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GobarTimes

Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

Why talk to a

kabaariwala?



Because he is a kabaari i.e waste wala – the man (very gendered) who comes to our house to pick up the month’s newspaper and other material isn’t merely a service provider like your washerman or someone else. He is probably the biggest environmental crusader on the street (although he may or may not be aware of it).

The kabaariwala takes our waste paper and other material and puts it on the recycling track.

Kabaariwalas in most parts of India pick up waste from individual households and forward them to larger junk dealers, who supply this waste to be recycled. As it is mostly paper, imagine the number of trees a kabaariwala must have saved in a lifetime. Isn’t that reason enough to have a chat with him/her. And there is lots more to a kabadiwala.

Name.....

School Name

Class..... Date.....

Gobar Gyan:

Kabadiwallahs are today putting tones of waste material on to the recyling trail and saving our municipalities a lot of work- by siphoning of waste. Unfortunately the waste recyling and collection business in India is huge and they are doing a great environmental duty.

Activity: Be an investigative eco-journalist! The next time a kabadiwala comes to your house to collect household waste material- interview him. Offer him a cup of tea or a glass of water and ask him if he would have the time to answer a few of your questions.

His name: Age:

Number of years spent in the trade:

What does he carry with himself?

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What mode of transport does he use to roam around your colony’

- Cycle
- Motorcycle
- Four wheeler
- Cart
- Walks



Hi! I am Pandit Gobar Ganesh. You will find me in Gobar Times—a magazine that tells you how your everyday life is linked to the world around you. Hooked, huh? If you want to know more about me and GobarTimes visit us at www.gobartimes.org

Remember! He may think that answering your questions might put him in trouble – so inform him well in advance that you are pursuing a school project.

Ask him where does he go and sell his products. Note down the address of the shop and ask for the location.

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Ask him what all products does he accept from people apart from paper. Tick the appropriate and verify the money offered for each

| Item | Money offered per kg |
|---|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Metals- iron, copper etc | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottles – plastic, meta | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic waste | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others | _____ |



Ask him if he accepts any other stuff apart from the ones mentioned above? If any, please note down the money offered for it

Thank the kabadiwala for his time and try and do a similar interview with a different kabadiwala. Compare your notes with your classmates and have a class discussion on the same.

Jot down- Personally what new did you learn from your interaction with the kabadiwala?

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Gobar Gyan: Junk dealer

Junk dealers are a crucial link in the chain of recycling which starts with the kabadiwala. As they deal with junk at a larger scale and are often the people who send the junk to recycling units, they have a lot be learnt from.

Many big shops are also giving good deals on junk. The Big Bazaar shops offer four times the prices for raddi items like newspapers, plastic items than the local kabadiwala. Although they too have commercial interests but they seem to be giving a hard time to our junk dealers.

Activity: Make a group of friends or with the help of someone elder, visit the shop of the junk dealer, where your kabadiwala sells his stuff- you would already have the address,from the previous activity.

Ask him what all products does he deal with? (It is quite possible that he does not deal with all the items mentioned by the kabadiwala or the kabadiwala may be selling stuff to two or more junk dealers specializing in a certain kind of waste). Simultaneously, find out where do these materials go for recycling (which places):

| Item | where it goes for Recycling (Name of the place) |
|--------------------------|---|
| Metals- iron, copper etc | _____ |
| Paper | _____ |
| Plastic | _____ |
| Cardboard | _____ |
| Bottles – plastic, metal | _____ |
| Wood | _____ |
| Electronic waste | _____ |
| Others | _____ |

Interview a few more junk dealers around and find out what are the major recycling centers within or outside your city? You would be surprised to hear names of places, you associate with something else. Plot all these centers on the map. Take the help of your Geography acher.

Use a camera all the while and click photographs of the junk shop as well as the dealer. Take up this entire exercise as an environmental project and using the data collected by you write an article of 1000 words on the role of kabadiwalas in waste recycling. Send it to us at Gobar Times, 41 Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi -110062 and you may win a prize.

Ask you teacher to arrange an eco-tour to one of the recycling spots in your city or nearby places.



If you found the activity sheet interesting, E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:

Activity Sheet, Centre for Science and Environment, 41 Tughlakabad Institutional Area,