

# CASE STUDY ON THE NOBLE CAUSE OF HOMELESS

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night shelter



## *Introduction*

- Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board was established in 2010 with the mandate of providing improved living conditions to the slum dwellers.
- DUSIB Functions under the purview of the DUSIB Act, 2010 and is primarily responsible for improving the quality of the life of Slum & JJ Dwellers in the capital city of Delhi whose population at present is estimated around 1.40 crores.

- The problem of homeless is quite acute and rampant in Delhi. To provide temporary shelters to these homeless people, Night Shelters have been provided by Govt. of Delhi. DUSIB is implementing an approved Plan Scheme namely “Construction Management and Maintenance of Shelters” in Delhi.
- The plight of homeless has been raised at various forums and this issue has since assumed wider perspective.

- The shelters are being run with the help of NGOs and with financial assistance from DUSIB.
- DUSIB at present is managing 175 shelters which include 84 temporary shelters, 66 permanent shelters and 25 purely. Temporary tent shelters scattered all over the city, with main concentration in walled city, central Delhi, Railway stations and ISBTs.



## ***NS Code 72, Dwarka Sector-12***

### ***OBSERVATIONS:***

- ✓ The biggest problem in this night shelter is the absence of toilets.
- ✓ The second most problem faced by these innocent dwellers is the problem of making food. Some homeless staying in this night shelter choose to prepare their own food while others eat at nearby dhabas, the ones who prepare their own food don't have proper space to do so and their 'chulas' go off in extreme windy weather and rain.

- ✓ Thirdly, establishment of their identity in the absence of identification document is a problem because of which they are not able to get benefits under various plan schemes of Govt.





Radhakrishan is a rikshaw puller residing in NS Dwarka sector 12. He is suffering from Tuberculosis and is not satisfied with the medications given to him in NS. He is severely ill and wants that Govt. should provide proper treatment for such severely infectious diseases in NS itself as he cannot afford to get external treatment.

Daily earning- Rs 400

Living here since- 2011





Shyam Singh Yadav  
another rikshaw puller  
from Shahajahanpur,  
UP living here  
complained about the  
problem of non  
availability of toilets  
and no arrangement  
for food preparation  
as he can't afford to  
buy food.

Age: 46

Living here since: 2012

Dependent family  
members: 9

Daily earning: Rs 400





Sachidanand Kumar  
working in BSES.

Salary: 10,000 pm

He is a new entrant in the NS as he recently migrated from Jharkhand, temporarily staying here till he makes some other arrangement. He is not happy with the arrangements being provided to him as the NS is not clean and there is no space been provided for their belongings. No toilet facility etc.



➤ Ram Singh is another dweller who is facing rat menace in this NS. A rat bit his ear when he was sleeping one night. He wants these rats to be completely removed as he says “Yeh aadmiyon ki rehne hi jagah hai, chuho ki nahi”





He is the caretaker of NS Sector 12, he is facing shortage of funds as money given to him is only Rs 600 in which he has to take care of all the inmates. He wants the Govt. to increase this amount so that better facilities can be provided to the homeless. The toilet facility should also be provided as soon as possible.





- Problem of parking rikshaws is evident in this picture. The NS is surrounded with Rikshaws on three sides which leads to fights among the dwellers and wastage of space. This space could rather be covered and used for making food.

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Shyam Singh Yadav discussing his problems

# ✦ NS Dwarka Sector 10

## ***Observations:***

- ✓ Water leakage from the ceiling.
- ✓ No toilets. Inmates have to use 'Sulabh Sauchalaya' nearby.
- ✓ Water scarcity.





Akhilesh belongs to Bareilly. He is a rikshaw puller, married with one daughter. He doesn't have a house in Delhi. He is a part of NS Sector 10 for the past 1.5 years. He pays Rs 50 per day rent for his rikshaw and Rs 100 for food. He earns Rs 300 per day. He doesn't have a drinking habit. He has complains about no toilet and bathroom in the NS.



Balbir

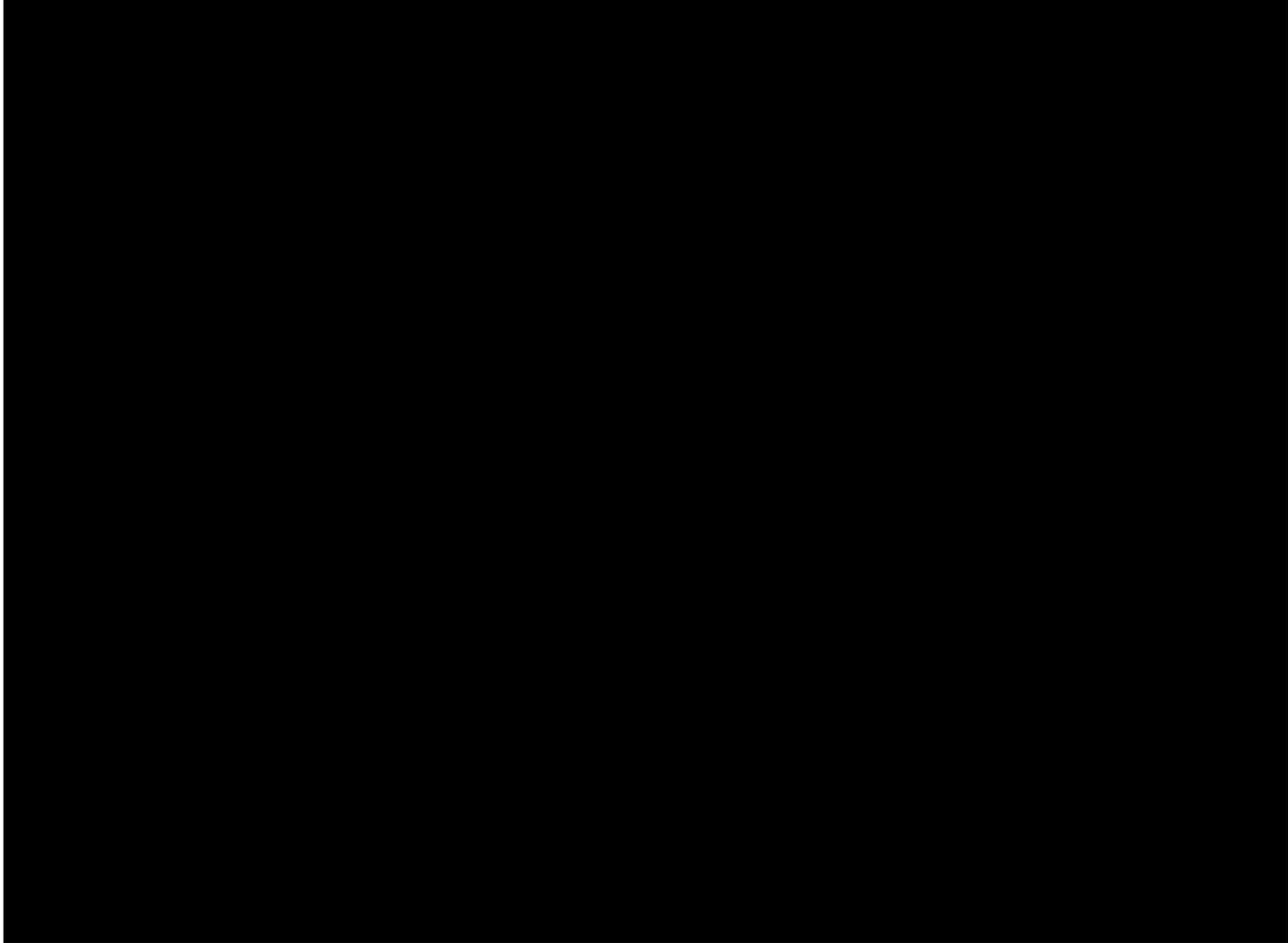
Age: 32 years

From: Shahjahanpur,  
UP

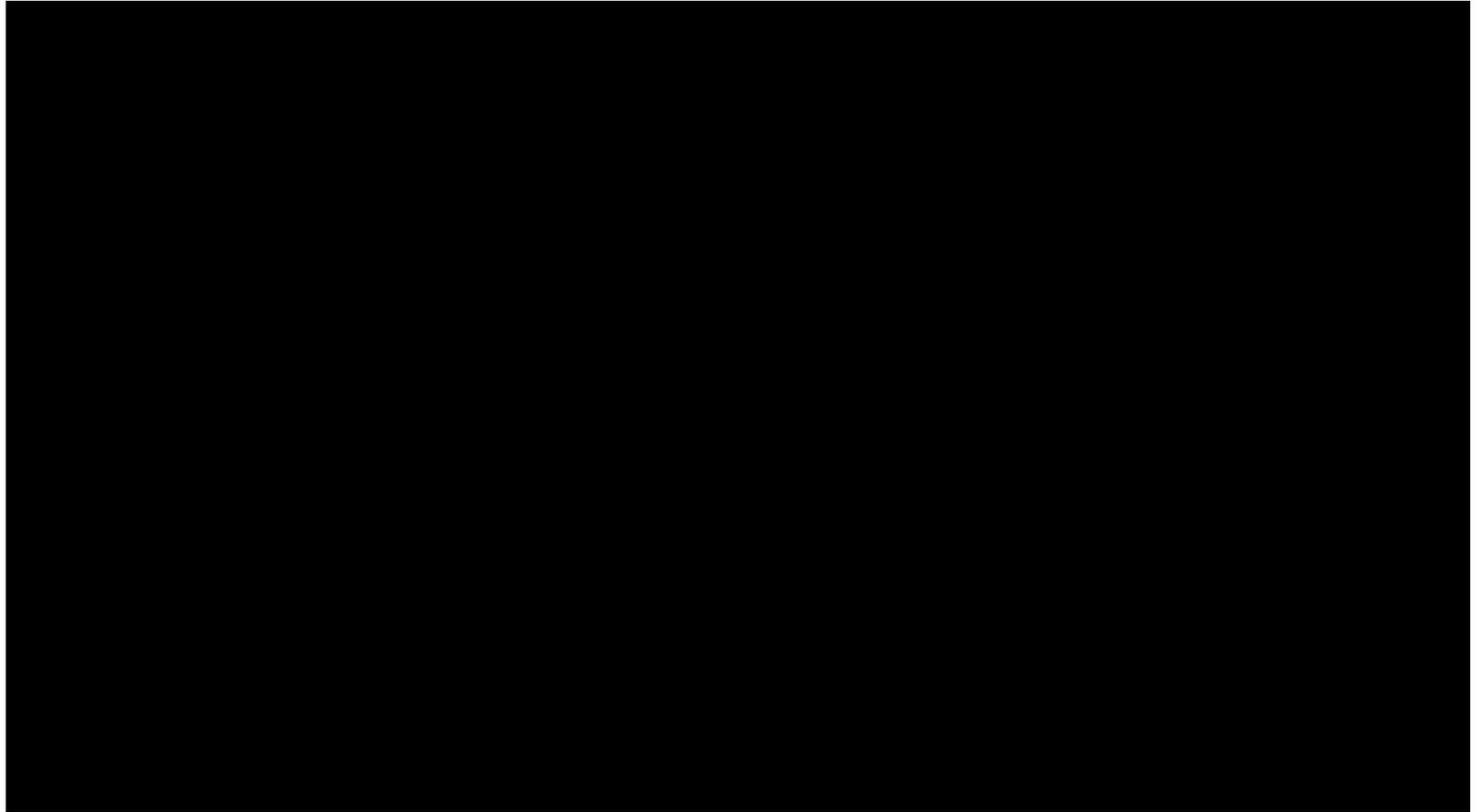
He is a rikshaw puller, married, staying here since 2001. His complain is about the availability of water, only 1000 litres water is provided which is not enough for their daily requirements. Also, they don't have lockers or almirahs to keep their clothes or valuables.



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CARETAKER Ram Singh discussing his problems:



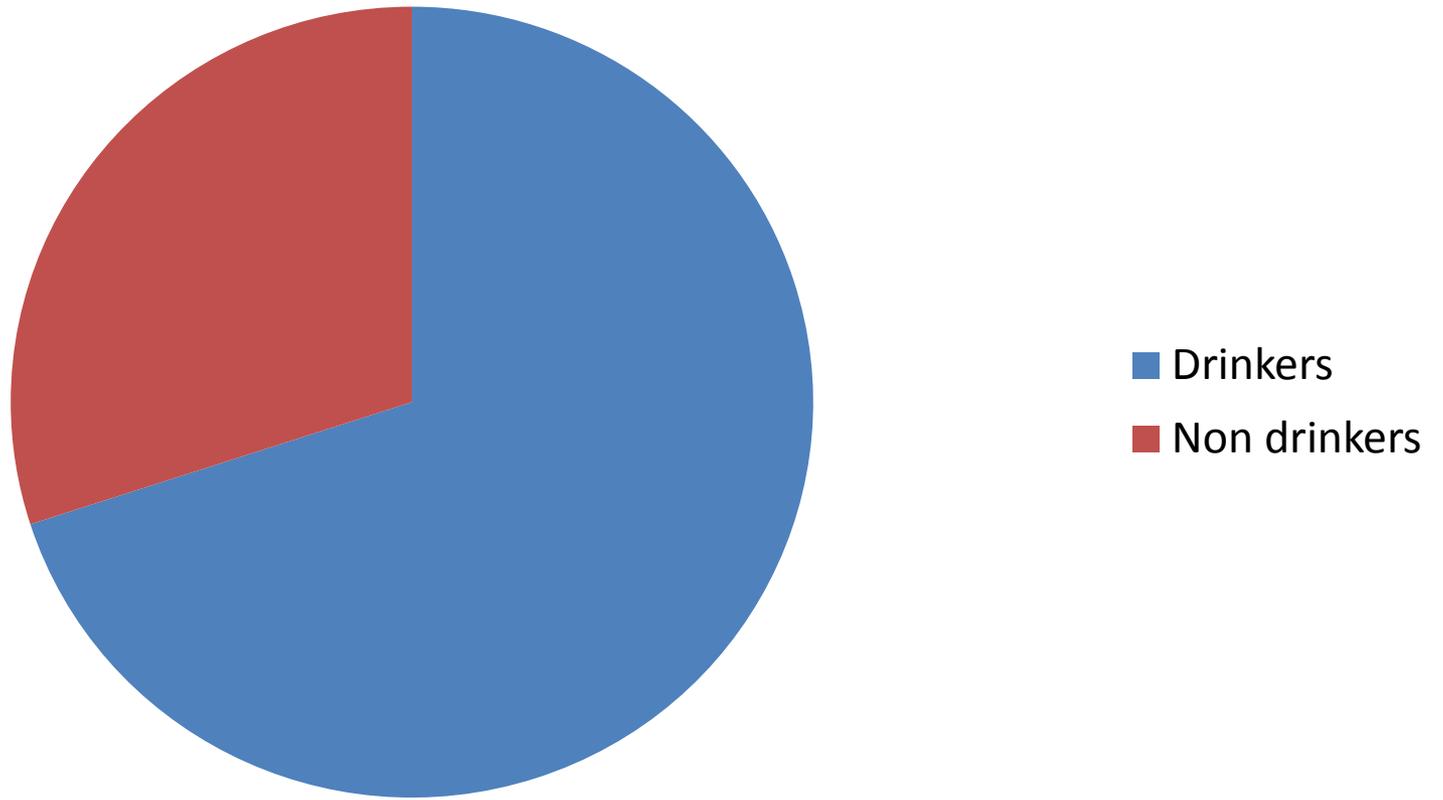
# Shri Gyan Gangotri Vikas Sansthan

## NGO managing Night Shelters

- Certain problems indicated by the NGO are as follows:
  1. Dwarka Sector 3 All women Night Shelter is so secluded and far away from the main settlement of the sector that most of the women are unwilling to stay in there and some don't even know about it.
  2. The Electricity bills in a lot of NS are paid by the NGO without any sharing by the Govt.
  3. Even though Chai and Rusks are being provided by the Govt. since February, the homeless desire food. If the Govt. could rather provide them with basic food, it would be beneficial.
  4. There is no space of almirahs or cupboards for the homeless to keep their clothes and other material goods in the NS. The clothes are mostly lying here and there and are often eaten away by rats which is a kind of monetary loss of the homeless.
  5. In NS Sector 10 Dwarka, there is water leakage problem from the ceiling. Also, the water available to the inmates is only 1000 litres out of which 500 litres is provided by the NGO while the Govt. provides only 500 litres.

# *ANALYSIS*

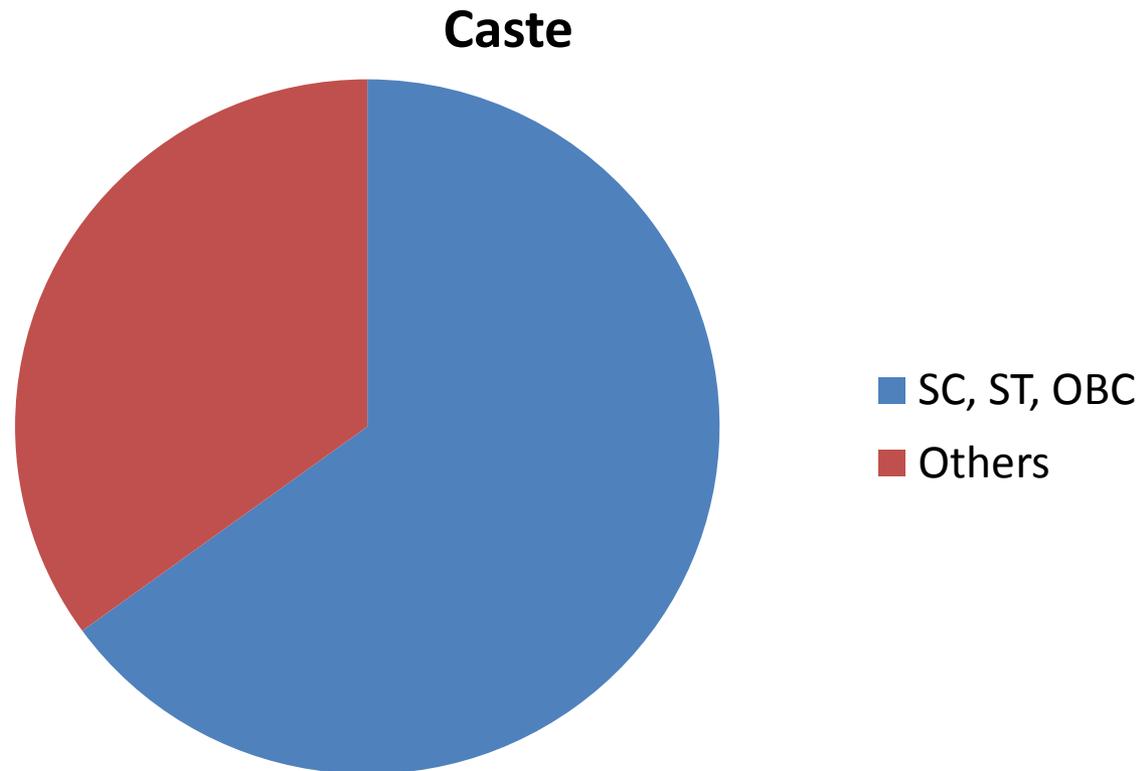
## Drinking Habit



- Almost 70% homeless drink alcohol on a daily basis. The observation suggests the reason behind this as idleness and non availability of any source of entertainment. While some NS have provided TVs, others are absolutely entertainment less. As these homeless are alone in Delhi and have nothing to do once back to NS they indulge in drinking. Due to lack of money, they consume low quality alcohol which effects their health adversely. So, its suggested that the Govt. should provide them with some counseling sessions.
- Also, educational facilities should be provided to the homeless who want to study further. As observed, most of them are either 8<sup>th</sup> grade pass or haven't joined any school at all. They quit studies as their families forced them to work. So, some evening sessions can be held in such NS to educate the homeless a little further and spread awareness about bank accounts, cleanliness, diseases like TB, HIV and Swine flu. This would help them to take up a better job and hence improve their living standards and could fulfill their 'dream' of owning a house in Delhi in future.

- Another problem faced by these homeless is that they have a lot of dependent family members living in villages. They want to bring their family members and children to Delhi so that they could help them in earning money and hence support the family. So, its suggested that there should be Women's and children NS right next to Men's NS or rather some more "FAMILY NS" so that the entire family can stay together and lead a good life. As The Constitution provides each and every citizen with the Right to Life.

- Though it wasn't asked but its observed that more than 60% homeless living in Night Shelters belong to SC, ST or Other Backward Classes.



Hoping to be a part of such volunteering programs further. It was a wonderful experience.

Thank you!

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Madhulika