTHER WOMEN. TODAY, SHE HAS HER OWN SHOP IN SAVDA GHEVRA NAMED AFTER HER DAUGHTER AND IS A LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR.

LIKE MANY OTHERS, THEY INCREMENTALLY BUILD THEIR HOUSE FROM KUTCHA TO PUCCA OVER TEN YEARS WITH THEIR SAVINGS, BORROWING FROM FAMILY AND A LOAN FROM MAHILA HOUSING TRUST (MHT).

THE STORY OF SAVITA IS THE STORY OF COUNTLESS MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE PUSHED OUT OF THE CITY TO THE PERIPHERIES, LOSING THEIR HOMES AND LIVELIHOODS. THEY ARE FORCED TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AT THE MARGINS. HOWEVER, EVEN TODAY MANY INSECURITIES OF TENURE AND LIVELIHOOD PERSIST, AGAINST WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE.