



A MOBILE SOLUTION FOR MITIGATING PLASTIC WASTE ON MUMBAI'S BEACHES

DESIGN PROJECT II | SHUBHAM MEHTA - 186390003 - MOBILITY & VEHICLE DESIGN GUIDED BY | PROF. NISHANT SHARMA (PhD)

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Shubham Mehta

Date:

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Image 1: Mumbai as a place of heritage, lifestyle and luxury



Image 2: The home of Bollywood, film and music industry

1. Background

Mumbai's culture is a blend of traditional festivals, food, music, and theatres. The city offers a cosmopolitan and diverse lifestyle with a variety of food, entertainment, and nightlife, available in a form and abundance comparable to that in other world capitals.

Mumbai is the financial, commercial and entertainment capital of India. It is also one of the world's top ten centres of commerce in terms of global financial flow, generating 6.16% of India's GDP and accounting for 25% of industrial output, 70% of maritime trade in India (Mumbai Port Trust and JNPT), and 70% of capital transactions to India's economy. Mumbai's billionaires had the highest average wealth of any city in the world in 2008. (1)

The city houses important financial institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India, the Bombay Stock Exchange, the National Stock Exchange of India, the SEBI and the corporate headquarters of numerous Indian companies and multinational corporations. It is also home to some of India's premier scientific and nuclear institutes like Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Nuclear Power Corporation of India, Indian Rare Earths, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Atomic Energy Commission of India, Department of Atomic Energy and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The city also houses India's Hindi (Bollywood) and Marathi cinema industries. Mumbai's business opportunities, as well as its potential to offer a higher standard of living, attract migrants from all over India, making the city a melting pot of many communities and cultures and as a result it has led to Mumbai becoming one of the most populated city in the world. It further led to massive construction and commercial boom for housing and providing ameneties. (2)







Traffic Index 2018: how Mumbai congestion was measured at world high

SRINATH RAO

MUMBALJUNE 9

A RECENT study has ranked Mumbai as the most traffic-congested city in the world for the second straight year, and Delhi at fourth place. How was this determined, and what dothe findings say of traffic across the world?

The study

The findings, published Tuesday, are part of the Traffic Index 2018 published by TomTom, an Amsterdam-based company that offers traffic solutions, uses location technology to collect traffic information, and has been publishing city rankings for eight years. The latest index ranks 403 cities across 56 countries, including 13 new cities.

The measure

For this study, congestion has been de-

fined in terms of the additional time taken to reach a destination as opposed to when the road would have been clear of traffic, Mumbai's 2018 congestion level of 65%, therefore, means that the extra travel time is 65% more than an average trip would take during uncongested conditions. For Delhi, by the same yardstick, the extra travel time is 58% more.

Average times are of actual taken trips, across every vehicle in the entire network, 24/7, TomTom explains on its website. This is worked out by establishing a baseline of travel times during uncongested conditions across each road segment in each city; travel times are analysed across the entire year (24/7) for each city, the company website

TomTom states that it factors for peak hours, accidents, inclement weather, construction work and all other factors likely to cause disruptions. It adds that its statis-

MOST CONGESTED CITIES

KANK	CLITY	CONGEST	ION LEVEL
		2018	2017
1	Mumbai (India)	65%	66%
2	Bogota (Colombia)	63%	62%
3	Lima (Peru)	58%	50%
4	New Delhi (India)	58%	62%
5	Moscow(Russia)	56%	57%
6	Istanbul (Turkey)	53%	59%
7	Jakarta (Indonesia)	53%	61%
8	Bangkok (Thailand)	53%	55%
9	Mexico City (Mexico) 52%	52%
10	Recife(Brazil)	49%	47%

Source: TomTom Traffic Index 2018



tics are "calculated using GPA data from navigation devices, in-dash systems and smartphones".

Mumbai and Delhi

In both Indian cities, traffic congestion during morning and evening peak hours varies between 73% and 102%, Last year, August 8 (83%) was the worst day to drive in Delhi, owing to the movement of VIPs and restrictions put in place in the run-up to Independence Day celebrations, In Mumbai, August 21 (102%) was the worst day on the road, because of heavy showers and work on multiple Metro rail lines. The index found that traffic flows most freely between 2 am and 5 am in both cities. The least congestion last year happened on March 2(-16%), the second day of Holi,

Around the world

Nearly 75% of the cities part of the 2018

index had increased or stable congestion levels between 2017 and 2018, with only 90 cities showing measurable decreases, states the report, Congestion in Jakarta, for example, decreased by 8 percentage points while that in Lima rose by the same number of points, "Globally, traffic congestion is rising. And that's both good, and bad, news. It's good because it indicates a strong global economy, but the flip side is drivers wasting time sitting in traffic, not to mention the huge environmental impact,"said Ralf-Peter Schaefer, TomTom's Vice President of Traffic

Globally, Christmas Day resulted in the least traffic congestion. Overall, the index showed that an individual stuck in traffic in 2018 could have completed listening to one audio-book per week. Drivers in Tel Aviv and Istanbul stood to save the most time by avoiding driving during morning and evening rush hours.

Due to the same reason, the congestion, economic imbalance and consumerism has taken toll on the quality of life in Mumbai. Unprecendented traffic jams and unbelievable amount of waste from several industries/sectors are produced each day. Municipality is fighting hard to manage the waste and dispose it efficiently. But to our surprise the many inland rivers, canals have contributed to the unaccounted waste reaching the sea through them, which presents a very horrifying picture.

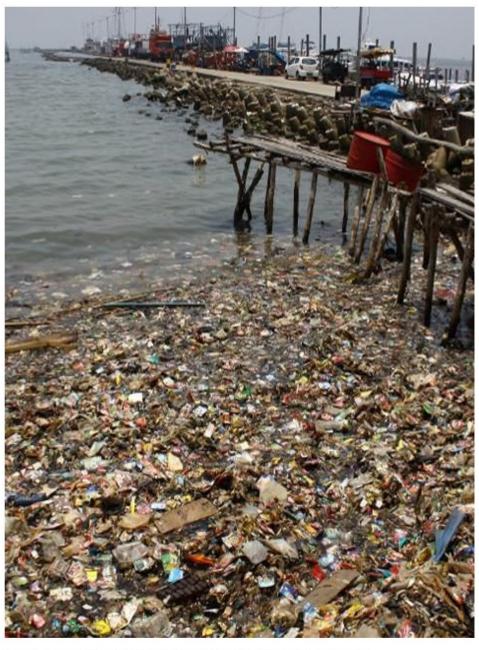
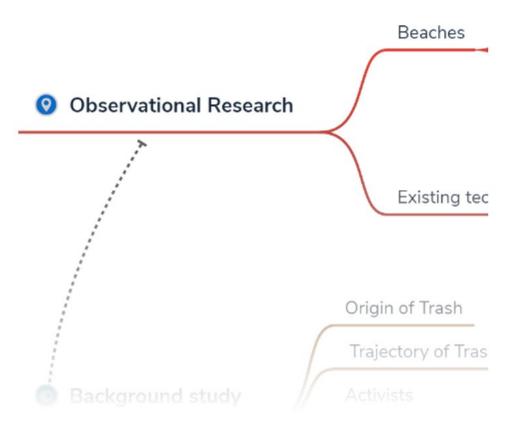


Image 3: Trash floating over water body, mostly comprise of plastics

In this project It was tried to discover the story of trash and particularly plastic as a waste travelling through our lives and reaching at its current unintened destination, our water bodies such as seas and oceans. It was researched upon that how it is affecting marine life and how is it affecting the beaches in various aspects. It was then thought upon how we can increase the efficiency at which we can take back the trash and recycle it.

RESEARCH



2.1. Observational Research

To understand the existance of the issue firsthand, several trips were made to the popular beaches in Mumbai. The duration of the visits were for the entire day. The objective of these visits were to observe how people engage with the beach, what activities and events happen, what is the food and beverage culture in that microenvironment, how is waste generated and where does it go.

Many important factors governing the state of the beach were also observed. The locality, the type of place (tourist/residential), weather conditions (monsoon), the demography of the visitors, businesses at the spot and presence of public infrastructures were some of the key points.

The initial engagement brought plenty of insights and provided sufficient relevance for the project by helping in identifying problems. The problem discovered are already being tackled worldwide through technology and innovation but it was discovered that solutions to a problem can be very contextual and can be goverend by various unique factors.





Image 4: Location of Girgaum Chowpatty Beach in South Mumbai



Image 5: Entry, Exits and Interest points

2.1a An observational study of Girgaum Beach

Girgaum Chowpatty is a public beach along the Queen's Necklace adjoining Marine Drive in the Girgaon area of Mumbai, India.

Date: 03/08/2019.

Time: 09:00 - 18:00 hours.

Season: Monsoon.

Weather: Discontinuous heavy rains.

Observational plan:

- 1. To study the engagement of people with the beach and the sand.
- Observing litter generation and waste manegement in the area.
- Understanding the role of Food Court in waste generation.
- Dynamics and demographics of the visiting crowd.
- 5. Activities, events, games, businesses.



Sitting at sidewalks



Walking



Break from school



Games/Sports



Enjoyng street food



Local dish served with paper plate and palstic spoon

Major Observations:

- People visit beaches for recreational purposes mostly.
- Certain areas of the beaches are more populated depending on the activity.
- The immediate shores are majorly occupied by people experiencing the sea.
- Socializing spaces are created where people can wait e.g. food courts.
- Food courts are the most probable cause of litter generation. However, they are the spaces that are most well equipped with dustbins.
- Games and sports happen at some distance from the sea. The sandy patch provides safety while falling down in contact sports.





Bottle caps (plastic)



Glass bottles

Human generated litter

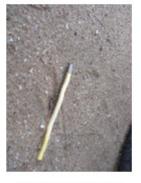
There are two types of garbage at Girgaum Chowpatty beach. The first type is the human litter. Being a popular hub for food and recreational activities, the possibility of human littering increases in this area. One can easily find disposable discards, containers, shoes, fabric etc. while navigating on the beach as well as in the food court.



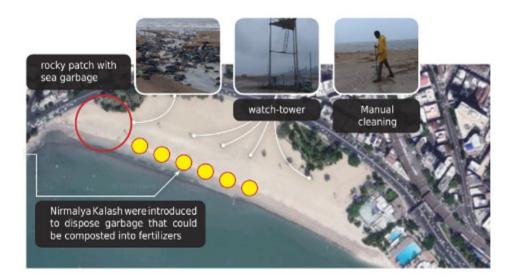
Plastic footwear



Metal cans



Plastic coated wires



Maintainance services

A lot of dustbins and garbage collectors have been deployed throughout the beach at various points. There is also a beach cleaning machinery which is a tractor attachment (Cherrington 4600 XL). It is a seiving machine which collects polluted sand and separates the garbage from it, spraying the sand back into the beach.





Image 6: A mix of various types of trash washed ashore containing plastic waste



Image 7: Fishing net filled with plastic waste threatning marine life



Image 8: Sheets of plastics trapped on the rocky patch near the shoreline

Sea garbage

Unfortunately there are tonnes of grabage floating in the sea already. Its the garbage that was disposed off into the sea, and with each high tide, it is washed ashore. Fishing nets can be seen lying around on the beach that have caught the garbage while attempting to catch fishes. It comprises of various household discards, fabric, plastics and much more.

It shows how worrying the situation is underwater. Fishes and marine creatures cannot differentiate between food and plastics. Most turtles ingest plastic sheets thinking it to be jellyfish. Plastic pollution leads to mass death of marine species.



Image 9: Location of Girgaum Chowpatty Beach in South Mumbai



Image 10: Entry, Exits and Interest points

2.1b An observational study of Juhu Beach

Juhu Beach is located on the shores of the Arabian Sea, just near the CST international airport, Mumbai. It stretches for six kilometres up to Versova.

Date: 04/08/2019.

Time: 09:00 - 18:00 hours.

Season: Monsoon.

Weather: Discontinuous heavy rains.

Observational plan:

- 1. To study the engagement of people with the beach and the sand.
- 2. Observing litter generation and waste manegement in the area.
- 3. Understanding the role of Food Court in waste generation.
- Dynamics and demographics of the visiting crowd.
- 5. Activities, events, games, businesses.



Walking along the shore



Morning Jogs



Visiting private beaches



Picnic spots



Enjoyng street food



Photography

Major Observations:

- People visit beaches for recreational purposes mostly.
- Juhu beach is generally much more dirtier than the Girgaum beach.
- People visit this beach for experiencing the waves and wetting their feet.
- Social spaces are mostly near food courts. People take pictures of the waves from there. There are photographers who provide on-spot photos as well.
- Juhu beach has a series of premium hotels aligned to it and visitors come out frequently to experience the beach.
- Locals play cricket and football at distant spots regardless of poor cleanliness.





Human generated litter

Juhu beach caters to much larger crowd as it is more popular but does not have dustbins along the long sand patch on which people accumulate. This leads to a variety of litter. Mostly disposable items and wrappers, food packets etc. During high tides the entire sand patch comes underwater hence the waste management is also not possible at all times.

Plastic sacks

Plastic bottles

Polymer bags





Plastic wrappers

Bottles

Bottle caps

Maintainance services

Most of the dustbins and garbage collectors are deployed on the high grounds at Juhu, away from the spot affected from the high tide. When the tide is low, beach cleaning machines are working non-stop to lift up as much garbage as they can. However very small-scale pollutants are impossible to be removed by those machines.







Image 11: A mix of various types of trash washed ashore containing plastic waste



Image 12: Wet torn plastic sheets with sand filled inside them



Image 13: Smaller wrappers and microplastic content can be found everywhere

Sea garbage

Juhu is also not untouched with truckloads of garbage washed ashore every single day. The problem arises because the entire sand patch of Juhu comes underwater during the high tide and the garbage settles down on the beach. The authority cleans upto 50,000 kg trash on some days but the situation remains unchanged.

Existing tech Origin of Trash Trajectory of Trash Background study Activists Beach Cleaning Mar Ocean Cleaning Tec Plastic Waste Generation Core Issues Plastic Waste Accumulation Plastic and Microplastic rem

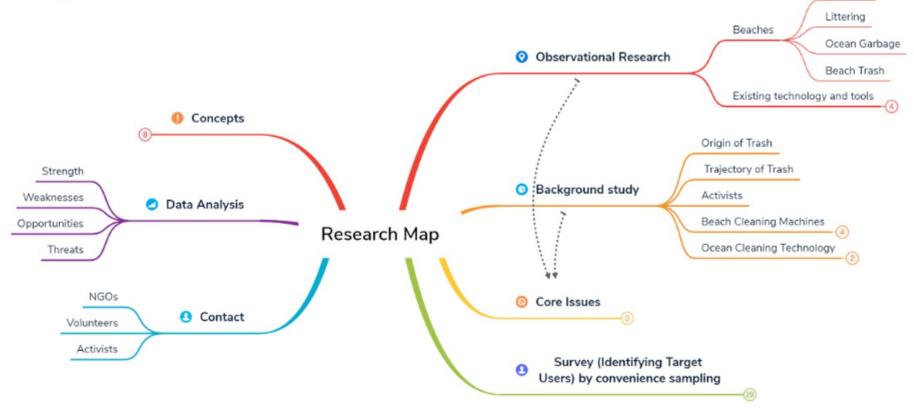
2.2. Preliminary Research

To understand the background we need to dive into various factors that are interconnected to the issue. The plastic that reaches the ocean in such huge amount are discarded single use plastic materials/packaging etc. The sources of such waste can be from residential to industrial to commercial. Understanding the source and type of waste can help us understand its morphology, trajectory and we can build better strategies on how to design our tools and systems to intercept them at different points.

This research is also focused upon the current situations where NGOs and NPOs manually clean the beaches by hand with help of hundereds of volunteers. Along with that, it put light on various innovations like machines, tools and vehicles designed specifically for this purpose. It debated their efficiency and practicality in Indian context.

2.2a Research map

This map connects observation and background study to understand the core issue related to plastic pollution. The issue is then verified on the field with real world application, meeting people working in this area and understanding their issue. This gives us a spot where we can map the intervention to bring the most benefit in a certain context.



Activities

Source	Waste generators	Food wastes, paper, cardboard, plastics, textiles, leather, yard wastes, wood, glass, metals, ashes, special wastes (e.g., bulky items, consumer electronics batteries, oil, tires), and household hazardous wastes.		
Residential	Single and multifamily dwellings			
Industrial	Light and heavy manufacturing, fabrication, constru tion sites, power and chemical plants.	Housekeeping wastes, packaging, food wastes, construction and demolition materials, hazardous wastes, ashes, special wastes.		
Commercial	Stores, hotels, restaurants, markets, office buildings, etc.	Paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, food wastes, glass, metals, special wastes, hazardous wastes.		
Institutional	Schools, hospitals, prisons, government centers.	Paper, cardboard, plastics, wood, food wastes, glass, metals, special wastes, hazardous wastes.		
Construction and demolition	New construction sites, road repair, renovation sites, demolition of buildings	Wood, steel, concrete, dirt, etc.		
Municipal services Street cleaning, landscaping, parks, beaches, other recreational areas, water and wastewater treatment plants.		Street sweepings; landscape and tree trimmings; all general wastes from parks, beaches, and other recreational areas; sludge.		
Process Heavy and light manufacturing, refineries, chemical plants, power etc.) plants, mineral extraction and processing.] U [[1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [1] [
Agriculture Crops, orchards, vineyards, dairies, feedlots, farms,		Spoiled food wastes, agricultural wastes, hazardous wastes (e.g., pesticides).		

2.2b Types and sources of MSW in Mumbai

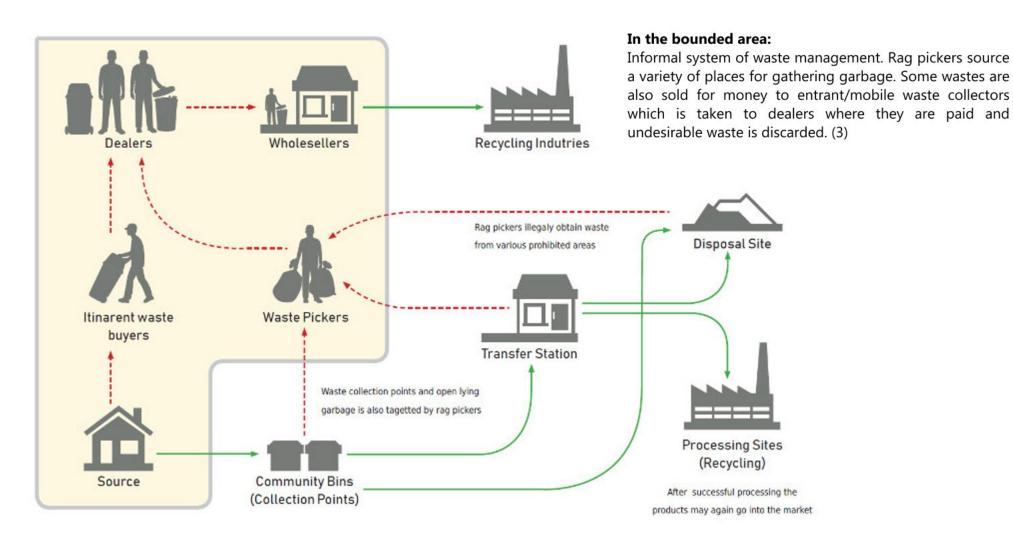
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

Municipal solid waste comprises of wastes from households including garbage and rubbish, sanitation waste and street sweepings. MSW also includes wastes and discarded materials from institutions and commercial complexes and debris from construction and demolition activities.

MSW can be broadly categorized into five broad categories as-

- Biodegradable waste: food and kitchen waste, green waste (vegetables, flowers, leaves, fruits), paper (can also be recycled).
- **2. Recyclable material:** paper, glass, bottles, cans, metals, certain plastics, etc.
- **3. Inert waste:** construction and demolition waste, dirt, rocks, debris.
- **4. Composite wastes:** waste clothing, Tetra Packs, waste plastics such as toys.
- **5. Domestic hazardous waste** (also called "household hazardous waste")
 - **toxic waste:** medication, e-waste, paints, chemicals, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, spray cans, fertilizer and pesticide containers, batteries, shoe polish.

2.2c The trajectory of garbage and the role of rag pickers



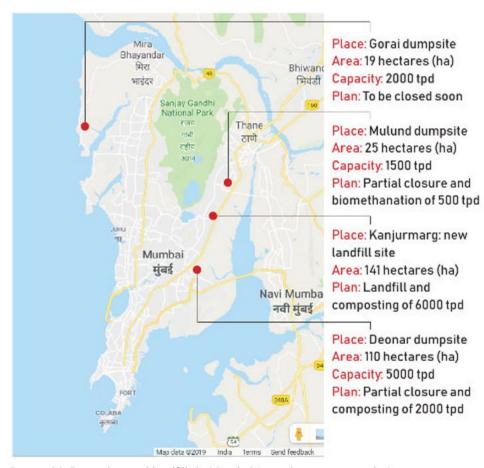


Image 14: Dumpsites and landfills in Mumbai (capacity: tonnes per day)

2.2d Waste segregation and disposal processes in Mumbai

About **7700 metric** tonnes of garbage is produced in Mumbai every single day. It is catered by these four landfill sites: Gorai dumpsite, Mulund dumpsite, Kanjur Marg landfill, Deonar dumpsite.

- Latest Data (2018): Mumbai produces 7700 MT garbage every single day. Out of which only 4407 MT/d is actually treated. (57%)
- Segregation: BMC claims 100% transport and 82.92% segregation of waste.
- MSW Facilities: Bioreactor landfill (microbial breakdown), composting, Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) and Leachate Treatment.
- **OCT 2017:** BMC will not pick up solid waste from complexes over 2 lac sq. feet or producing waste over 100kg/day.
- ESR 2017: BMC finds in their Environment Status Report (ESR) that 73% of MSW was food waste. Experts say all of that should be composted so that the load on landfills can be reduced.
- ESR 2017: The organic content in MSW has increased from 62% in 2004 to 73% percent in 2017.
- organic dry waste, 4% paper and metals in the remaining 27% MSW. Out of which only 8% was successfully segregated and 5% composted, that too by private agencies.
- ESR 2017: All the landfill sites in Mumbai have almost exhausted their capacity.
- **2018:** BMC was reinstated to pick all garbage regardless of weight/ left in the open or such by Bombay High Court's order. (5)

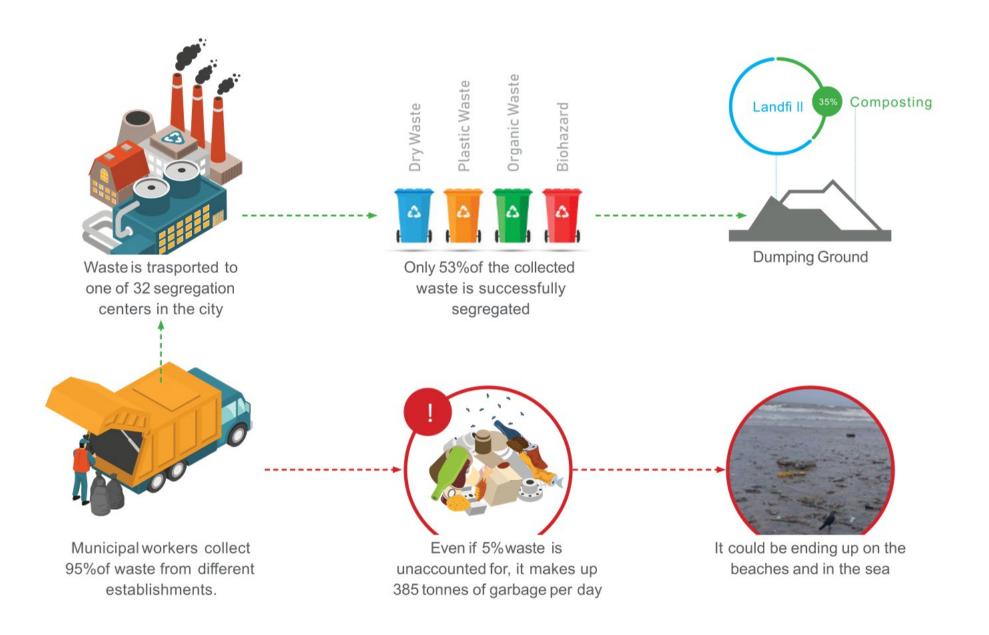




Image 15: Floating plastic waste in the water

2.2e The ocean plastic pollution and its causes.

It is estimated that around 12.2 Million tonnes of plastic enter our oceans per annum. 9 million tonnes of them are spewed from coastal areas and 0.5 million tonnes of plastics are added by inland river streams. (6)

94% of the ocean plastics have settled down destroying the marine ecosystem at the base, while 1% of it floats on the ocean and constitutes an average of 18 kg/sq km. The rest 5% of the plastic trash ends up on the coastline and beaches worldwide, which amounts to almost 2000 kg/sq km. It presents a huge opportunity in front of us. (6)

Removal of plastic waste from beaches and preventing further addition of trash in ocean can help mitigate the damage caused by micro-plastics (the breakdown of plastics under UV and environment)

Micro-plastics is extremely hazardous waste for all life forms. It comes from deteriorating plastics as well as the following: Marine paints, Cosmetics, Road paints, Building paints, Textiles, Spilled pellets, road dust. Micro-plastics are positively charged particles that can cause brain adverse effects on our vital organ system if it gets inside the blood stream. The marine life is already perishing by ingestion of plastics and micro-plastics, and is soon to reach humans as well.

Possible points of intervention

1. Source:

The problem can be traced back to the source, which is use of plastic itself, exploded by consumer culture and its single use typology. From a report it is estimated that only 9% of the 8.4 Billion tonnes of plastic produced till date has been recycled. The heavy reliance on plastic in today's world for almost all our needs has escalated the problem of its waste management.

Remedy:

A huge shift in behavior is required on consumers and producers end, to take responsibility of their waste/reduce the amount waste generated by downsizing the lifestyle and consumption. Recycling and reuse of plastic should be made available for each individual and cheaper than virgin plastic. Waste segregation at the user's end is required.

2. Poor Waste Management:

Due to the scale at which it is produced nowadays, authorities are becoming less efficient in properly collecting waste, leading to a huge amount of unattended trash which finds it way to water bodies. Remote areas and slums have low awareness about waste management and contribute to the problem.

Remedy:

A shift in business models by monetizing plastic wastes and spreading awareness among the uneducated/unaware communities can help. We need to empower the rag pickers by providing them good tools so that we can utilize the huge manpower while enhancing their income.

3. Existing Trash on Beaches and in the Ocean:

This problem is the emergency in the biodiversity and marine life as it is causing damage every passing second. We need to intervene in this area with immediate effect and bring back as much plastic we can take out when the ocean sends it back on the beach.



Image 16: Sand sifting machine



Image 17: Sand raking machine



Image 18: combined sifting and raking machine

2.2f Existing tools and machines worldwide.

There are various machines and tools that are designed to take out trash from beaches specifically. They are supposed to be sand cleaners (taking out debris and leaving sand behind)

Raking machines: can be used on dry or wet sand. When using this method, a rotating conveyor belt containing hundreds of tines combs through the sand and removes surface and buried debris while leaving the sand on the beach. Raking machines can remove materials ranging in size from small pebbles, shards of glass, and cigarette butts to larger debris, like seaweed and driftwood. By keeping the sand on the beach and only lifting the debris, raking machines can travel at high speeds.

Sifting machines: is ran on dry sand and soft surfaces. The sand and waste are collected via the pick-up blade of the vehicle onto a vibrating screening belt, which leaves the sand behind. The waste is gathered in a collecting tray which is often situated at the back of the vehicle. Because sand and waste are lifted onto the screening belt, sifters must allow time for the sand to sift through the screen and back onto the beach. The size of the materials removed is governed by the size of the holes in the installed screen.

Combined raking and sifting machine: differs from pure sifters in that it uses rotating tines to scoop sand and debris onto a vibrating screen instead of relying simply on the pick-up blade. The tines' position can be adjusted to more effectively guide different-sized materials onto the screen. Once on the screen, combined raking and sifting machines use the same technology as normal sifters to remove unwanted debris from the sand.



Image 19: Combined Sifting and Raking machine (pull type) - has a roller which rakes the sand, then a screen sifts the sand down and the hopper collects the trash.



Image 20: A walk behind sand sifting machine which screens sand and is very manueverable and easy to operate.



Image 21: Heavy pressure rake (pull type) used to turn the sand.

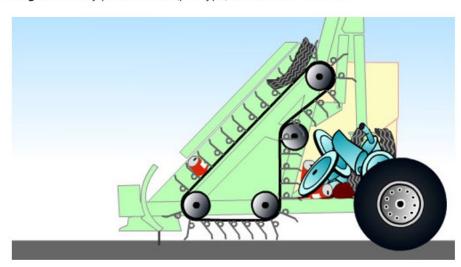


Image 22: Raking machine schematic schowing it's working mechanism.



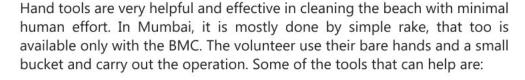
Image 23: sand cleaning shovel for dry conditions



Image 26: Multipurpose shovel for raking as well as carrying

Image 24: Trash needle for litter

removal



Sand Cleaning Shovel: Used to remove tar balls and pebbles from sand. Can be effective while dealing with dry trash and plastics. It is usually heavy if it is strong. Lightweight strong shovels are costly.

Trash Picker Pin: Used to punch through objects and collect them. Effective against small sized trash but not too small. Eg. Toffee wrappers. It is also to be handled with care as the needle can be dangerous and cause injuries.

Garden Rake: It has tooth/combs at the end which sifts through the sand and drags the trash along with it. Due to less retention area, the trash can spill over the tool when pulled.

Rake Shovel: As the name suggests it can sift through sand and carry more trash more efficiently on its pan. When not carrying anything its long teeth can act as a rake.

Shake'n Rake: An American company developed a rake shovel that has a vibration setting so that the debris remains and the sand sifts down without human effort. It was initially designed to work in the barns for cleaning hay.



Image 25: Rake for dragging smaller trash

2.2g Recycling of plastic

Plastic recycling is the process of recovering different types of plastic material in order to reprocess them into varied other products, unlike their original form. An item made out of plastic is recycled into a different product, which usually cannot be recycled again. (7)

Sorting: It is necessary that every plastic item is separated according to its make and type so that it can be processed accordingly in the shredding machine.

Washing: Once the sorting has been done, the plastic waste needs to be washed properly to remove impurities such as labels and adhesives. This enhances the quality of the finished product.

Shredding: After washing, the plastic waste is loaded into different conveyor belts that run the waste through the different shredders. These shredders tear up the plastic into small pellets, preparing them for recycling into other products.

Identification and Classification of Plastic: After shredding, a proper testing of the plastic pellets is conducted in order to ascertain their quality and class.

Extruding: This involves melting the shredded plastic so that it can be extruded into pellets, which are then used for making different types of plastic products.



Image 27: Waste sorting at recycling center. Source: https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/613164/view/waste-sorting-at-a-recycling-centre

2.2h Sorting and processing difficulties with plastic waste

Most of the plastic is actually incinerated or land-filled because of the massively complicated system of finding and sorting the different kinds. Plastics have overlapping densities over a very narrow range. There are more than 50 different types of plastics, making them more difficult to sort and reprocess than other recyclable materials. (8)

Many plastic packaging also consist of more than one polymer type, which makes them more difficult to recycle. For instance, a bottle and a food tray can't be recycled together as they melt at different temperatures. Problematic plastics also include black plastic food trays, which are used by many supermarkets. They are generally not collected as sorting machines are not able to detect them; the carbon black makes them invisible. If they are collected, they are likely to be rejected at the sorting plant. (8)

2.2i The economics of recycling plastic

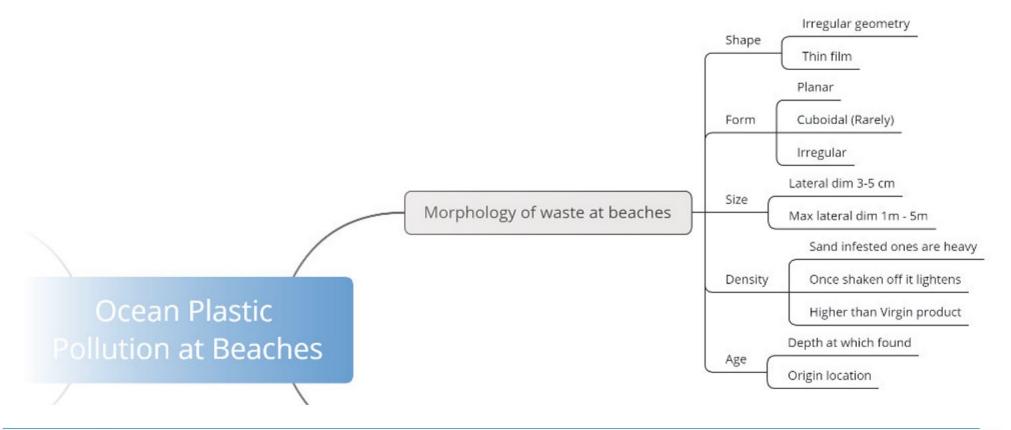
As oil prices fluctuate, so too does the price of plastic. When those markets are depressed, virgin plastic becomes far cheaper to buy than recycled. In addition, many plastic products degrade each time they're processed unlike metal or glass, which can be perpetually recycled, making them progressively less valuable. Moreover, materials like plastic bags, polystyrene packaging, and coffee cups can in theory be recycled, but for logistical and economic reasons, recycling only makes sense when clean material is available in quantity. This is not the case for post-consumer household waste, so for most recycling plants these are impractical materials to collect for recycling. If they are collected, the extra effort and expense required to separate them from general waste means they often end up in landfill.

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2.3a Morphology of waste at beaches

The different sizes, volumes, weight and density of waste found at beaches govern how we pick them. Here on, the research was conducted on site working in beach cleaning drives and understanding the issue.

Studying morphology of waste is crucial for developing the mechanism for cleaning them. Various kinds of waste get clogged and render the tools unusable. In wet conditions it is more commonly seen because of the increased weight of the trash.



Evidently the diversity of trash is huge. Not all the trash is recyclable which poses threats to cleaning operations. The segregation of waste becomes very cumbersome and very costly process and most of the waste ends up in landfill sites anyways. In this cluster we can see individual and scattered trash. During cleaning operation only plastic is picked by people and assembled in a single pile.

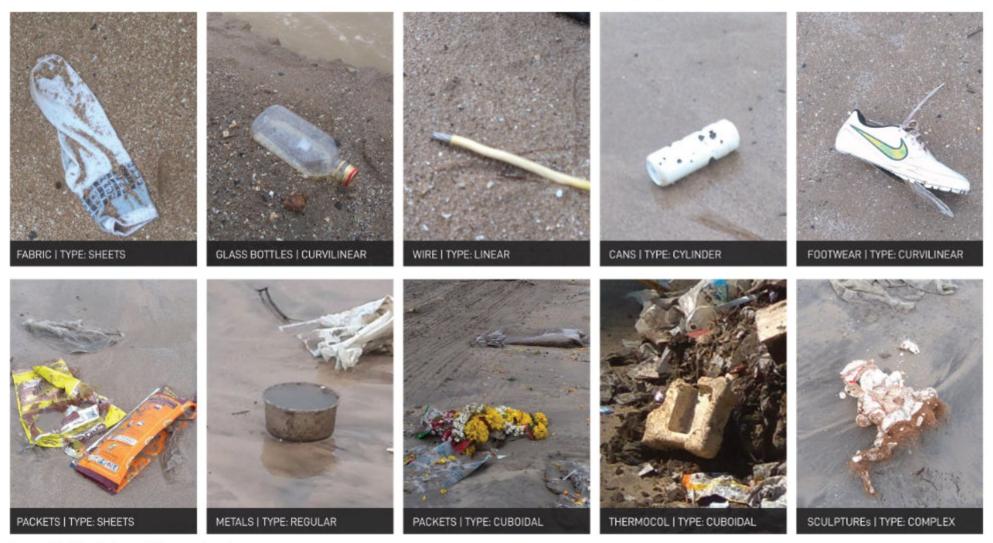


Image 28: Morphology of Waste at beach

When piled together the collection looks like this. It is very random and uncompacted. It is also laid out in the open for the BMC to pickup, which may get scattered again if there is rain or wind takes away the smaller plastic particles. There is a lot of sand infested in the pile which also increases the weight of the bunch a lot, making it difficult and inefficient to carry.



Image 29: Pile of plastic waste created during beach cleanups.

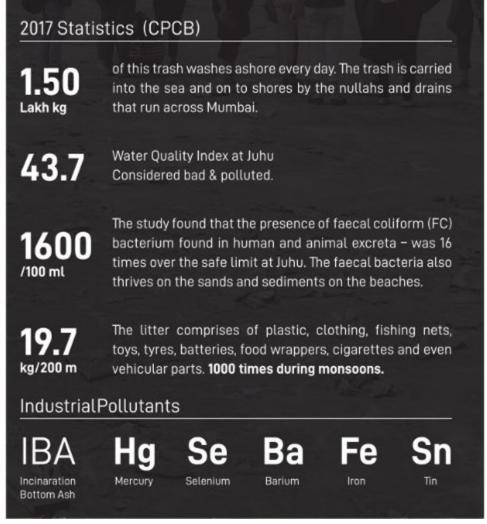
The sand and plastic also becomes the breeding ground of various harmful bacteria and marine viruses which can turn into outbreaks if humans interact with the unclean condition.

2017



2.3b Other threats

The heavy metals and industrial pollutants like chemicals and incineration soot also reaches the beach if discharged into the sea water, making the cleaning process hazardous for the workers.



2.3c Existing cleaning operation

Every weekend hundreds of volunteers assemble at different beaches across Mumbai to participate in beach cleanup drives. Everyone uses their hands only. For protection, gloves and sanitizers are provided.





Image 30: Beach cleanup underway.

To better understand the dynamics and extent of the issue, it was suggested that one should participate in the activity. Hence, on multiple occasions visits were made to various beaches in Mumbai and participation in cleaning drives happened. Of over 10 major beaches in Mumbai focus was on Juhu, Versova and Dadar. On participation, various new insights came to light. The effort, discomfort, hazards and risks were exposed. The following pictures were taken on-site. These images are powerful and tell us what they have to deal with on a daily basis.



Image 31: Heap of clogged waste pulled by roles to collect in a dump area

Image 32: A surprising amount of plastic sheets filled with sand were found underground



Image 33: State of Versova fishing colony beach. Taken on October 2, mega cleanup



Image 34: Verova beach is provoided with diggers and earth movers to take out plastic bags from underground



Image 35: Volunteers need to walk over the dug-outs and manually pull out the heavy sand bags

In India, Ganesha Chaturthi is primarily celebrated at home and in public by local community groups in the central and western states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and the southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha. In Maharashtra, it is a very prominent festival during which Idol worship is done all over the temples and homes. According to the holy procedure, the followers must immerse Lord Ganesha's Idol in the Sea.

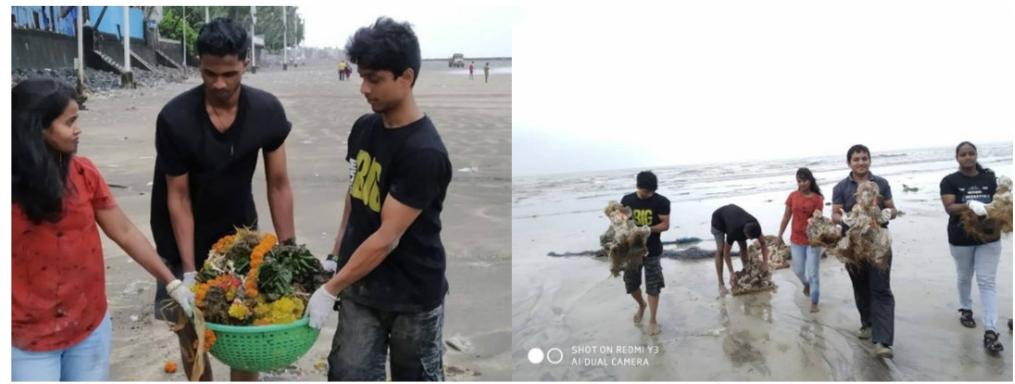


Image 36: Organic waste collected during Ganesh Puja

Image 37: Plaster of Paris Idols wash out on the shores



Image 38: Girl in raincoat siting over trash and picking it while rain drizzles

Beach warriors is an NGO which have been working on the cleanliness of beaches for a few years. I had the opportunity to join them and get insights from their approach and process of cleaning. They operate in Dadar, Juhu, Madh Island, Erangle and Chimbai beach. Their way of cleaning is very simple and organic. On foot, by hand approach. They use baskets provided by BMC storehouses at beaches. They don't get any tools.



Image 39: Beach warriors working on Dadar beach.



Image 40: Dump being created, separate for plastic and organic

Image 41: Usually requires two people to carry a waste basket



Akshay Mandhare Beach Warriors 2017-Present



VarshaBeach Warriors
2019 Jan-Present



Image 42: Beach cleanup at Dadar.

2.3d User study: Issues in manual cleaning

I had the opportunity to work with Beach Warriors, an initiative by Khushiyaan foundation (NGO) - they work for providing safe drinking water in slums, education, food and shelter for stray animals and cleanliness of beaches. A few members of the foundation helped in gathering some invaluable insights about manual cleaning in beaches. Some of them are:

Location: Dadar Beach, Mumbai.

Insights:

- 1. Micro-plastics/tiny plastic pieces are the most difficult to spot among sand and shells.
- 2. Segregation is not possible on site. Volunteers only pick the plastic waste. However it is infested with other wastes.
- 3. Operation needs to be stopped during rains and tides. With raincoats it can be continued.
- 4. Hand sanitizers and surgical gloves are always used to ensure safety and hygiene of volunteers.
- 5. Just hands and baskets. Baskets are provided by BMC from the storehouses at the beaches. Sometimes they get rakes.
- 6. Usually collected waste is dumped at one point in form of a heap. BMC's tractors/trucks pick it up later.
- 7. Close to none. BMC's sand cleaning machines rarely work.



Chintu Sharma **Beach Warriors** 2018-Present



Anusha **Beach Warriors** 2018-Present



Image 1\42: Beach cleanup at Juhu.

2.3d User study: Issues in manual cleaning

Juhu beach is probably the most popular and the longest beach in mumbai. It stretches from Versova to Santacruz area (appx. 7kms). The Koliwada region south of the Juhu is usually left unattended by the authorities. This is where the NGOs have adopted the responsibility to conduct cleanup drives.

Location: Juhu Beach, Mumbai.

Insights:

- 1. The plastic buried under the soil. The torn plastic packets gets filled with wet sand which becomes difficult to dispose.
- 2. Segregation is not possible on site. Volunteers only pick the plastic waste. A large amount of wet sand is always infested.
- 3. They usually continue working in rain. However it get very difficult as their baskets gets heavy with a lot of water content.
- 4. Hand sanitizers and surgical gloves are always used to ensure safety and hygiene of volunteers.
- 5. Just hands and baskets. Baskets are provided by BMC from the storehouses at the beaches. Sometimes they get rakes.
- 6. Usually collected waste is dumped at one point in form of a heap. BMC's tractors/trucks pick it up later.
- 7. Machines run but they just flatten out the surface with the plastic still inside. Their mechanism is clogged and hence they require manual labor.



Afroz Shah, a young Indian lawyer from Mumbai, is synonymous with the world's largest beach clean-up project. In October 2015, Shah and his neighbor Harbansh Mathur, an 84-year-old who has since passed away, were frustrated with the piles of decomposing waste that had washed up and completely overwhelmed the city's Versova beach. Determined to do something about it, the pair started cleaning up the beach themselves, one piece of rubbish at a time.



Image 43: Afroz Shah at his cleaning operation. Source: facebook | CNN Heroes Award

2.3e Insights from Ocean Activist: Afroz Shah

HOW DOES HE DO IT:

- Using machines, the sand patches are tilled and then manually people pick the plastic and other waste.
- Initially manual hand digging was used to take out the trash.
- · It is collected and sent to segregation centers.

ON TYPES OF WASTES:

- Rag pickers avoid picking wrappers and packets as they are too lightweight and provides them no value.
- According to EPR (Extended Producer's Responsibility) the companies producing wrappers must process that waste.
- · Multilayered packaging items are un-recyclable e.g. Chips packet.
- The shinier the packaging the lesser is it recyclable.
- Even 100% recyclable products are unnecessarily produced.
- Rag pickers focus of bottles and intact items as it gives them good value in money.

ON SEGREGATION:

- Waste washed ashore by oceans cannot be segregated on-site.
- Ocean waste can be potential bio-hazard as it can contain excreta, corpses, algae and other micro-organisms.

ON THE CHALLENGES:

- Problem of waste is a socioeconomic and mindset problem.
- Volunteers face resistance from garbage mafias and sometimes it is required to shut down operation for safety.
- Spreading awareness among people to not defecate on the beach. It makes the cleaning process very dangerous and repulsive.

COASTAL CIERR GRAND

Image 44: Clogged trash picking machine at Dadar



Image 45: Workers manually collecting trash and putting in the hopper by hand

2.3e Issues in cleaning with existing machines

Despite advanced technologies and complicated machinery, the problem is not being solved effectively. The dynamics and diversity of waste and other factors doesn't allow a particular innovation to work in a certain context. The beach cleaning machines can be seen heavily clogged up and dysfunctional. The clogging agents contain wet fabric, large plastic sheets, mud, sand and organic waste.

Due to dysfunctional state of beach cleaners the contractors utilize manual labor to scrape, rake and pick waste by hand and manually put it into the machine's trash collector. The inability of cleaning by machine makes the investment a failure. This machine is only used to level the dug and scraped surface of the beaches after manual cleaning.



Image 46: Machines cannot differentiate what they are picking. Clog on the screen.



Image 48: Picked waste is clogged and present in the open. It may be flown away by wind.

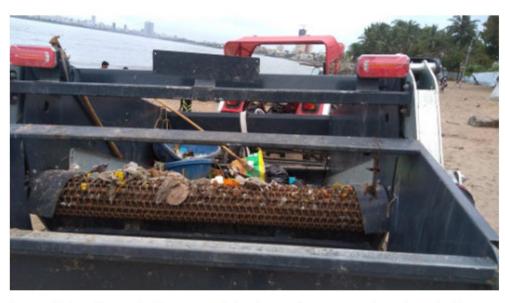


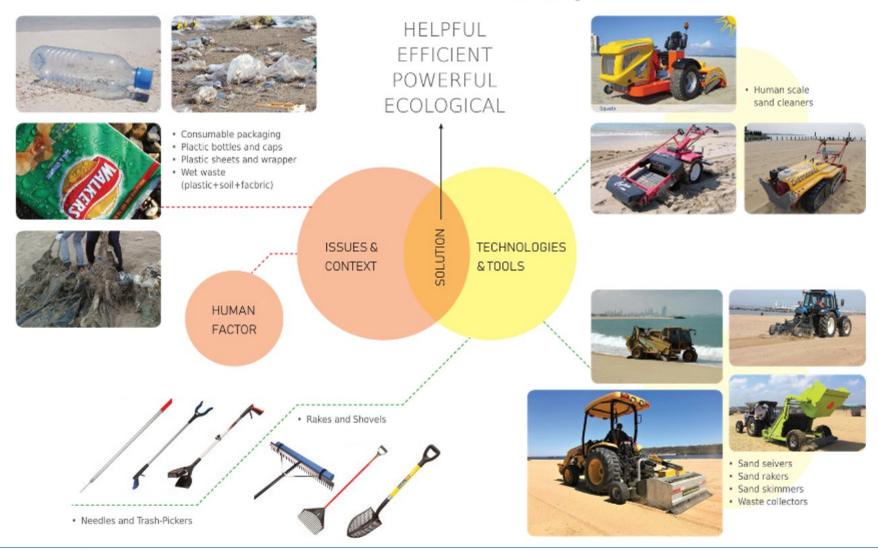
Image 47: In a disorganized way manual cleaning equipements are always kept. In this case they are kept in the screen itself which is contaminated and harmful.

2.3f Key insights from the research

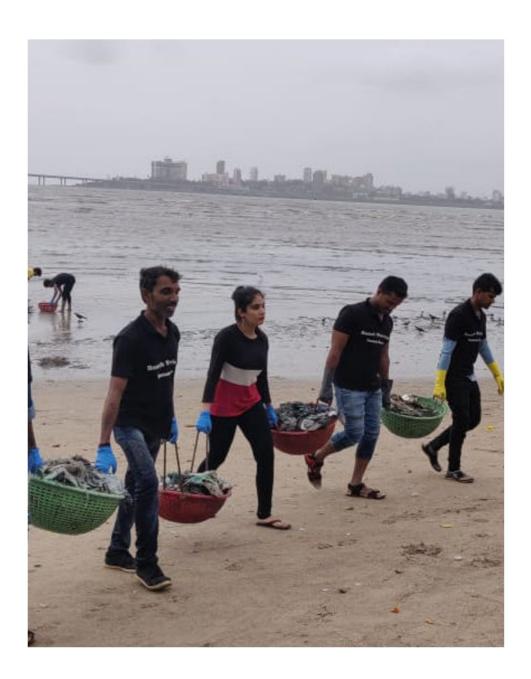
- 1. The technology for picking all types of trash mechanically is very complicated, expensive or does not exist.
- 2. Volunteers find beach cleaning exhausting and inefficient, however they are motivated for the cause.
- 3. Municipal corporation has large manpower to work side by side with machines. They utilize them for manual labor and faster cleaning when the beaches are crowded near shoreline. The machines are run mostly when there is little to no crowd.
- 4. Machines are unable to collect very fine pieces of plastic (eg. Microplastic, plastic peels-offs)
- 5. Specialized tools and collection methods are not in use at scale.

2.3g Strategy towards solution

With the problem identified, waste analyzed and advanced technology we can add new layers in the solution for a fresh perspective. eg. Human factor, context, economy, usability and maintenance, to innovate something new.



DESIGN BRIEF



3.1 Design brief

Mobile solution for mitigating ocean plastic waste on Mumbai's beaches through joint effort of human and machine

The product can be cleaning tool and waste transportation module -

- Human propelled
- Carry cleaning equipment
- House a vacuum cleaner
- Simple operations
- Storage for necessary items

Dimensions:

The size of the unit should be small and compact, so that it can be propelled easily by a human.

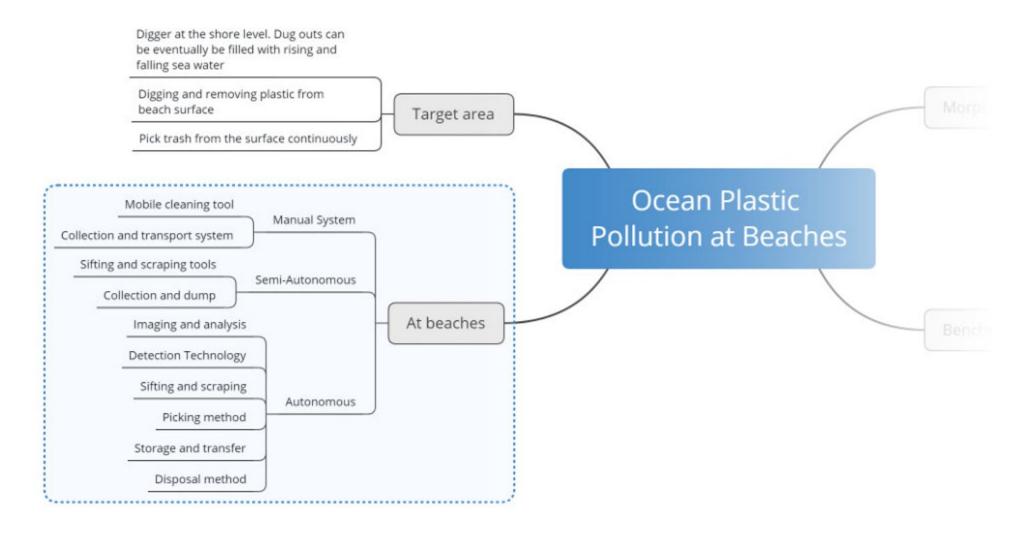
Boundry conditions:

- The product should be able to pick lightweight trash and surface litter
- The product should be scalable for mass use.

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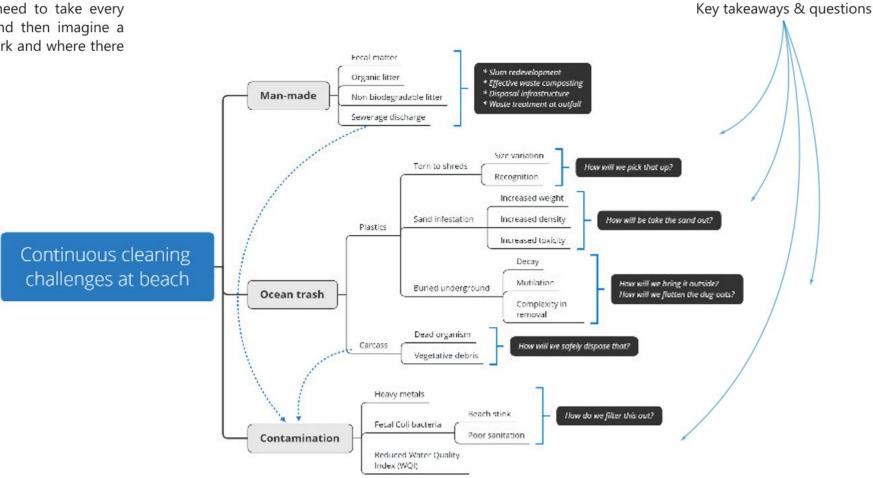
4.1 Ideation map

The initial stage of Ideation began by identifying the target area that we want to focus on and various possible systems in which we can imagine a possible solution keeping the context and other constraints in mind.

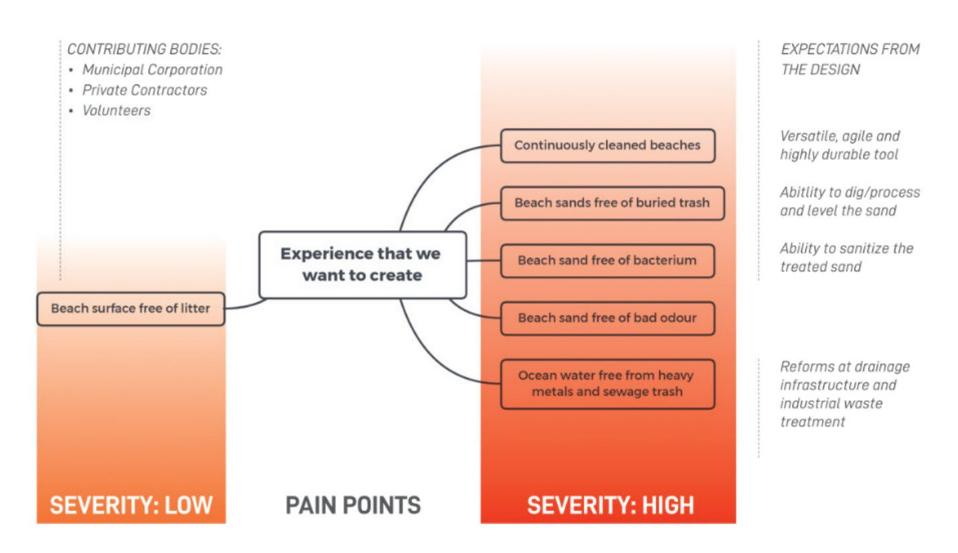


4.2 Challenges in continuous cleaning of beaches

The first challenge was downsizing the research to obtain a focus area, as the issue is huge. We need to take every factor in account and then imagine a solution that can work and where there is a need.

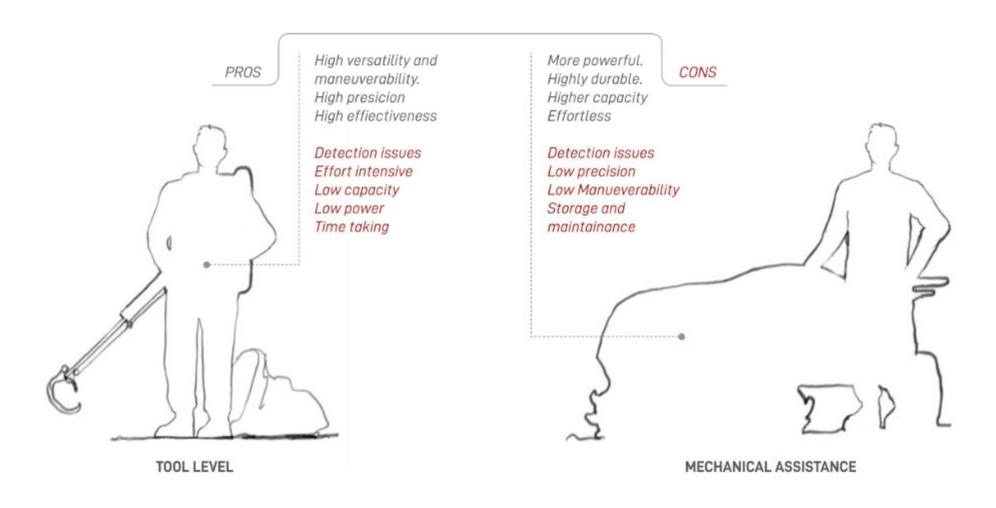


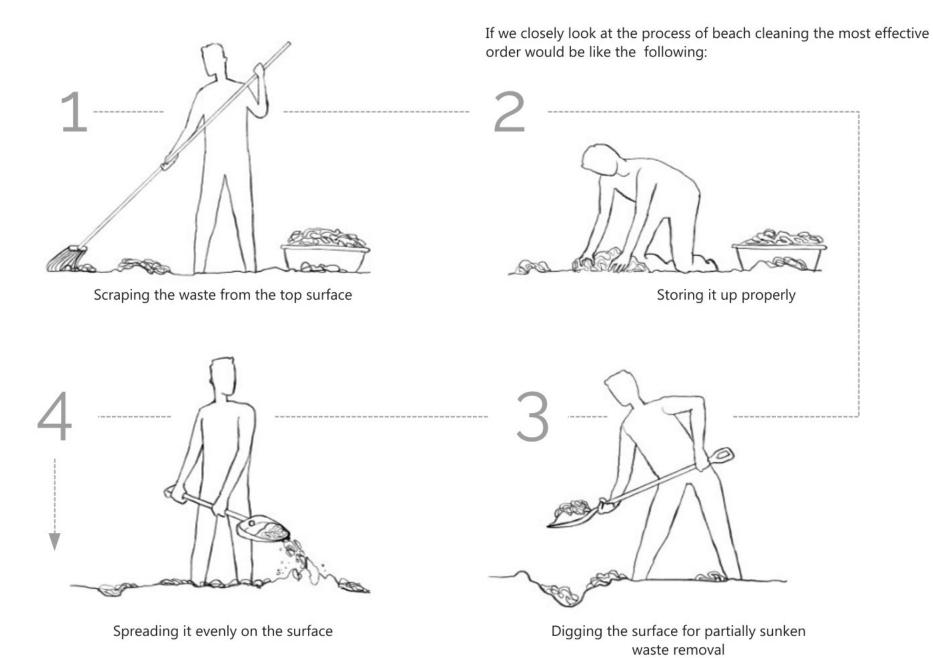
4.3 Pain points and opportunities at various levels

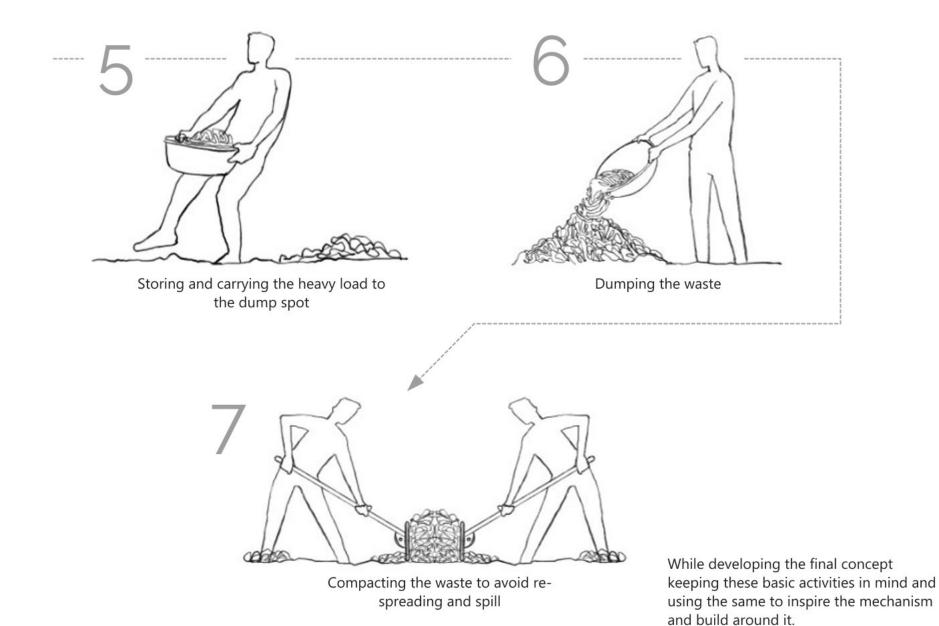


4.4 Ideas and Discussions

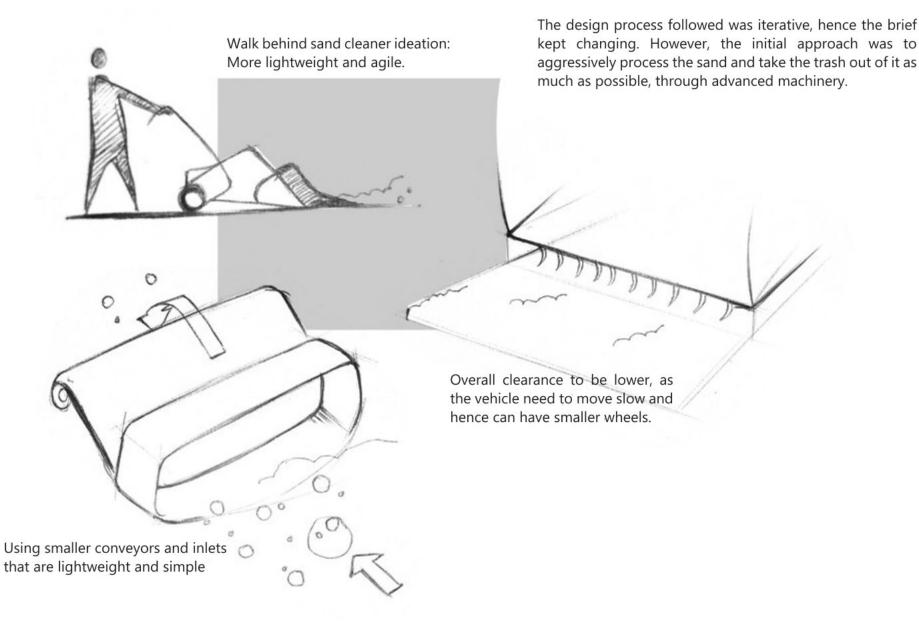
Interventions at both levels present their own challenges. At human scale it is precise, cheap and easy, but effort intensive. At vehicle level the power and capacity increases, but accuracy is reduced. To improve accuracy the cost increases in designing complicated mechanisms.

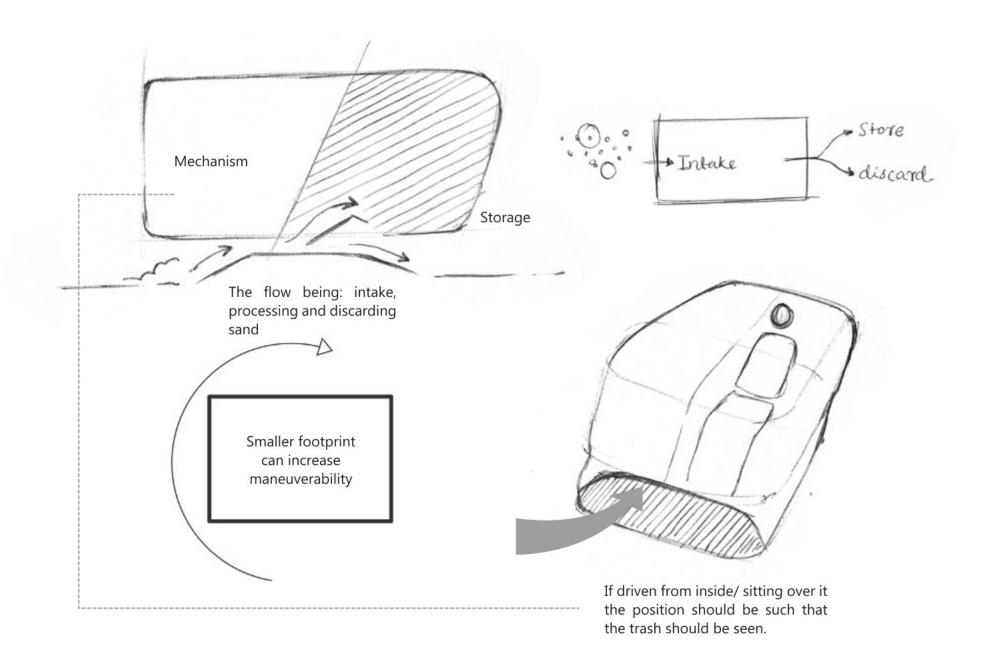


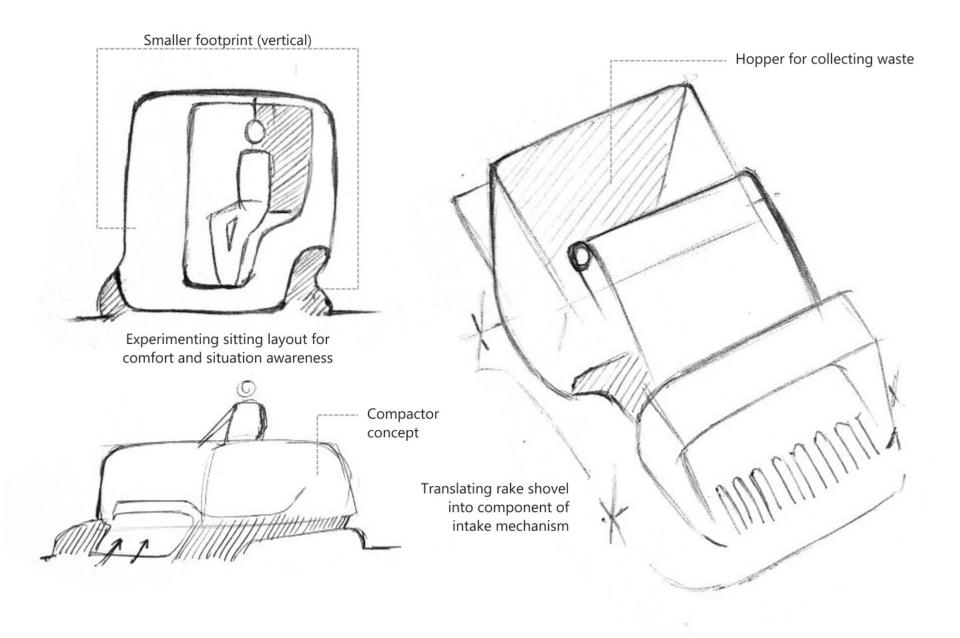


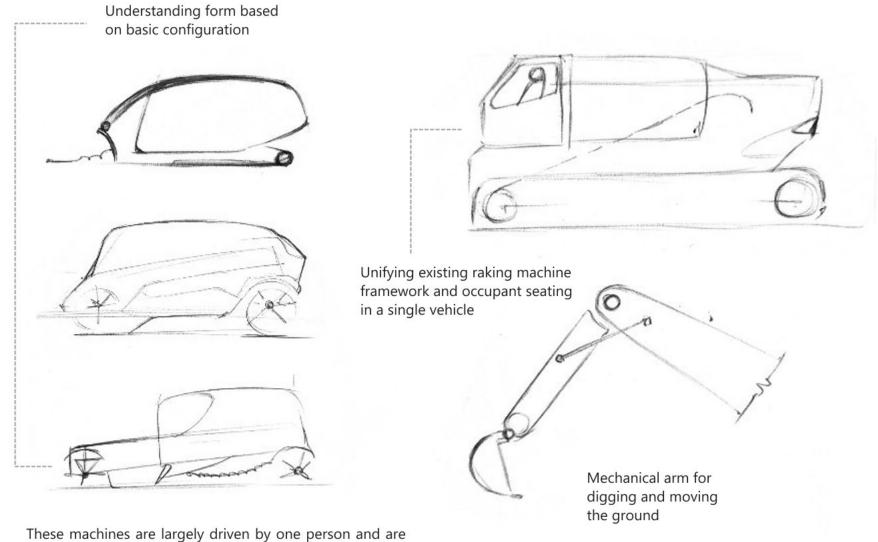


Initial Ideas: Fully Machine Based

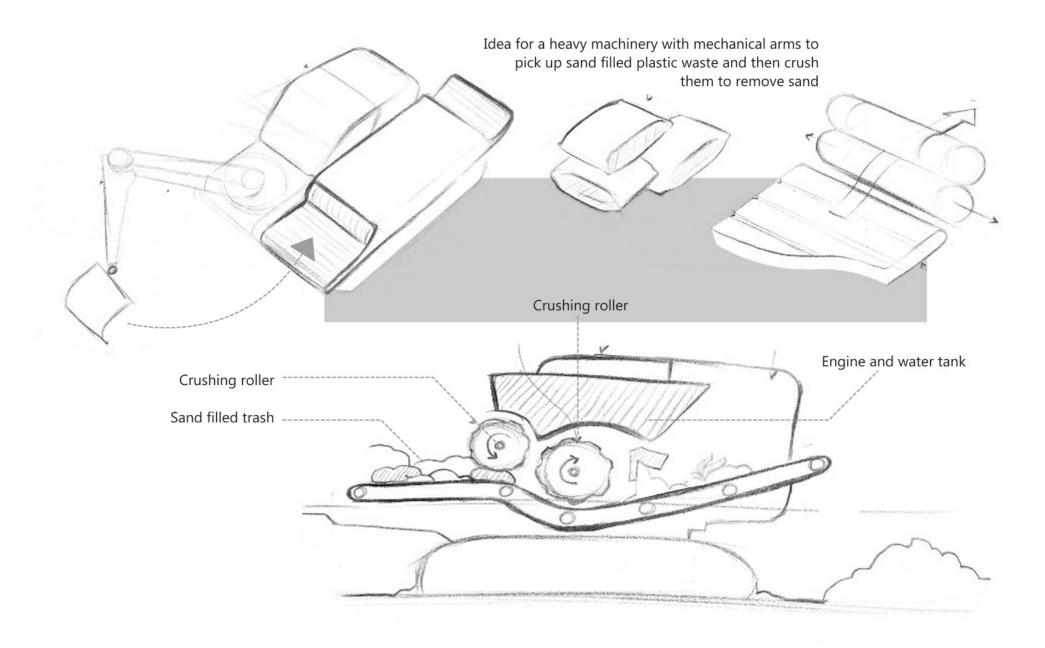


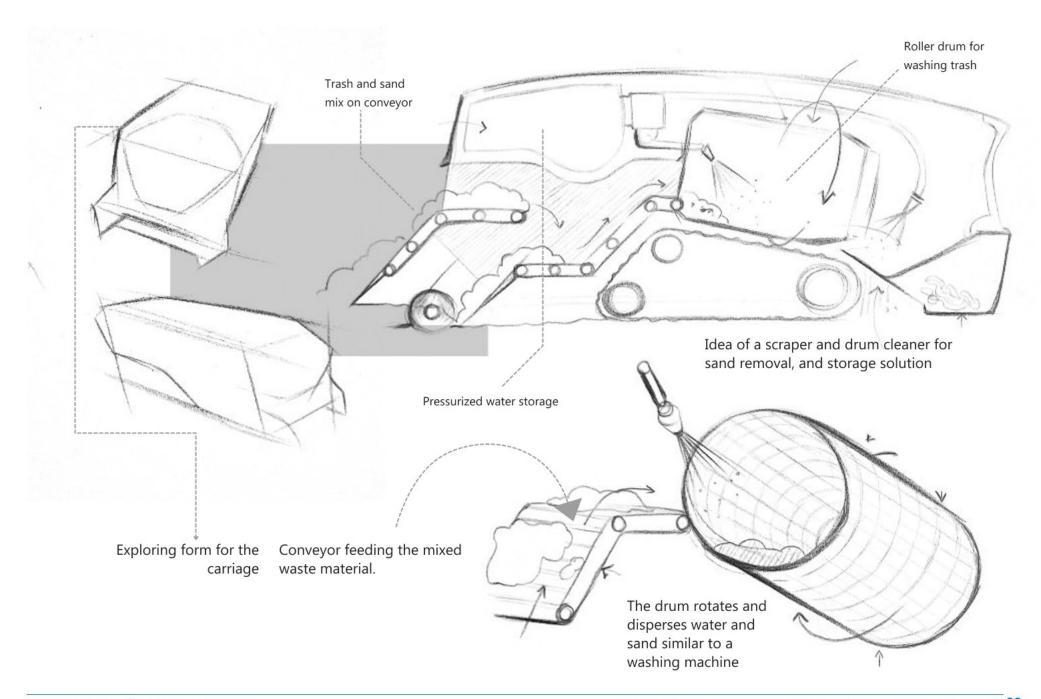




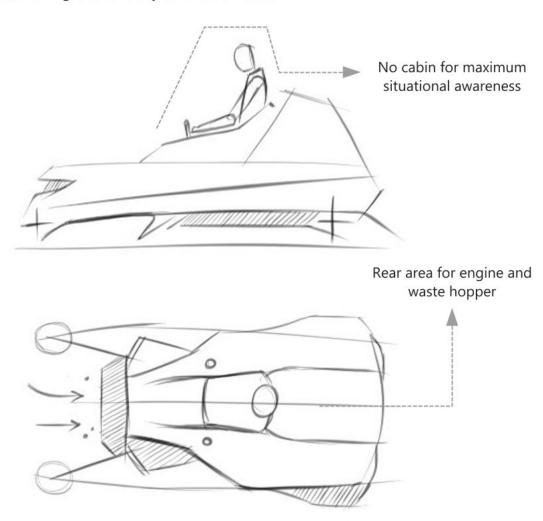


highly complex and powerful. The approach is much more engineering driven than design driven.

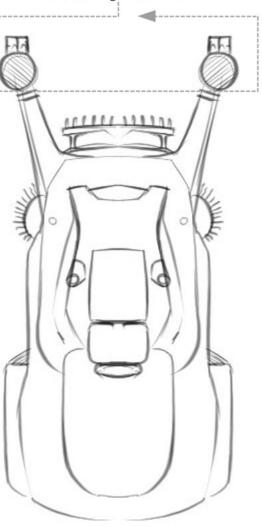


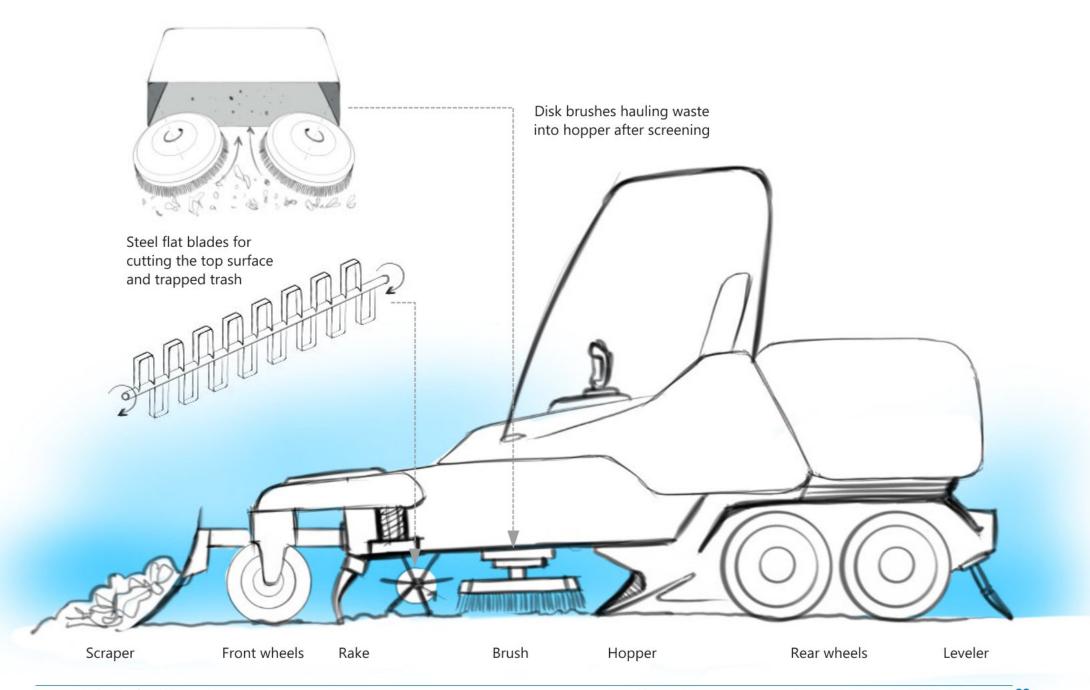


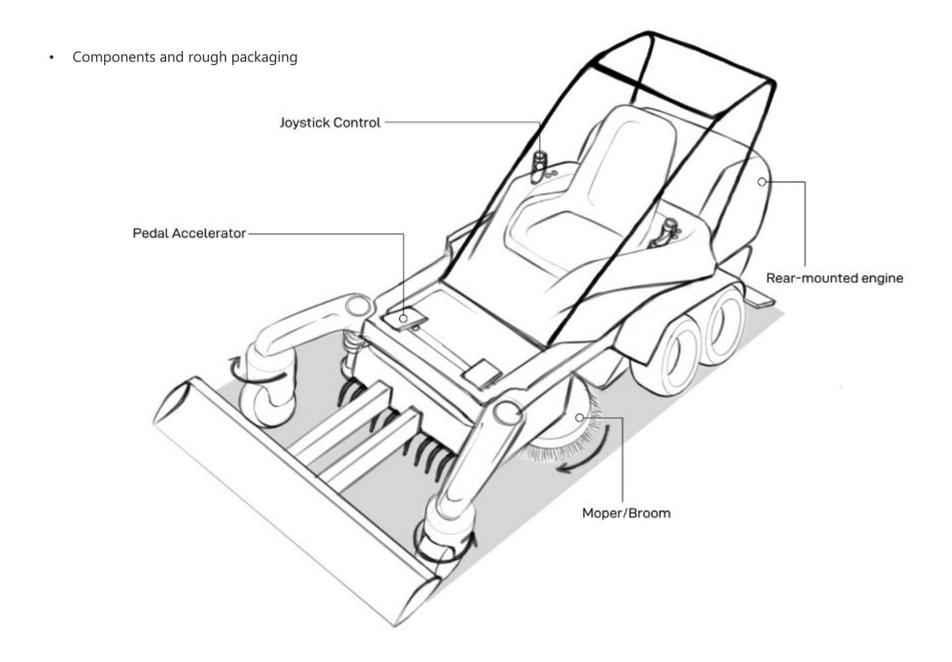
A low footprint ride-on waste collector that has several systems and filters in the base, allowing it to carefully collect the waste.

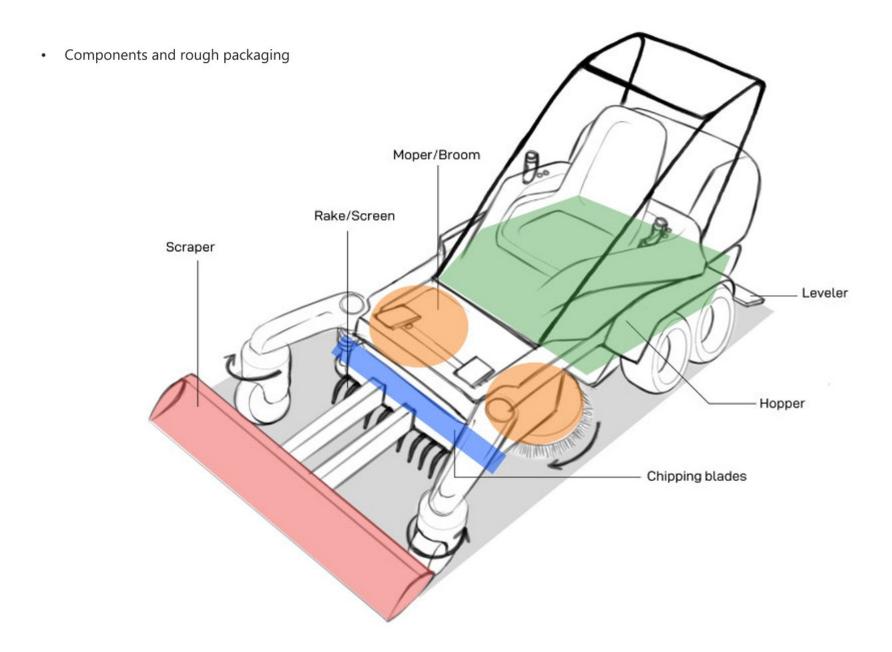


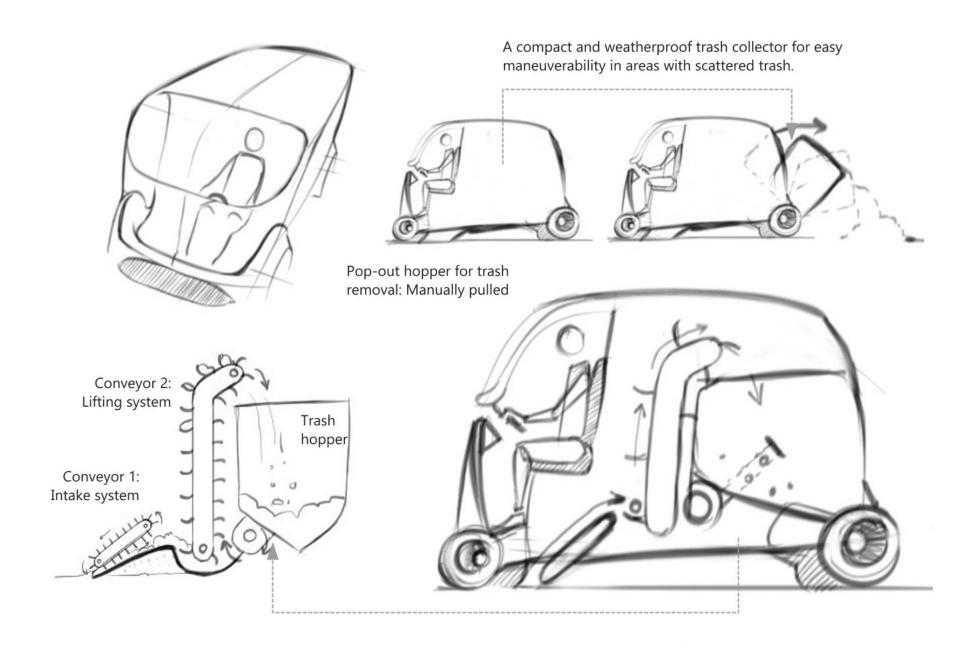
Front wheels away from the main body to allow space for cleaning mechanism



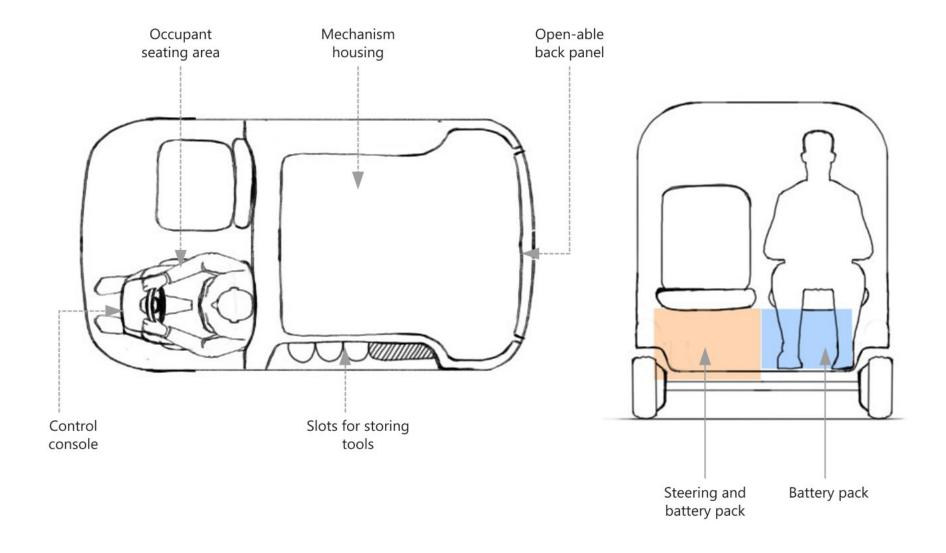




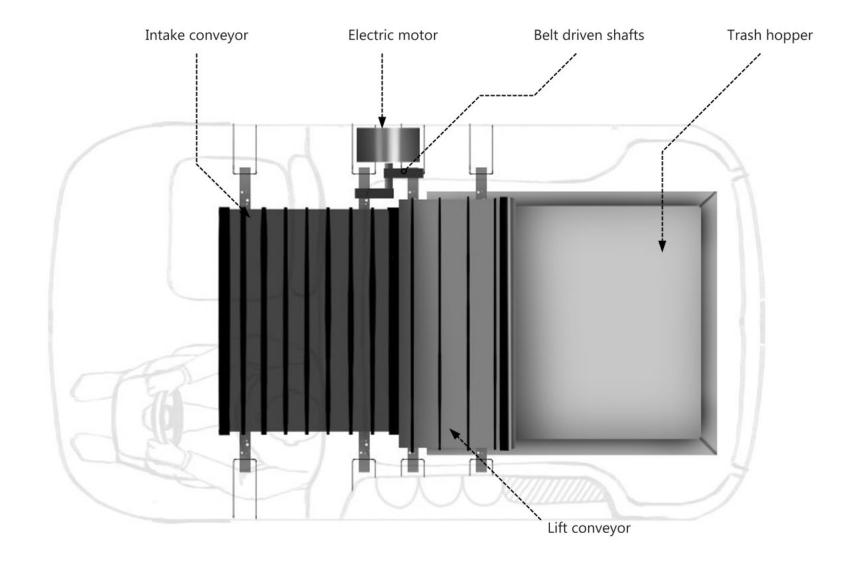


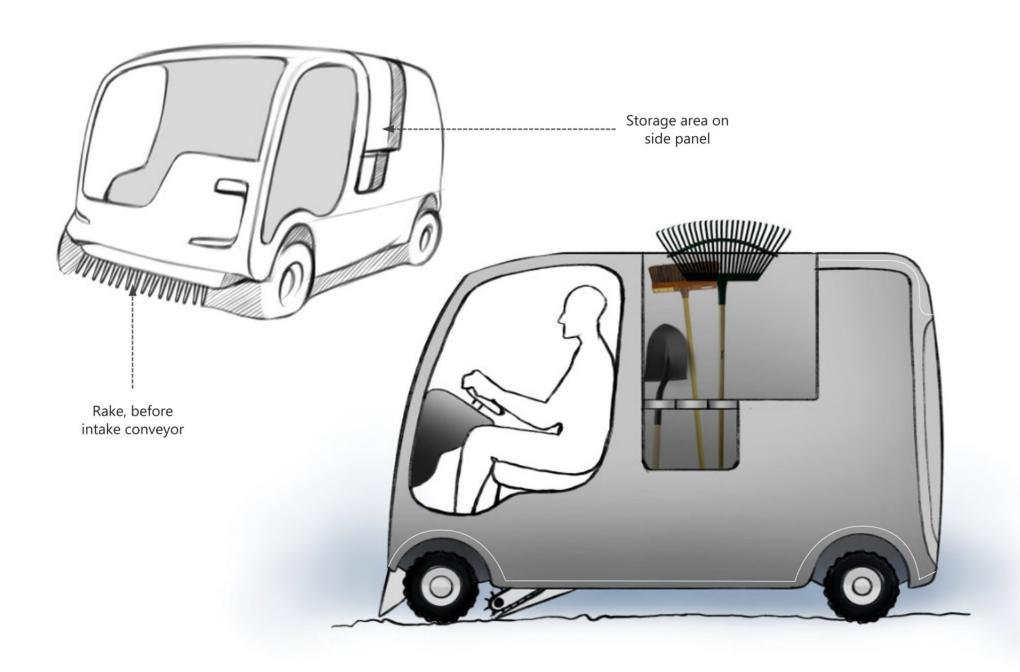


· Components and rough packaging

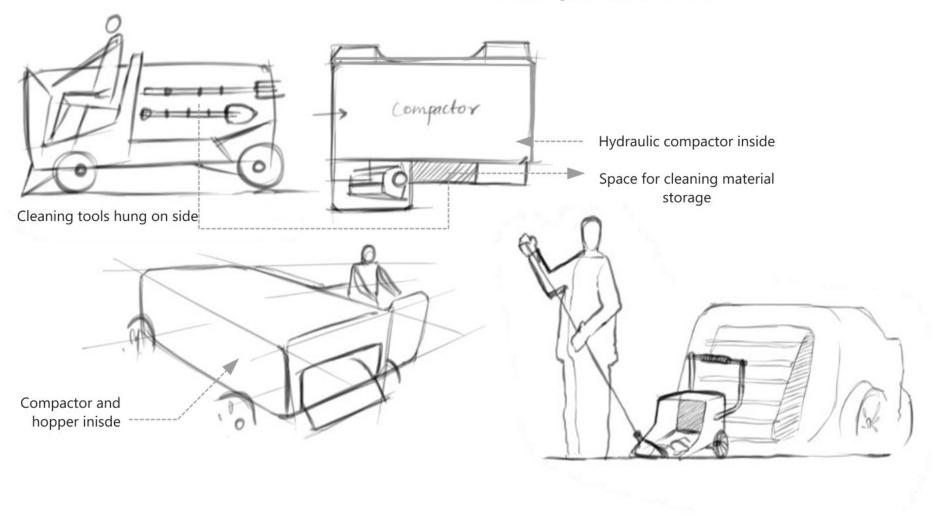


• Components and rough packaging

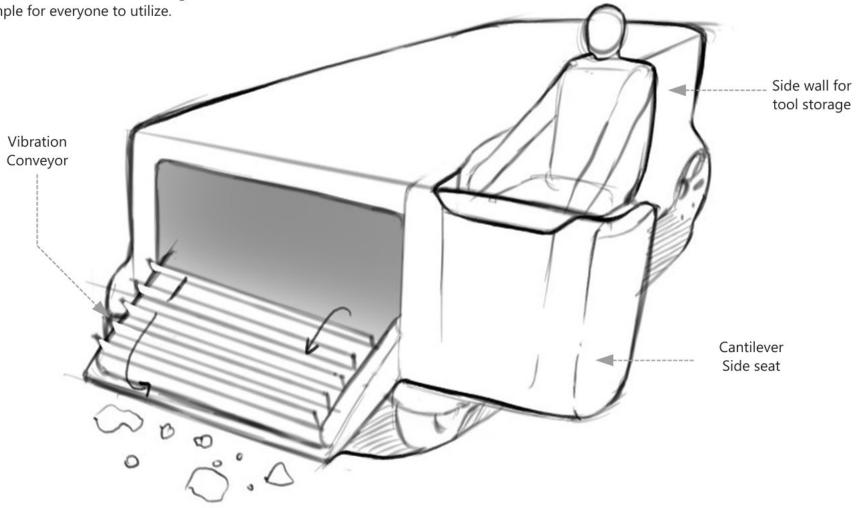




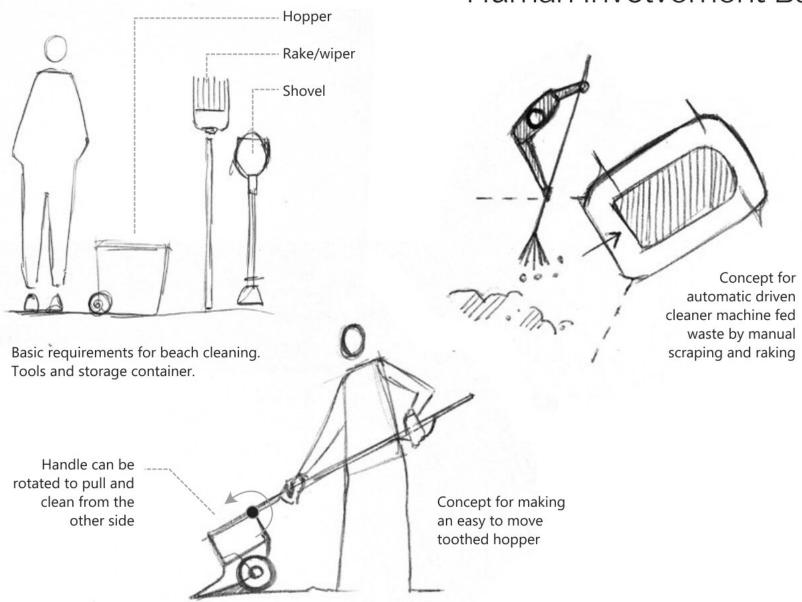
Allowing man-machine synergy to contribute in the solution, adding more emphasis to manual assistance: raking and dragging of waste in standing posture and avoiding bending down and lifting heavy weight and storing the waste somewhere.

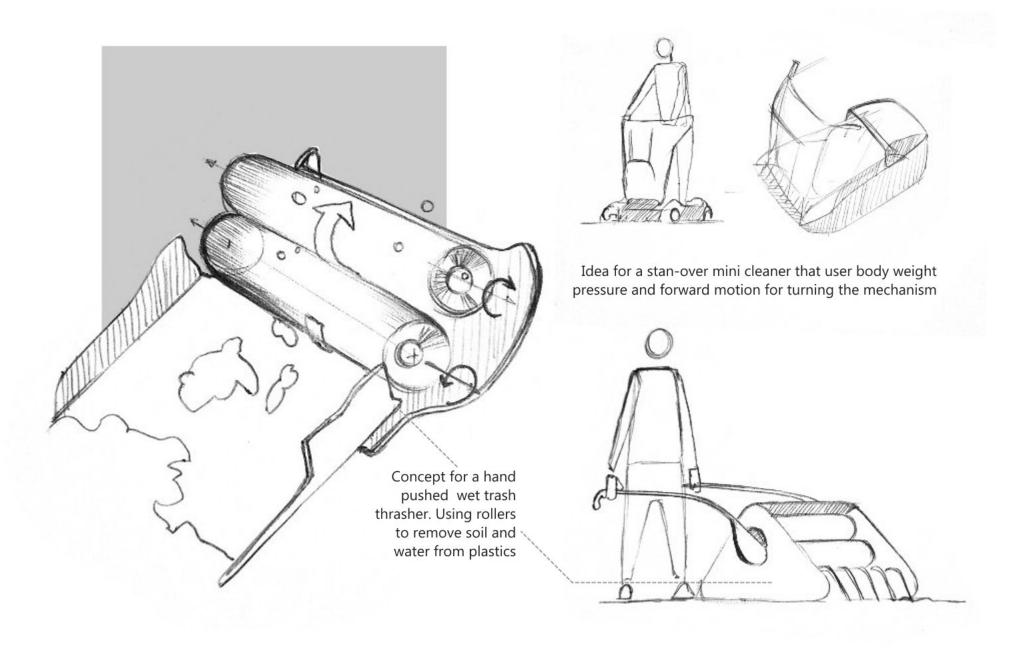


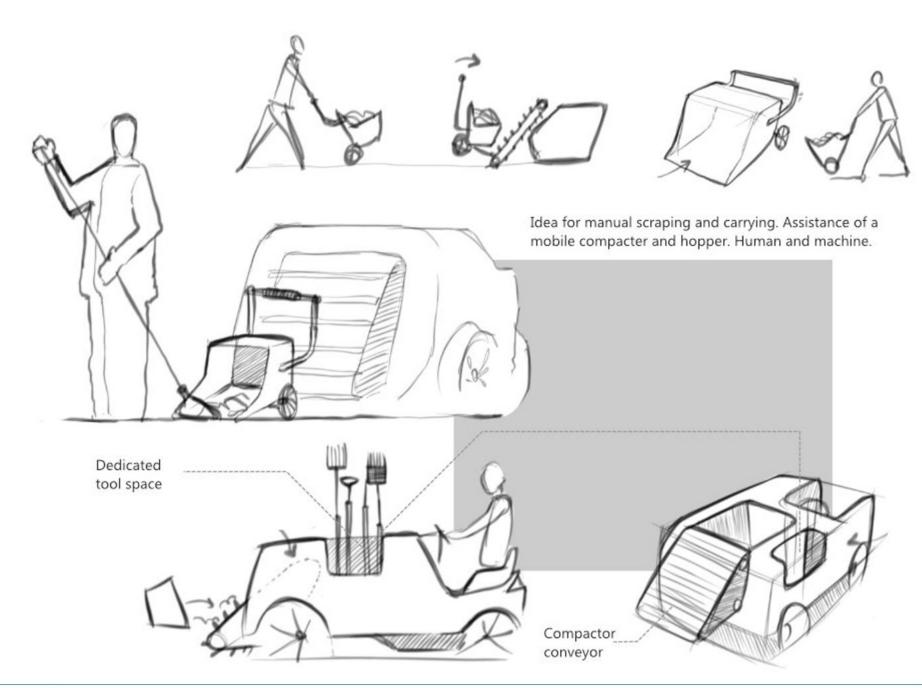
The usage of heavy machinery is not beneficial for universal scenario. The complexity and capability to operate such machines is not present with everyone. If we need constant cleaning of beaches we need to make the design simple for everyone to utilize.



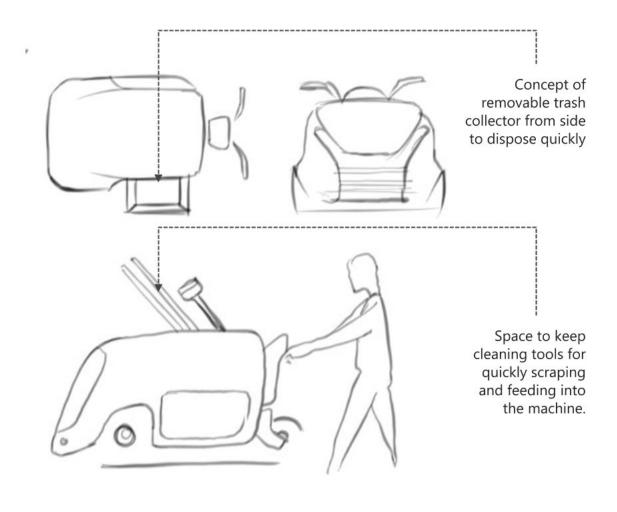
Human Involvement Based



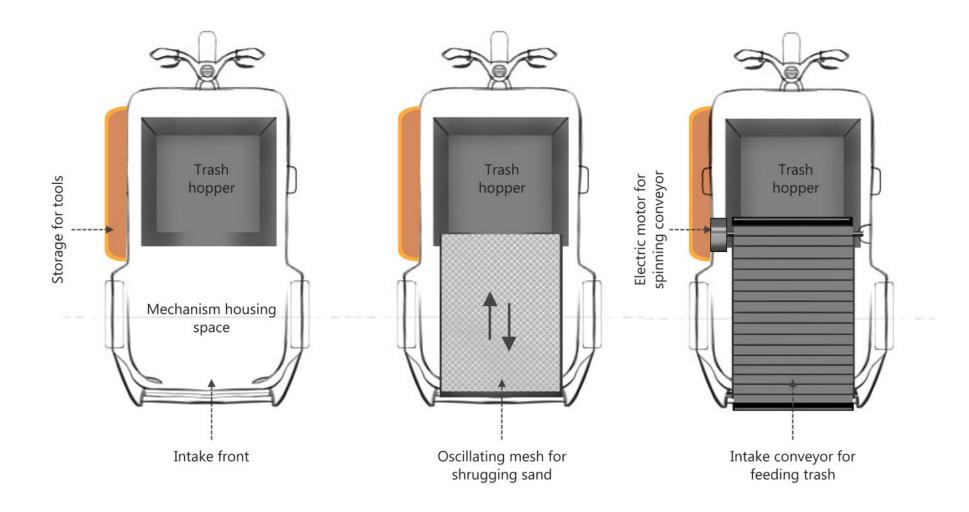




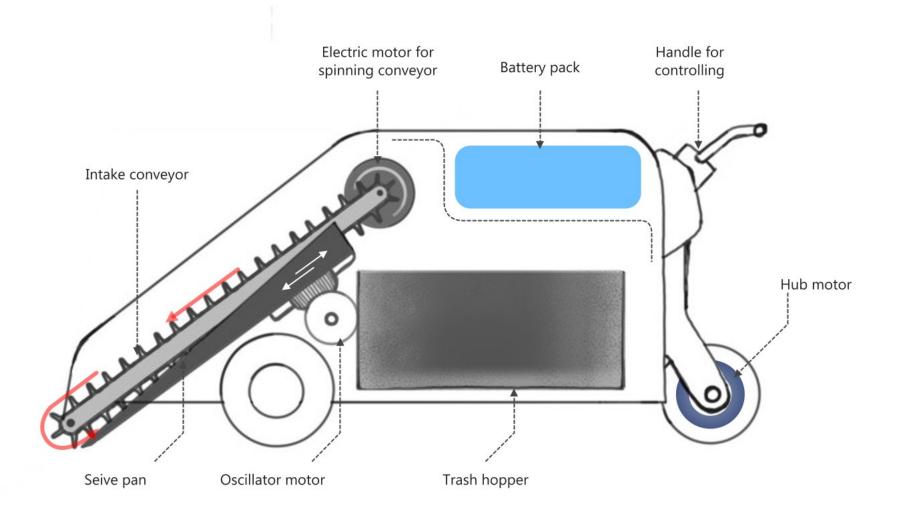
Exploratory doodles for walk-behind In this concept, exploring possibility of a 3 wheeler, walk behind human-powered trash collector and compactor. This will reduce the complexity of packaging engine/motors for drive. If required, a hub motor can be installed in the rear wheel for assistance.

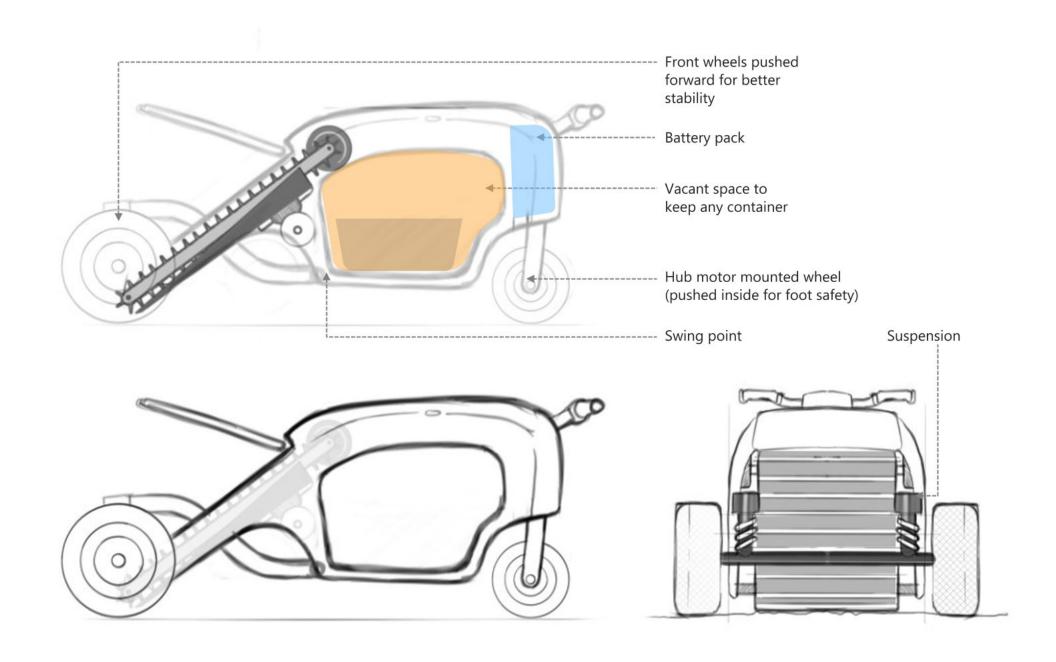


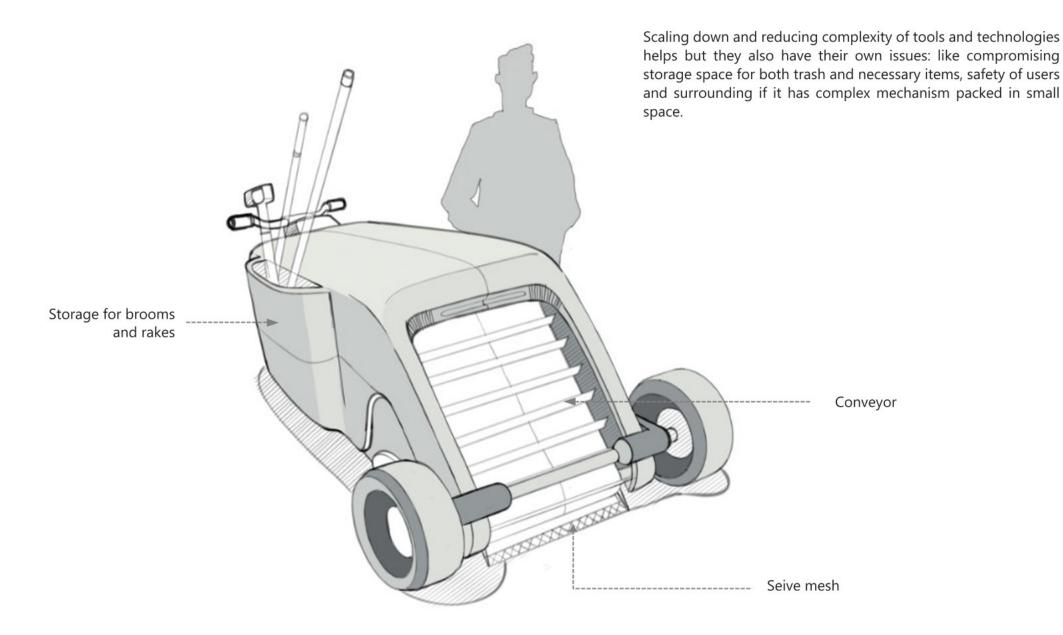
Components and rough packaging (Top View)

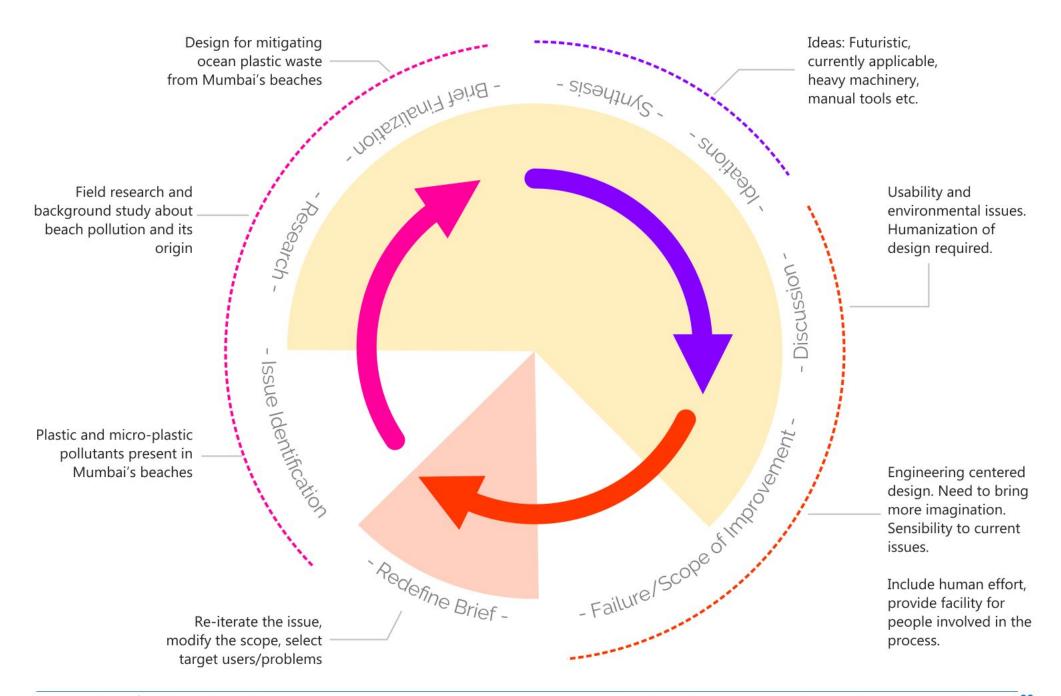


Components and mechanism (Side View)









4.5 System Evaluation

Parameters	Mechanical systems	Manual Cleaning	Combined Effort
Versatility	Can pick up maximum amount of trash in shortest interval of time. Difficult in differentiating what to pick. Some waste material/ particles will be left behind.	Can pick nearly all kinds of waste in a larger interval of time. Micro plastics, however needs cleaning tools to segregate.	We can use the versatility of manual detection and ability to pick maximum amount of waste of different morphology.
Ease of operation	Often requires training and expertise in operating the machines.	Can be performed by any individual with no experience.	Can enhance the performance by using very easy to use machines.
Usability	Long operation hours, vibration causing body pain and locked posture.	Issues like painful posture, carrying, contamination, dehydration etc occurs.	Using manual tools, carrying necessary items for cleaning and safety.
User friendliness	Machines are often overwhelming and huge and they appear unsafe to be around.	Safest way to clean the beaches without disturbing/overwhelming the visitors.	Using a very simple machine/tool which facilitates a lot of options for cleaning, storage, transportation etc.
Maneuverability	Larger the size of the machines, lesser the maneuverability. Also requires a lot of situational awareness for safety of beach dwellers.	The most organic and flexible way to pick waste. People have maximum situational awareness and attention.	Can be of human scale and smaller footprint and lightweight for easy navigation on sand.
Environmental Impact	Can cause noise and emission of harmful gases if powered by fossil fuel. Disturbs the topology/ biodiversity of the beach.	It is quiet, peaceful and has no ill impacts on the beach surface. Minimum amount of digging and raking. Easiest way of segregation.	Removal of drive (making the system human powered) can reduce pollution. Cleaning by humans can ensure the beach surface is least impacted.
Cost of Operation	Usually very high and hence they are not mass deployed. Complexity in operation adds to this factor.	Lowest operation cost. Only requires safety gloves, sanitizers and some manual tools if required.	Can run on a low cost, investing mostly on the charging and cleaning mechanism.

4.6 System Selection

Sustainability of Heavy Machinery (Mechanical Systems)

Although everything can be achieved through technology and brute force of heavy machines, in terms of sustainability, we must address an integral approach that encompasses suitable measures that reflect economic, environment and social aspects (Singh et al., 2009). Prescott (1995) established a mechanism for integrating environmental and social elements of sustainable development. In this mechanism, he has emphasized that inclusion of ecosystem and human well-being is evenly required for achieving sustainable development.

The socioeconomic criteria for selection of an equipment can be governed by the following factors:

- Ownership cost
- Operational cost
- Availability of local skilled operator
- Operator health
- Operator view and comfort
- Safety features
- Operator proficiency
- Training needs for operator
- Relationship with dealer/supplier

There are numerous engineering criteria as well, which are difficult to manage while introducing a machinery for a specific function:

- Equipment age
- Equipment capacity
- Equipment reliability
- Equipment efficiency
- Equipment operating life

- Equipment productivity
- Fuel efficiency
- Implement system
- Traction system
- Structure and suspension system
- Power train system
- Control and information system
- Compliance with site operating conditions
- Meet job/operational requirements
- Meet haul road condition
- Versatility of equipment
- Easy repair and maintenance
- Machine/equipment standardization
- Spare parts availability

Finally the environmental aspects of selection can be:

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Fossil fuel consumption
- Energy saving
- Noise control
- Vibration control
- Quantity of particulate
- Oil/lube leakage control
- Use of sustainable fuels
- Use of biodegradable lubricants and hydraulic oil
- Environmental statutory compliance

System Selection

It is evident that developing and instating a machine is a very complex and costly process and it may not be friendly to the socioeconomic conditions of a place to begin with. In Mumbai the sole stakeholder in the beach cleaning operation is the Municipal Corporation. However they have in various places given the contract to private engineering and technology groups such as **Spectron Engineers** (documented in research), that procures machines from western countries.

The imported machines lacks on a variety of points mentioned in the socioeconomic, environmental and engineering criteria; found in the user research and observation. This is due to the complexity in the interaction of machinery and the actual ground condition that would take a very adaptable piece of technology, which can be very powerful, efficient and very costly if developed. As of now the Tractor-towed beach cleaners cost USD 10000 alone and they already lack the versitilty to work in extremely challenging waste clogged beaches like Versova and Juhu (documented in research).

Considering the current situation and socioeconomic context of India, manual intervention in beach cleaning is unavoidable. However a small step or addition in the facility available for manual cleaners and volunteers can go long way and can be developed into something powerful and cost efficient in the future. A time may come when a business model will be created around plastic economy and other engineering giants will invest into Research and Development of powerful, sophisticated and cheap machinery to curb this problem.



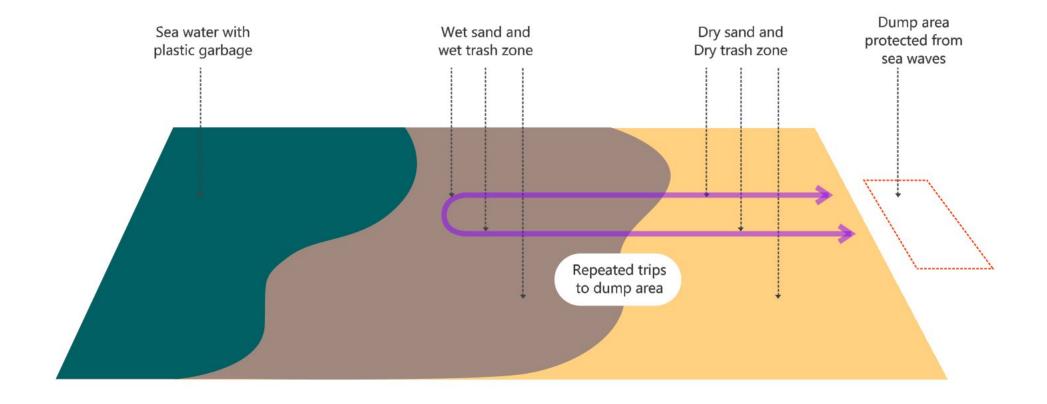
Image 49: Versova: Oct 2, 2019. Mechanical diggers can turn the soil and reveal the buried sand bags but they cannot efficiently seperate and pick them. A beach cleaning machine has to be extremenly powerful and technically sophisticated to adapt to this scenario.

DESIGN I	DEVEL	OPMENT
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5.1 Focus Area

According to the study and explorations and discussions based on same, the final solution is focused on combined effort of human and machine. The focus is on delivering better user experience to the users that work on ground and does not have advanced machinery.

Intervening in this area is more appropriate as a mass of people are aware about this issue and are motivated to act in the present moment. Designing a solution for them can increase their productivity and satisfaction and participation of people.



5.2 Designing a system

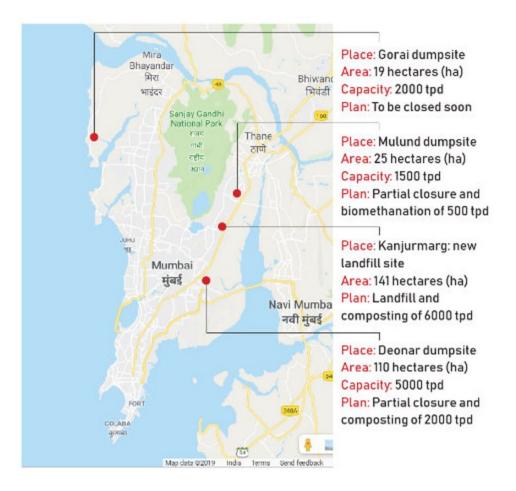
Plastic removal alone does not solve the whole issue. The following challenges need to be met in the whole process that is involved:

- Collection of beach trash
- · Storage and protection of beach trash
- Transportation of the trash to a larger hub
- Transportation from hub to segregation centers/ recycling centers or landfills.

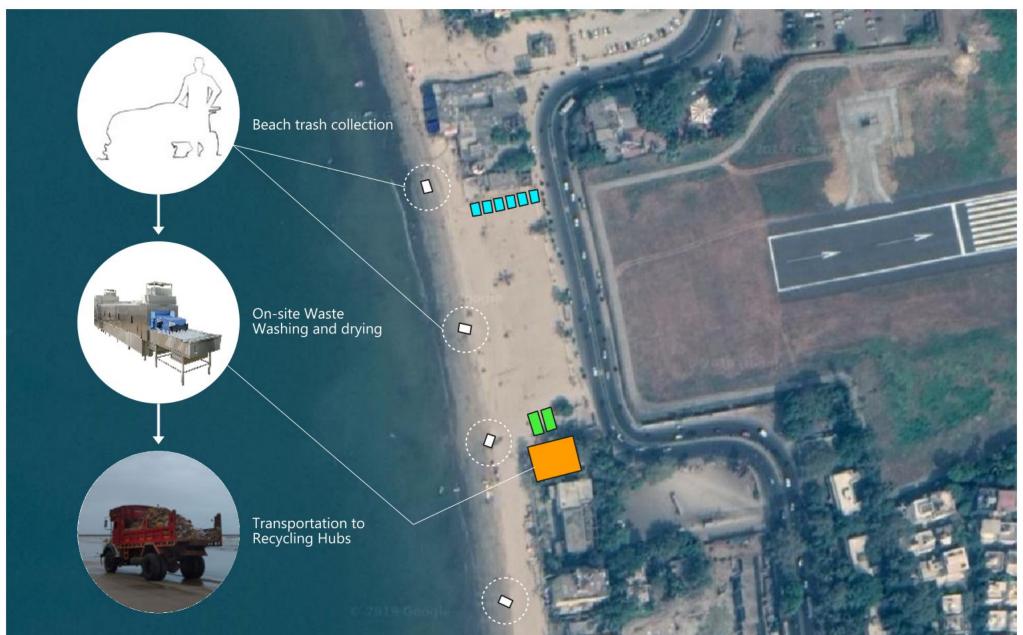
Currently processing and segregation systems are not deployed on the beach itself. All the sand infested waste is carried to various landfill sites all over Mumbai. These wastes are not washed and compacted. Due to which, the transportation becomes inefficient. As previously discussed the dumpsites closest to the sea-face on the west coast of Mumbai have exhausted their capacity to contain any more waste. The larger landfills are located in the heart of the city. There are no dumpsites in the South Mumbai area.

To improve the transportation a network of simple mechanisms can be implemented:

- On site waste collection; easy and efficient from user's point of view.
- Protected storage and easy transportation to a trash hub.
- Mechanism to wash and segregate plastics using some mechanism.
- · Drying and transportation to landfills/recycle centers.



5.3 System framework



5.4 Final Ideas

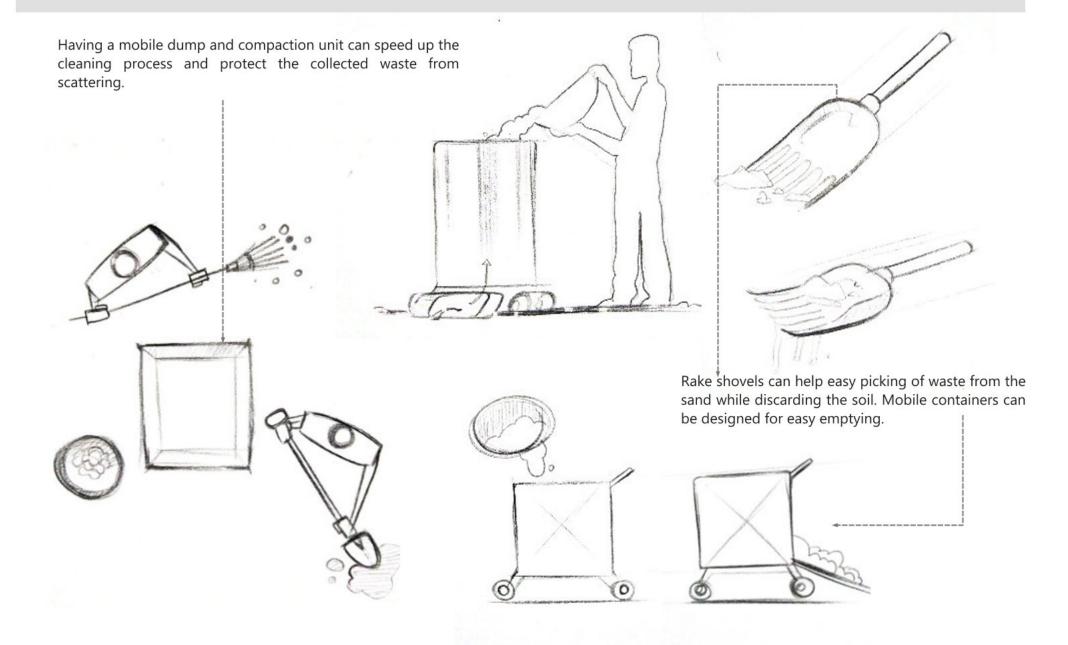
Designing a way such that leaning or sitting is not required, will reduce the discomfort from the posture related issues

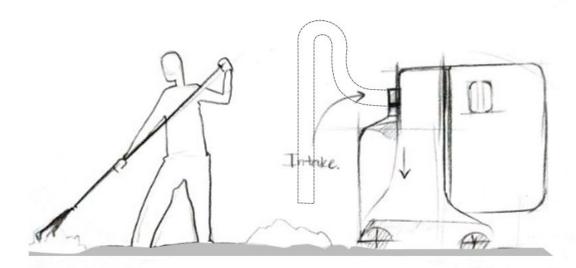
Regular transportation of waste from point A to B in small potions can reduce efficiency and increase effort. A way to stack the waste on the cleaning spot itself and protect it from the waves can help.

Much of the loose trash can be picked up by simple tools like rake shovels/ trash pickers instead of doing it by hand. Designing a way to keep the tools around shall help

Currently the volunteers need to manually sit down/lean/bend to pick up waste from the beach precisely. From micro level waste to big chunks they have to pick it by hand and store them into baskets. They make multiple trips carrying the heavy basket to drop the trash at the dump spot.

Complicated mechanical and moving parts can get expensive and difficult to operate. The same power can be utilized in vacuum to obtain better results. The users also need some on-ground facilities like drinking water, disinfectant, first-aid, which they aren't able to carry.



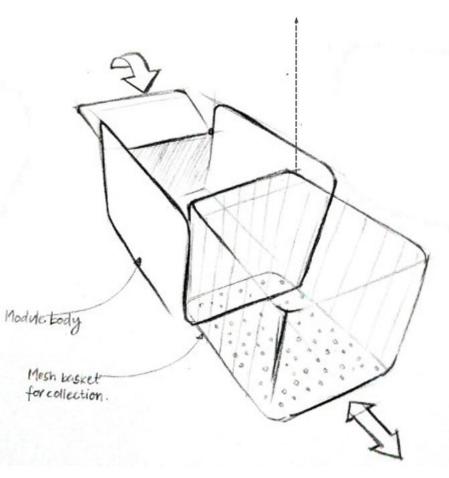


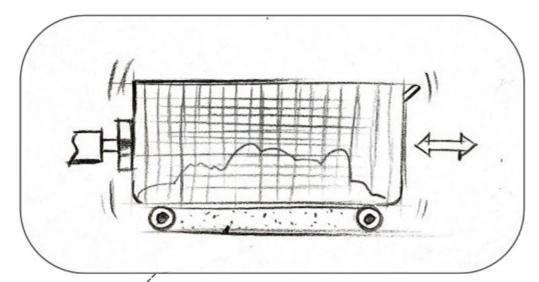
Vacuum based intake system for least interaction of mechanism and waste



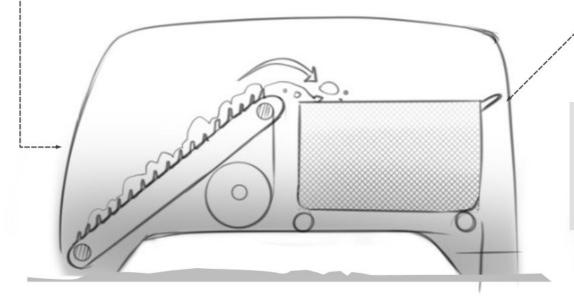
Pulling out the waste collector from the cart

A mesh basket inside the main body can collect all the waste while discarding the sand using vibration mechanism.



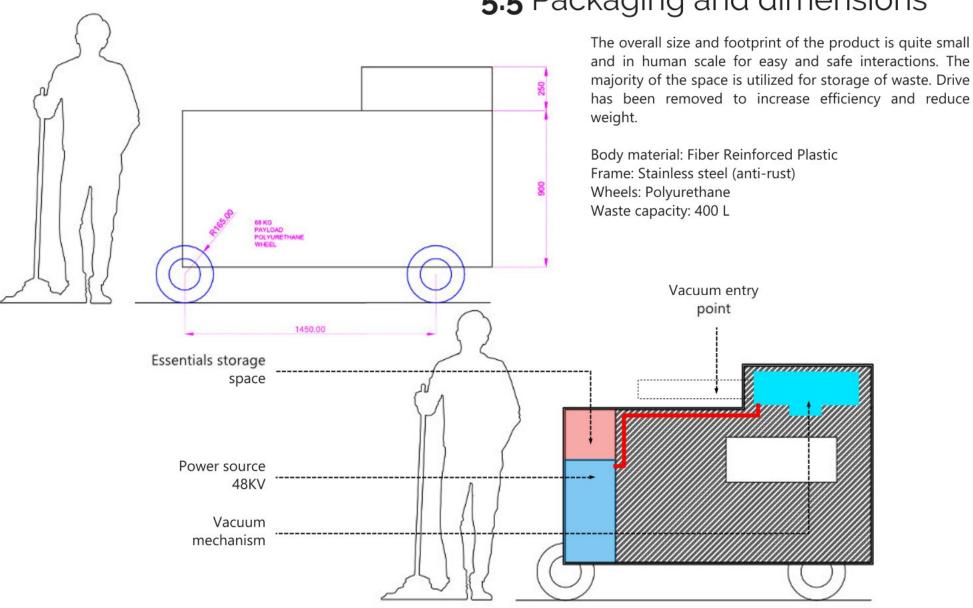


A waste picker with mesh basket and conveyor. Powered by electric motor and human pulled.

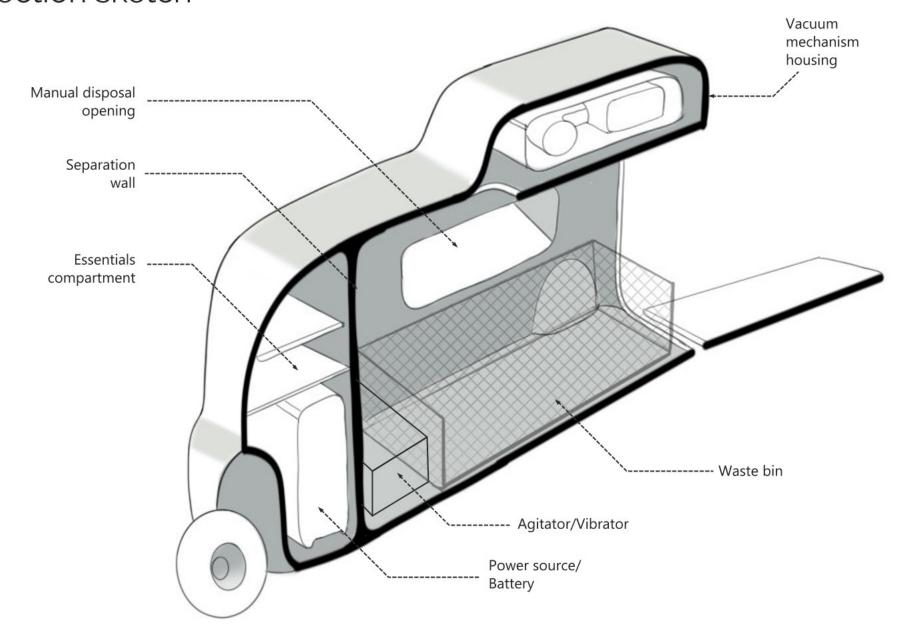


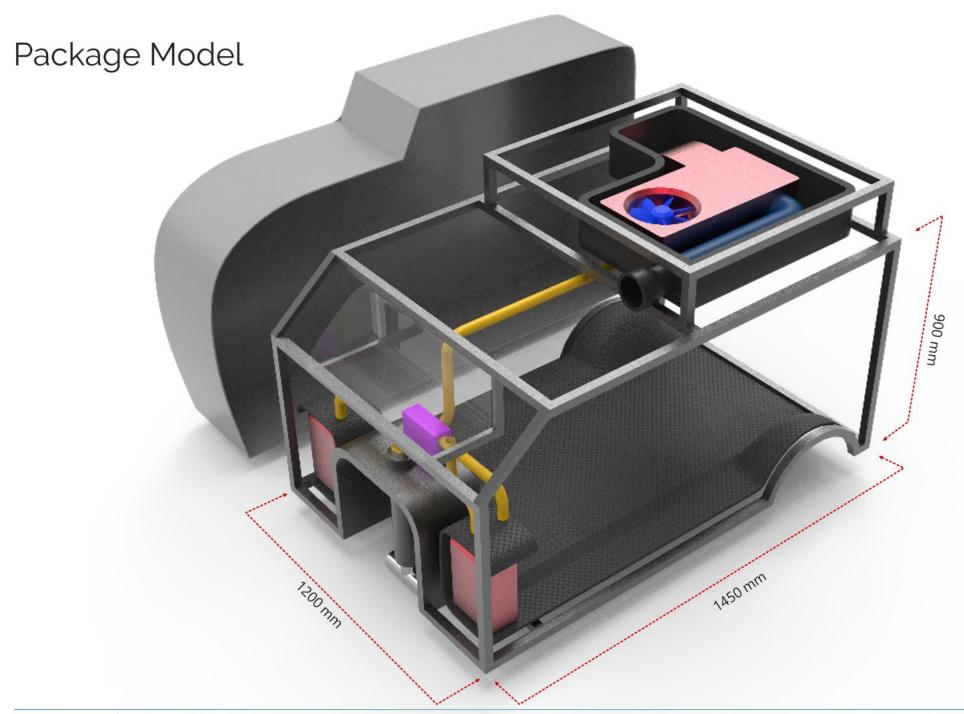
Vibration mechanism used to shake off the sand from the waste collected. Inside the body which can be removed later.

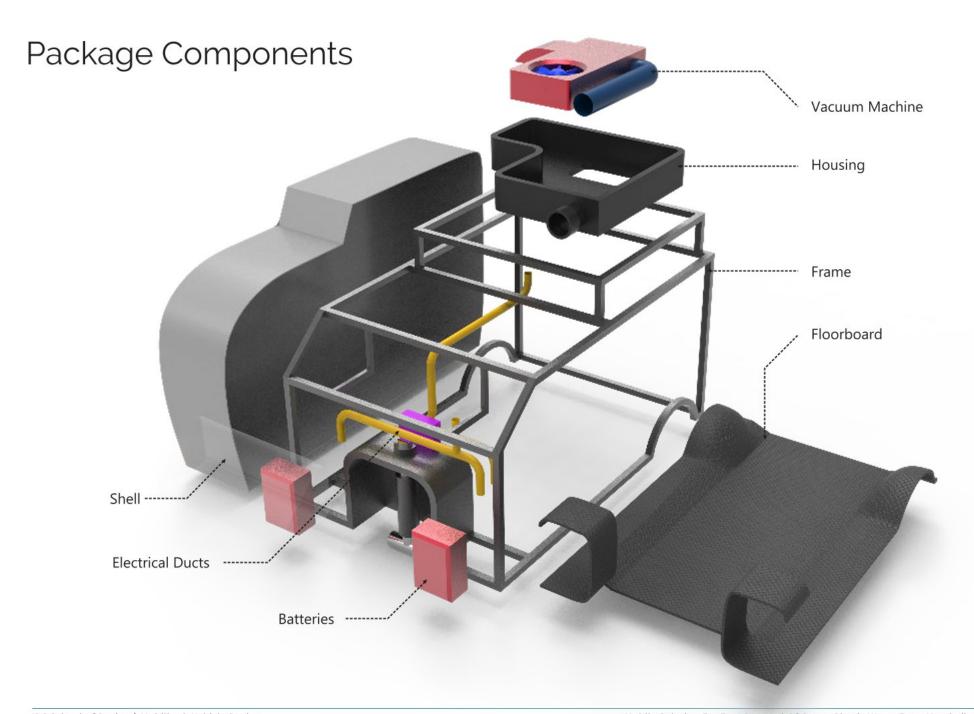
5.5 Packaging and dimensions

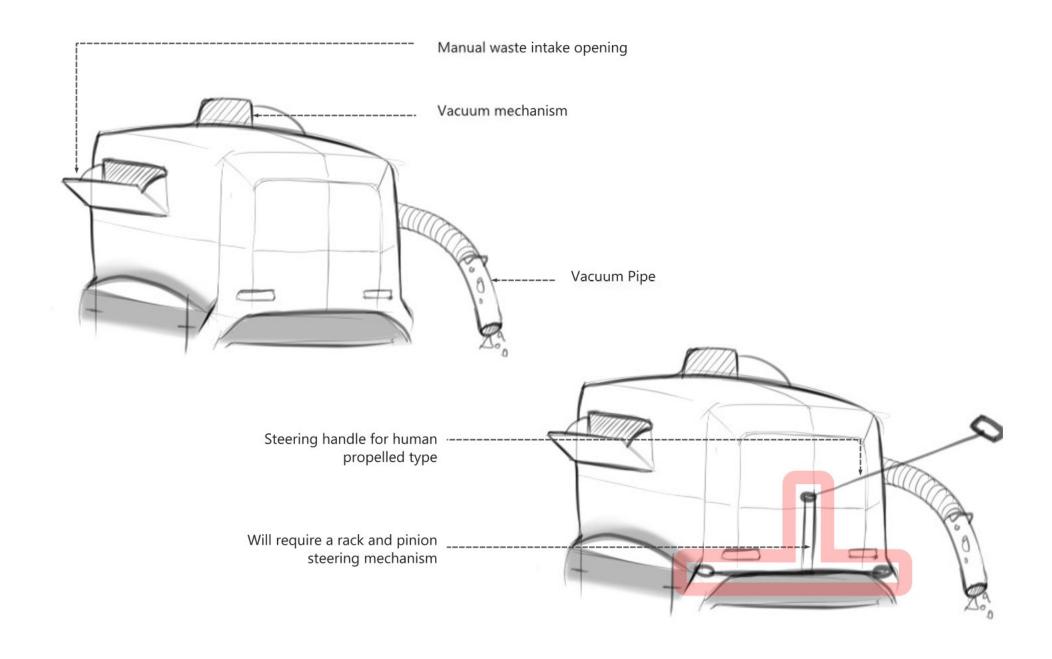


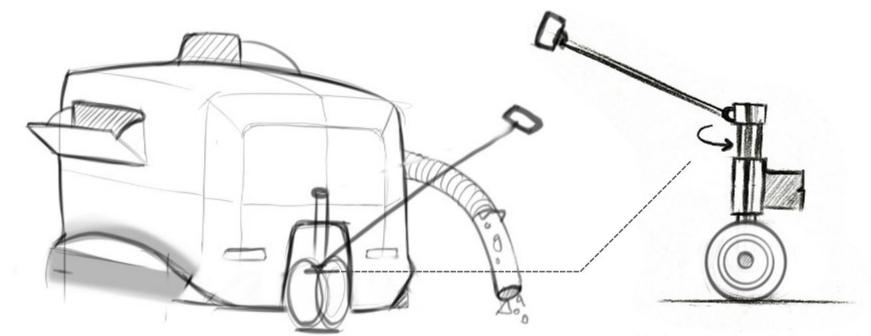
Section sketch



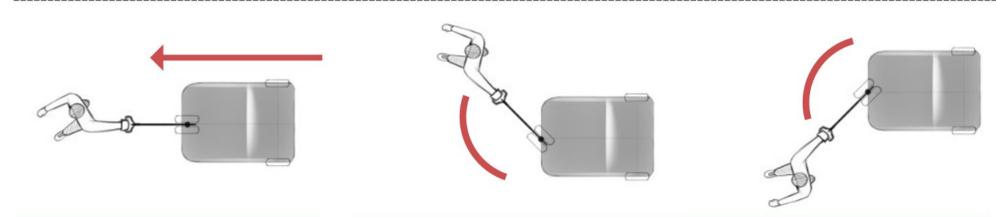


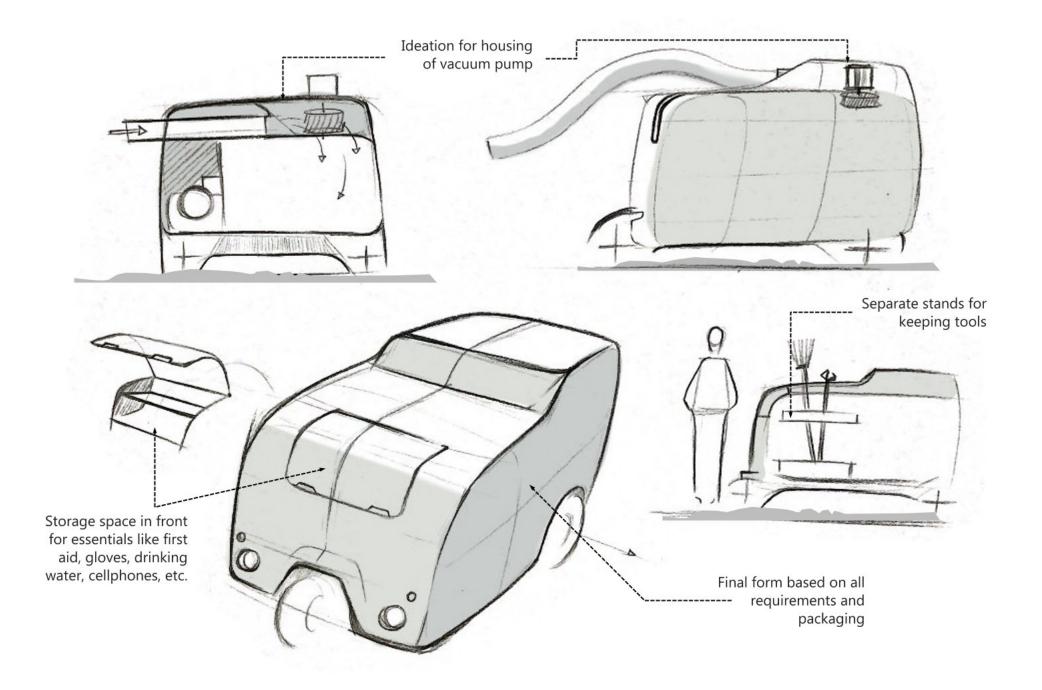




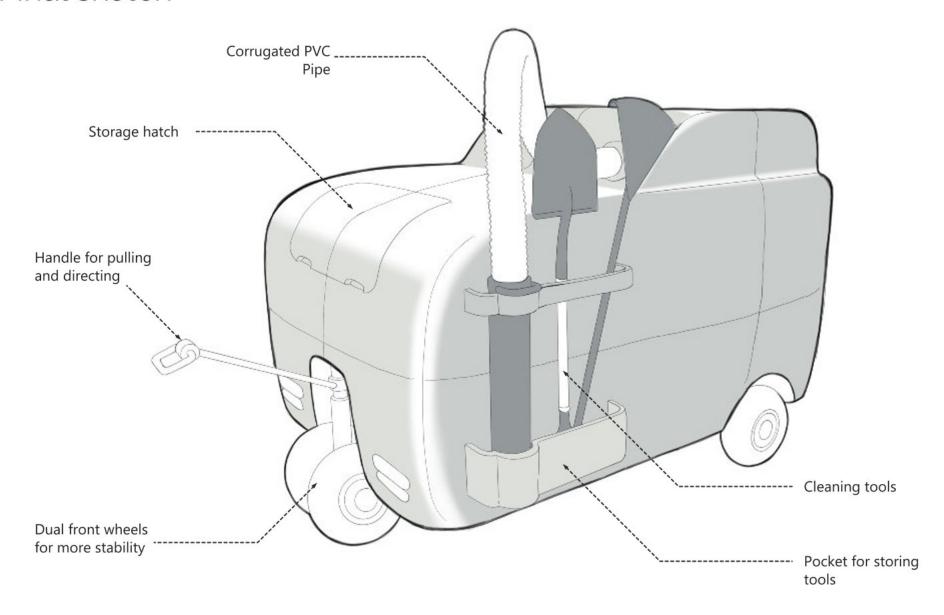


Simplified steering through three wheeler type configuration, the shaft directly turns towards the direction in which the handle is pulled.

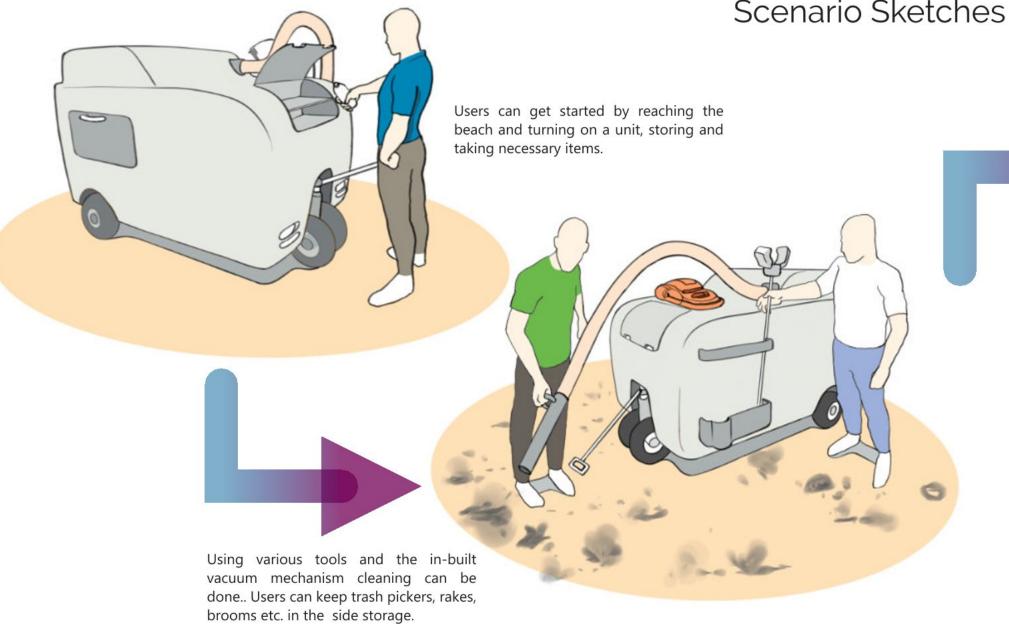


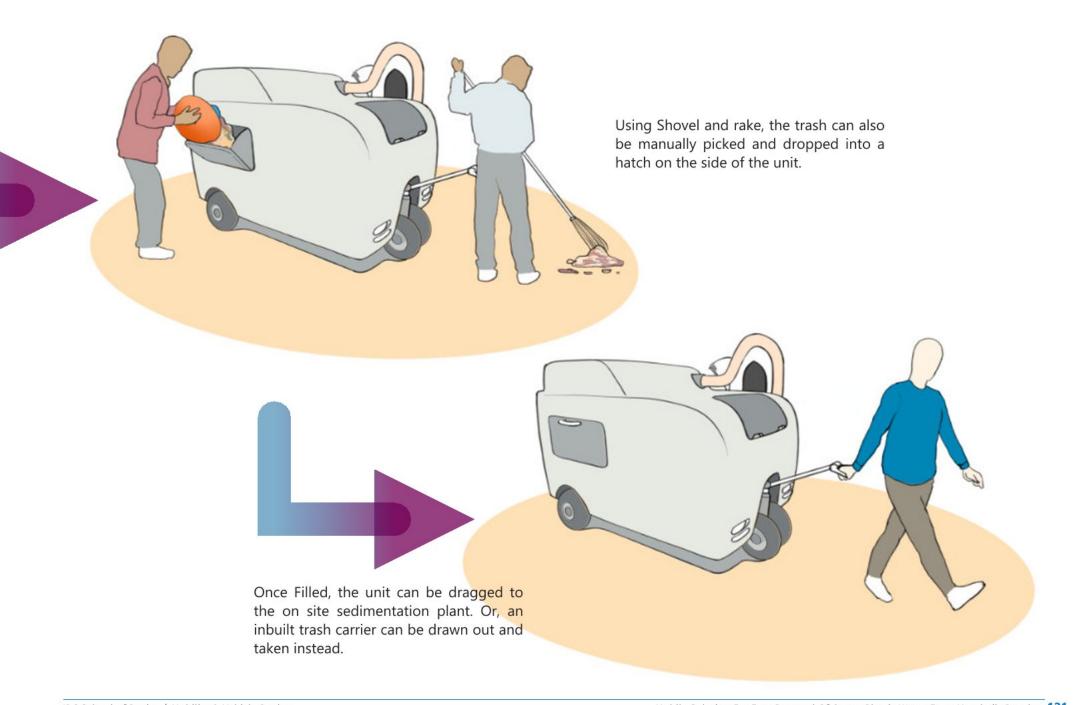


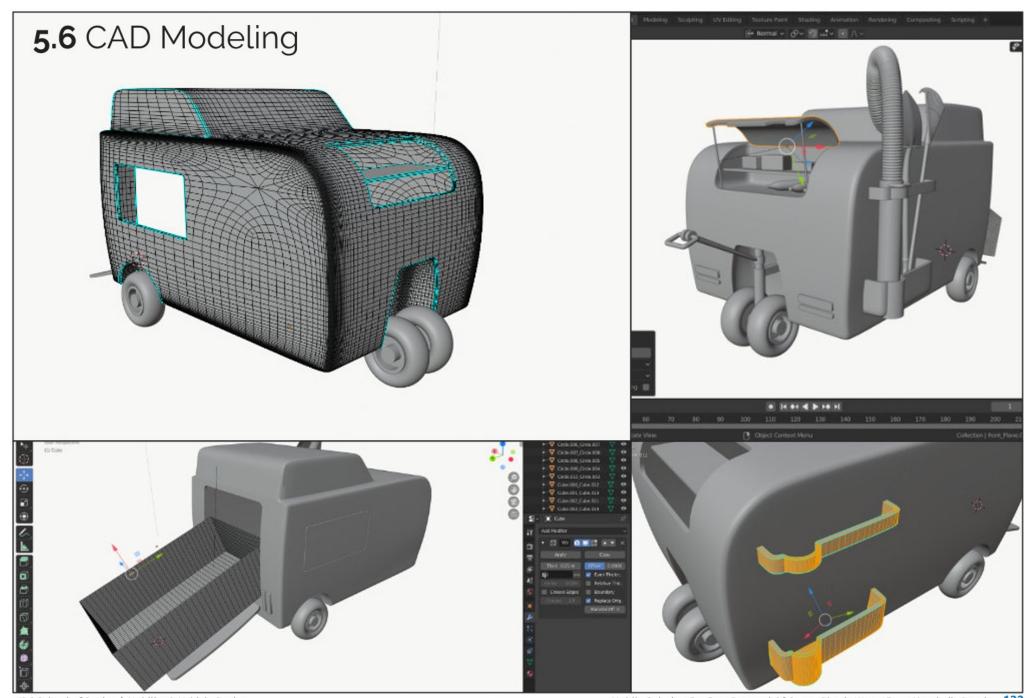
Final sketch



Scenario Sketches



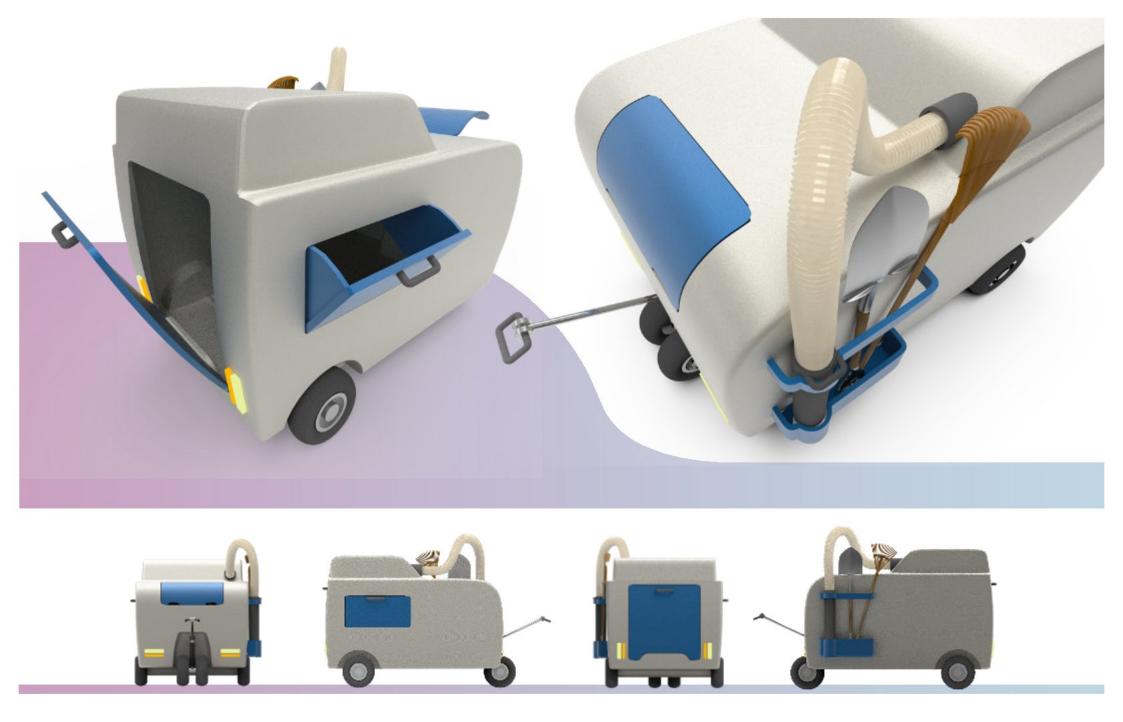




5.7 Renders









ANNEXURE

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