



COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F SUPPORTED SOCHARA'S C-WASH PROJECT

DECEMBER 2022

ACTIVITIES

Bangalore

- 12 Awareness sessions on MHHM, Waste Management and Vector-borne diseases etc were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram altogether.
- 7 Community meetings in Anandapuram and 4 in Maya bazaar.
- 4 Volunteer meetings in Anandapuram and 2 in Maya bazaar.
- 1724 and 10736 milk packets were collected in the Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram Communities respectively.
- 3 Government schools from Austin Town participated in the Young Kalam Science Fest
- Visited the MLA office from Anandapuram and spoke about WASH facilities
- A Cleanliness drive was conducted at BBMP Lower Primary School as a part of HCL-F Volunteer Engagement
- Anandapuram field staff visited the BWSSB office, met BBMP staff and held a block level meeting
- 2 street lights repaired and chemical sprayed twice in Maya Bazaar
- Maya Bazaar field staff visited the Bescom office and BBMP official.

Chennai

- Community Meetings, Community mapping and building rapport with Saidapet Community, MKB Nagar Community, Perumbakkam Community, TVK Nagar Community, Sanitation workers at Chintadripet
- Visited the waste processing facility and met the councillor of Chintadripet.
- Awareness sessions on Waste Segregation, Hand Wash, Childline - Sexual Abuse, and Clean Environment at Lakshimpuram and Saidapet, TVK Nagar, Perumbakkam

FOREWORD

Team SOCHARA has been eager to explore new learning paradigms while working with our communities as we look forward to the new year. With the fastening spread of the new COVID variant worldwide, let's all exercise caution and keep working to improve community health systems and practices.

SOCHARA C-WASH Team Bangalore has been involved in creating awareness on Vector-borne diseases, Menstrual Health and Hygiene, and Waste Segregation within the communities of Anandapuram and Mayabazaar this month. They also participated in the Young Kalam Science fest with three of their government school students and one of the schools bagged the first position. SOCHARA C-WASH Team Chennai has taken forward awareness on Waste Segregation, Hand Wash, Childline - Sexual Abuse, and Clean Environment in the Police clubs. Let's welcome the year 2023 with hope pinned in our hearts and continue on our path to creating healthier, happier and sustainable communities.

-Aadira Stephen

TAKING A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY

-Sugandha Chandra

Having done the Household survey in the Anandapuram community now, the data told us that about 50% of the households having over 1700 residents rely on public toilets for their daily use. With only one unpaid toilet option, we conducted a focused group discussion to understand their situation better. A group of 15 people, all who didn't have their own toilets in their houses came for the discussion.

We started by discussing open defecation, to which all said that open urination and open defecation is a very common sight in Anandapuram. This wasn't true just for children or elderly people, but for all age groups alike. They shared that the 2 paid public toilets were expensive and shut at night, so the people are left with no other choice. This went on to emphasize the important role the unpaid toilets play in these people's lives.

The unpaid public toilets are in a dire condition infrastructurally and nearly always remain dirty. With no water supply, people have to carry water from their homes, which many don't do and leave the toilets dirty. The person responsible for cleaning also comes once a week after many calls from the residents. He also takes money and water from nearby households every time he comes to clean. This is the situation despite there being a felt need for cleaning of these toilets on a daily basis.

The foremost need for these toilets came up to be water supply followed by regular maintenance, electricity and iron doors. Dustbins and handwashing stations came as an afterthought.

When discussing the responsibility for maintenance, all said that each user should be responsible for it, but they could also consider a system where one household took responsibility for a month on a rotating basis.

These toilets certainly could use some renovation, which the MLA's office already seems to have on their radar. We hope to catalyze the proceedings and help the community take ownership for its maintenance thereafter.



WHEN YOUNG MINDS CREATED MAGIC

-Sugandha Chandra

Young Kalam Science Fest, a recurring event, aims to provide a platform for students from government schools adopted by HCL Foundation and HCL Gurukuls, to display scientific models in an exhibition. It encourages children to develop an inquisitive mind, to hone their creativity, and to develop a keen interest in Science.

Three of the schools we work with in Austin Town participated in the fest this year. Preparation began a month in advance with brainstorming ideas with the selected students. We made sure that we don't just work with problems on the given topics, but also with solutions. Another task was to only use reused material and minimize the use of plastic and other non recyclables in the models. All students were very excited and involved in the process and learnt a lot through it all.

6th December finally came and everyone reached the well thought out venue- Sir CV Raman's own house! After a fun and educational session by Innovation and Science Promotion Foundation, there was a sumptuous lunch along with a street play. The exhibition began as the chief guests arrived and walked around discussing each model patiently with all 14 teams. All students presented their models really well. Children and adults learnt from each other with all the innovative models in front of them. All hearts were beating fast when the results were announced. We were overjoyed when it was announced that one of our schools, the BBMP Boys High School, bagged the first prize for their model on 'Agriculture and Food Security'. The event wrapped up with smiling faces and high competency spirit for next year's Fest.



BUILDING CAPACITIES OF SANITATION WORKERS

-Uma Chaithanya

Chennai has 15 zones and each zone struggles with source segregation. Data says less than 30% source segregation in some areas, 49% in some areas. Only solid waste management is maintained by two private firms Urbesar Sumeet in 7 zones & Ramky Enviro in 3 zones and one government body GCC in 5 zones.

Just the initial visit to 5th Zone, 62 division, unit 14 showed us Struggles of Sanitation workers in solid waste management and particularly the temporary workers' struggles are abundantly clear as they have to work throughout the month. This unit functions as 2 departments, 3 divisions, Health department 1) Solid waste collection department (Street sweepers, institutional waste collectors, domestic waste collectors, informal waste pickers/collectors, workers at waste processing facility.), 2) Controlling vector borne diseases like Malaria control. Engineering department 3) Clearing debris, demolished debris, filling pits, road maintenance. And with a waste processing facility. 120 sanitation workers are employed in this unit. 62 are permanent workers and 58 are temporary workers under NULM. Interacted with 62 participants (both permanent and temporary workers) about the schemes and other provisions provided.

According to

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs- ensuring safety of sanitation workers - A ready reckoner for Urban Local Bodies.
- GOI -Ministry of Labour and Employment -National Policy on Safety , Health and Environment at Workplace.
- Swachh Survekshan entitles

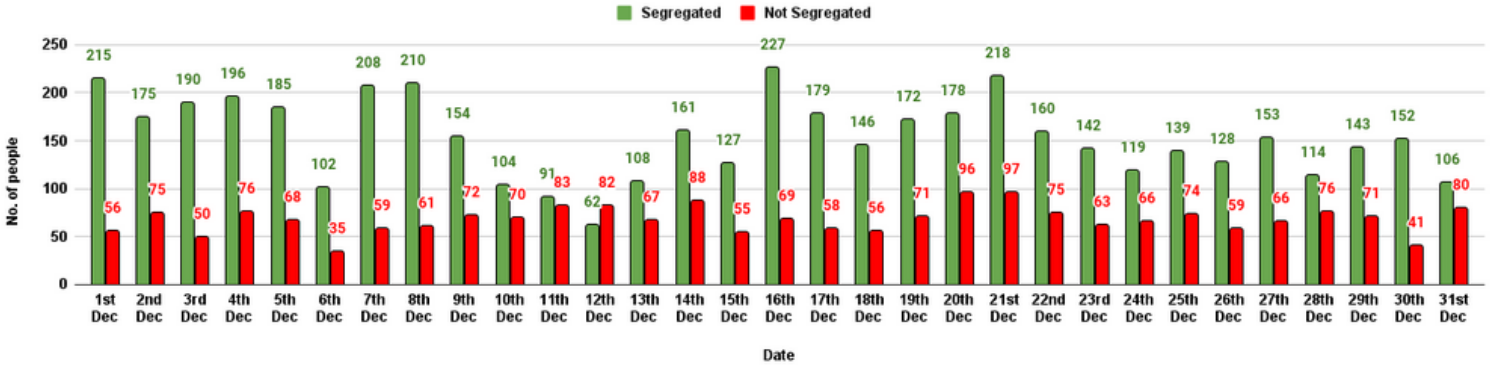
None of the provision of entitlements like safety equipment, frequency of replenishments, minimum wages, paid leaves to temporary NLUM workers. (11024 is the pay for the whole month/30 days work.), health insurance, regular checkups, technical and soft (training on O & M , SOP, Rights and responsibilities, Disposal of PPE) Capacity building is implemented and a lot of challenges as sanitation workers are also abused by community members. Also working with bare hands to remove animal faecal or any waste.

- Developed a module to train sanitation workers on precautions to take while working and also working on modules based on technical skills.

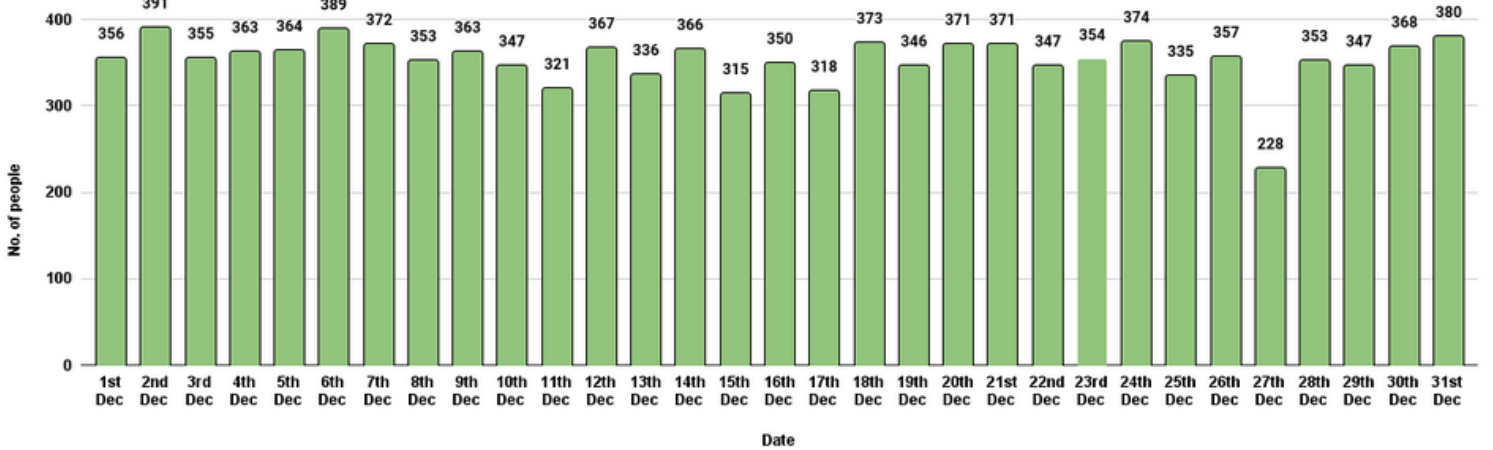


GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES

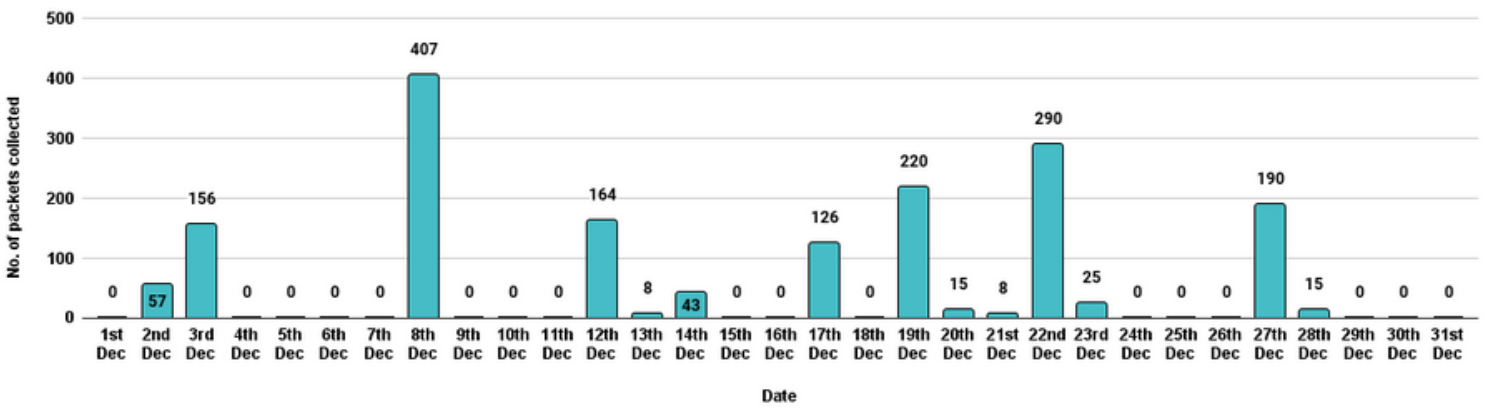
No. of people segregating and not segregating waste on a day to day basis - Maya Bazaar



No. of people putting waste in BBMP vehicle on a day to day basis - Anandapuram



No. of milk covers collected on a day to day basis - Maya Bazaar



No. of milk covers collected on a day to day basis - Anandapuram

