

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F Supported SOCHARA WASH Project



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FOREWORD

2021 has brought hope as we move forward and rebound from the crisis. We, the SOCHARA HCL-F team have started the year with renewed energy. Together with HCL-F, BBMP and Mayabazar community members we are working towards making Mayabazar, Bangalore a clean slum. We have planned multiple activities to achieve this goal of the WASH Project and work towards “Health for All.”

One of the activities includes waste management in Mayabazar and Anandapuram. We have developed monitoring tools for waste collection and put together a monitoring team comprising of community members. In Chennai we completed our first infra-structure building activity in Kodambakkam Girls and Boys Police Club and handed over the toilet block to the police club administration. In Bangalore too the infra-structure development in project schools is going on in full swing.

The other activities like black spots cleaning in Mayabazar and games for raising awareness regarding waste management continue at Bangalore and Chennai. Another interesting activity we conducted this month was social mapping of the project area in Mayabazar in which the community participated enthusiastically.

We are happy to present to you the January 2021 newsletter and make you a part of this journey!

- Dr. Radhika Kaulgud
Training and Research Assistant,
SOCHARA, Bangalore.

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ACTIVITIES

- 11 Black-spots cleaned in Mayabazar and Anandapuram, Bangalore
- Formation of monitoring committee in Mayabazar, Bangalore comprising of community members
- Daily monitoring of waste collection in Mayabazar, Bangalore
- Handing over of newly constructed toilet block to Kodambakkam Girls and Boys Police Club, Chennai
- Social mapping in Mayabazar, Bangalore
- Pushcart inauguration in Anandapuram, Bangalore
- Infrastructure development commenced at ASB school, Anekal, Bangalore
- 5 Snake and Ladder games conducted to raise awareness about clean environment in Bangalore and Chennai

CLEAN CITY GREEN CITY

Mr Prahlad IM

One of the major concerns we found during our work from past two years in Maya bazaar was about waste collection. No waste collection was happening and most of the community members had difficulty in managing their household waste and disposed it in the open spaces which resulted in public health issues. SOCHARA HCL-F WASH team supported by local municipality (BBMP) initiated a process of door-to-door waste collection through tipper vehicle. BBMP appointed one driver and a tipper vehicle for waste collection, to make it easy for the community members to put their household garbage. Our team identified 4 major locations in Maya Bazaar where the garbage collection vehicle is parked at a scheduled time every day. The community members were encouraged by the SOCHARA WASH team to put their garbage in this collection vehicle.

To promote community led action on monitoring the garbage collection process volunteers from Maya Bazaar community formed an 8-member monitoring committee. To aid the monitoring activity the SOCHARA WASH team created 2 monitoring tools, one tool for the community volunteers to monitor waste collection vehicle timings and report the same to Health Inspector every day. The second monitoring tool is for the vehicle driver to monitor the number of households putting waste into the garbage vehicle. SOCHARA team member supervises the process on day-to-day basis and reports it to other team members. We plan to continue to monitor this activity in the coming months and ensure that it becomes a self-sustaining one in the near future.



BBMP also provided 4 female and 2 male sanitation workers for clearing a black spots in Maya bazaar. The community volunteers reported most of the black spots were cleared and people throwing waste in open public spaces has been reduced.

In Anandapuram, we procured 2 push carts with garbage bins for waste collection. This will make it easy for the sanitation workers to navigate the narrow lanes of Anandapuram and do door-to-door collection of household waste. We also have planned awareness raising activities in both these locations in the coming months in order to ensure waste management.



GO GREEN! TOWARDS A CLEANER & HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT!

Dr. Judyangel

We owe the social responsibility to keeping a healthy, clean and safe environment. Given the most crucial issue, being the proper management of considerable amount of waste effectively and efficiently generated throughout the world, so as to save the environment. Therefore, it is highly important to lead a sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle for a healthier planet and also pass these concerns into the Young minds.

As a step ahead to encourage becoming Environmental-Friendly, the team adopted the age old game "Snakes and Ladder" with the messages on do's and don'ts towards a cleaner and greener environment.

This interactive board game has pictures of 'ladders' and 'snakes' printed with significant messages and images continues to be appealing to most young children and usually ends in asking for a similar kind of game every time. Amidst the entertainment, the educational board game with additional message benefited the children and retained the interest through which spreading awareness was made much easier.

Children enjoyed gathering around the large colorful board and choosing their own playing counter to move around the board, individually recognizable by its colour. They encouragingly participated to cheer whenever someone's counter reaches a ladder and to hiss or boo when it reaches a snake.

The game was designed in English and translated to Tamil for children in police clubs, Chennai. A total of 5 games were conducted in Bangalore and Chennai. Approximately a total of 75 children participated. As a team, we also had fun conducting the game and watching the children playing the game in an engaging way.



INAUGURATION OF TOILET BLOCK IN KODAMBAKKAM A STEP TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH

Ms Sri Lakshmi

The newly constructed toilet block of Kodambakkam Police Boys and Girls club was inaugurated on 18th January 2021. The programme was celebrated by the community and the organizers alike with fun activities and hearty messages. The project is in collaboration with HCL Foundation and Don Bosco Anpu Illam, who has constructed a borewell facility for the toilet block. The chief guests for the event were HCL-F Coordinator Marshall Kumar, R-2 Kodambakkam Police Station Inspector Palani and Don Bosco Anpu Illam's Director Father Leo.

While Marshall spoke on the necessity of such an initiative to build a healthy community, Inspector Palani stressed on the importance of maintaining the toilet block in the upcoming days and raising awareness on personal hygiene. Father Leo promised unwavering support to the project and further activities within the club. A poster making competition was held before the inauguration ceremony. The prizes and other complimentary gifts for the competition were distributed after the inauguration. The event was attended by Gurumoorthy, secretary-coordinator, SOCHARA, Prahalad IM, Ameer and other SOCHARA team members.



SOCIAL MAPPING A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO IDENTIFY BLACK SPOTS

Mr Prahalad IM



Due to crowded spaces and small roads, Maya bazaar locality faces the challenge of waste disposal. Local municipality/BBMP garbage collection vehicle cannot move inside and it is very tedious for community members to walk to the main road everyday to put their household garbage in the collection vehicle. Due to all these challenges, over the period of time many of the open spaces inside Maya bazaar locality have turned into black spots as garbage is thrown here by the residents

To identify these black spots in the locality, SOCHARA team along with the Maya Bazaar community members conducted social mapping exercise at Lower Primary school, Vivek nagar. During the exercise 7 black spots, water supply areas and public toilets were identified by the community members. The mapping helped us to identify the exact black spots locations in the area and action has been taken to clear the black spots with the support of BBMP.

This method has enabled us to map the location of black spots and prepare an action plan with the BBMP health inspector and supervisor to clear the black spots.

Newsletter Designed by-Saranya-Graphic designer,illustrator

📍 Contact Details - Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action- SOCHARA

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

☎ India +91-80-25531518

🌐 www.sochara.org