

FEBRUARY 2023

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F Supported SOCHARA's CWASH Project

Activities

Bangalore

- 10 Awareness sessions were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram altogether.
- 5 community meetings were conducted in Maya Bazaar and 6 were conducted in Anandapuram.
- 5 volunteers meeting were conducted in Maya Bazaar.
- 1382 milk packets were collected in the Maya Bazaar Community and 11392 milk packets were collected in the Anandapuram community.
- BESCO, BWSSB, PHC and BBMP offices were visited by our field coordinators to address the challenges faced by the community.
- Suggestion Box placed in both the communities
- Field coordinators attended the inauguration of 'Namma Clinic' in Anandapuram.
- Chennai team visited the communities.
- The team followed up on the public toilets renovation happening in Anandapuram.

Chennai

- Visited Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities in Bangalore.
- Awareness sessions were conducted in Saidapet and T.V.K nagar police clubs on various WASH topics
- School and community visits for IVR survey & need based assessment.

FOREWORD

SOCHARA HCL- F C-WASH team is excited to present the newsletter for the month of February 2023. The team's community health approach has been enabling people to build healthy and peaceful co-existing communities both at Anandapuram and Maya Bazaar urban poor locality. This month has been a month with exciting community-led activities like water and sanitation hygiene, along with nutrition and regular waste segregation at both the locations, Bangalore and Chennai. We had regular community volunteer meetings in the Bangalore communities to empower the community members with strategies to tackle the issues of water and waste which plays a key role as social determinants of health. As part of community-led initiatives and continuous efforts the public toilet at Anandapuram is renovated and made available for public use with the help of members of the legislative assembly (MLA). As the community members were not having the documents of the houses that they were living since ages, through the intervention of local community leaders and representatives, the community members got their "Hakku Patra" land documents. Our C WASH was part of the inauguration of "Namma Clinic" at the Anandapuram community.

At Maya Bazaar, the CWASH team with the community facilitated an awareness session by ARRC Avian and Reptile Rescue Centre on "Manjha thread" where nearly 60 community members participated in the program. Along with this program, regular waste segregation, milk cover collection, awareness program on nutrition, and BESCO and BWSSB-related works were carried out in the community. The entire process was led by the community volunteers. One of the best strategies used by the team is by ensuring that people are actively involved in approaching the Electricity, water and sewerage board to tackle the issues faced. Helping them to learn by doing it themselves has given good results in tackling the WASH issues at communities. Through waste Segregation and management process, C-Wash focused on trying to help people to understand not only what to do but also why. As C- WASH team we, along with the community are striving towards achieving the goal of "Health for All" through small and firm steps for a better future.



Paving the way for Community Health Action

Focusing to pave a way for community health action Chintadripet, utilised the IVR baseline survey opportunity to build rapport, understand the community and stakeholders before starting the community health action in Chintadripet.

Chintadripet is mainly facing three issues

1) Black Spots and waste segregation 2) flooding in the houses during rainy season and 3) Public paid toilets are little further away from the community and the issue of toilets access from 6PM to 5AM.

- Any street in Chintadripet we visit, people are desperately seeking solutions for these problems.

- In discussions we found that Scout Master, Teachers, Volunteers, Coaches were ready to support us to do community health action.

- Way forward is to build the capacities of communities to exercise rights and responsibilities to address these issues.





Health and Hygiene through IVR

Seeing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and health, we realized that it is important to build more resilient groups and communities. There was a need to reach people beyond our awareness sessions and in person workshops. The idea of Health and Hygiene promotions through Interactive Voice Response (IVR) struck us as one that had the ever growing potential to reach more people. Anyone with a phone would be able to access this IVR service.

We conducted a baseline survey among 376 students from government schools in and around Bangalore to understand availability and accessibility to a mobile phone. Out of the 373 who had at least one phone (feature phone or smartphone) in their Household, over 90% of the students displayed interest in listening to short stories on health and hygiene through IVR on their phones.

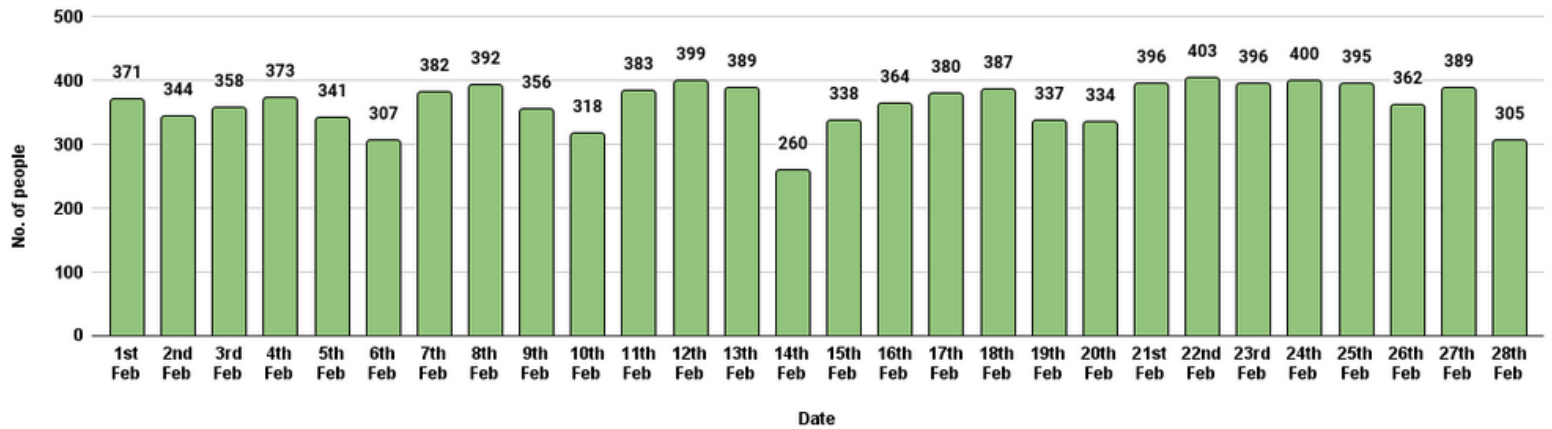
With such an overwhelming response, we set to building the service which we have come to call Swasthya Vaani. Swasthya Vaani is a free number anyone can call and listen to interesting short stories on various topics related to health and hygiene. There are fun and engaging jingles at the end of each story which carry a take away message.

Currently, we have been able to make it available in 4 languages, namely, English, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi. Our teams in Bhopal and Chennai also conducted baseline surveys similar to ours to gauge accessibility and interest of students and communities where they work. This will help inform our future steps related to this attempt at maximizing reach and building resilience.

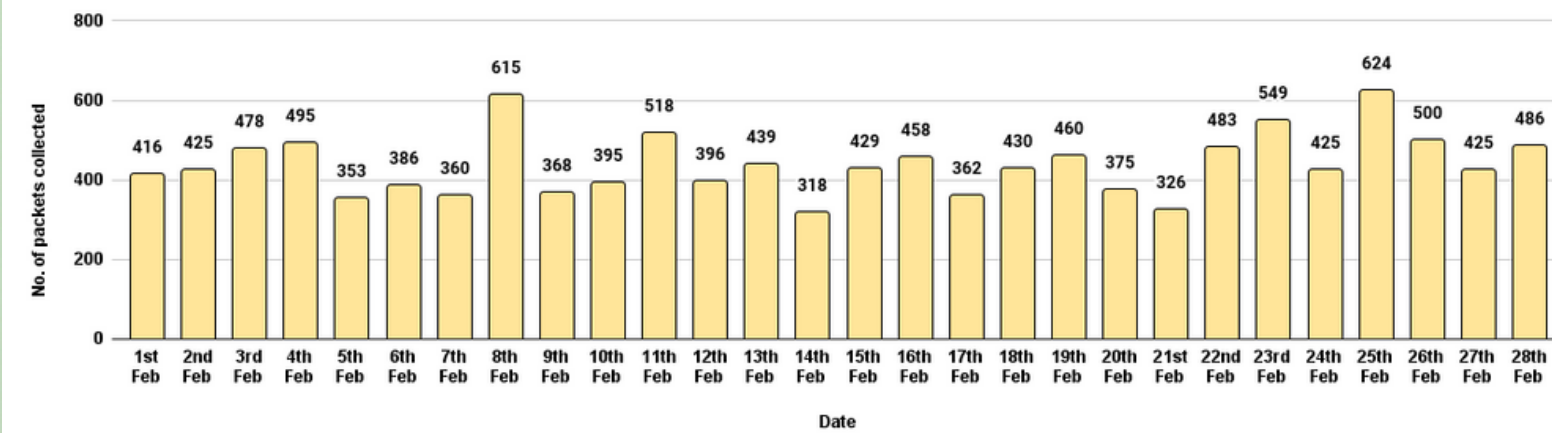
The number is active now and will be launched officially soon. Thereafter, we will share promotional content with anyone interested to spread the word about it in their areas.

Graphical Representation of Regular Activities

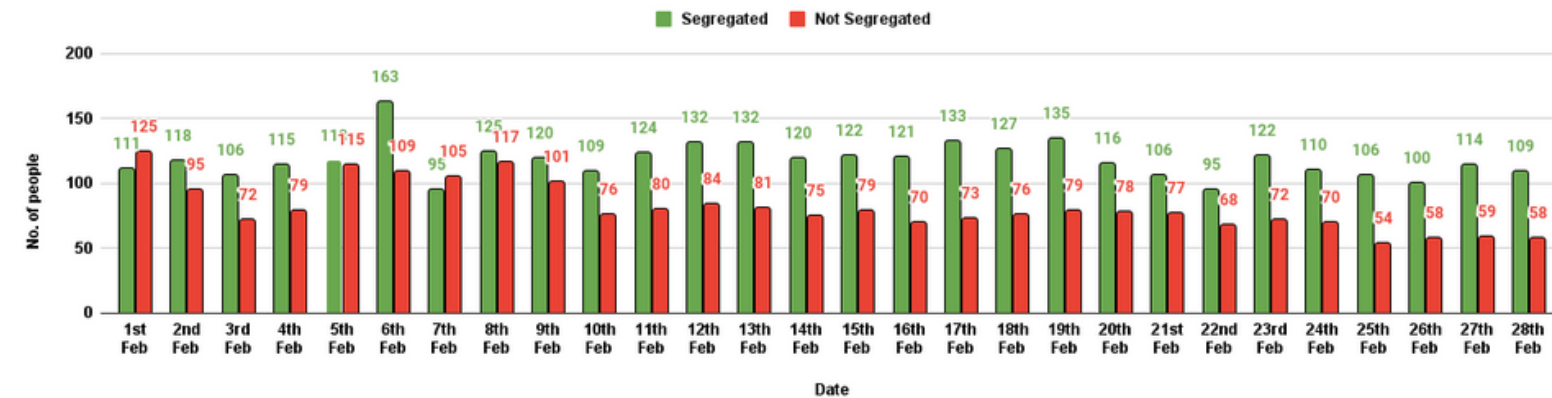
No. of people putting waste in BBMP vehicle on a day to day basis - Anandapuram



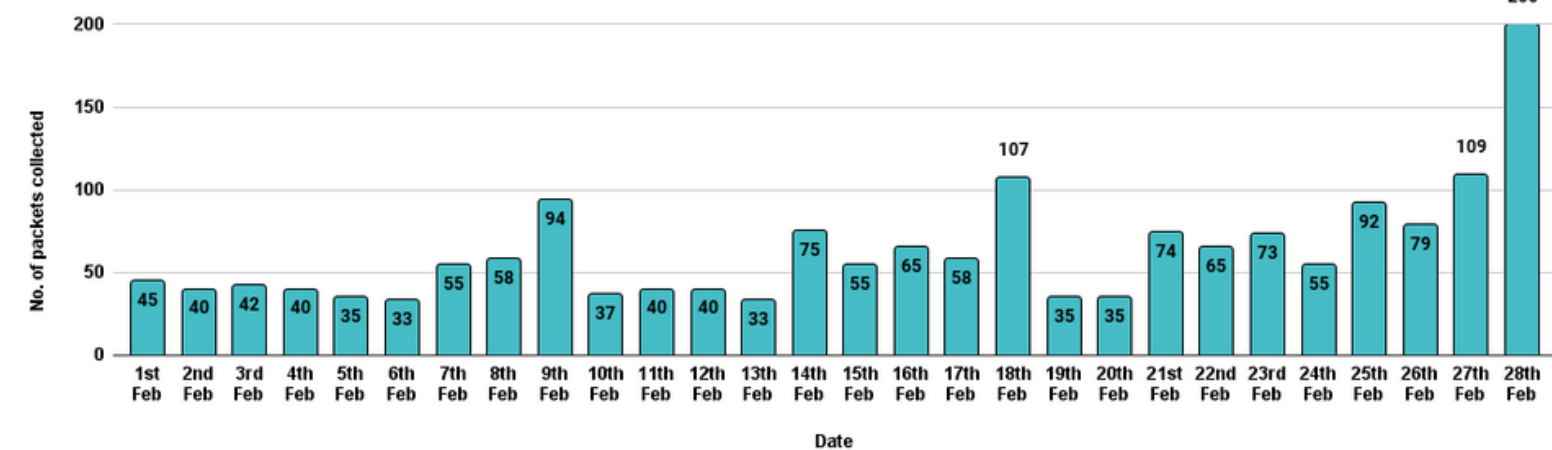
No. of milk covers collected on a day to day basis - Anandapuram



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



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



SOCHARA



www.sochara.org



[sochara](https://www.facebook.com/sochara)



No 359,1st Main,1st Block,Koramangala, Bengaluru -560034,Karnataka



[Sochara CWASH](https://twitter.com/SocharaCWASH)



[Sochara CWASH](https://www.instagram.com/SocharaCWASH)



cwash@sochara.org