

SEPTEMBER 2022

Community Speaks

HCL-F SUPPORTED SOCHARA'S CWASH PROJECT



FOREWORD

- Aadira Stephen

SOCHARA HCL-F CWASH teams are marching towards building healthy and mindful communities through thoughtful interventions and context oriented awareness campaigns and celebrations. Our community in Bangalore indulged in conversations and activities on World Clean Up Day, with active participation of people from various walks of life, creating spaces for reflective learning in Community Health.

The Bangalore team celebrated World Clean Up Day in the Neelasandra area through a plogging event which turned out to be huge success with more than 100 registrations for the event from people across Bangalore. The Chennai Team has geared up with the infrastructure activities with the communities this month. With a commitment to building healthier communities - Let us work together and contribute towards SOCHARA's goal of 'Health for All'.

Activities List

Bangalore

- 11 Community Volunteers meetings with (88 volunteers attended 10 times) participants were conducted altogether in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- 6 Awareness sessions on Waste segregation, and Fungal Infection, were conducted with 130 participants altogether in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- 5 Community Meetings on Waste Segregation, Health Issues with 113 participants were conducted in both communities
- Waste Segregation Awareness Program by BBMP Marshals for Anandapuram & Mayabazaar Community
- PHC, BBMP, BESCO, and Police station visits by C-WASH Team.
- Regular monitoring of Segregation and Management of waste in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities.
- 10 Black spots were cleaned by Sanitation workers in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.
- Regular monitoring of milk cover collection in the Maya Bazaar community. 2325 collected
- Regular monitoring of milk cover collection in the Anandapuram community. 5914 collected
- 1 Block level meeting was conducted in the Anandapuram community with 12 participants
- 1 street Play was conducted on the 17th by Hosa Belaku Kala Thanda for plogging event
- On the 17th Of September, the Swacchathon event was conducted with 141 participants organized by the C-WASH Team on account of world clean up day.

Chennai

- 2 Need-based assessments were conducted in Lakshmiapuram Municipality Higher Secondary School and Perumbakkam Government High School altogether.
- Handing over ceremony of newly constructed toilets at P5 MKB Nagar Police Boys and Girls Club
- Visited the SOCHARA office in Bangalore and the local communities and schools.



SWACCHATHON - A PLOGGING EVENT

- Sugandha Chandra

On the morning of 17th, September 2022 over 100 volunteers came together to clean the Neelasandra area of Bangalore on account of World Clean Up Day.

Swacchathon 2022 was a Plogging drive organized by SOCHARA in partnership with HCL Foundation and BBMP. Plogging is a portmanteau that has emerged to mean picking up trash while jogging. It helps to clean the space around us, and hence the environment while doing a fitness activity. It is good for your body and the planet. Participants registered as they reached the Lower Primary School near Maya Bazaar and were given a T-shirt with branding papers and rubber gloves. We saw registration from many walks of life, some BBMP Marshals, sanitation workers, Students, HCL Foundation volunteers, etc. The program started at 7:30 am with two trainers from Maxburn Fitness Studio who got all participants to warm up. We stretched, did balancing acts and held squats. There was also some bhangra involved which people from all age groups enjoyed. This was followed by a short speech by our Chief Guest for the event, The Indian Plogman Raj, about the Why and How of Plogging. He also got us to pledge to reduce our waste and to take responsibility for whatever we generate. Everyone was then briefed about the plogging session and some jute bags were handed over for dry waste collection. Raj then flagged off the Plog run. All volunteers set off into the streets to clean them up, most walked while some jogged. Community volunteers stood at every turn to direct the crowds so that they could all pick up waste from the 4km pre-decided stretch. It is only fair to say that everyone had fun and their motivation only increased when passersby commended their work. Once all volunteers returned to the venue, we handed over the waste collected to the BBMP workers for appropriate disposal. The rubber gloves were washed and also handed over to the BBMP workers for their use since they lacked safety gear. We then introduced the Hosabelaku Kala Thanda, the street play team from Maya Bazaar, who carried out one of their plays on waste and waste segregation for all volunteers. The participants enjoyed the play while they relished the refreshments we had provided. There was Pulao with chutney and some fresh watermelon juice, made on the spot. Everything was brought and served in reusable steel utensils which we got on rent from a Steel Bank. The event came to an end with lots of cheerful pictures and many new friends and connections.



GRASSROOTS COMIC WORKSHOP

- Sugandha Chandra

SOCHARA was invited to attend the workshop on Environmental Education using Grassroots Comics which was organized by HCL Foundation and led by World Comics India. At first it seemed a little intimidating, but not needing any drawing skills was a great motivation and anxiety reliever. Sugandha and Aadira signed up for it right away.

The first day was spent introducing comics as a powerful mode of communication. We discussed how easy and interesting it became to convey messages through comics. Not being resource intensive and yet easy to replicate for mass dispersion kept adding to our interest in learning to do them, since we work with increasing awareness of communities. Our first task was to draw ANYTHING. Yes, anything! While many drew the 'national drawing' with mountains and a house, there were some who made interesting drawings that conveyed a message.

The second day started with each of us drawing the person sitting opposite to us. Many portraits and many caricatures came out of this fun activity. Then we got to more serious work, which was deciding our topics and writing stories around them. Each story would get translated into a 4-frame comic. We drew a rough draft of our proposed comics and got them critiqued by the experts from Mr. Sharad of World Comics India.

The third was the final day of comic designing, and we all got to ink our comics. The hall was brimming with excitement and creativity. Where sat 30 clueless faces on day 1, today the same people were finishing telling their stories through comics. There was a sense of pride and empowerment in each one's being. The day came to an end with 30 completed comics and endless photographs

The last day was reserved for an extended workshop on Communication at the HCL office in Jigni and all were reminded of the basics of communication. We also learnt about the inverted triangle rule of reporting. All present realized the power of storytelling in our communication. During lunch, all comics were put on display in the cafeteria so the HCL employees could read our stories.



MKB nagar Scoutmaster Mr. Vijay, Community Volunteers Mr. Udaya Kumar, Police Club kids, and SOCHARA team members. Then Rohini, a member of the SOCHARA team, discussed the value and use of toilets. Planting of saplings by the guests followed the ceremony. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Sriram from HCL Technologies.

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS BUILDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

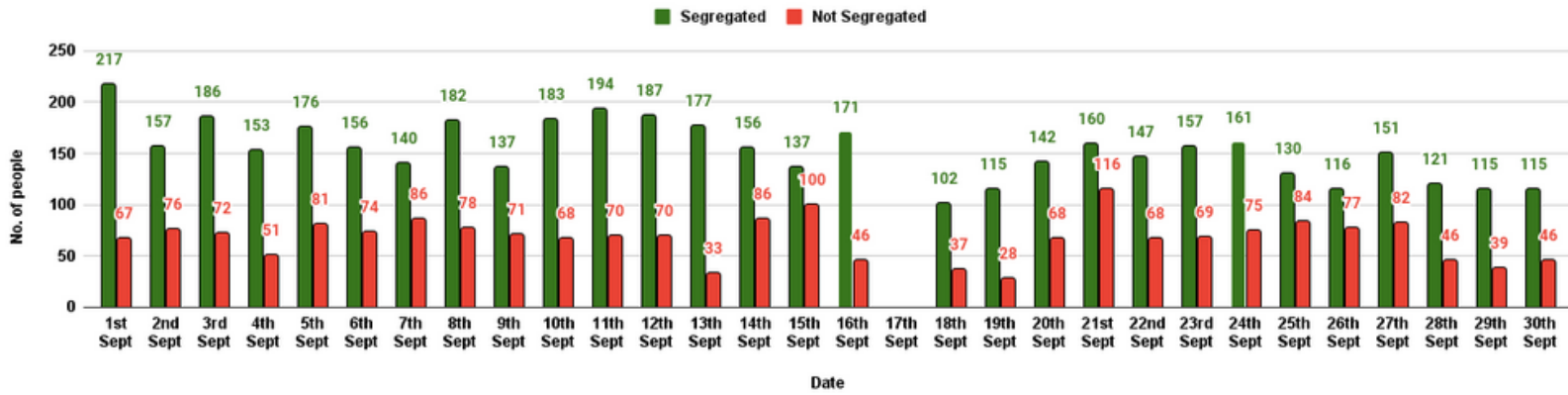
- Mathivanan

The Bangalore C-WASH team attended the handing over ceremony held for the newly built toilets at P5 MKB Nagar Police Boys and Girls Club. The event began at 4:30 PM and was wrapped up around 5:30 PM. The Welcome speech came after the Tamil Thai vazhthu, which was performed by C-WASH Staff to start the Ceremony. After the speech, the official handing over of the toilets was done. Deputy Commissioner Mr. Eswaran, Assistant Commissioner Mr. Tamilvanan, Inspector of Police Mr. Ambedkar, HCL Foundation Representatives Mr. Samuel and Mr. Newton, HCL Technologies Mr. Sriram, SOCHARA Executive Committee Member Dr. Gandhimathi, Director of Don Bosco Anbu Illai, Rev. Fr. Andrews,

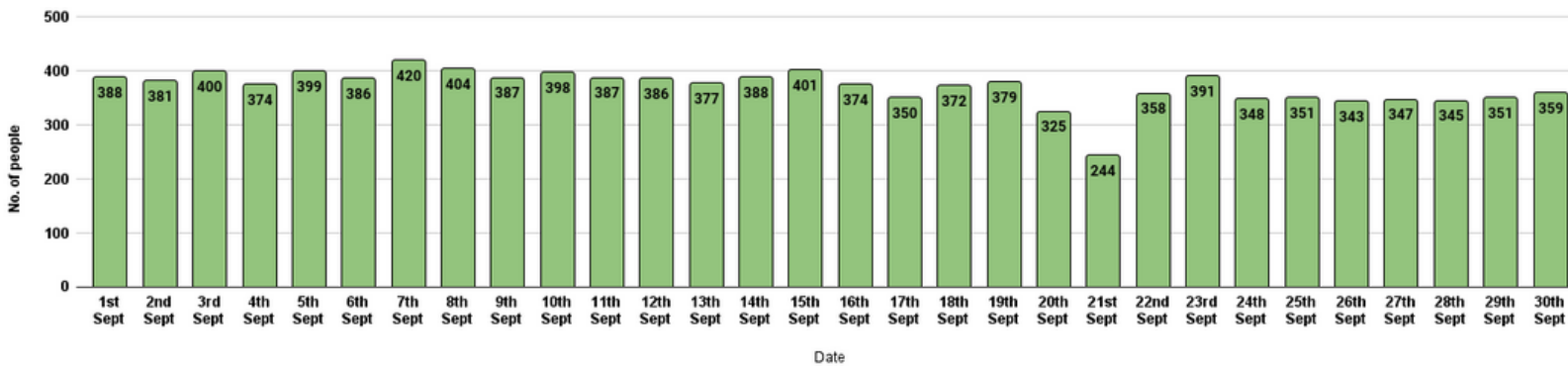


GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF REGULAR ACTIVITIES

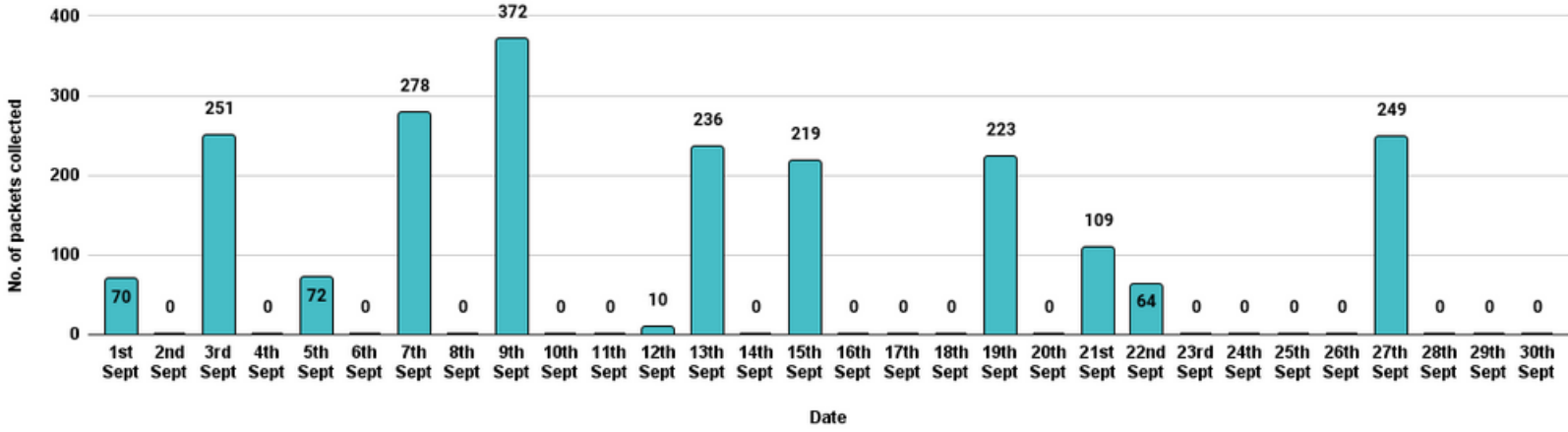
No. of people segregating and not segregating waste on a day to day basis - Maya Bazaar



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 - Maya Bazaar



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

