Platform for patrons

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ABSTRACT

Many of us feel that we can do a lot to help those in need. It can be to help people in poverty or for a cause. A lot of organizations are trying to help people in their own unique way amidst many problems they are facing. But there is a gap in this process where we, the people do not know or do not trust or to put it simply don't have enough proof that what we do will have an impact. The idea of helping others in a trustworthy, transparent and comfortable way with the tap of a button would help people take a step forward and make a difference.

Keywords— *Patron, Justgiving, Bharath Ke Veer, ReFed, Karma*

1. INTRODUCTION

There are a lot of people who are in need of things we sometimes take for granted. It maybe books, clothes or even food. And then there are situations like disasters/calamities where people seek help to get even the common things. Many organizations help them at such situations. They engage others in awareness campaigns, ask support financially and in any way possible.

Some of the problems are stated in the following:
- No proper system to recognize the organizations.
- Organizations might not have enough resources to reach out to people in a better, trustworthy and transparent way.
- Volunteers who try to spread awareness and seek help grind all day long without getting the recognition or help they need.
- Some organizations might face the exact opposite to the above statement. They might have excess resources / items and have no idea what to do with them.
- Volunteers and the organization might be perceived as fraud
- No guarantees that the item donated will reach the needy or used properly
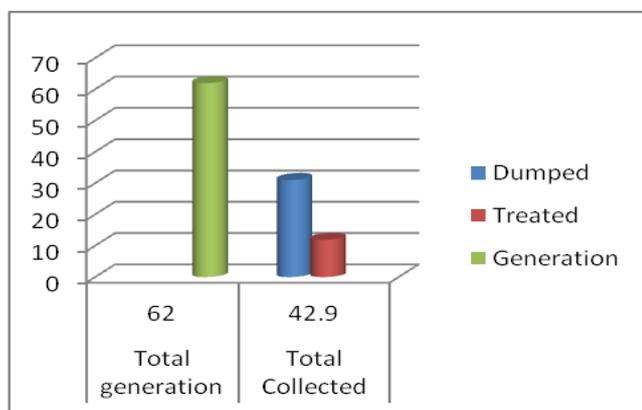- People might face problems like what to donate, how much is needed, how to donate, etc.

Fig. 1: Waste Generation Graph

Table 1: Waste generation in Bangalore

Stakeholders	Quantity of Waste (tonnes/day)	%
Households	650	18
Commercial Establishments	1436	39
- Markets	369	1067
- Hotels		
Institutes	128	4
- Hospitals	20	
- Offices	16	
- Educational institutions	92	
Industries	1399	39
Total	3613	100

Source: Beukering, et al., 1999

2. SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEMS

A simple and efficient way to solve these problems is to have a recognizing body that can authorize the organizations as genuine or legitimate. By doing so, people will perceive things differently.

Stopping the process of seeking help door to door and trying to spread awareness through volunteers altogether helps overcome their problems. Instead, spreading information through a trustworthy source and getting the items only after they are certain that they will get it will help the organization and is a much more time and energy efficient process.

Teaching people how and when to help goes a long way and many want to-be patron can take a step forward and help people or organization or a cause without hesitations.

With increase in the number of people using the internet, social media is one of the effective ways in which many of the discussed solutions can be achieved. But it does not provide a complete solution to all the problems. There is no way to guarantee that the items donated will reach those in need. To overcome this, again a trustworthy platform is necessary to track or a platform where organizations can post how it is used. By conducting a survey, we can get a glimpse of problems the organizations face and we can try to help them. But not everyone can go surveying and researching about the problems. Again, a platform that does these things for people will help.

To summarize, an online platform where users and organizations can post what they have or need and the heroic patrons and want-be patron can help without hesitation or doubts about the organization or the items they will donate. Unlike social media applications where such requests can also be posted, a platform that is present only for this, which checks the authenticity of organizations and aims to reduce poverty and help those in need is something that we feel is necessary.

3. EXISTING SOLUTION
To solve some of the problems mentioned in the problem statement many individuals and organizations have come up with the following ideas / means:
- Use social media to spread awareness about the needs
- Creating custom websites to be visible online and to seek help.
- Custom applications that focuses on financial support
- A website *justgiving.com* [1] which authorizes organizations and helps them to raise money and provide financial support
- Applications like *bharath ke veer* [2] that make it easy for people to provide financial aid to the family of martyred soldiers.
- *ReFed* [3] focuses on reducing food-waste, aims to provide left-over food to those in need (Organizations or Homeless people)
- *Karma* [4] app which enables consumers to buy unsold food form restaurants, cafes and grocery stores.

4. PROPOSED SOLUTION
We propose a single platform that combines such existing solutions.

The numbers of mobile devices are increasing day by day; a cross-platform mobile application that can be used by anyone with a mobile device is effective to reach the people and to make it user-friendly. An app that can be used by patrons and organizations alike. Patrons can post what they wish to donate on the app. Organizations can also request the items they need through the app.

The app acts as an intermediate between Millions of people who wish to help and the thousands of organizations that seek help. The app implements machine learning algorithms to sort the requests based on priority or importance or based on time. New concept of resource threshold will be implemented. This will ensure that the organizations will get only required number of items. Once the threshold is reached a notification will be sent to the organization and their request(s) will be removed.

Patrons who have posted can be contacted by the organizations that need the item. This ensures authenticity. Both   patrons and organizations will now know where to get the items and where the item will go. After the patron confirms a request from the organization, volunteer's details that will collect the item(s) will be shared with the patron.

This way the patrons can also track the item which they donate and in the end the organization confirms receiving the items.

5. CONCLUSION
The scope of the project is to form a connection between patrons and organizations that are already helping others to make this world a better place for everyone. Options or features include real-time updating of posts and requests, resource threshold value to avoid excess resource sharing, item-tracking option for users, emergency requests to help victims of a disaster and a info/help panel for users to learn different ways they can help.

6. REFERENCES
[1] https://www.justgiving.com/
[2] https://www.bharatkeveer.gov.in/
[3] https://www.refed.com/?sort=economic-value-per-ton
[4] https://karma.life/