



Reclaim Power

Reject Dirty Energy
 Invest in Local Economy
 Demand Climate Justice
 Reject FDI
 Support Hawkers



a tribute to communities
 getting together to
 question dirty energy
 and climate change



Commemorating 50th Anniversary
 of Hawkers Struggles
 National Hawkers Federation, Kolkata &
 Environics Trust, New Delhi



RECLAIM POWER

Building a Hawkers' Movement

The National Hawkers Federation is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year having completed its 50th year beginning with the formation of the Calcutta Hawker Men's Union (CHMU) in June, 1970. The Union was initiated by Saktiman Ghosh to resist an on-going eviction in an intersection in central Calcutta. The Union grew since then into a large body taking care of (largely) food vendors in the central city. It came into prominence during a major conflict in 1979-80 when the newly formed Left Front Government undertook a massive eviction drive in Sealdah while constructing a flyover connecting A.J.C. Bose Road with the M. G. Road. The scale of eviction required a scaling up of trade union activities among the hawkers. The CHMU was able to build up the first ever federation of unions under the banner of 'Madhya Kolkata Hawker Sangram Committee'. Ultimately, the federation was able to negotiate the resettlement of hawkers under the flyover. This experience proved to be a landmark in the annals of the People's movement. The successful negotiation enabled the hawkers to understand the power of a coordinated movement under a democratic and federal organizational structure.

According to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, 10 million vendors in India contribute to 50 per cent of the country's savings, and 63 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product comes from vendors. It is a significant component of employment in the country and provides livelihoods to large numbers of poor workers. As per various studies, there are close to 10 million street vendors in India. In fact, roughly two per cent of the entire urban population is street vendors. It is estimated currently that close to 2-Billion-dollar turnover in five major cities alone.

Further in an era when we are struggling with the impacts of climate change, they are a near zero-emission option when compared to the space, energy and resource use of the Malls. It's a low-circuit economy producing and delivering more than any other mechanism. If the nation was relatively buffered during the global financial crisis it was indeed largely because of these hawkers. We benefit urban rich and poor buyers by making the products available to them at comparatively lower price than those

available in retail shops, departmental stores and shopping malls. They provide essential goods at low prices. It makes living less expensive. People from all sections buy goods from the streets. But the main beneficiaries are the urban poor. These people purchase nearly all their necessities from street vendors.

Today we are in **29 States** in the country, with **1250+ Unions** therefore the key aspect I want to emphasise is that **building movements is a long-drawn activity needing conviction, perseverance and progression. The process and mechanisms for building movements will depend upon the circumstances, the communities involved and the leadership. Since many of you are from movements, I will not take more time to talk about building movements but share how we have been able to exercise the power of the movement.**

Exercising the Power of the Movement

In January, 2000 we called for an All India meeting of Hawkers and sought from the Government a policy on Street Vending. The struggle for Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihoods and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 really began with this effort. The basic logic was that the hawkers provide such an important service in the country where nearly three-fourth of the population can only afford Rs. 20 per capita as daily consumption expenditure, as they provide the lowest cost products. These hawkers sell products of farmers, home based producers and other artisans whose livelihood depends on the ability of the hawkers to vend. Thus, hawkers not only strengthen the urban economy but also curtail poverty. Based on these aspects we met the then Urban Development Minister and in 2004 a Street Vending policy document was released. Very few states made any effort to follow these policies.

The Kolkata Corporation formed an Apex Committee which ruled that every area will be a vending area and one-third of the foot-path will be for Street Vendors and two-thirds for the pedestrians. This encouraged the work we were doing. Since these policies were not being implemented by the States we demanded a law be brought forth so that it becomes mandatory. The Central Government brought a modified policy in 2009 and also produced a model act for states to enact on the basis of the national policy. We advocated for the enactment in different states but very few were receptive.

Legal Recourse

In a landmark judgement decided on 08.10.2010 in *Gainda Ram and Ors. Vs. M.C.D. and Ors.* Justice G.S. Singhvi and Asok Kumar Ganguly, JJ observed, *“Therefore, the problem is acute. On the one hand there is an exodus of fleeting population to metro cities and towns in search of employment and on the other hand with the ever increasing population of cars and other vehicles in the same cities, the roads are choked to the brim posing great hazards to the interest of general public. In the midst of such near chaos the hawkers want to sell their goods to make a living. Most of the hawkers are very poor; a few of them may have a marginally better financial position. But by and large they constitute an unorganized poor sector in our society. Therefore, structured regulation and legislation is urgently necessary to control and regulate fundamental right of hawking of these vendors and hawkers”* It also held that *“However, before 30th June, 2011, the appropriate Government is to enact a law on the basis of the Bill mentioned above or on the basis of any amendment thereof so that the hawkers may precisely know the contours of their rights.”*

Some of the States passed a law which did not adhere to the model. While the States were keen on regulating the Street Vendors they were not very forthcoming on ensuring their livelihood rights. We initiated some protests in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh and later with the national groups marched to the Parliament twice in 2012. We took the matter to Smt. Sonia Gandhi who was the Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee and legislative mechanisms under the Central laws were explored and in 2012 the Government tabled the bill. Some of the sections were objectionable to the hawkers and hence we presented ourselves before the Parliamentary Standing Committee headed by Shri Sharad Yadav and also discussed with the then Minister Shri Ajay Makhan to ensure many of our suggestions were conceded.

Most of the suggestions, almost 80 percent, were accepted and the bill was presented to the Lok Sabha and it was overwhelmingly supported by all the parties and 27 members from the range of political spectrum spoke in favour of the bill. The Parliament was adjourned and we were quite demoralised. However, while

the Bill was still in the Parliament for passage in the Rajya Sabha, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Maharashtra Ekta Hawkers Union vs Municipal Corporation, Greater Mumbai and others passed the following judgement on 9th September, 2013. "16. For facilitating implementation of the 2009 Policy, we issue the following directions:

i) Within one month from the date of receipt of copy of this order, the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and Administrators of the Union Territories shall issue necessary instructions/directions to the concerned department(s) to ensure that the Town Vending Committee is constituted at city / town level in accordance with the provisions contained in the 2009 Policy. For the cities and towns having large municipal areas, more than one Town Vending Committee may be constituted.

(ii) Each Town Vending Committee shall consist of representatives of various organizations and street vendors / hawkers. 30% of the representatives from the category of street vendors / hawkers shall be women.

(iii) The representatives of various organizations and street vendors / hawkers shall be chosen by the Town Vending Committee by adopting a fair and transparent mechanism.

(iv) The task of constituting the Town Vending Committees shall be completed within two months of the issue of instructions by the Chief Secretaries of the State and the Administrators of the Union Territories.

(v) The Town Vending Committees shall function strictly in accordance with the 2009 Policy and the decisions taken by it shall be notified in the print and electronic media within next one week.

(vi) The Town Vending Committees shall be free to divide the municipal areas in vending / hawking zones and sub-zones and for this purpose they may take assistance of experts in the field. While undertaking this exercise, the Town Vending Committees constituted for the cities of Delhi and Mumbai shall take into consideration the work already undertaken by the municipal authorities in furtherance of the directions given by this Court. The municipal authorities shall also take action in terms of Paragraph 4.2(b) and (c).

(vii) All street vendors / hawkers shall be registered in accordance with paragraph 4.5.4 of the 2009 Policy. Once registered, the street vendor /hawker, shall be entitled to operate in the area specified by the Town Vending Committee.

(viii) The process of registration must be completed by the municipal authorities across the country within four months of the receipt of the direction by the Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of the Union Territories.

(ix) The State Governments / Administration of the Union Territories and municipal and local authorities shall take all the steps necessary for achieving the objectives set out in the 2009 Policy.

(x) The Town Vending Committee shall meet every month and ensure implementation of the relevant provisions of the 2009 Policy and, in particular, paragraph 4.5.1 (b) and (c).

(xi) Physically challenged who were allowed to operate PCO's in terms of the judgment reported in (2009) 17 SCC 231 shall be allowed to continue to run their stalls and sell other goods because running of PCOs. is no longer viable. Those who were allowed to run Aarey/Sarita shall be allowed to continue to operate their stalls.

(xii) The State Governments, the Administration of the Union Territories and municipal authorities shall be free to amend the legislative provisions and/or delegated legislation to bring them in tune with the 2009 Policy. If there remains any conflict between the 2009 Policy and the municipal laws, insofar as they relate to street vendors/hawkers, then the 2009 Policy shall prevail.

(xiii) Henceforth, the parties shall be free to approach the jurisdictional High Courts for redressal of their grievance and the direction, if any, given by this Court in the earlier judgments / orders shall not impede disposal of the cases which may be filed by the aggrieved parties.

(xiv) The Chief Justices of the High Courts are requested to nominate a Bench to deal with the cases filed for implementation of the 2009 Policy and disputes arising out of its implementation. The concerned Bench shall regularly monitor implementation of the 2009 Policy and the law which may be enacted by the Parliament.

(xv) All the existing street vendors / hawkers operating across the country shall be allowed to operate till the exercise of registration and creation of vending / hawking zones is completed in terms of the 2009 Policy. Once that exercise is completed, they shall be entitled to operate only in accordance with the orders/directions of the concerned Town Vending Committee.

(xvi) The provisions of the 2009 Policy and the directions contained hereinabove shall apply to all the municipal areas in the country.

(xvii). The aforesaid directions shall remain operative till an appropriate legislation is enacted by Parliament or any other competent legislature and is brought into force.

(xviii) The parties, whose applications have remained pending before this Court, shall be free to institute appropriate proceedings in the jurisdictional High Court. If so advised, the aggrieved person shall be free to file petition under Article 226 of the Constitution.”

In order to ensure that the process is taken ahead, a contempt petition against the State Governments which were not following the Court's directive was filed and the National Hawker Federation campaigned at the district, state and national level and held dialogues and discussions with several Members of the Parliament. Nearly 50 parliamentarians including Smt. Sushma Swaraj, the then opposition leader and Shri Rahul Gandhi. On 5th March the Bill was passed and the Act was notified on the 1st of May.

Consistent Effort to Ensure Implementation

Much like the other progressive legislation of recent times the Forest Rights Act, this Act has been facing serious problems of implementation largely because they involve land. The very fact that 2.5 percent of urban land is to be allocated is a big hurdle. The Town Vending Committee (TVC) is vested with significant powers and therefore a good and sensitive TVC, then the implementation is smooth. If the non-official members are together then even with an indifferent administration some progress can be made. In a typical bureaucratic way, the TVCs were formed on paper in 80% of the cases and it was only after the contempt petition was filed in the Supreme Court, the Chief Secretaries took the matter seriously. The relatively poor level of education amongst the hawkers and their social status often makes it difficult for them to deal with the Commissioners and Police who are the other key personalities in the TVC.

We are demanding that the TVC be composed of members elected from among them. However, the task of registration of vendors is the key. We have also been empowering the TVC members by explaining and creating more awareness about the Act itself and organising leadership training programmes to perform their role as TVC members effectively.

Aspects specific to your movements need to be addressed in order to ensure that it serves the needs of the communities. In our case, I am highlighting few as examples,

Ensuring Gender Aspects are enshrined

Women hawkers constitute 30-35 percent and to be able to address their specific concerns we enabled the formation of the All India Women Hawkers Federation. Their effective representation within the TVC is important. Though it is mandatory that one-third of women representatives must be there it is not always the case. We insist that this happens.

We notice inequality in terms of the spaces used. Male vendors often locate themselves in more prominent places. In a study, we undertook in Kolkata, almost all the spaces under the lamp-posts held by men. Women vendors especially those who sell vegetables have very long and extended day. They need to be at the wholesale markets by 4 or 5 am and by the time they end the day and reach home it is 11 pm. During this window, they must cook and do other chores to keep the rest of the family going. The major concern of women vendors, which has been assuaged, is the fear of eviction and seizing of the goods. Further lack of toilets has led to several of them suffering from gynaecological complications. They are also subject to sexual harassment notably by police and other bad elements. It is in our experience that the women hawkers have never been subjected to such treatment by fellow men hawkers.

We have been demanding the establishment of sanitation facilities in markets and other regular vending zones, crèche and in places a separate market for women.

We demand that health-care, education of children and housing and pension must be a part of the social security package of the Government. The Arjun Sengupta Committee report suggested that a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore was sufficient to provide for such purposes however the successive governments which have giving huge incentives and foregoing annually over Rs. 5 lakh crores tax revenue from industries has not been sincere in pursuing this recommendation.

Dealing with extortion

This is a big practice from the past. It is estimated that over Rs. 1200 crores in Mumbai, around Rs. 800 cr in Delhi and Rs 260 crores in Kolkata of the hard-earned money of the hawkers is drained away to police, municipal employees, local mafia and trade unions and money-lenders and remains a big challenge. Much more awareness of the law and a strong TVC can along with progressive and strong unions can effectively deal with this menace.

Protection from Debt-Traps

One of the greatest strengths of the hawker's systems in India has been that they do not seek any capital to start their activity and thus keeping the finance costs absolutely low so that the products they sell are affordable to the poor who are their natural customer base. We are not very enthusiastic about these schemes that banks have been talking about because it has the possibility of putting them in a debt-trap. Several NGOs have also in the name of micro-credit done more disservice than really being of help. There are occasions when larger amount of money is required such as for education of children, conducting wedding particularly of daughters, housing and health-care.

Reclaim Power

Today the National Hawkers Federation contributes to several global and national campaigns which raise fundamental issues about the economy. We have the world's largest number of actions during **Reclaim Power and other Global Action on Climate and Sustainability.**

This is an area where we intensely work with Environics Trust and have been deepening the involvement of communities directly impacted by this false economy and false climate solutions. This book is released to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Hawkers Movement in India.

On behalf of the NHF we wish that all of you are able to build stronger and stronger movements and are able to exercise the power of your movements to ensure that their rights are protected and bring the changes people desire.

BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Environics Trust (www.environicsindia.in) is a not for profit research and community development organisation and an enabling institution established in 2003. Environics conducts participatory research on issues of environment and human behaviour and uses these outcomes for innovative community development programmes.

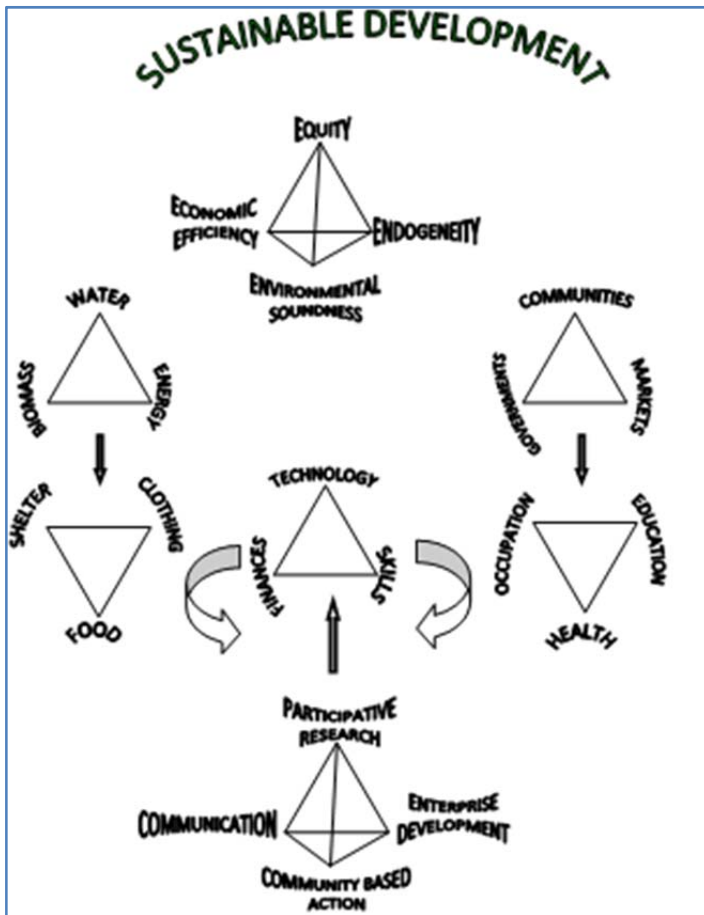
Environics anchors several networks and partnerships. Environics is a co-founder and promoter of the mines minerals and PEOPLE alliance, mm&P (www.mmpindia.in), the Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change INECC, (www.inecc.net) the EIA Resource and Response Centre, eRc (www.ercindia.org) and the Occupational and Environmental Health Network of India, OEHNI, (www.oehni.in). Environics promotes and mentors environmentally sound enterprises. Environics is a co-founder of the Biodiversity Conservation India Limited, BCIL, (www.zed.in) the largest Sustainable Built environment enterprise in India based in Bangalore. Environics utilizes various forums including the CGNet (www.cgnetwara.org) platform to reach out to communities.

Environics provides research and evaluatory services to International, National, State and Local Institutions. Environics works directly with marginalised communities such as those in the mountain regions, tribals and communities adversely affected by mining and industrialisation.

Environics is an observer member of UNFCCC; Founder Members of the Editorial Board of the world's largest community and mining portal (www.minesandcommunities.org) and a member of the Asian TNC

Research Network (www.atnc.org) and the Asian Peoples Movement for Debt and Development(www.apmdd.org/) Environics is currently co-hosts India Ban Asbestos Network, Publish What You Pay Coalition In India.

Environics Trust defines Sustainable Development as the 'set of processes that enables the local and global systems to be in ecological harmony'. The four non-orthogonal attributes of sustainable development,



which are crucial to the state of being in ecological harmony, can be described in the form of the state of these attributes; Equity and Justice; Environmental Soundness; Endogeneity or Self Reliance; Economic Efficiency. Environics means the study of the influence of the environment on human behaviour. In its mission to evolve innovative solutions to the problems of sustainable community development, we interpret it more comprehensively as the

mutual influences of environment and social behaviour.

The delivery of these innovations are channelled through the following processes: *Participative Research*, which enables documentation of existing conditions and the changes aspired; *Community Based Action* to demonstrate the possibility of transforming innovations into a physical and social reality; *Enterprise*

Development and Servicing to respond to the current reality of the economic world and identify sustainable entrepreneurial and occupational niches and Communications to interface with a larger universe, to mutually learn and contribute. Environics Trust evolved from Academy for Mountain Environics and particularly reaches out to marginalized communities.

Environics Trust aims at contributing to long-term transitions and has a process-oriented model. Its consistent ability to foresee the demands and offer inputs to diverse range of institutions from local community based initiatives to international institutions for several initiatives is an important strength. This has been and will need to be continually nurtured. Its organisational structure has flexibility and the process of democratic decision-making involving the entire Executive is unique. It has evolved a mechanism of nurturing networks and other institutions with sectoral or geographic focus enable the core to be lean and effective. These networks enable us a very wide out reach, particularly into the vast rural interior of India and the diverse institutional and community structures across from the Himalayan region and into the South East Asia.

Reclaim Power and Just Transition

The mention of coal in India invokes a sense of mafia dons, scams, pollution and in the recent decades its vast impact on climate and health. Dhanbad has been notorious for being called the Mafia Capital as nexus between politicians, bureaucrats, caste groups, union leaders have led to several instances of murders, stealing coal, over invoicing, under supply of sand for stowing operations leading to subsidence and fire, falsified contracts, illegal leasing out of government lands and all such illegalities that can be

Life and Death of Gurudas Chatterjee

Frustrated with the ineffectiveness, and worse, of government agencies, Gurudas Chatterjee started intervening directly in the affairs of the mafia by rousing the people against them. He stopped illegal coal trading and got two top mafia leaders arrested. This was too much, and a plot was hatched from the jail itself. Gurudas could be neither bought nor cowed down. So, he had to be removed.

And removed he was. On G T Road on April 14 the sun set at 3 pm.

attributed to money and muscle power. In fact, a tender floated by the Coal India Limited¹ to map illegal coal mining in the region was never bid by anyone because of the fear of the mafia, corrupt officials and other vested interests. People who took them on have had to pay a huge price, often in terms of their lives.

The operation of coal mafia is not restricted to Jharkhand. There has been a proliferation of illegal coal mining which is estimated to be 600 tonnes per day in the Makum coal fields in the border of Assam and Arunachal

Pradesh. There exists a nexus between the illegal coal mining operators and the operators of the Coke Oven Plants. The coal is stored within the fortified compounds of the coke oven units and sold. In most units no coke is produced rather it is a front for the illegal collection and sale of coal under the garb of coke. This practice has been followed and has been widely reported in the media. However, no action has been taken by any of the concerned authorities till now as most of them are under threat from the mafia.

¹ <https://www.steelguru.com/coal/indian-coal-mining-scram-mafia-fears-shadow-over-cil-tender/365890>

Activists Agnes Kharshiing, President of the Civil Society Women's Organisation (CSWO) and Anita were attacked by unidentified miscreants in East Jaintia Hills on 9 November 2018 while returning from their visit to areas where illegal mining and transportation was taking place. CSWO has been raising the issues of illegal mining carried out by coal mafia in the state particularly post 2014-ban. Though the Chief Minister issued a strong statement condemning the attack but stringent action against the perpetrators has not come forth. Earlier RTI activist Poipynhum Majaw, who was president of the Jaintia Youth Federation, was murdered in the coal belt at Khliehriat in East Jaintia Hills. He was engaged in exposing a nexus between heads of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) and cement companies.

The more organised of the black history of coal in India was the illegality surrounding the allocation of coal blocks since the era of privatisation in 1993. Over 200 coal blocks were allotted to various people, several of them with no history of mining coal or establishing industries which required captive power. This scandal led to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) evaluating the potential loss to the exchequer of a minimum of Rs 1.86 lakh crores. The issue also raised the concern over some of the cabinet minister's involvement in corruption and also indicted the then Prime Minister, the Union Secretary in the Coal Ministry and several top industrialists. The Supreme Court cancelled the allocation of all the block except those that were allotted to the Central Public Sector Undertakings.

The dirty deals with coal did not end with this major intervention by the Supreme Court. The allocation of coal blocks after the Supreme Court judgement was through the new act which prescribed auctioning of coal blocks for private players and allocation for state owned agencies. However, the process where companies were allowed to bid individually, and also as joint ventures raises a serious problem of collusion in the bidding process which was also indicated by the CAG². Though the government did not accept the allegation that there was any cartelisation in the bidding process it had cancelled the bids for four blocks.

² <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/cloud-of-coal-collusion/294027>

Recent analysis suggests that the Supreme Court's decision to allow the sale of coal blocks only through the process of auction and therefore discovery of the price, the entire judgement has been short-changed by allowing the central and state public sector undertakings to have the blocks allotted on their name and to appoint a Mining Development Organisation (MDO) to actually undertake the operations. The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, has a huge loop-hole which allows the government to allot blocks without auction to state-owned enterprises, and to joint ventures between state-owned and private firms, so long as "no company other than a Government company or corporation shall hold more than twenty-six percent of the paid up share capital in the Government company or corporation or in the joint venture." Thus, virtually the private company pushes the process of all clearances and is in complete control of the resources. The front provided by the state agencies provides a guarantee for all clearances. So blatant is the process that MDOs are appointed much prior to the actual completion of the process of allocation and provision of clearances under the land acquisition act or the environmental and forest acts. This is also leading to a huge loss to the exchequer and unfair gains to the private entities.

While there were growing uncertainties on the allocation of coal blocks and the nature of the bidding process a number of Indian companies started importing coal mostly from Indonesia by entering into joint ventures with companies operating. The import of coal and the nature of tariff determination for private power producers allowed for another kind of scam. These importers typically import through an intermediary owned by them to inflate the price which is then passed on as higher input costs in what is a typical trade-based money laundering. The Department of Revenue Intelligence has been investigating on over 40 coal importers and thus whether all imports are needed is questionable. Indonesia with 47.8% share remained the leading supplier followed by Australia 24.4% and South Africa 17.8%. These three countries together accounted for 90.0% share in the country's import in 2016-17.

Analysts have traced three methods through which electricity tariffs have been artificially inflated. In the recent times the inquiry by the Department of Revenue Intelligence has led to the tracing of over-valuation of imported coal to the tune of Rs 29,000 crore, over-valuation of power plant equipment to the

tune of Rs 9,000 crore and compensatory tariffs awarded to the tune of at least Rs 10,000 crore, or possibly higher. Sources in the government claimed that these are conservative figures and the total scam amount could very well go up as investigations are completed³.

The demographic factors⁴ suggest that India's population will surpass that of China by 2028 and is expected to stabilise at around 1.6 Billion. Energy is the key to produce the goods and services needed for what would be nearly a fifth of the global population. The problem of providing cheap and reliable energy to the vast majority and ensuring that the energy production systems do not de-rail the global climate goals is challenging. India's thirst for energy is never ending as incomes grow and aspirations rise. The policy and regulatory challenges apart, the role of investments in the energy sector is going to be crucial in determining the outcomes. The redeeming feature is the diminishing correlation between energy consumption and GDP growth and the development of cleaner sources of energy. Currently, solar power is closely competing in terms of costs and in certain cases is proving to be cheaper than coal even without considering the other environmental and health costs.

Coal based power has been the prime source of commercial energy. Coal in India has been in debate for several wrong reasons and a very black history including corruption and stranded investments, climate impacts and pollution, environmental and human rights violations and unfair advantage to private industry. The allocation and auctioning of coal mining leases has been controversial. The compliance of mining and other regulations has been lackadaisical. The future of coal is murky. The financial, environmental, human rights violations and the shrinking investments in coal power and rapidly declining costs of renewable energy, especially solar, does not portend a future for coal and coal-based power in India.

Complementing the National Hawkers Federation on its glorious Golden Jubilee we are pleased to collaborate to bring out this book illustrating joint action on an issue of global importance and very localised impacts.

A photo journey of our joint efforts is presented

³ <https://www.epw.in/journal/2016/20/web-exclusives/power-tariff-scam-gets-bigger-rs-50000-crore.html>

⁴ <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/india-population/>



Demon of FDI Go Back, Hawkers federation raise a collective voice!



Hawkers Sangram Committee of National Hawkers Federation organises Global Week of Action for Climate Justice



Hawkers are vulnerable to Climate Change, any delay makes them further vulnerable



Local Hawkers Committee Discusses Impacts Pushing them at backfoot



Putting in context Hawkers Issues to Demand Climate Justice



Boys & Kids – the future generation pulls the effigy



Climate Change is now in open, demonstrators wear masks to convey the message and demand climate justice



United march by the Hawkers Unions on the Streets of Kolkata



Creating Awareness, United Hawkers Walk the Talk



Public Debate on 'Stop Expansion of Dirty Energy'



Asian Networks are consistently working towards common thread of dirty energy, fiscal and climate justice



Behind the Bars – Women peacefully gather to convey the message of dirty energy and transition to sustainable energy options



Women Power raise the slogan of 'System Change' which is eventually central to Climate Change



A message without Disruption – Men and Women March Peacefully



In the Middle: Women ask for 'System Change'



Another Hawker's procession getting momentum



Climate Justice Demonstration in Paris



Livelihood Security and Challenges to Hawkers are immense: Economic models shrink their public space, distort livelihoods and make them vulnerable economically, socially and culturally



A Usual Sight: Addressing the Rajrahat New Town hawkers committee



Multifaceted development lending and retail entities being depicted in a ten face effigy – the development model is pushed by these entities to get their agenda over local choices



In front of a Retail Chain in Kolkata



In the Middle – Mixed Land Use and Hawkers and inseparable but policies distance them from their roots. Hawker's Unions get together



Procession against the Foreign Direct Investment in Retail which challenges the unorganised sector immensely



Kids performing Acrobatics in We Want Climate Justice Programme of National Hawkers Federation



Packed up – Fellow hawkers listening intently to Saktiman Ghosh



A procession through a mohalla where Hawkers extend their services. The users must see their relevance and join them in protecting their rights



Rajrahat is a planned satellite city of Kolkata but it seems planning by Development Authorities is just limited to brick, cement and mortar - the row of hawkers tell it aloud!



Village Hawker Samiti on Beliaghata Road



People and Communities want cleaner energy alternatives than the currently fossil fuel driven energy production



Children for Climate Justice



A full house discussing issues most common to hawkers – survival, rights and future generations



Legal and social protection are two core areas for Hawkers – Working Committee Discusses these issues at length



People at all levels are demanding banning of dirty energy projects and organising themselves for a collective change





Women Take Charge In Seeking Solutions to Climate Change



Women have been equally participating in the climate challenge.





Women from the North East in a local gathering of Reclaim Power and Climate Justice



Many facets of Recalim Power





Networks like APMDD take along the local advocacy groups to demand Climate Justice



Women in front of the Coal Bhawan, Kolkata joining hands for a System Change!



Contracting wealth – a deep coal mine in Korba





Machines piercing through, Rising Dust clouds



Emitting carbon monoxide – open coal dumps catch fire! A direct conflict with Land Use

Change and rising carbon emissions



From Citymakers to Building Industry – Local Workers only needed during construction, they are not preferred during operational phase!



Local economy remain on its own, power hubs do not ensure power to locals!



Even operational one's are being sold out, like this GMR plant now owned by Adani Power Limited. Promises remain unfinished.....



Tough times but mine workers still manage a laugh, over a quick break!



Sea of Ash - Coal fired plants always require more land – to dump toxic ash waste!



Villagers discussing alternatives to economy which doesn't uproots them!



One water pipeline and a long wait tells the tale!



Women Leading the Satyagrah - No Coal but Grain, No Ash but Wheat



Mindless opening of coal fired plants turned them to non-performing assets! Loss to the public exchequer and tax payers money



One of the plants declared bankruptcy and workers debate their fate!



Women at the forefront of campaigning for clean energy, dumping dirty energy.



Demanding fiscal justice to affected mining communities!



A rail bridge over Hasdeo River abutting Dipka Mines. The most profiteering coal area of SECL but with a high carbon and displacement footprint!



Jogta colliery (Jharia) – Houses abandoned due to coal fire risk – no safer place offered!

Reclaim Power, a collaboration of social movements, international networks, NGOs and grassroots organizers, is working on every continent to highlight the connection between energy systems and climate change.

We are united around the following demands:

1. Ban new dirty energy projects
2. End government subsidies and public handouts to dirty energy companies.
3. Stop excessive energy consumption by corporations and global elites.
4. Redirect and mobilize public finance to ensure people's universal access to energy and make the complete shift to public and community/decentralized renewable and clean energy systems as soon as possible.
5. Divest from fossil fuel corporations.

And we came together under the following call to action, issued in 2013:

We face a planetary emergency and now is the moment to step up our efforts to transform our societies.

The Earth's climate is destabilizing and the planet is in crisis. Climate change is already harming our food and farms, oceans and fish, our access to freshwater. It is causing the increase in frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events that lay waste to lives, homes and livelihoods.

All around the world people are rallying to respond to this emergency. We are harnessing our knowledge,



our vision, our will, our compassion, and our solidarity - to fight climate change and its causes, and to build solutions that work for people and don't destroy the planet. We are strengthening our communities

for immediate and irreversible climate impacts and paving the way for new systems where all people lead lives of dignity and our planet is out of peril. We need to do so much more -- to reach and mobilize many more people and communities; to scale up and intensify collective actions; to strengthen the links between local and national struggles across all countries for powerful global actions -- to address the causes and consequences of climate change and profoundly transform our societies.

Our fight against climate change involves the transformation of energy systems...

Energy is a vital requirement to fulfill basic human needs and rights. It is a great injustice that the global consumption of energy is huge and rapidly rising and yet there are more than 1.3 billion people with no access to electricity, and many more with barely enough. It is an even greater injustice that current energy systems are bringing grave harm to people and planet. Among the many harmful consequences of dysfunctional energy systems is the excessive and fast increasing emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the burning of fossil fuels which includes plastics and tires. This is the immediate cause of global warming and climate change. The energy sector is the largest and fastest growing contributor globally -- 35% of all human GHG emissions come from this sector. Corporations and elites are benefiting the most from this dirty energy system, and states and private corporations are increasingly using repressive means to secure the current systems.

...resisting dirty and harmful energy and false energy solutions ...



Many communities and movements are fighting long-standing battles to stop dirty and harmful energy. Coal, oil and gas industries displace communities, pollute the land, water and the air, cause sickness, and destroy livelihoods. Technologies such as hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” being used to scale up and

increase the extraction of fossil fuels have led to even more destructive impacts. Dirty and harmful energy is not just fossil fuel energy - it includes the aggressive production and promotion of large-scale agro-fuels at the expense of food and livelihoods, mega-dams and hydro projects that devastate river ecosystems and cause massive environmental damage, dangerous nuclear power, and the toxic burning of waste to generate tiny amounts of energy. These are now being promoted as "clean energy" solutions to climate change.

...and fighting for real energy solutions

We are fighting for energy systems that are

- *Renewable, safe and clean*
- *Owned and operated by and for people and communities*
- *Ensure access for all people*
- *Powering systems of production, social reproduction, distribution and consumption that are compatible with the limits of the planet and are aimed at meeting the needs of peoples rather than the relentless pursuit of profit.*

In various part of the world, people are proving that these alternative energy systems are possible and feasible, defending their right to build these systems, and giving us hope for our future.



