



Interview 6
Chappa picker

Magamma

(translated from Kannada, the language of Karnataka State)

Magamma lives in a slum area of Bangalore, 5km from the city centre. She lives with her family in tented housing, made from scrap materials, wood parts, and tin sheets.



1. What do you think about the new wealth in India?

I'm eight years old. I don't know about this wealth. In the morning, I wash vessels (pots). By the afternoon, I have finished my work and go chappa (waste) picking. I pick iron pieces because it's waste from the steel factory here.

The package I carry on my head holds bits of iron which we sell as scrap. It sells by weight and get 10 rupees (15p) per kilo. I beat the scrap with a stone to get the good metal. Then, I take it home and wash it myself. My father collects together our pickings for the week and sells them together.



I was born in this place and I have never been to other places. I have never been to school. I only see this place. I have seen planes in the sky and people talk about the new buildings. I have never seen these things.

When I've finished work, I go home and wash and play. I don't know what I want to do in the future.



2. What can the world learn from India?

We have festivals here with music and dancing. We know how to do this from being a small baby. We share groundnuts and cashew nuts, and we get to wear new clothes.

We live in a god-living way. We look after each other.

