

OCTOBER 2022

COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F Supported SOCHARA's CWASH Project



Foreword

We are delighted to share this month's newsletter with you which showcases the monthly activities conducted by HCL-F supported C-WASH team.

The Chennai team began the month by paying a visit to the Hope Foundation, which operates a high school in Kannagi Nagar, the largest rehabilitation settlement that includes individuals who were relocated from their original homes as a result of the tsunami tragedy. This community was relocated, and it is comprised of a marginalized and impoverished population. Awareness sessions on MHHM, steps towards strengthening the school & police club children committees, conducting pre-term and post-term assessments etc were some of the other activities that took place in Chennai.

The C-WASH Bangalore team was engaged in the planning and implementation of the Global Handwashing Day program in the community and school. In addition, regular awareness sessions were conducted in the communities and a comic workshop was organised by the team for the team which contributed to the rest of the monthly activities for the Bangalore team.

We are looking forward to contributing towards achieving the goal of 'Health for All' by taking little steps one at a time.

ACTIVITIES

Bangalore

- 10 Awareness sessions on MHHM, Waste Management and Vector borne diseases etc were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram altogether.
- 3 community meetings were conducted in Maya Bazaar and 3 were conducted in Anandapuram.
- 4 volunteers meeting were conducted in Maya Bazaar and 1 in Anandapuram
- 2324 milk packets were collected in the Maya Bazaar Community and 6498 milk packets were collected in the Anandapuram community.
- 19 Street lights were repaired in the Maya Bazaar Community.
- BESCO, BWSSB and BBMP offices were visited by our field coordinators to address the challenges faced by the community.
- Global Handwashing Day was celebrated in the Anandapuram community and BBMP Boys High School.
- A comic workshop was conducted by Sugandha and Aadira for all the SOCHARA team members.

Chennai

- Visited the Hope Foundation
- Conducted MHHM session in Thiru. Vi.Ka
- Conducted pre-term and post-term assessments

Our Future is in Our Hands - Global Handwashing Day

Aadira Stephen

C-WASH Bangalore observed 'Global Handwashing day' and designed creative ways to encourage the community on hand hygiene in this critical time. The theme for this year's celebration being 'Uniting for Universal Hand Hygiene', the team engaged the community members, HCL Volunteers, Students and team members in various activities and reinforced the importance of handwashing as an easy, effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. We kick-started the activities in the Anandapuram Community with a small awareness session consisting of several interactive and fun games. On the main day i.e., 15th October a fun-filled event was held at the BBMP Boys High School in Austin town. Volunteers from HCL, students and the team all pitched in to support the year's theme. The day's major activity was wall painting, which was followed by a few quick fun games like 'let the chits talk' and a 'flashmob'.



Empowering through Comics

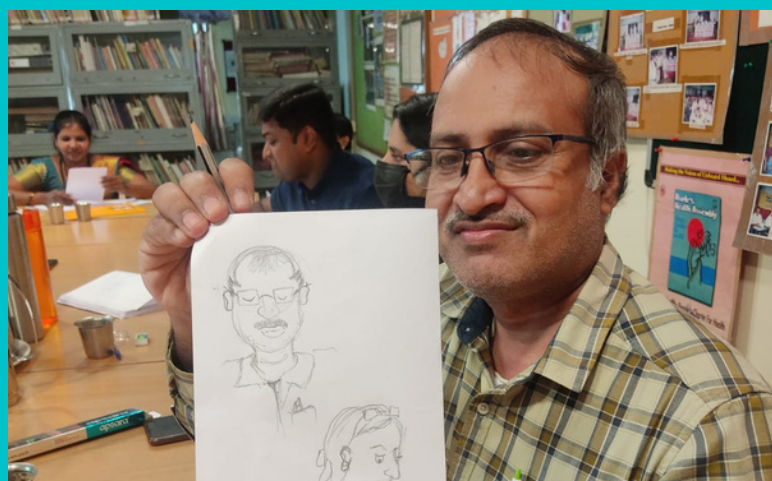
Sugandha Chandra

Having attended the Grassroots Comic Workshop conducted by World Comics India through HCL Foundation, Aadira and Sugandha thought that they must take this newly acquired skill to their whole team. So, on 21st October they conducted a similar one-day workshop for their team to empower them in helping to empower those they work with. Over 15 members joined the workshop, some online and some in person.

The concept of Grassroots Comics was new to everyone, but they took it in readily, accepting its power in communicating the individual stories that get overlooked in mainstream communication and journalism. As a drawing practice, they drew each other's caricatures which was a very fun activity that also got them comfortable with drawing.

This was followed by thinking of issues and topics close to them that they would like to bring up. After a round of discussion focused on their topics, they wrote stories that would guide them in making their comics. After this they were explained the 4 frame comic idea. They modified and divided their stories accordingly.

When they finally drew out their comics, with regular feedback from the facilitators, they were so proud of what they could do and how they could reach others through this new medium they had learnt to develop. Many said that they would use their comics to open discussions in the sessions they conduct in the communities that they work in. Some also said that they would work on more grassroot comics to bring out their messages to engage others easily.



Let's talk Periods

Rohini

On October 13th, 2022, our team visited Thiru. Vi. Ka to conduct a menstrual health and hygiene management awareness session for police club girls between the ages of 12 and 16. We started off with some icebreaker activity followed by a brief introduction of SOCHARA. To increase engagement during the MHHM session, the girls were encouraged to share their first period experiences. The girls were then explained the need for tracking their menstrual cycles and were given cycle tracking charts, to help them know their bodies better.

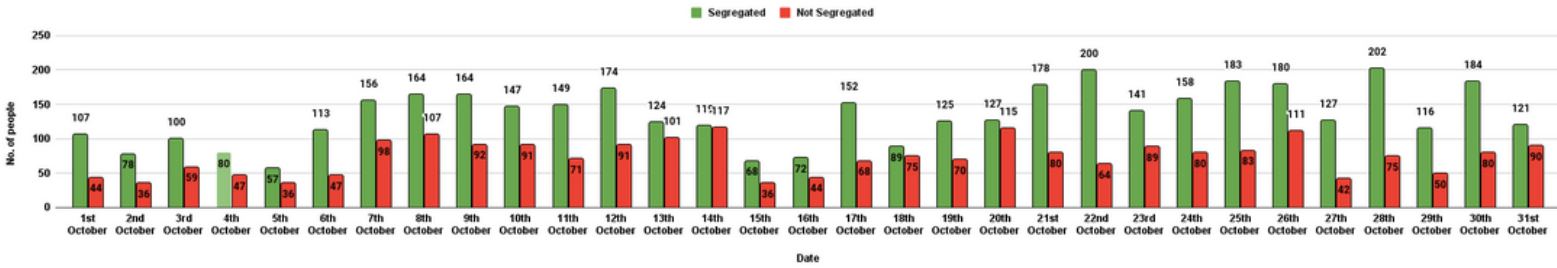
There was a group activity to make a menstruation bracelet. The purpose of this activity was to open dialogues about this sensitive subject and to help the audience realise that menstruation is nothing to be embarrassed of. The discussion included subjects that would help the girls make informed decisions about the menstruation products they use.

For the picture shoot that we had scheduled for the end of the session, we asked the girls to voluntarily stand in front of some posters. They were proud to have discussed their menstrual cycle openly during a photo session. After some refreshments and tea, the programme came to a close with a brief evaluation of the session between the scoutmaster and a local resident.

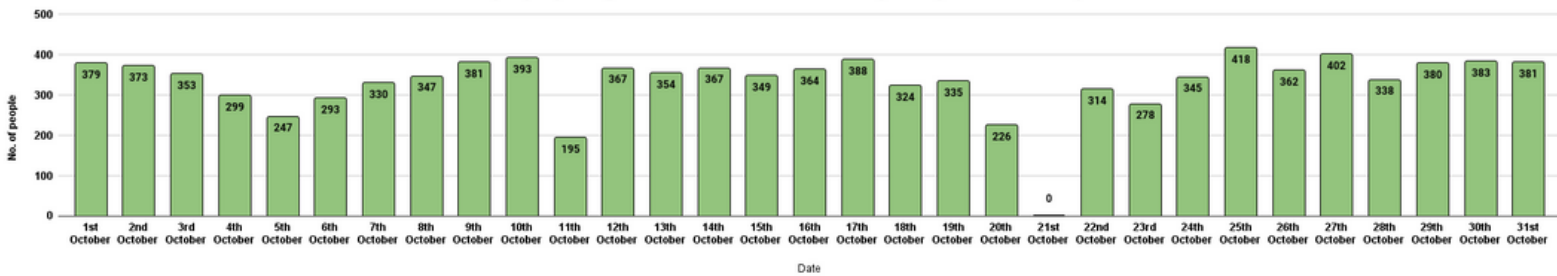


Graphical Representation of Regular Activities

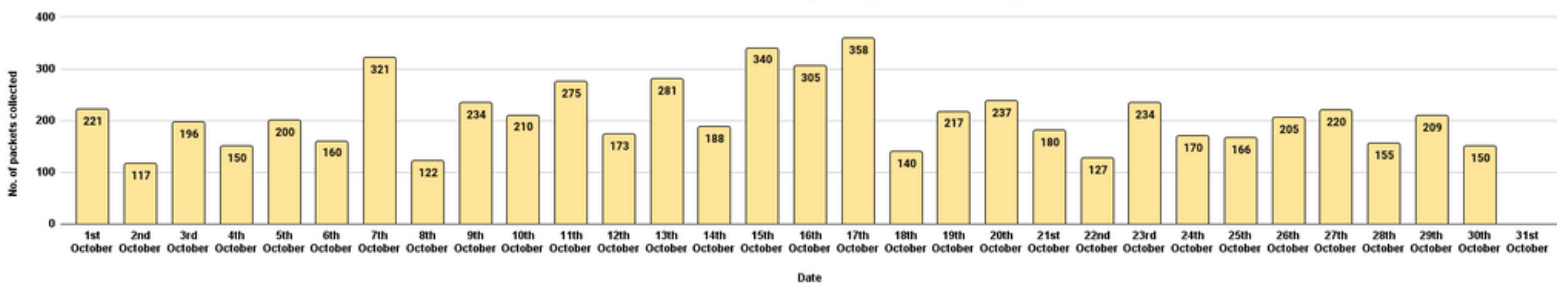
No. of people segregating and not segregating waste on a day to day basis - Maya Bazaar



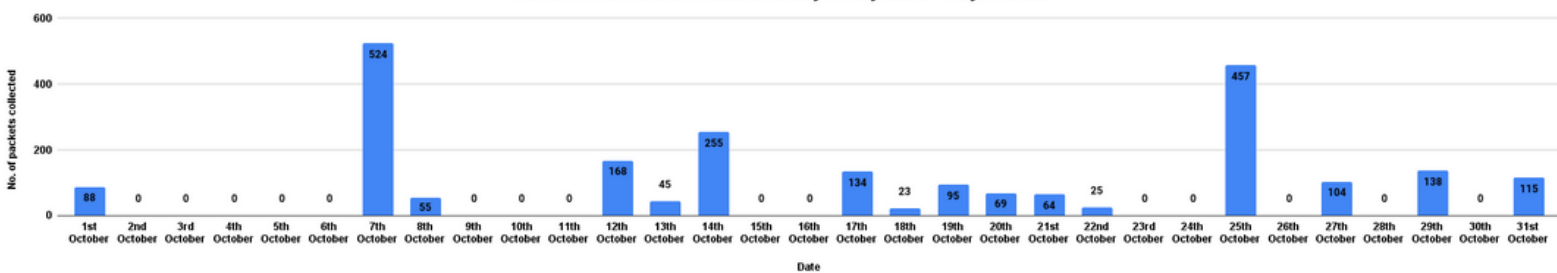
No. of people putting waste in BBMP vehicle on a day to day basis - Anandapuram



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



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



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