

Environment & People

Be it initiating conservation of native urban birds, building a pan-India movement against wrapping sheets, or founding a drive for mental well-being of street children, I believe in solution-driven activism rather than mere awareness campaigns. Some of my projects are:

Endeavour	Start Year	Pg. No.
Wrap Gifts with Love, not Wrapping Sheets	2013	1
Mission Rehabilitation of Biodiversity	2016	3
A Mental Health Campaign for Street Children	2017	5
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Wrap Gifts with Love, Not Wrapping Sheets

Wrapping Sheets: The Hidden Junk Culprit

2013 Onward

Indian Teachers Assn. awarded
'Homi Bhabha Young Scientist'



10,734 tonnes of Wrapping Waste on Christmas alone

A recent study indicates that the total waste wrapping paper that is produced in UK alone over Christmas could stretch to the moon. India needs to worry all the more with hundreds of festivals, endless birthday parties, long wedding celebrations, and our mounting landfills! It is ironic that plastic shopping bags have been banned in Mumbai, but the queue of people waiting at the 'gifting' counter to choose a wrapping sheet of their liking only grows longer.

Dyed, Laminated, Plastic and Metallic Wrapping Sheets - Worse Than Plastic

Non-Paper Additives

Metallic glittery wrapping sheets are NOT recyclable as they have non paper additives such as gold and silver foil.

Obstruct Recycling

Heavily colored wrapping sheets obstruct the recycling process as they make use of artificial dyes that are very difficult to bleach out.

Lowest Grade Plastic

Most of the wrapping paper is light, thin & flimsy, making it worthless for recycling or reuse



Often Taped Up

If plastered in tape, wrapping becomes useless for recycling as separating the two types of plastic is impossible.

Zero Awareness

Nowhere on social media, blogs or any other place in internet has anybody given much thought or shown worry about wrapping waste.

Ends up in Landfills

Most of the wrapping paper ends up in landfills. where it poisons the ground.

Beginning sixth grade, I have been working on the campaign *Wrap Gifts with Love, not Wrapping Sheets* to change people's attitude toward gift wrapping.

I have collected 400+ feedback forms physically and via my website <http://nowrappingsheets.weebly.com>

The outcome of my campaign is a compilation of over a 100 suggestions on how people can cut down wrapping waste - from Japanese Bojagi cloth wrapping techniques to reusable gift boxes.

These solutions are available on the website, and have been incorporated as part of an 80 page report on this campaign. My work won me the Homi Bhabha Young Scientist Award Gold Medal.

Gifts wrapped with love

not with wrapping sheets

Green Ideas



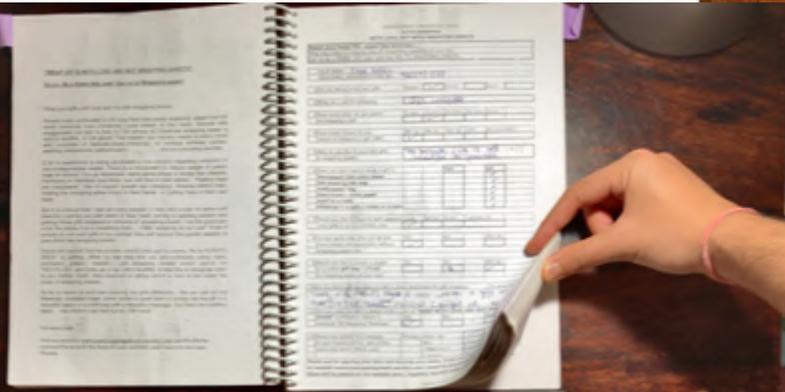
Hey folks, I am Aman Ladia from Mumbai, India. I have taken an initiative to start a drive against reckless usage of wrapping sheets. Join the club.

Go on, Be A Rebel this year. Say NO to WRAPPING Sheets. Spare few minutes....

Wrap your gifts with love and not with wrapping sheets.

Recent study conducted in UK says that total waste wrapping paper that UK alone produces over Christmas could stretch to the moon. Sounds little exaggerated but fact is that 10,734 tonnes of Christmas wrapping paper is sent to landfills, in UK alone! That means, our country needs to worry more with hundreds of festivals, diwali, christmas, id, endless birthday parties, long wedding celebrations, babyshowers.....and our mounting landfills!!!

Surveys



Report



Wrapping Ideas

Newspaper Art



Japanese Bojagi



Old food cartons



Wrapping in Maps



Mission Rehabilitation of Biodiversity

Ecological engineering to restore urban avian ecosystem

2016 Onward

Indian Teachers Assn. awarded
'Homi Bhabha Young Scientist'



Native birds are endangered in urban environments

The only bird seen freely in Mumbai is the crow. In the absence of any urban bird population surveys, I spent **twelve months** observing my locality's ecosystem, only to find that our **glass buildings, open waste disposal sites** and **artificially planted non-native trees** have destroyed the habitat of small birds like sparrows and mynahs. Moreover, **competition from crows** has made perching difficult for these birds.

Engineering 'Biodiversity Domes' – Protected Feeding & Breeding Enclosures

Nut Feeders

Feeders containing black oil sunflower seeds, safflower and peanuts. Such a blend will provide nutritious food for young sparrows.

Sand Bath

Sand bathing is a part of a bird's preening and plumage maintenance that keeps feathers in good condition.

Water Pool

Water is necessary for sparrows to cool off in the summer heat and for drinking purposes.



Carefully Sized Holes

8x8 cm holes are large enough for sparrows to enter but too small for crows. This makes biodiversity domes a hotspot for small birds to breed & flourish.

Native Plantation

Planting native flora like *Basil*, *Malabar nut* and *Henna* can help attract sparrows, give them a place to nest & provide food for their growth.

Journey of a Mini Biodiversity Dome Installed in my Locality



Day 6- food spread on parapit



Day 9, started eating fed grains



Day 11- put some feathers in the dome



Day 12- Sparrows started peeping inside the dome



Day 13- no grew around the Dome



Day 17- 1st sparrow entered the Dome



MINI DOME- TRIAL RESULTS

Find the complete 200 page handwritten research report at amanladia.com/biodome

A Mental Health Campaign for Street Children

My Action Campaign, Gift a Smile

2017 Onward

Over 1000 Smiles Generated
Campaign Adopted by Lions Club



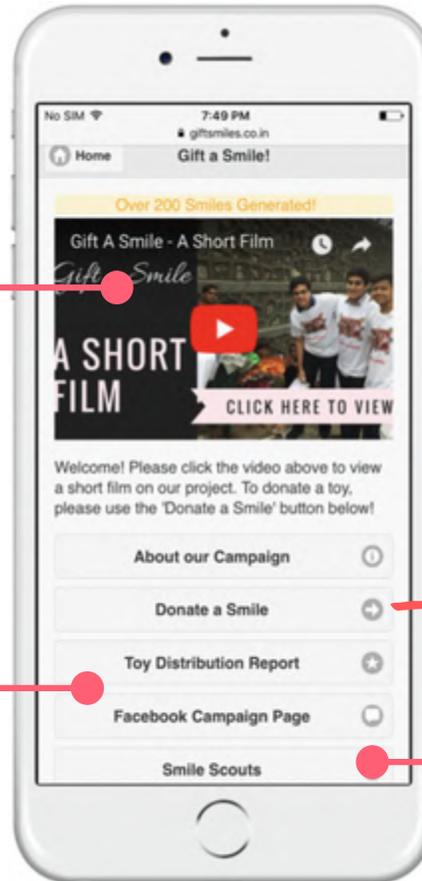
17 Million Street Children in India alone are Depressed

Recreation is an activity unheard of for street children as they barely make their ends meet. Privileged children like us outgrow toys, games and puzzles which are a great way to exercise the mind and aid in mental development. My campaign 'Gift A Smile', is an awareness and action campaign for the mental health issues of street kids. **By making the donation of old puzzles and games extremely convenient, transparent and efficient, we have brought change in an area left unattended by NGOs and Governments.**

An Integrated Awareness & Action Portal: <http://giftsmiles.co.in>

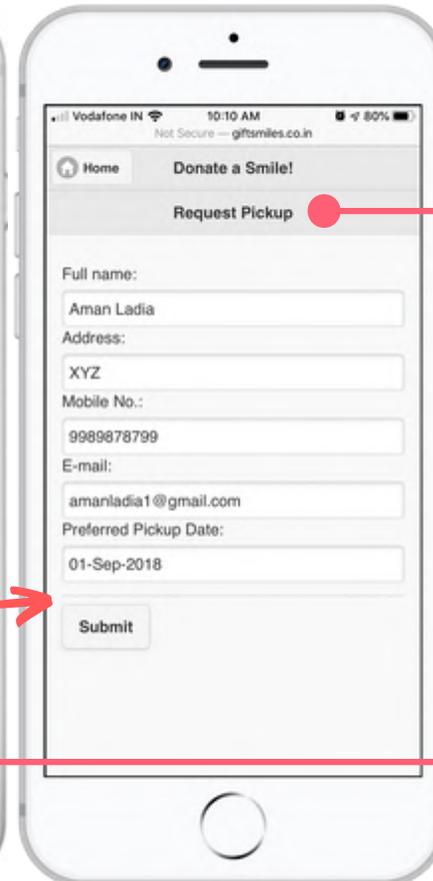
A Campaign Beyond Me

I founded this campaign with four friends from school, but today it has over 25 active members. Our efforts in improving the mental health of street children are summed in a short evocative video with 6000+ views.



A Transparent Campaign

We post updates on our website and our Facebook page regarding toy collection and distribution efforts. If you donate a toy, game or puzzle to us, you will soon see it feature on these channels, helping you realise the impact of your contribution.



We make Contributing Easy

We realised that contributing old toys, games and puzzles can often be a hassle. So, you can enter your address and contact details online and one of us will come to collect your donations at a convenient time.

Run by 'Smile Scouts'

Over 1000 toys, puzzles and games have been donated to street children by volunteers called 'Smile Scouts' in 3 regions: Mumbai, Bangalore and Durgapur. We have received smile scout requests from people in Argentina, Portugal, US and France (their testimonies are in our video).

This is just a snapshot of our impact.

Watch the complete video at https://youtu.be/4_R22oJLEE0



Our Mumbai Smile Scouts



Dr Sapna: Our 1st Donor



Our Smile Scout in Bangalore



Youngest Donors with 40 toys



Dungarpur Smile Scouts at Home for orphaned blind



GIFT A SMILE

to a child on the street

Donate toys on www.giftsmiles.co.in



Having fun with kids



A teacher as smile scout in Dungarpur



Playing with children



A Fitness Trainer, Our Newset Scout

International Coastal Cleanup

Leader of school team for monthly beach cleanup operations

2019 Onward

Beach Cleanup Activity carried out to promote ecosystem rejuvenation

