

Brief

Enhancing the living conditions of the homeless in cities by designing semi-permanent spaces for living and earning.

Problem

Majority of the homeless people are the migrant workers who aren't permanent residents of the city and are just there for some specific number of days to earn a living. With some of them having the basic education it needs to be seen that they atleast get the basic amenities that they deserve and a chance to earn a respectful living.

A large fraction of them are not aware of the government facilities and night shelters available in the cities. Though, the ones that are aware and have experienced them have not given much positive responses considering the aspects of safety, hygiene and treatment received. Thus, opting out to live on the streets is a much safer option for them.

Scope

AASHRAY is a system designed as an aid for the urban homeless. The Aashray system is designed with focus on providing the basic needs of these people.

It provides a temporary living space for these people with all the basic amenities. Along with the spaces, Aashray also promises a secondary option to earn a living.

Aashray is a model which functions best when supported by a Non-Governmental organization or/and a Government body.

Research

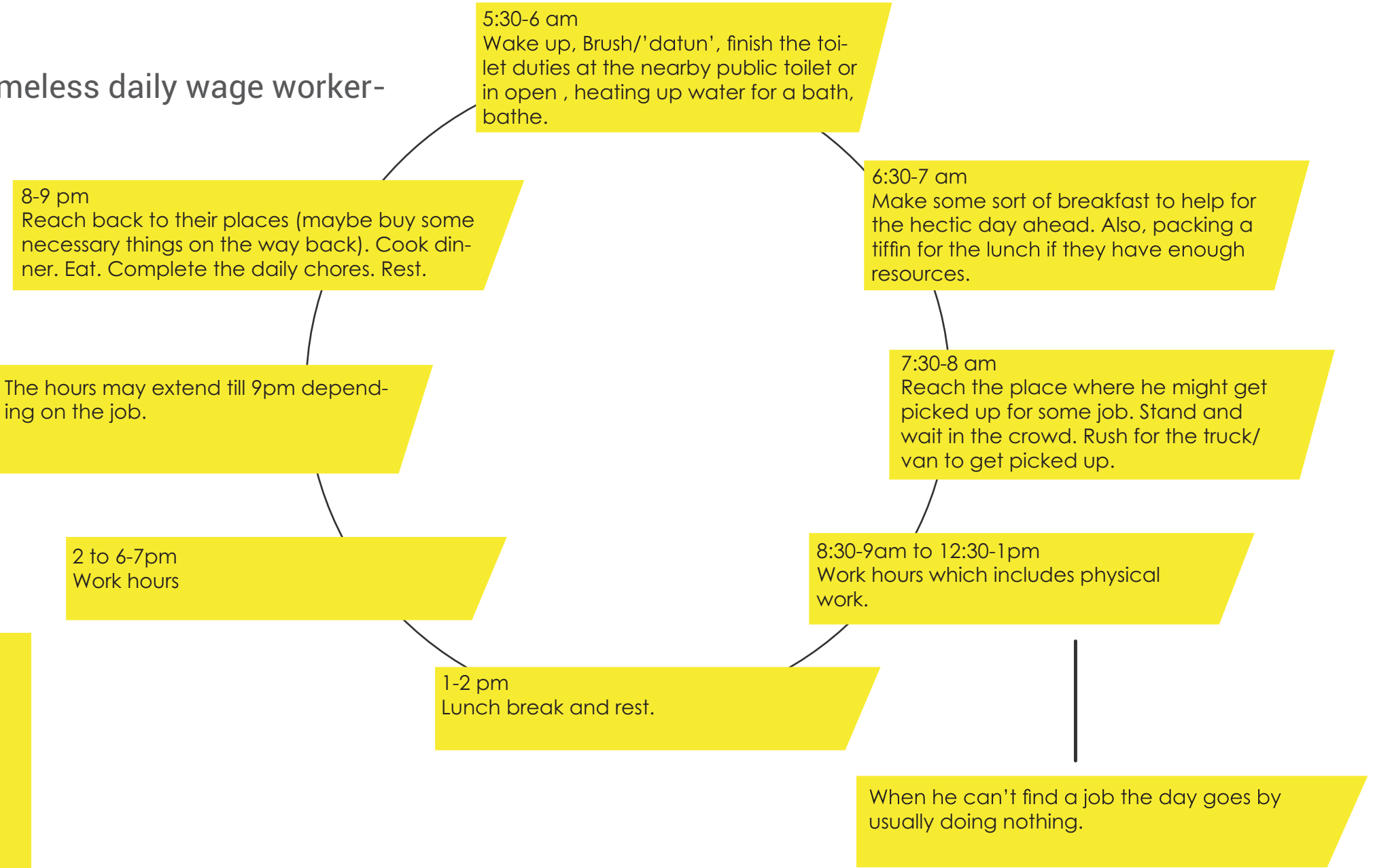
Profile study through interviews

A few of these homeless people where interviewed as part of the research. These casual interviews gave insights on the problems of-

- A proper space to live
- Safety of the place
- Finding an option to earn everyday

User Study

A day in the life of a homeless daily wage worker-



Studying/ speculating the life cycle of a homeless helps in empathy mapping and further getting insights about pain and gain points throughout the time period. The period can be one day or a few months.

Empathy Mapping

Ramesh

Demographics:

- Gender: Male
- Age: 31
- Marital status: Married (with children)
- Location: Near Anuvrat Dwar, Citylight, Surat

Behavior:

- Were afraid to talk to due to the information leak.
- Have given up hopes of improvement in his condition.
- Keeps the area where he stays clean.
- Didn't like when people gave him the leftover food. Cooks his own food.

Current living condition:

- Lives along with other 25-30 homeless people.
- Might be told to shift out by the officials. The visits are not fixed.
- Has really less belongings in the form of clothes, utensils etc.

Technology:

- Doesn't use a smartphone. Has a normal keypad phone.
- Isn't aware about the developments taking place around.

Occupation: Daily wager

Income: Around 400-500 per day

Education: 12th pass (with 60%)

Views on the available Government services:

- Stayed at the night shelters provided by the government for a while.
- Not clean enough
- No security. Had an experience of theft of personal belongings.
- No freedom of doing the daily routine. Was not allowed to cook in the morning before leaving for the jobs.
- Not respectfully treated.

Why come to the city?

- Has a piece of land for farming back at his village but couldn't generate any income from it due to the pandemic and lack of resources.
- Has a family to raise and so had to come to the city for a job.
- Usually works for a couple of months and returns to his hometown.

Aspirations:

Willing to do any job for construction, painting to farming.

Daya Bhai

Demographics:

- Gender: Male
- Age: 48
- Marital status: Married (two kids)
- Location: Behind Rahul Raj Mall, Piplod, Surat

Current living condition:

- Lives at temporarily built house among a series of similar houses.
- Has been living like this for the last 10-15 years (at different locations).
- Road expansion work in progress just in front of their houses (which suggests they might have to shift).

Occupation: Works at a local restaurant

Education: Not educated, noone in the family as well

Income: Around Rs5000 per month

Knowledge about the available services:

- Knows nothing about the Government shelters.
- Doesn't have a smartphone to connect to the outside world.

Demographics:

- Gender: Male
- Age: 25
- Marital status: Married
- Location: Construction site, Vesu, Surat

Current living condition:

- Lives in temporary settings, an approved area by the SMC near the site.
- Would work for 2-3 months and would return to his hometown.
- Cooks his own food.
- No smartphone or internet.

Occupation: Construction worker at various sites.

Education: BA

Income: Daily work progress gets noted down. Paid after a month or so or whenever he asks for.

Behavior:

- Works wherever there's availability. Specially at construction sites.
- Lives alone as he can't risk his family due to the current scenario.
- Couldn't pursue further education due to added family responsibilities.

Future aspirations:

- Has no plans for future. Thinks he is going to live only uptill 50-60years (basically till he will be able to work and produce for his family).

Research

Pains and Gains -

Jobs	Pains	Gains
Living in the temporary dwellings	Unsuitable weather conditions. Asked to shift away by the municipality. Lack of safety. Unhygienic living conditions. Lack of money to buy essentials.	A permanent/semi-permanent place to live. Clean surroundings in the living area. Ease of getting resources/ essentials. Safety against thefts, accidents etc.
Daily wage jobs	Uncertainty of getting a job daily. No means to put thier educational qualification to use. Majorly physical work everyday. No fixed working hours.	A fix job with a fix salary. Not have to put in physical work all day, everyday. Fixed working hours. Some means to put their education to use. Means to have some basic education or go for higher education.
Using the available Government services	Not aware about any such schemes. Services available but not usable. Government not paying attention to their condition. Harsh treatment.	More help from the Government or NGO's. Means to get aware about any of the schemes rolled out.

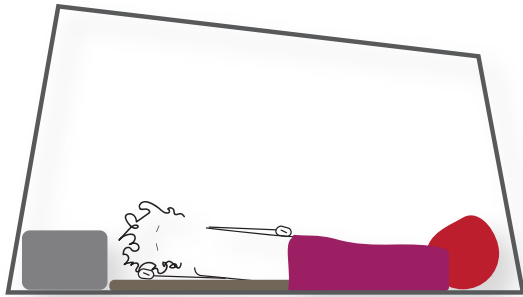
Further research on

- Available government facilities
- Unused spaces in cities
- Why people migrate and the numbers
- NGO's and their facilities

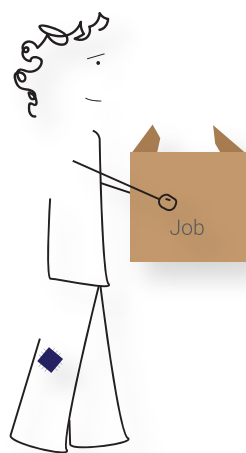
Ideation | Concept development

This user research led to ideation with focus on the needs of the end users.

What do they need?



A secure space to live.



Some job to earn a living.



day to day essentials



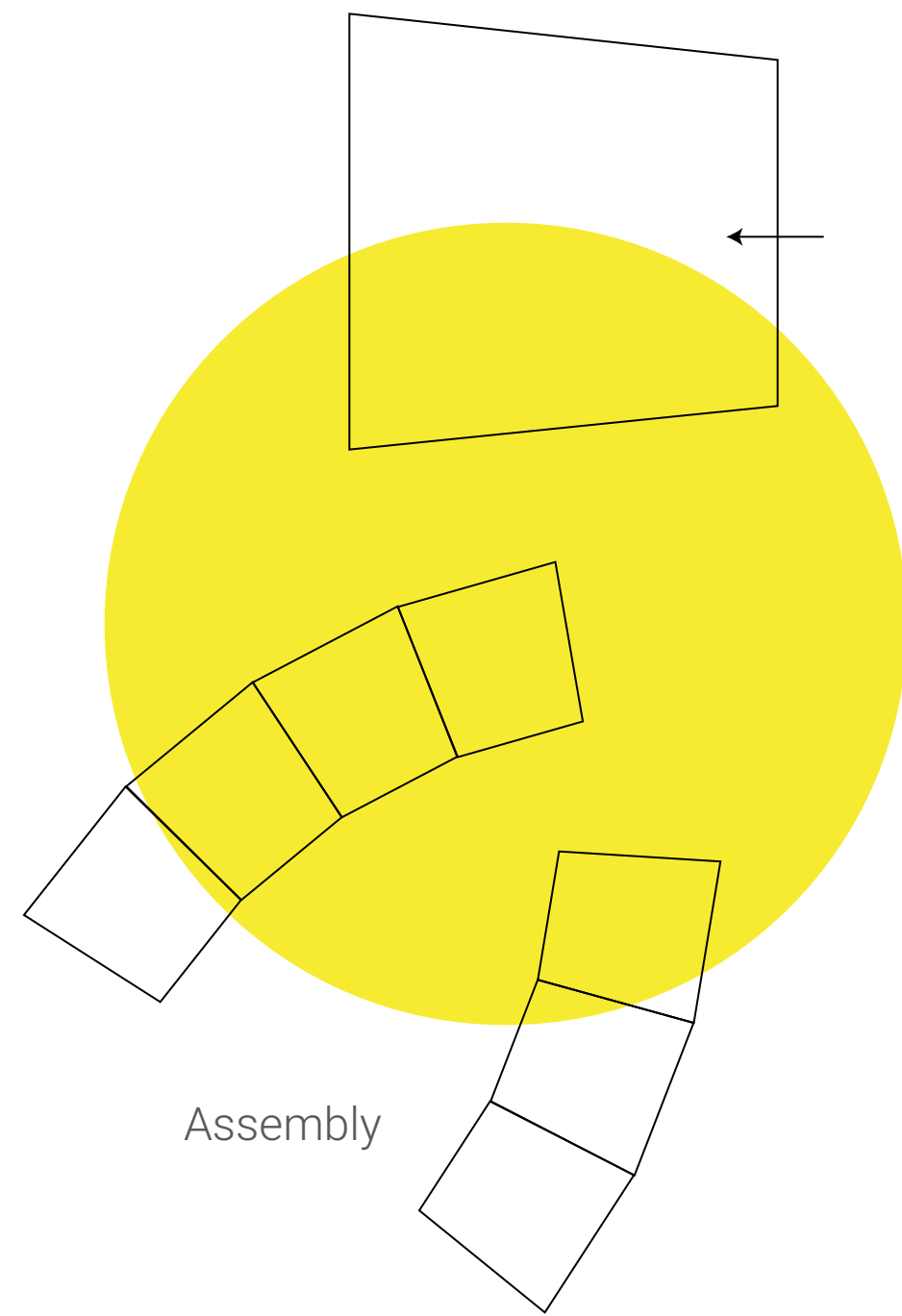
The Product

AASHRAY living spaces

Aashray huts

Why the trapezoidal shape?

- Less space occupied in one direction when joined together in number (creates an arc)
- The space inside widens up after entry.



Jig saw puzzle inspired assembly feature

Supporting columns

3D Modelling

Easily collapsible body

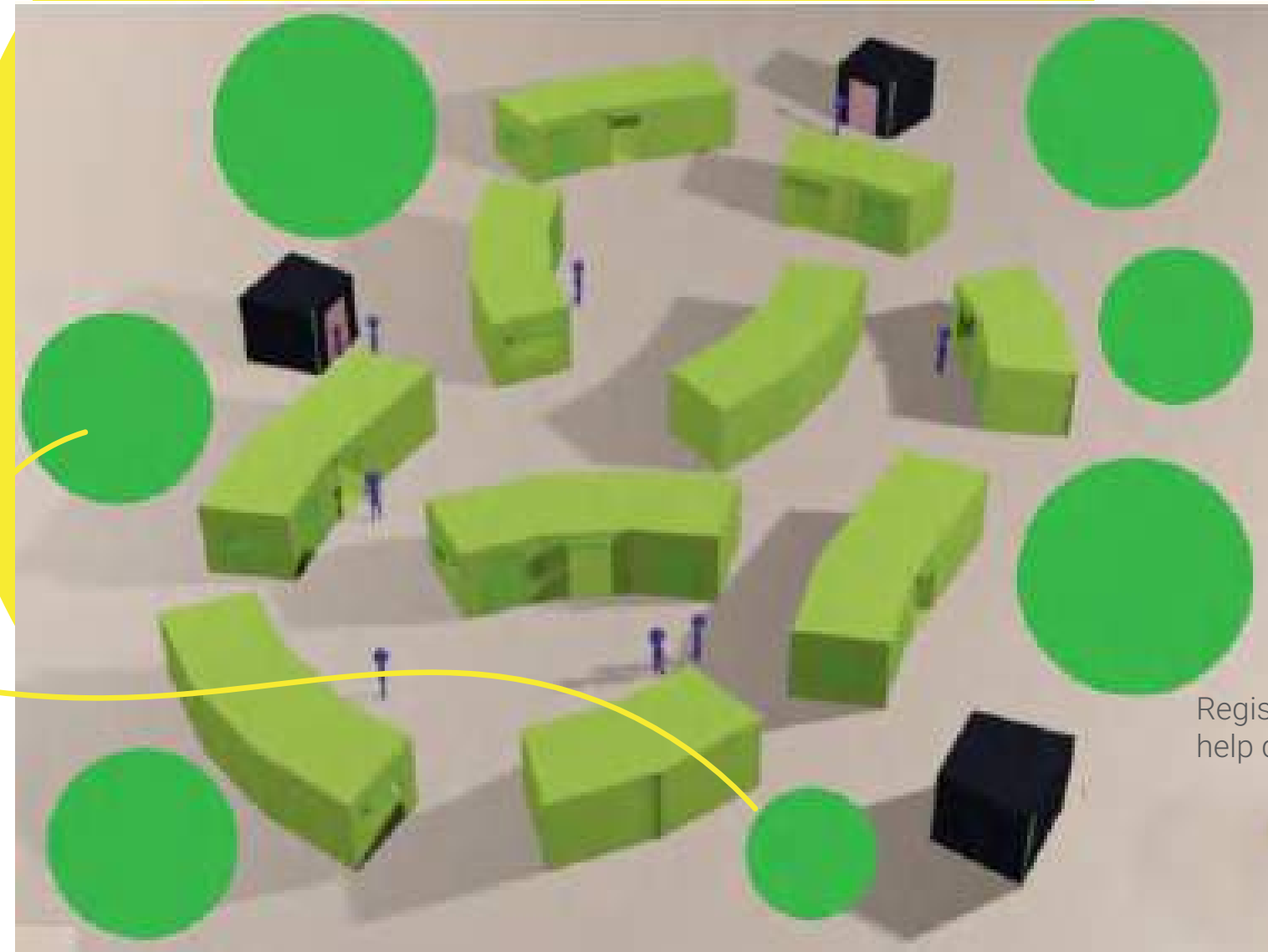
Zip operated doors and windows



AASHRAY living spaces

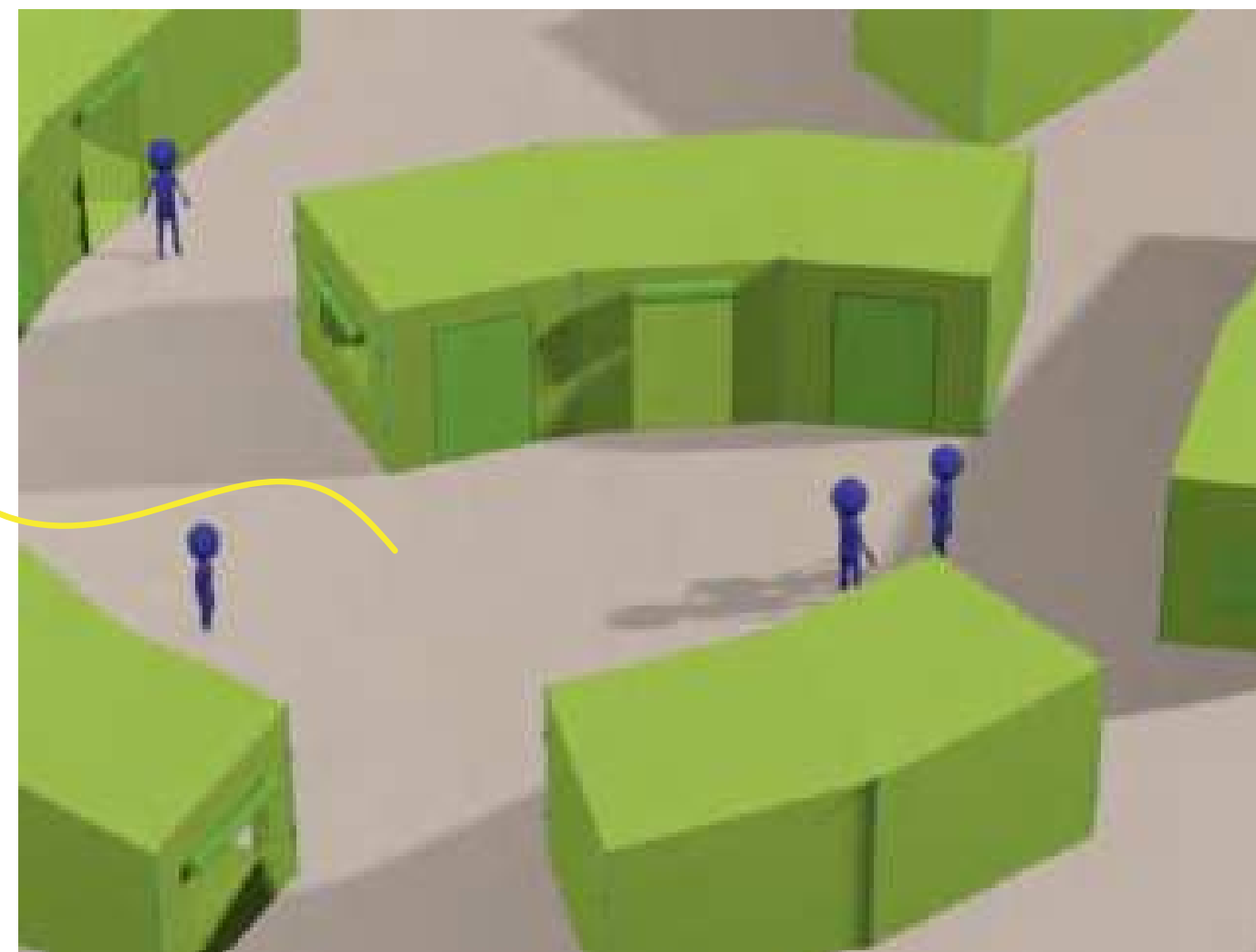
Utilising unused spaces

The green circles represent the plantation inside the spaces

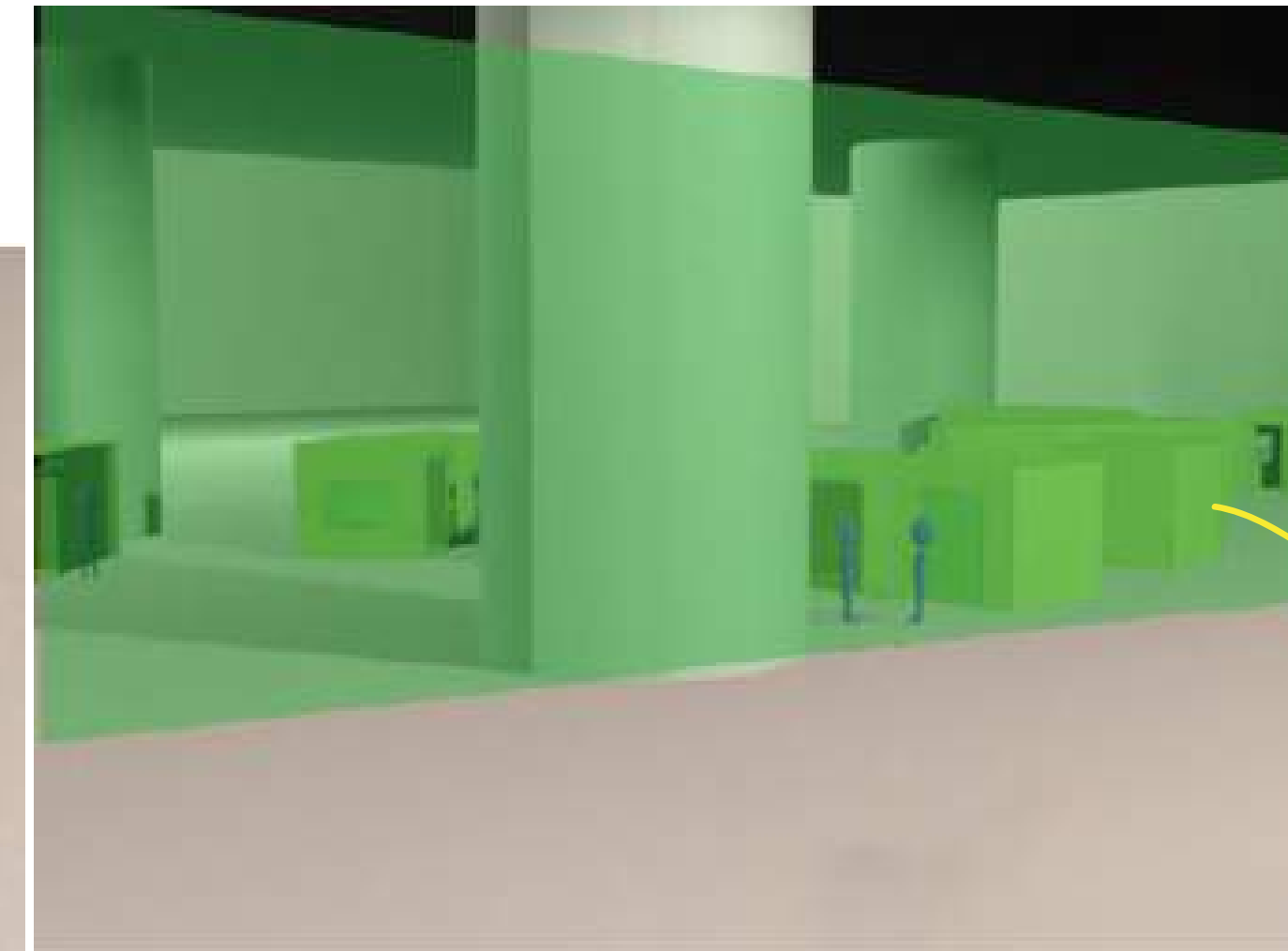


Open spaces

Capacity
- 2-3 people per hut



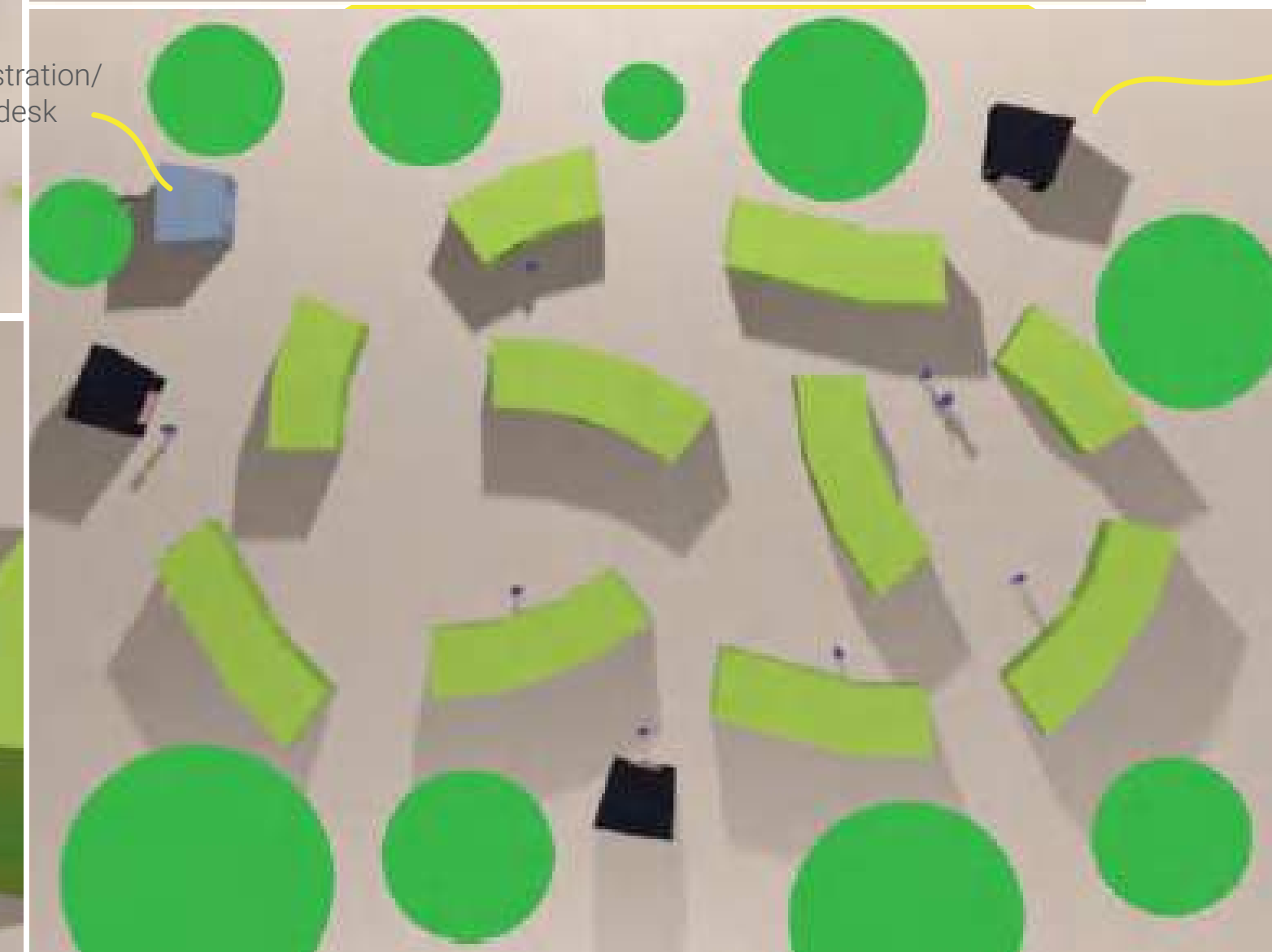
Under bridges/flyovers



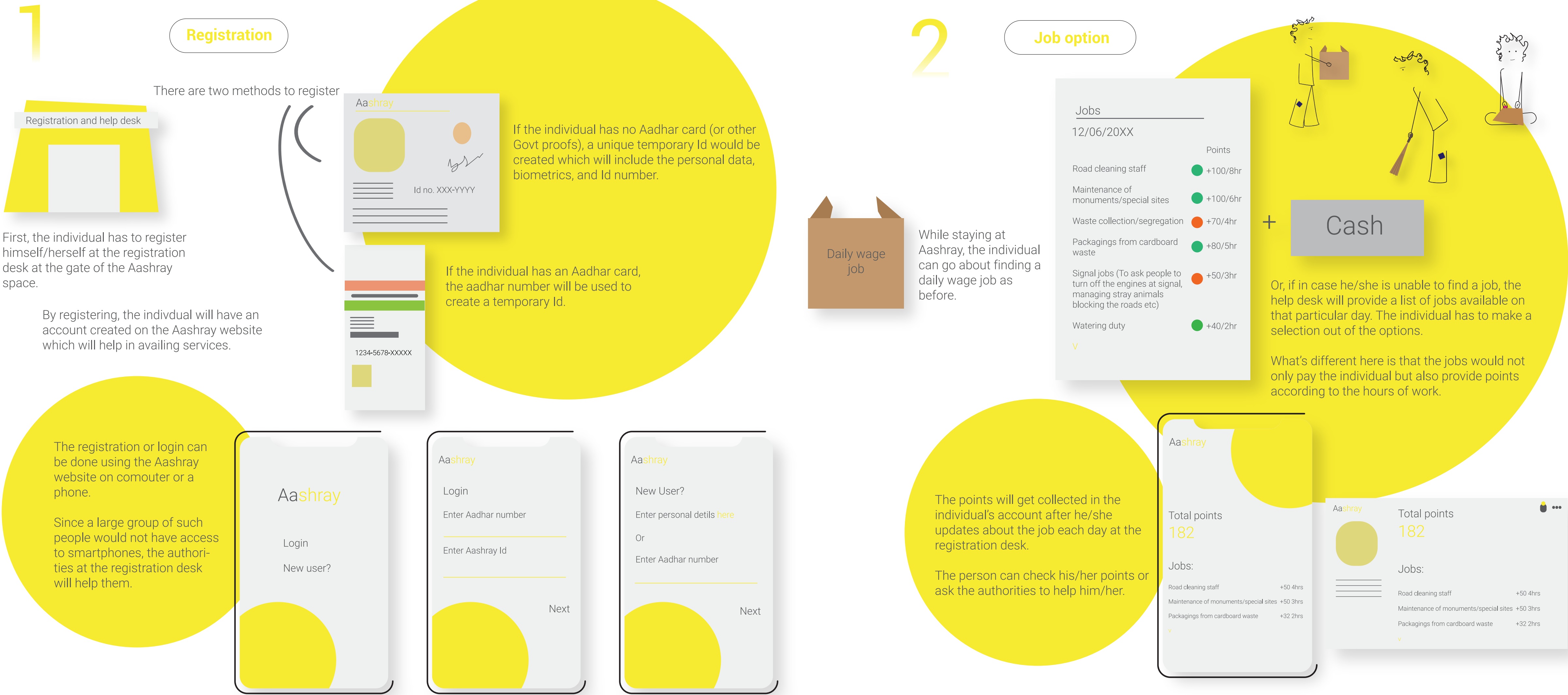
Green walls
- The area will be covered using plantations to avoid a bad look

Registration/
help desk

Washrooms



The System



The points per job per hour will be decided by the authorities.

The type of jobs would also be provided in partnership and coordination with an NGO or a Government body.

The point system also helps in some savings for these people.

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Aashray

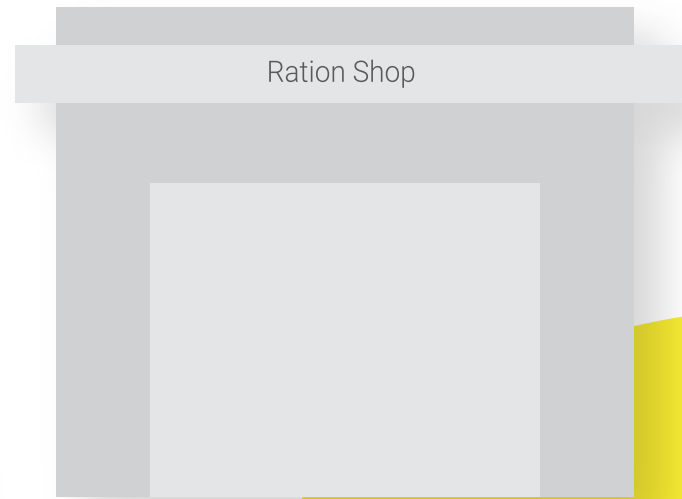
Total points
182

Government Ration Shop

Commodity rates:
Milk 70pts/ltr
Wheat flour 50pts/kg
Dal 40pts/kg
Rice 50pts/kg
Edible oil 60pts/ltr

V

Point system



The points can be used to buy daily goods from the Government ration shops.

The individual has to provide the Aashray Id to the shopkeeper who will check and provide a list of commodities prized at points. The person can then buy those in exchange of points.

The points for each commodity will be decided based on the availability and actual costs.

Aashray

Transfer points

Enter Aashray Id number of transfer account

Send + _____ points to the transfer account

Check available balance

Confirm transfer

One can also transfer his/her points to other Aashray accounts.

This can be helpful for people living in remote areas where finding jobs can be difficult. It can also help the elderly people. The transferred points can be used to buy daily necessities.

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Service time

The Aashray won't be a permanent option for these dwellers. At the time of registration, they will be provided a time limit of 6 weeks.

The day timer will be set on the personal account.

Aashray

Days left
10
(till 26/06/20XX)

Registration and help desk

Aashray

Find a place

Anuvrat dhvar +4
Althan bridge +6
Old Vesu +5
Station road +7
Udhana +6

V

Aashray

Find a place

Anuvrat dhvar +4
Althan bridge +6
Old Vesu +5
Station road +7
Udhana +6

V

Once the time is over, they can go back to their homes or find a new place by going onto the website or asking at the help desk.

The website shows locations around the city along with the vacancies.