

Informal Economy New Delhi, India

1

The workforce in New Delhi is becoming increasingly informal



72%

of people employed in New Delhi in 2010 (outside of agriculture) were informally employed

Source: Special tabulations based on the 2011-2012 National Survey of Unemployment and Employment prepared by Govindan Ravindran, the former Additional Director of the Central Statistical Organisation of India.

Informal workers make huge contributions to the city of New Delhi and to India

2

It's estimated that up to **500,000 street vendors** are working in Delhi. According to national data, street vendors are responsible for **50%** of India's savings and **63%** of its GDP.



Environment-friendly recycling is being practiced by an estimated **1,500,000 informal waste pickers** in Delhi's streets and dumpsites.



Informal home-based work makes up **31%** of all non-agricultural employment for women in India.



AND 13% of all women's employment in Delhi.

3

Despite the significant size of the informal economy in Delhi, large urban infrastructure projects, city policies and regulations, and local authorities are undermining or destroying the livelihoods of the urban working poor. India's urban policies and programmes are robust, but there is little-to-no attention paid to the impact on urban livelihoods.

Slum resettlements move poor workers to the margins of the city, severely affecting their livelihoods.



60-70% of street vendors report having to pay bribes to authorities on a regular basis.



The 2016 Solid Waste Management Rules

have yet to be implemented, and Delhi waste pickers continue to suffer the hazardous working conditions, harassment, displacement and marginalization that the rules promised to protect them from.

4

WIEGO's Focal Cities Delhi programme seeks to improve outcomes for informal workers and for the city of Delhi in the following ways:

By bringing informal livelihoods into urban discourse

With local partners, Focal Cities Delhi works to ensure that informal livelihood issues are considered in municipal decision-making.

By bringing visibility to informal workers and their contributions

Focal Cities Delhi works to build a knowledge base about informal employment, increasing awareness of the assets created by informal work and the informal economy.

By supporting workers' groups to advocate for good policies and laws

Focal Cities Delhi delivers the knowledge and tools that informal workers need to challenge unfair or indiscriminately applied laws and policies.