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# GRAHAK SATHI

## SHARING COMMUNITIES

આપ-લે નો ઓટલો  
Platform for Give & Take



(Click to Read)



- Sharing saves resources
- Reduce waste by extending product life
- Green Action Week - CERC campaigns for sharing
- Video - Make home cleaner using kitchen ingredients



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## Sharing saves resources and reduces waste

### Why is sharing necessary

People across the world do not have equal access to goods and services. Many over-consume while many lack access to even basic goods and services. Unsustainable consumption with increasing use of natural resources, fossil fuels, air, water, and soil pollution, and increasing amounts of waste needs to change to ensure a healthy environment and a better quality of life for people.

Sharing can promote a more sustainable consumption culture and can improve people's access to goods and services. It can improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and pollution. Sharing economies also enable development and entrepreneurship.

### Impacts of sharing

Sharing in communities' benefits people and the planet in various ways. It also leads to reduced production by disrupting the unsustainable practice of over-consumption.

**Social aspect** - Collaboration and sharing bring communities closer together with social benefits that also reduce environmental impact. Local cultures of sharing and the tradition of communal unity are restored. It can also improve employment, safety and effectiveness of resource utilization.



**Economic aspect** - Sharing brings economic benefits by saving costs and through innovations in resource sharing methods, extending product life, sharing services through aggregation etc. It brings new respect to older skills which could provide sustainable income.

**Environmental aspect** – Sharing helps in better allocation of resources, decreases waste, pollution, emission of green-house gases and has a positive impact on environmental sustainability. Sharing resources, technological equipment and support within a community can help produce safe, affordable and sustainable goods for everyone and help reduce harmful practices, pollution and waste.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, the United Nations adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, consisting of 17 SDGs addressing global challenges like climate change, inequalities, poverty and environmental degradation. SDG 12 - 'Sustainable consumption and production'- concerns material use, hazardous chemicals and waste, sustainable business practices, and consumer behaviour. Improved resource efficiency, reduced waste and better awareness of sustainable lifestyles are being targeted worldwide to achieve SDG 12.



## Reduce waste by extending product life

The idea of 'Zero waste lifestyle' may seem unrealistic but the aim is good for all of us. Small, sustained efforts to make changes in choices will ensure gradual reduction in the waste load. Another important way is to look for other uses of a product that no longer serves its primary usage.

*Grahak Sathi* brings you some tips that will help reduce your waste output.

### Want not, buy not

Every time you are tempted to buy a dress that's on sale, stop and think. Are you buying it because it's on large discount? Or do you 'feel' you need it although your wardrobe is overflowing? If the answer is 'yes' to either, stop yourself buying it. Think honestly before making any purchase, if you genuinely need the item or not.

### Buy reusable

A reusable straw or a copper bottle may seem expensive but you will save on repeat purchases. Use reusable cloth bags every time you shop; you will not have to pay for plastic carry bags and will reduce plastic usage. Carry your own water bottle to avoid buying plastic water bottles.

### Repair and reuse

Simple repair and regular maintenance can extend life of products like clothing, tires, appliances etc. Instead of changing to a new one, try to repair the item you have. Get help from a friend or an expert for it.

### Recycle and repurpose

Take a moment to give your 'waste' a second look before discarding. Many items with no apparent value can be repurposed to something useful. This will keep waste out of landfills and save you money. Refashion an old saree into a beautiful dress or a curtain. Use old CDs for art and décor.

### Donate

Items that you no longer need, like clothes, appliances, furniture, electronics etc. may have some use for others. Think about donating them instead of dumping them. Make sure they are in working/usable condition when you donate.



## Green Action Week - CERC campaigns for sharing

Green Action Week is observed every October by CERC, along with organisations around the world, by taking joint action towards a common cause. The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) started this in 1990, and it became an international partnership through Consumers International (CI) since 2010.

For the past 3 years, the theme is 'Sharing Community', to promote cultures of sharing and collaboration to ensure sustainable access to goods and services for everyone. From 28 Sept. to 4 Oct. this year, we are campaigning to promote and drive Sustainable Consumption through new ideas and technologies.

In 2018, CERC-ENVIS created 'आप दे नो ओटवो' (a platform for give & take) to promote sharing of preowned personal use, household and other items. People could give things they did not need and others who needed could take them. The platform enabled such exchanges even without people knowing each other.

In 2019, CERC focused on instilling a sharing attitude in school children. Five affluent schools were linked with financially weak ones and children were urged to share used stationary, books, toys, raincoats, woolens etc. with underprivileged kids.

In the 2020 COVID pandemic, migrant labour were found to be among the neediest, without much access to means of survival. To help them, CERC has focused on creating a sharing platform between the resident communities (as donors) and migrant labourers.

### Appeal to share your used items for needy migrant/daily wage labourers

We have created a sharing platform between local resident communities and migrant/daily wage labourers, to give them access to useful items of need shared by you. Things collected will be packed and distributed to them.

#### What you can share

- Clothes
- Household items- utensils, storage items etc.
- Stationery and books
- Food items, rice, wheat flour, pulses etc.

To share, please call  079 2748 9945/46 or deposit at our collection centre:

Consumer Education & Research Centre  
Suraksha Sankool, S G Highway  
Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 380054

#### Links to our recent issues

1. Buyers' Guide - Steam Inhalers
2. COVID home care services
3. Technology helps in COVID times
4. How ozone layer depletion affects us
5. Resolve your consumer complaints through CERC