

ANNALS OF THE WASTE WORLD

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You are looking at Masterchef, held only a few kilometres from the Ghazipur landfill. Waste picker women, trained by Chintan to feed their daughters more nutritious food, initially assumed they would be the chefs in this food mela. Then, their husbands joined up and it became as brutal a competition as you see on TV. Given that girls eat less and the leftovers, we worked with the waste picker community to change this violent attitude. We made sprouts in class, learnt about fruit and taught the mothers a whole lot of delicious recipes from cheap and easy ingredients. Within a year, we noticed that the boys a stopped buying the 5 rupee fried namkeen junk food they loved. Many are now bringing bananas and guavas from home. The best part? So are the girls, who previously ate nothing at all.