



PC- Dr Radhika & Ms Saranya

Happy Children's day

Foreword

HCL-F supported SOCHARA WASH project team is glad to present to you the November 2020 newsletter. We continue to support communities through community action and partnerships. One such partnership is that with sanitation workers or Pourakarmikas as they are known in Bangalore. Sanitation workers play an important role in keeping our cities clean. But often their contribution is not acknowledged. As a gesture of appreciation for the pourakarmikas, Mayabazar community members organized a felicitation program in the month of November and we proudly supported them in this endeavor.

November is the month in which Children's Day is celebrated all over India. Since, schools are closed we planned to conduct activities with children who live in the project localities of Bangalore and Chennai. The aim of these activities was to involve children in joyful and participatory learning. We as a team also had lot of fun in creating and conducting these games.

We thank the community members and children in the project areas in Bangalore and Chennai for their participation and cooperation. Their involvement in the project activities motivates and inspires the team every day.

Dr Radhika Kaulgud
Training & Research Assistant,
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Activities

- 16 WASH related awareness programs in Chennai and Bangalore.
- Felicitation program for sanitation workers in Mayabazar, Bangalore.
- Street play to raise awareness regarding waste management in Mayabazar, Bangalore.
- Creation of snake and ladder game for oral hygiene awareness.
- 11 Oral Hygiene awareness programs using snakes and ladder game for children in Bangalore and Chennai.
- Monitoring of toilet construction activity at a project school in Anekal, Bangalore.
- Commencement of toilet construction at police club in Chennai.
- 8 Black Spots cleaned as a part of Cleanliness Drive in Bangalore.

Sanitation Workers- The Invisible Warriors

Dr Radhika Kaulgud, SOCHARA, Bangalore



The felicitation program was held on 12th November 2020 in Mayabazar, Bangalore. The program was attended by more than 50 community members including community volunteers who took lead in organizing it. The program started with a street play in which the message of importance of waste management and sanitation workers was conveyed to the audience. The street play was followed by speeches by community volunteers like Saraswathi and Revathi, who spoke to their fellow community members about waste management and importance of keeping the surroundings clean to ensure health and well-being. They also acknowledged the work done by sanitation workers, even during the pandemic and thanked them for their contribution.

Later, 40 sanitation workers and 2 garbage van drivers were presented with fruit baskets by community members. The street play and felicitation program were well received by the sanitation workers and they were happy to see that their work was recognized.

Sanitation workers or Pourakarmikas as they are known in Bangalore provide a truly essential service of keeping the city clean. They toil in working conditions that are far from perfect to ensure that the garden city does not become garbage city. Not only in Bangalore, but all over India they are the workers who genuinely keep Bharat Swachh. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic they continued to function in abysmal conditions. We often overlook the human side of sanitation workers. Even a much-publicized initiative like Swachh Bharat Mission fails to recognize their invaluable contribution.

Sanitation workers play an important role in HCL-F supported SOCHARA WASH project and they enthusiastically participate in all our activities. They have partnered with us during “Cleanliness Drive” and cleaned the black spots. The Mayabazar community members have also benefitted from their work and hence they initiated the idea of felicitation of sanitation workers as a gesture of appreciation of their work. The SOCHARA team supported Mayabazar community members in this endeavor.



Play and Learn

Dr Radhika, Dr Judyangel and Ms. Srilakshmi.



The messages are discussed during the game, when the player reaches a ladder or a snake. We conducted the game in Chennai and Bangalore this November in 11 sessions. About 200 children participated in this activity till date.

Not only was the game effective in attracting children to know about oral hygiene, it proved that creativity is the way into the young minds! The participants were excited each time they got a chance to climb the ladder through good oral hygiene practices. The children were equipped with the knowledge of good oral hygiene practices by the end of the game and also enjoyed playing the game. We as a team also had fun creating and conducting the game. In the coming months, we have planned to create more such games to raise WASH related awareness.

Play is our brain's favorite way of learning. Educational games are an effective and enjoyable means of raising awareness. Keeping this in mind we have planned to create games to raise WASH related awareness among children. This month we created a snakes and ladder game to raise awareness among children about oral health and hygiene. It informs the participants about do's and don'ts when it comes to oral health and hygiene. The game is now translated into Tamil too.

It is a board game where up to three players compete to reach the finish square first. One of our team members anchors this game in a group of 15 to 20 children. Players throw a dice and move their counters forward square by square. Each player must throw a six to start. When they land at the foot of the ladder, they go up to the top - reading the message aloud as they do so. When they land on the head of a snake, they go down to the snake tail, also reading the message in the squares. Positive messages go up the ladder, negative messages go down the snake.



Gloves and Glitter

Dr Judyangel and Ms. Srilakshmi.

Fun games work wonders amongst children and HCL-F supported SOCHARA WASH project, Chennai team joined the creative space to share some personal hygiene information with the children in police clubs. As a part of this month's hygiene awareness programme, the team conducted a germs and glitter activity at Muthialpet Boys and Girls Police Club. A total of 8 children participated in the event. The activity began by enquiring about some basic questions on personal hygiene to build rapport with the children. A volunteer was given a latex glove to wear, which was colored to represent areas where germs tend to abound. Proper hand washing techniques were then demonstrated to the children. The team had made a chart presenting all the steps and the children were asked to do it along with the team.

Then came the Glitter Game in which a volunteer was asked to put cream on hands and later spread glitter on it, representing the germs present on our hands. The volunteer was then asked to shake hands with the other children, thus depicting how germs are spread through handshakes and other physical interactions. Children were asked to wash hands and were informed about the importance of hand hygiene through regular hand washing. The activity was interactive and engaging as the children also shared their knowledge on personal hygiene with the team.



Construction Tales

Mr. Mallesh and Ms. Srilakshmi.

The HCL-F supported SOCHARA WASH, Chennai team has kickstarted toilet construction in Kodambakkam Police Boys and Girls club under the supervision of mason Gajapathi. The situational analysis conducted last month had given the team prospects on the requirements in each police club and the team is glad to have started out the infrastructure development this month. The team along with the mason had consulted the scout masters regarding the site selection and specifications. We believe that the construction is a good beginning to the further works that the team has planned as a part of toilet infra-structure development in police clubs.




In Bangalore, toilet construction in Thimmaraya Swamy School, Anekal is underway. Good quality foundation walls are being built under supervision of contractor Mr. Roshan. SOCHARA team member Ms. Prema is monitoring the toilet construction. The school administration is also satisfied with toilet construction and the SOCHARA team is coordinating the activity. We will start construction and minor repair works of toilets in other project schools and police clubs soon.

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