

MAY 2022

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F SUPPORTED SOCHARA'S CWASH PROJECT



FOREWORD

We are pleased to share with you this month's newsletter, which highlights the HCL-F-supported C-WASH Project's monthly activities. The month began for the Bangalore team with Azim Premji University students visiting the Maya Bazaar Community, which proved to be an enriching learning experience not only for the students but also for the entire team. This was followed by the ceremonial handover of the newly constructed toilets at GHS Haraggade, which was one of the month's significant events that we believe will benefit the students' health, safety, and education. Awareness sessions for women were held in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram as part of National Menstrual Hygiene Day, with important messages conveyed through activities, games, and picture presentations. The Chennai team was involved in infrastructure related field visits and need based assessments throughout this month. The entire C-WASH team is excited for the upcoming month and is confident that by working together, we will be able to contribute to SOCHARA's goal of 'Health for All.'

ACTIVITIES LIST

- Regular monitoring of Segregation and Management of waste in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities, Bangalore.
- 3 Community Volunteers meetings were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram. (20 participants)
- 61 Black spots were cleaned by Sanitation workers in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- 7 Awareness programs were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram. (151 participants)
- Regular monitoring of milk cover collection drive in Maya Bazaar community. (3185 packets collected)
- 1 Community meeting was conducted in Anandapuram. (6 participants)
- APU Students visited Maya Bazaar as a field component for an enriching learning experience.
- Handing over ceremony of newly constructed toilets at GHS Haraggade
- Field Coordinators interacted with PHC , BWSSB , BBMP & BESCOM to inform the officials about issues faced by the community.
- 7 Non-functional street lights were replaced at Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- Infrastructure development related visits to MKB nagar, and Saidapet Police Boys and Girls club, Chennai
- Interactions with Thiru.Vi.Ka Nagar Police club scoutmaster for field visit and WASH infrastructure related needs assessment.

STORIES OF CHANGE - MAYA BAZAAR

For the past ten years, large black spots in Mayabazaar have been a leading cause of a variety of health problems. The community members complained about the issue numerous times, but the Department never addressed their concerns or supported them. Jyoti, our field coordinator, wrote a complaint, collected 250 signatures from the community, and submitted it to the department in January. Following regular follow-up by SOCHARA, the officials visited the community in May and began the work of clearing the blockage. The community is pleased with our work, and a sense of responsibility has been ingrained in them that nothing is impossible if everyone works together to achieve it.



TAKING STEPS TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

BY AADIRA STEPHEN



The inaugural ceremony of the newly constructed toilets at the Haragadde Government High School was held on May 18, 2022. The program was attended by the HCL Foundation team, school staff, a few students and the SOCHARA team. The programme was enhanced by a prayer song sung by a teaching staff, which filled the air with a sense of optimism before we lit the lamp. Following the lighting of the lamp, the dignitaries took the stage to share their valuable thoughts with the audience. Everyone was expressing their joy at the completion of this project and how the lack of toilets affected the students' health, education, and safety. There are high hopes that this step towards building new toilets would not only improve their health but also their academic performance. The staff testimonies filled the team with sheer delight for being able to encourage appropriate WASH behaviours through this initiative.

BREAK THE SILENCE

BY SUGANDHA CHANDRA



After talking with the women in the communities and learning about their current knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding menstrual health and hygiene, we designed a two-hour intensive module to fill knowledge gaps and dispel myths about menstruation. To give the trainer and the ladies a break, the module was divided into two sessions.

On May 19th, we held MHHM awareness sessions for a group of 25 girls and women from the Maya Bazaar community. Despite the rain, the ladies attended both sessions and stayed. They were engaged and appeared to be eager to learn why they menstruate. They were kept entertained by the planned activities and games. The final section on product analysis was well-received by all participants.

On May 20th, we held the same sessions for a group of 26 Anandapuram community girls and women. Our field coordinators were invaluable in translating the content for the ladies and bridging any perceived gaps.

Going forward, the Field Coordinators will take on this task and hold additional sessions with various women in their communities until we achieve adequate coverage. This module was purposefully designed for women and girls because we realised it was their first such session and they were hesitant to talk about it. We intend to follow up with each group in the coming months, and we may plan a session for boys and men on the topic of menstruation if the community appears to be ready for it.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

BY JUDY ANGEL



SOCHARA C-WASH Chennai team with the focus on building community health has continued work in the community this month with great enthusiasm. The team has been making regular visits to MKB Nagar and Saidapet Police clubs to monitor and evaluate the progress of the toilet construction. Amidst fewer field challenges, yet with the immense support from the local authorities and community, the MKB Nagar and Saidapet toilet construction is nearing completion in a week's time. The team is glad to have taken this little step towards building a cleaner and healthier community.

Gearing up to build upon gains along with the community, the team held several interactions with the Thiru.vi.ka. Nagar Police Boys and Girls club (newly included) scoutmaster for the initial field assessment on the possible WASH related activities in the upcoming quarters. Scout masters have also committed to support in the activities ahead.

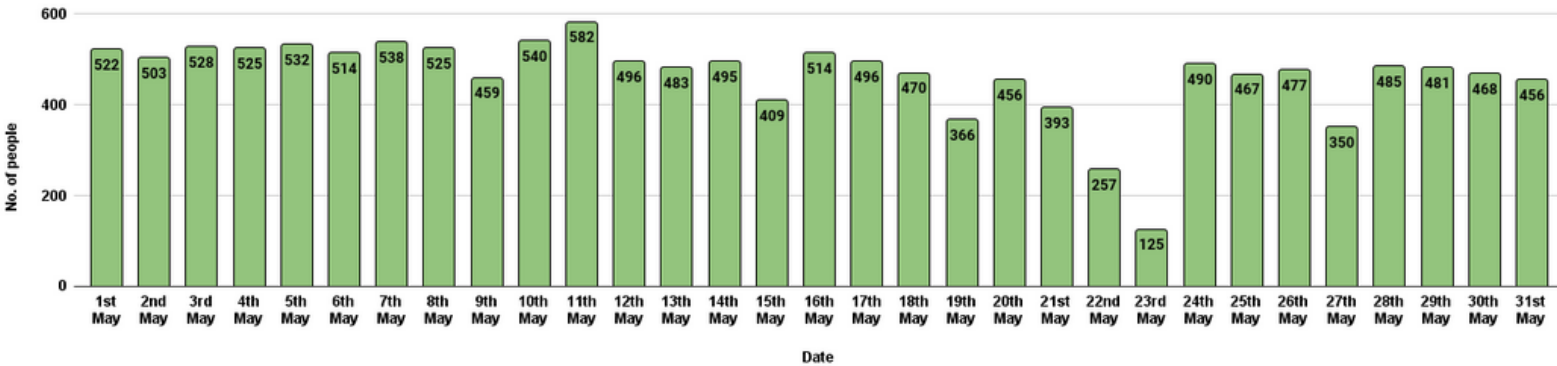
Working on our observations from previous community engagements, the team had a baseline discussion with the Industrial Training Institute Deputy Director, Ambattur Campus on the operation and maintenance plan for the proposed infrastructural developments in the campus. We are glad to take these infrastructural developments in the upcoming quarters of the WASH Project.

Furthering the act of learning through awareness paintings, the team have planned for wall writings in the Saidapet; MKB nagar Police Boys and Girls club and Lakshmipuram Government Higher Secondary School based on the suggestions from the scoutmaster alike.

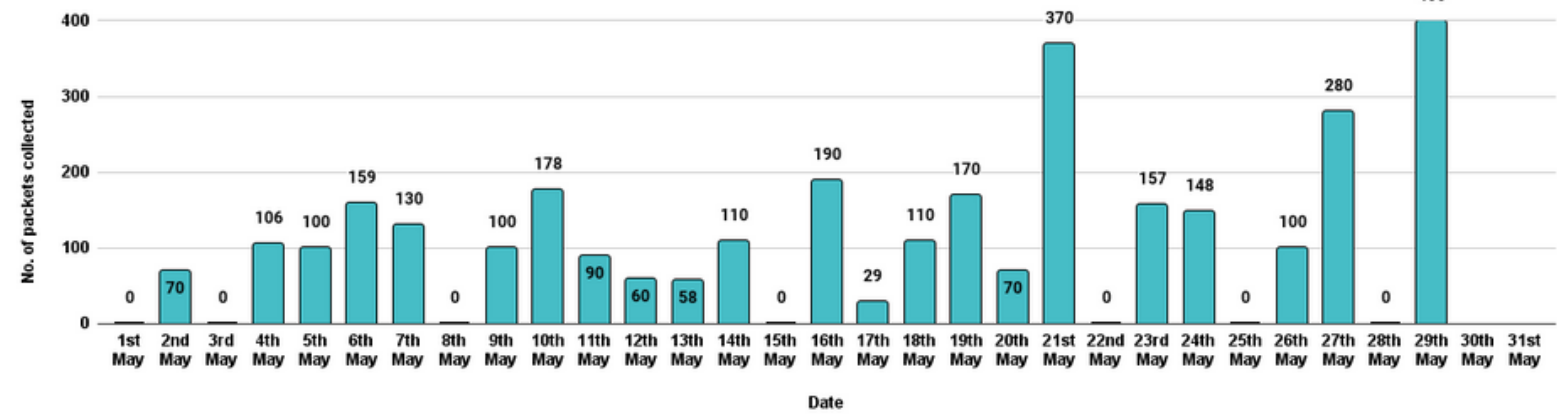
Continuing to keep our guards up, and with community involvement, the team is looking forward to taking many more hygiene conversations in the upcoming quarters through discussions and concerns that the community shares on the same.

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES - MAY

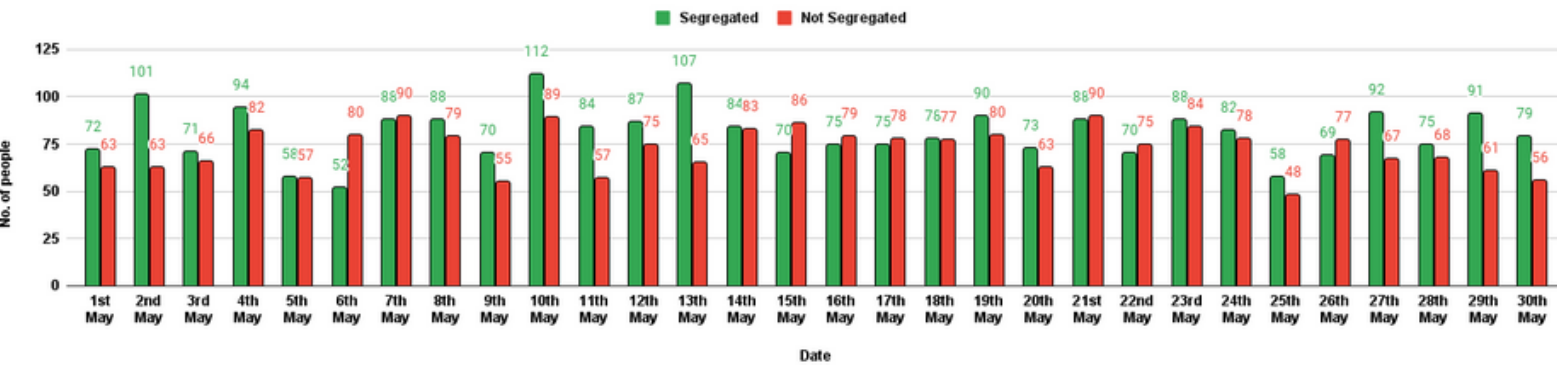
No. of people putting waste in BBMP vehicle on a day to day basis - Anandapuram



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



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



SOCHARA



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



cwash@sochara.org



www.sochara.org



sochara



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