

THE MAGIC OF DEJUNKING

CONSTRUCTING ORDER FROM DISORDER – CREATING SPACE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL STORAGE THROUGH DEJUNKING



Dinesh has been appointed as the new pharmacist at the district warehouse. This is his first day at work.

Hey, look! He's here.
Let's welcome him...

*A-ha! I can't wait to meet
the staff and get started!*

Namaste, everyone!

Namaste! We are happy to meet you today. Let me introduce the staff here at this District Warehouse.

I am Ramesh, assistant pharmacy officer.

This is ...Atul, stock manager...Raju, our support staff... and Suman, who operates computers here.

Namaste, Dinesh Ji.

Let's go inside, shall we?"

I hope that we finally have someone to help resolve the family planning products stock issue!

Poor Dinesh was not prepared for the chaos he was about to encounter inside the warehouse.



What a mess these cardboard boxes and pallets are making!



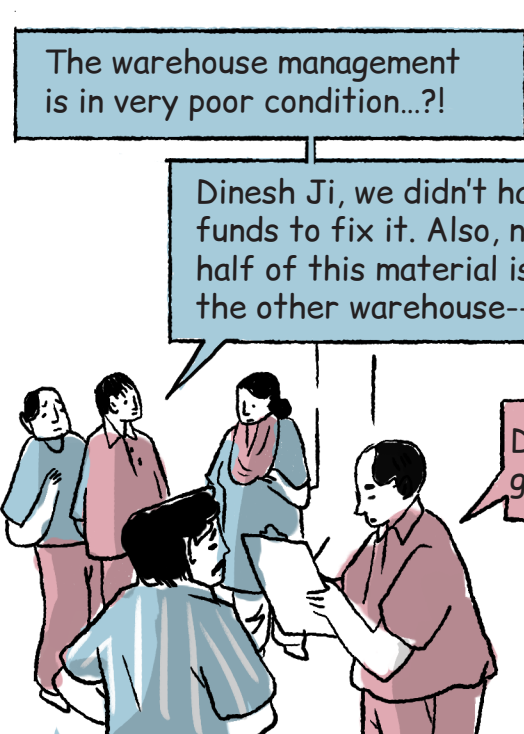
Surely, this is not the proper way of storing medical supplies!



I don't even have place to walk, with all this broken hospital furniture and equipment lying around!



The warehouse management is in very poor condition...?!

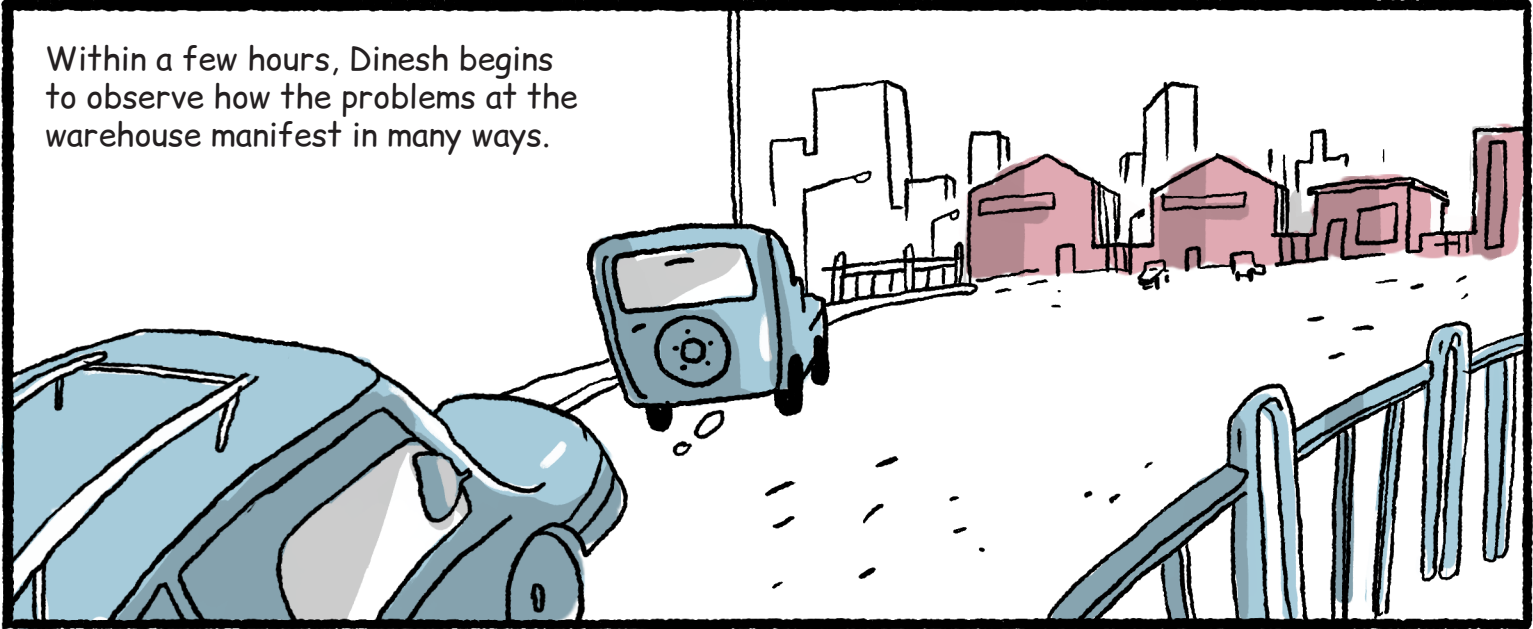


Dinesh Ji, we didn't have the funds to fix it. Also, nearly half of this material is from the other warehouse--

Don't worry, I'm sure this will get cleaned up... someday.

These excuses only upset Dinesh more. He knew he has his job cut out for him...

Within a few hours, Dinesh begins to observe how the problems at the warehouse manifest in many ways.



Namaste. I'm Lakhan from the PHC. I'm here to collect the items that were indented a few days ago.

Sir, this is the indent. We have indented through FP-LMIS.

ok, our team will put the supplies together

INDENT

Raju, do we have the stocks of the PHC ready? Please bring the indented items out.



The staff tries to put the order together. Two hours later they are still not successful.

Raju, where are the oral contraceptives kept?

I can't find the Copper-T!

This problem of not finding commodities is recurring with every order we issue. Things cannot go on like this!

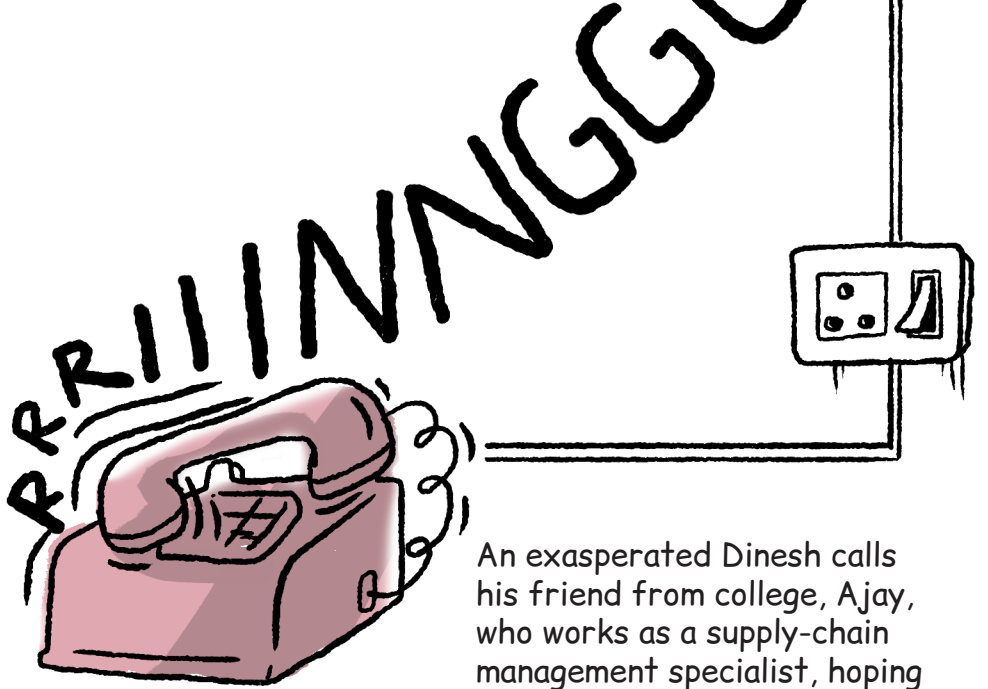
The mismanagement doesn't seem to stop there.

Where are the boxes of Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECP) and weekly Pills? The FP-LMIS shows we have 25 packs of ECP and 50 of weekly pills.

Oh, I sent all of them to another PHC a week ago! ... But I forgot to inform you to make the change in FP-LMIS.

And so the hours pass...

Sorry for this, Lakhan Ji. We were unable to fulfil your indented order today.



An exasperated Dinesh calls his friend from college, Ajay, who works as a supply-chain management specialist, hoping to find a solution to his problem.



You sound worried, what happened?



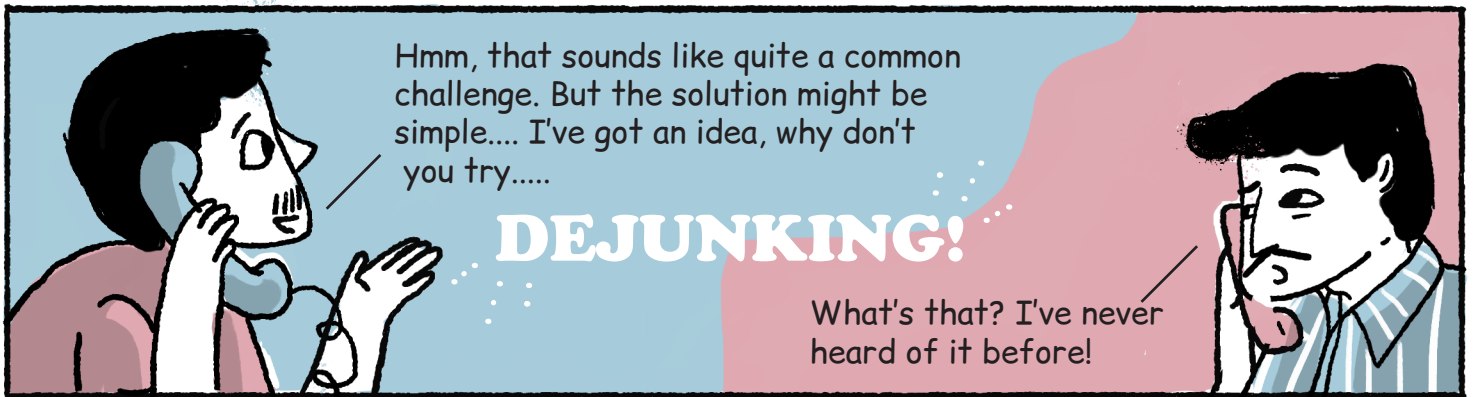
Dinesh tells Ajay about the events that unfolded at the district warehouse.



"I need to indent stock of contraceptives from the state warehouse, but I don't know where we will keep them!"

The storage conditions are haphazard. It's so difficult to track and move any health commodities. We also have a bunch of expired products in the store!

The workers are struggling to manage storage and inventory. Unusable, expired and damaged products are mixed up."



1 Separate and organize all items into different categories



2 Identify expired and damaged items



3 Allocate space for each category of commodities considering health programs



4 Dispose expired/damaged commodities as per the guidelines



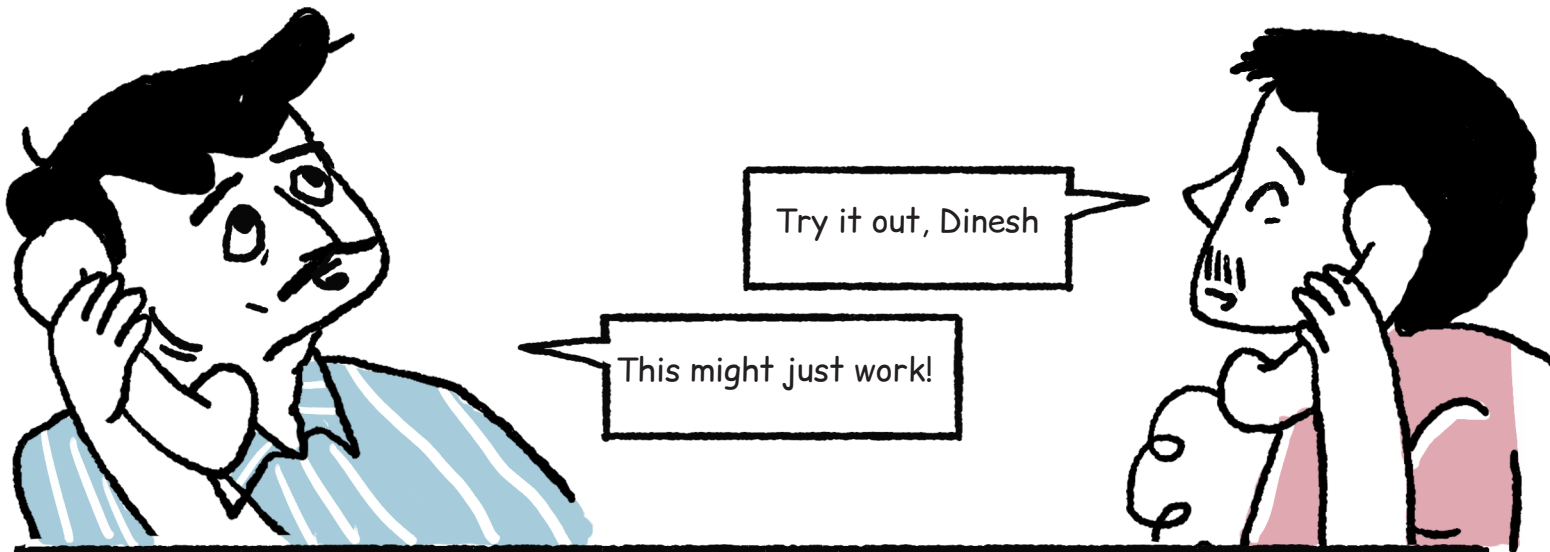
5 Label each category and train staff to follow the arrangement



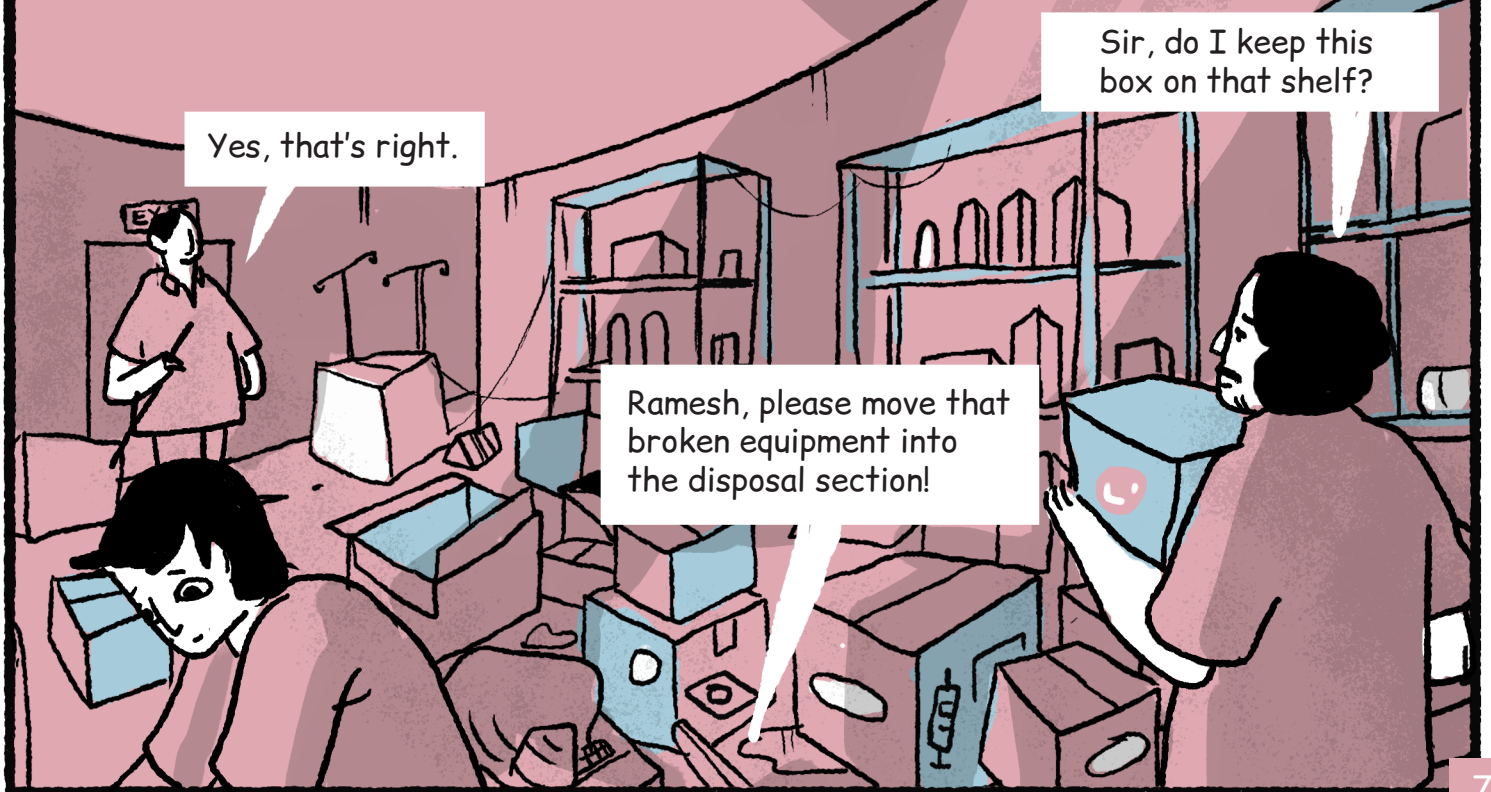
It is the simple act of using best practices to organize a warehouse or storage room, with the goal of optimizing space and increasing team efficiency.

Benefits of Dejunking

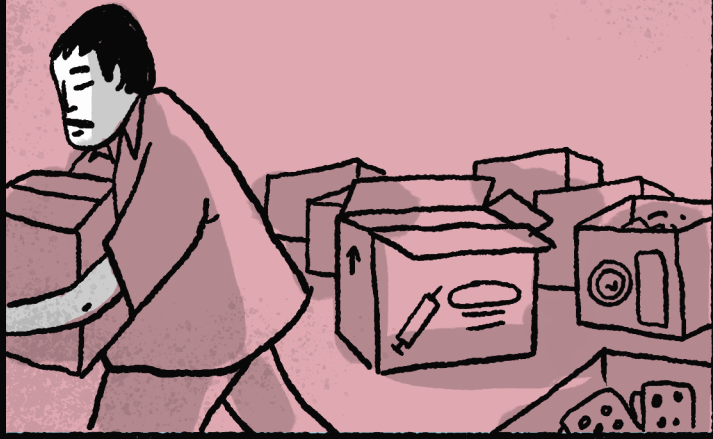
- 1 Timely access to commodities.
- 2 Freeing up space in warehouses, reducing need for new/additional space.
- 3 Helps in tracking inventory.
- 4 Healthier and safer environment for the staff



An excited Dinesh arrives at the warehouse the next day, and he explains the four easy steps of Dejunking to the staff. They start sifting through the items step-by-step, and things slowly fall into place...



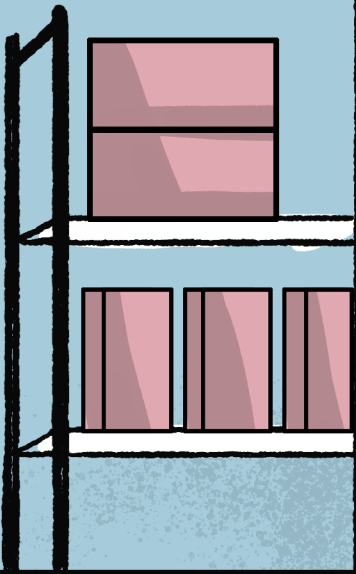
The staff separate the empty cartons from the rest of the items.



Separate piles of usable items and disposable items are made.



They then proceed to separate and categorize the usable health care commodities. After placing the medicine boxes into cartons based on the type of drug and date of expiry, the staff places these cartons neatly on shelves and pallets.



Any unusable items and other non-essential items including broken and damaged products are disposed.

Dinesh identifies a few unprocessed indents, and he starts issuing stocks against them. Later, he sends the surplus stock back to the divisional warehouses for re-allocation to other districts.



Ramesh, we need to indent fresh stocks of oral contraceptive pills. And Atul, let's get the extra stock sent back to the divisional warehouses.

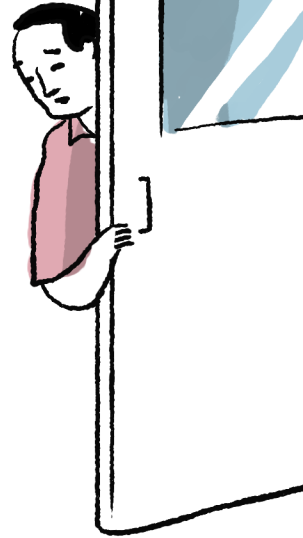
Yes, Dinesh Ji!

A few days pass...



Sir, someone has come to meet you outside.

Thank you, Raju, please request them to wait in the main storage area.



Dr. Yadav, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the district and Seema, the Mission Director at the state level National Health Mission (MD NHM) are eagerly waiting for Dinesh.

Dinesh many congratulations! We heard about your initiative at this warehouse and wanted to see it ourselves!

Namaste Dinesh! We are delighted to see such a clean and organized warehouse.



Dinesh showed Dr. Yadav and Seema around, demonstrating the magic of dejunking in action at the warehouse.

To tackle issues of access, continuity of use, and exercise of choice in family planning options, PATH is working to strengthen the supply chain of FP commodities. With support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PATH carried out FP supply chain assessments in 8 Indian states, designed solutions to address identified challenges, piloted innovations, and implemented them in many states. Initiatives in addition to the piloted innovations were also leveraged to further strengthen the supply chain.

One such initiative was the process of "dejunking". During assessment, it was found that many warehouses were poorly maintained which led to mismanagement of FP stocks. A bottleneck in the supply chain would form at the warehouse level due to lack of visibility into stock availability, storage space being taken up by expired or damaged commodities, delays in processing orders etcetera. PATH developed a simple yet highly effective solution for this problem, termed junking, which would provide warehouse personnel with step-by-step instructions and guidelines for stock organisation, optimal space utilisation and warehouse management.

