

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F Supported SOCHARA's CWASH Project



Foreword

HCL-F supported CWASH team is excited to present this month's newsletter to you. Prioritising the goal of working towards making our community areas a cleaner slum, Team C-WASH came up with multiple activities. Here's all that the C-WASH team at SOCHARA has been up to this past month: conducting household surveys in the urban poor communities we work in, getting black spots cleaned, mobilising the students and community for HCL intern's Photography sessions, conducting FGD on domestic violence with another intern, organising waste segregation awareness sessions by BBMP Marshals in the community, Sarjapur school toilet construction follow up, infrastructure follow up visits in MKB Nagar and needs assessment in schools and police clubs in Chennai.

With satisfactory progress so far, the team is looking forward to the month of August with renewed vitality to bring Health for All.

- Sugandha Chandra

ACTIVITIES

Bangalore

- 7 Community Volunteers meetings were conducted altogether in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- 2 street bulbs were replaced with new bulbs at Maya Bazaar
- Household survey is ongoing in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram Communities
- PHC, BBMP, BESCO, and Police station visits by C-WASH Team
- Prema visited Sarjapur for follow-up of the Sarjapur toilet construction observation
- Intern, Dr Manjunath visited Anandapuram to learn about the community
- Intern, Hira Conducted FGD for the Anandapuram community on Domestic violence.
- Regular monitoring of Segregation and Management of waste in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities.
- 31 Black spots were cleaned by Sanitation workers in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- Regular monitoring of milk cover collection in the Maya Bazaar community. (1464 packets)
- 3 Day Photography sessions by Sachi for BBMP boys and Girls Schools
- 1 Day Photography session By Sachi at Mayabazar community
- Organized 6 Awareness programs in collaboration with BBMP Marshals on waste segregation for the Maya Bazaar Community.

Chennai

- WASH Infrastructure development-related follow-up visits to MKB Nagar.
- Situational analysis and needs assessment in MMA Government Hr sec school Pallavaram and Government Girls Hr. sec School Avadi.
- Situational analysis and needs assessment in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar Police Club.

Violence against women: FGD on Domestic Abuse

- Hira (Intern)

In Anandapuram, 17 married women participated in a focused group discussion on the subject of domestic violence. It was done to find out how common domestic violence was in Anandapuram. Prior to this, Mr Raghu (Name changed), the sub-inspector, was interviewed. He informed us of two important laws: the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. Mr Raghu claimed that there are nearly no incidences of dowry according to police records. However, there are domestic violence incidents in the community that go unreported for a number of reasons. He continued by saying that often women don't register complaints because they are aware that if the police jail their husbands, they will eventually have to withdraw the complaint or repeatedly pay the bail since males are the only source of income. The police claim that knowledge and education can eventually result in change.

When they were questioned about the causes, they cited drunkenness, gambling, unemployment, etc. as contributing factors. They claimed that because domestic violence occurs frequently, we cannot file complaints each time it does. When asked about the community's attitude toward domestic abuse victims, they said that people are quite supportive. The community's elders are always available to resolve disputes. People in that area do not want to involve the police because of this. Additionally, they are not aware of the legal options open to them. The group enthusiastically applauded when it was revealed to them at the session's conclusion that the police inspector had claimed that Anandapuram's women are stronger than men.



Domestic violence is real, according to the Anandapuram women who participated in the focused group discussion. It is physical, psychological, and economical.

Towards Building Healthier Community

- Mathivanan

The team is moving forward mitigating several field challenges in consultation with the concerned officials, bringing a cleaner and safer environment for better sanitation practices. The team is motivated by the enthusiasm and support of the local community and in-charges of police clubs, as well as by the understanding of what could be done. The team and the contractor carried the club toilet construction at MKB Nagar forward with the construction of community toilets which are now all set to hand over.



Additionally, the team made substantial progress in identifying WASH-related requirements and carried out baseline assessments at the Government Girls High School in Avadi and the MMA Government High School in Pallavaram. We examined the campus's current sanitation facilities and systems. We anticipate implementing these WASH activities in the following quarters after holding several consultations with concerned authorities about the likely infrastructural changes.



Think before you trash it: Waste Segregation Awareness

- Jyothi

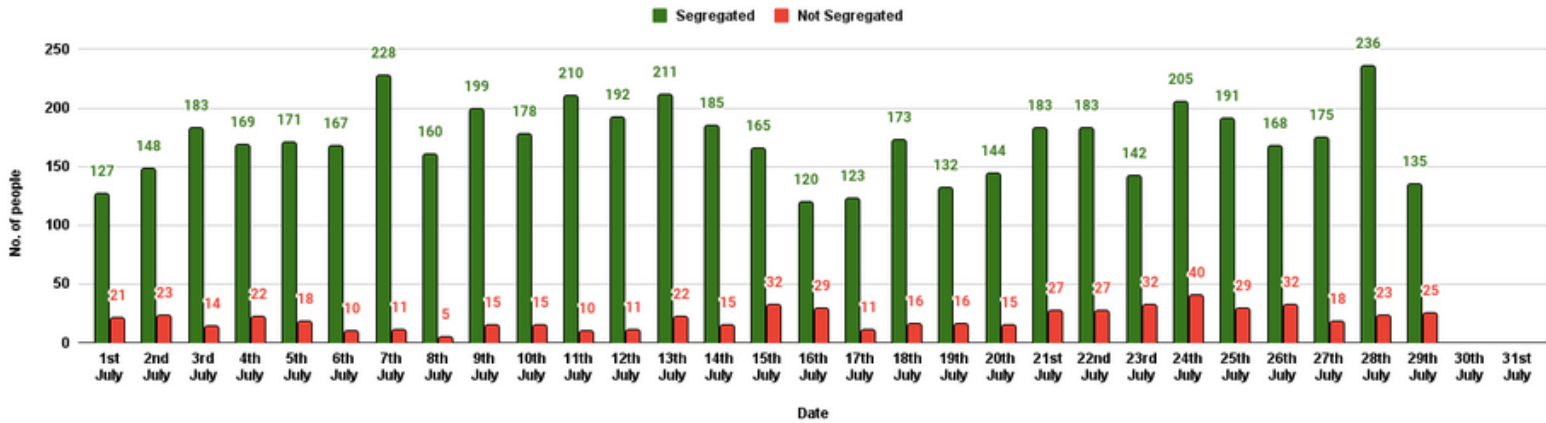
BBMP Marshals raised awareness on waste segregation among residents of the Mayabazar community. During the awareness programme, marshals strictly warned them that if people are not segregating waste or not putting waste in tippers, they will take action and put a fine on them. Marshal Supervisor, BBMP health inspector, community volunteers, and SOCHARA CWASH team member Jyothi all actively participated in this programme.



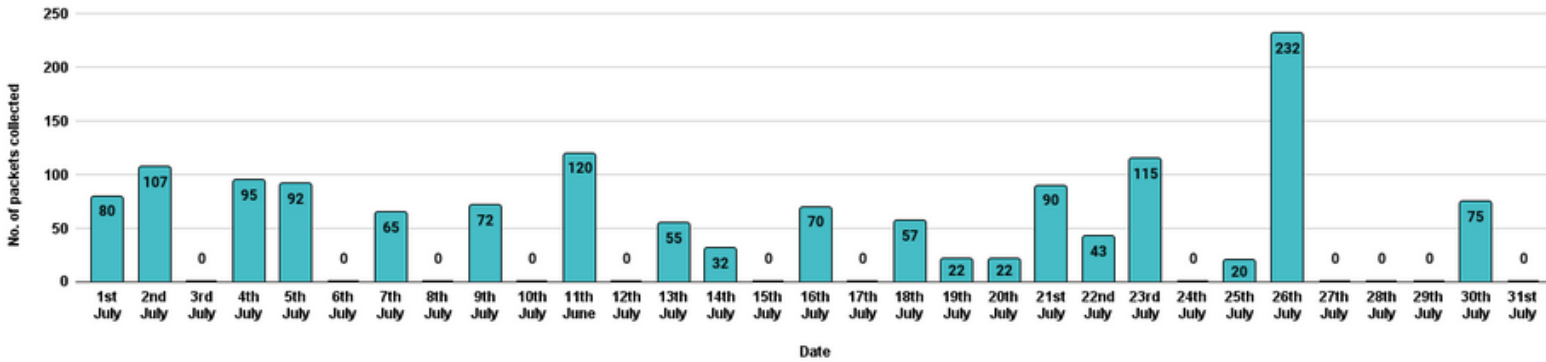
This is a commendable step by the BBMP Marshals following the advice of BBMP health inspector Mr Chidanand, who constantly supports community cleanliness. Marshals conducted awareness in 4 locations while also teaching people about cleanliness and hygiene.

Graphical Representation of Regular Activities - July

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



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

