



**Left & Middle:** Women of SWaCH on their daily drives in Pune, Maharashtra; the buckets of different colours denote segregation of organic and inorganic waste.

**Right:** One of SWaCH's waste collection centers in Pune; the sketch on the wall appeals for segregation between wet and dry waste.

SWaCH is a women's co-operative of self-employed waste-pickers, collectors and other urban poor. They are involved in the urban waste cycle, from the point of generation in homes and offices (by insisting on segregation at source) to its disposal and recycling. Their relentless campaign has led to not only better waste management but also a greater awareness of the issues facing waste-pickers and their eventual empowerment to lead a more dignified life.

But they can only do so much. The issue of garbage needs a larger movement in urban centers to reduce generation of waste in the first place, to move away from or innovate alternatives to packaging, and finally by transforming an economy excessively dependent on consumption.



**Left:** Small check-dams to prevent water run-off in Abdasa, Kachchh.

**Far left:** Well revival at Bera-Hadaphar in Abdasa, Kachchh.

In Kachchh, several dozen villages have shown that even in India's lowest rainfall area, careful harvesting, management, and use of rainwater provides all the local needs. Traditional and modern hydrological knowledge have been combined to revive old systems or create new ones.

Such water security and self-reliance has also been achieved in several low-income colonies of Bhuj town, by reviving traditional harvesting structures, and creating Water Management Committees to ensure equitable and sustainable use.

In both the above, communities have been facilitated by NGOs like Sahjeevan, Arid Communities & Technologies (ACT), Kachchh Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), and Urban Setu of Kachchh Nav Nirman Abhiyan.



**Right:** Recharge of wells and lakes in Bhuj.

**Middle & far right:** Communal water systems in slums of Bhuj.