



## ACTIVITIES

- 35 Snake and Ladder games conducted to raise awareness about oral hygiene and COVID-19 in Bangalore and Chennai
- 14 Black-spots cleaned in Mayabazar and Anandapuram, Bangalore
- 8 Street plays organized to raise awareness about waste management and COVID-19 in Mayabazar and Anandapuram, Bangalore
- 14 Wall paintings in Mayabazar and Anandapuram, Bangalore
- Distribution of gloves to police personnel and sanitation workers in Bangalore
- 11 HFNC machines handed over to Health Department, GoK
- 11 Awareness Programs on waste management and COVID-19 in Mayabazar and Anandapuram, Bangalore
- 1 Volunteer engagement program in Mayabazar, Bangalore
- Infra-structure development in Chennai and Bangalore

## FOREWORD

We take immense pleasure in presenting our newsletter for December, 2020.

Mask up! We can't let our guard down against the COVID-19!! Yes, the pandemic is still going on and we now have a new strain of the novel corona virus in the air! Keep masking, keep scrubbing hands, and keep safe distance. In the month of December, we conducted activities highlighting the COVID-19 preventive measures and the importance of sanitation and hygiene for human health and well-being especially during these times. In an effort to reach the community in an interactive and engaging way, our team adopted the traditional 'Snakes and Ladders' game. Through the game, information was shared in a playful and entertaining way. Street plays and representational wall paintings were also delivered in a creative way to raise COVID-19 awareness.

Besides, the team also significantly progressed with the identified needs for WASH facilities in schools and police clubs in Bangalore and Chennai respectively.

We are thankful for the continuing support from all our partners in the project areas.

- Dr. Judyangel  
Project Manager, WASH Project  
SOCHARA Chennai.



# COVID-19 AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Mr Prahlad IM



Public health experts have warned us of a possible second wave of COVID-19 pandemic as we head into winter season. As a response we planned a COVID-19 and WASH awareness campaign for children and community members in Bengaluru and Chennai in the month of December to reinforce the importance of hand hygiene, wearing masks and physical distancing.

The campaign activities included street plays, hygiene games for children, awareness through wall writings and posters in English, Tamil and Kannada. Street plays spread the messages in an entertaining way and they also helped to build rapport and to mobilise community. We conducted 8 street plays on COVID-19 messages, hand washing and waste management at Mayabazar and Anandapuram. We reached approximately 550 individuals through this activity. Community members were seen enjoying the street plays.



Due to the pandemic, most of the schools and police clubs are closed and we took this opportunity to reach out children in the community by organizing "Hygiene games for children", a play and learn activity. These snakes and ladder games were used to raise awareness related to COVID-19 and hygiene. We translated the game to Tamil for children in police clubs, Chennai. A total of 34 games were conducted and approximately 416 children were reached.



SOCHARA team identified several black spots in Mayabazar and Anandapuram and with support from BBMP the black spots were cleared and wall writings were done to raise WASH related awareness. Wall paintings were done at 14 locations in Mayabazar and Anandapuram. Colourful posters on importance of wearing masks, physical distancing and hand washing in English, Tamil and Kannada, were prepared by the SOCHARA team and displayed at various locations in project localities in Bangalore and Chennai.

## INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Mr Mallesh

Construction of toilet continued in the month of December in Thimmaraya Swamy School Anekal near Bangalore. Currently curing is underway, after which construction work will continue. School administration and SOCHARA team member Ms. Prema are monitoring the construction work. It is expected to be completed by mid-January and the team is coordinating minor repair works in other project schools in Anekal.



In Chennai, construction of toilet in Kodambakkam police club is almost complete and we will hand it over to the police club authorities in the 2nd week of January 2021. Minor repair works are being planned in Chintadripet police club in the coming months and the Chennai team is coordinating the activity.



## HCL EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Radhika Kaulgud

World AIDS day is celebrated on 1st December to show support for people living with HIV, to remember people who have died from AIDS-related illnesses and raise awareness about the disease in the community.

To mark this year's World AIDS day, SOCHARA team supported by HCL-F organized a session to raise AIDS related awareness in Mayabazar, Bangalore. HCL Technologies employee Archana conducted the session in Kannada. In the session she spoke about the deadly disease, its causes, treatment etc. She also informed the audience about the taboos and misconceptions when it comes to HIV -AIDS.



More than 40 community members participated in the program. Mallesh, SOCHARA team member also spoke to the community members. He highlighted the points made by Ms. Archana and encouraged the audience to ask any questions. But it being a sensitive subject not many people asked questions.

## CLEAN COMMUNITY, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Dr. Radhika Kaulgud

Awareness about the importance of waste management is key to ensure its effective adoption. The HCI-F supported SOCHARA WASH project team has been working towards raising awareness about waste management for clean and healthy surroundings among the residents of Mayabazar and Anandapuram in Bangalore. We conducted total of 11 waste management awareness programs in the month of December.



We also coordinated with the BBMP Health Inspector to send the garbage collection van inside Mayabazar for the convenience of the residents. We are happy to inform that a garbage collection vehicle is now making rounds of the lanes in Mayabazar daily to make it easy for the residents to hand over their household waste. Our team members do door to door visits to encourage the residents to handover their garbage to the waste collector and not dump it in public places.

## HANDING -OVER OF HFNC MACHINES

Dr. Radhika Kaulgud


As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 11 High Flow Nasal Canula (HFNC) machines were procured by SOCHARA supported by HCL-F. The handing over of the HFNC machines event was held at Vikas Soudha, Bangalore on 12th December. HFNC machines were handed over to Dr. Sudhakar, Minister of Health, Government of Karnataka by Mr. Guru Moorthy, the secretary- coordinator of SOCHARA. HCL-F team member, Mr. Joshua attended the event along with other SOCHARA team members, Mr. Prahalad, Mr. Mallesh and Dr Radhika.




The SOCHARA team was supported by Dr. Mukund Raj, UNDP consultant to the Department of Health and Family Welfare, GoK in organizing the event. The machines, which are essential to treat critical COVID-19 patients will be installed in 11 government health facilities in and around Bangalore.

**Newsletter Designed by-Saranya-Graphic designer,illustrator**

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