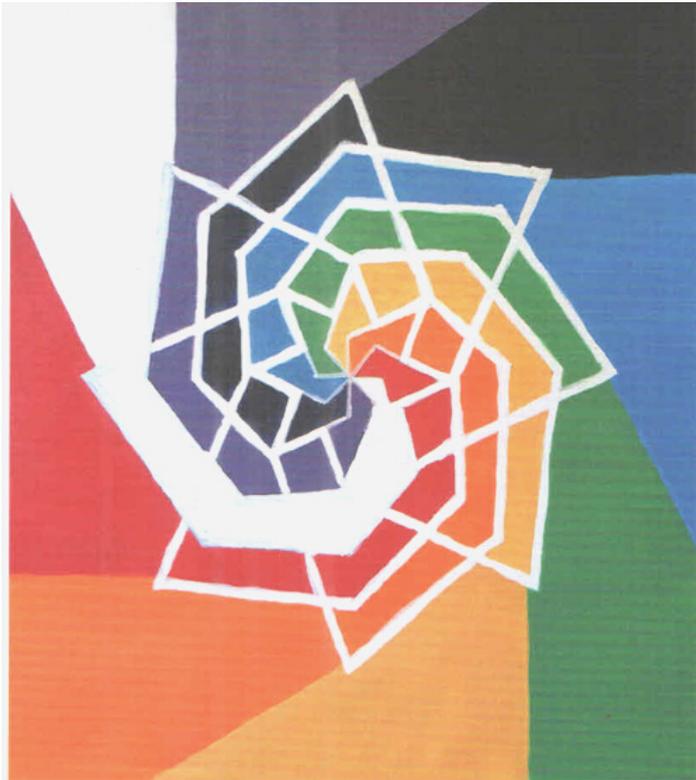


COMMUNITY SPEAKS

HCL-F SUPPORTED SOCHARA'S CWASH PROJECT



This is one of the last paintings by Dr Shirdi Prasad Tekur, a healer and gifted artist. He has captured the colours of the rainbow in a spiral that meld seamlessly into the eternal shoonya.

Foreword

With the third wave hitting and forcing us to cease our field activities, the year got off to a rough start. Nonetheless, with the team's continual effort to improve Community Health systems and practices, we've been looking for new ways to employ technology for fulfilling our unwavering vision of 'Health for All'.

The Bangalore and Chennai teams started the month by conducting need-based assessments in schools. As the number of cases grew, we shifted our focus to using online platforms to hold activities and meetings with the field team and community members. The field activities were also kept on hold considering the safety and health of the team, community and students. We anticipated that processing any activity this month would be challenging, but thanks to the community's unwavering support and encouragement, the activities went off without a hitch, for a change on a virtual medium.

Dr Shirdi Prasad's painting is a lovely way to start the new year. With a hope fastened to the heart that the days ahead will be bright and colourful.

Aadira Stephen,
Training and Research Assistant

Activities

- Conducted 4 Awareness programme on Segregation and -Management of Waste and Vector borne diseases in Mayabazar and Anandapuram community(Participants-59)
- 2 Community meetings were conducted in Anandapuram(Participants-32)
- Conducted participatory planning meetings for both the communities through the online medium.
- Need based assessment was conducted for 16 schools in and around Bangalore.
- Jyothi identified 1 TB as symptomatic and referred to local PHC and started the TB treatment and regular follow up with family members for advocacy.
- HCL-F organised an Online quiz competition for the school going children.
- HCL-F also hosted a COVID Relief Call, which was moderated by Dr. Chetana and covered significant themes for preparing oneself for the third wave of COVID-19.
- Regular monitoring of Segregation and Management of waste in Mayabazar and Anandapuram communities, Bangalore.
- 65 Black spots were cleaned by Sanitation workers in Mayabazar and Anandapuram community
- Raised the complaint in BWSSB for drainage blocking in Anandapuram and Mayabazar, visited BWSSB Engineering department and talked with Asst, Engineer by field staff Jyothi and Rajani.
- Rajani and Jyothi visited BESCO office and raised the complaint on the new electric pole and submitted a request letter for Anandapuram Community.
- Construction work for the Haragadde and Huskuru High School toilets is under progress.
- Regular monitoring of milk cover collection drive in Mayabazar community.
- Field coordinators and technical staff went to the Zilla Panchayath to check on the status of the Sarjapura toilet building permit letter.
- Prema visited Anekal BEO office for follow up of Sarjapura toilet construction permission letter.
- Needs assessment in Lakshmiapuram Government Higher Secondary School and Avadi Boys Higher Secondary School
- Community visit to Chintadripet to discuss the concerns and general queries regarding the vaccination campaigns for children.
- Initiation of Toilet construction at MKB Nagar Police Boys and Girls club

Taking steps to improve the lives of students

- Aadira



SOCHARA CWASH Bangalore Team conducted the need-based assessment in 16 schools in and around Bangalore. Intensive field visits, discussions and meetings with the school administration were some of the key elements of the whole process. The team did the need-based assessment during the first week of January when the Karnataka government stated that schools would be closed till the eighth grade, and there was a lot of confusion and panic around the third wave. While the assessment was being carried out, the team made sure that all covid protocols were followed when interacting with the employees and that no inconvenience was provided to the school officials or children during these tough times. The team created an excel sheet that highlighted all of the items that come under WASH and filled in the relevant details with the support of the workers. The school authorities and the team worked together to identify the WASH features in the school's infrastructure that would make water, sanitation, and hygiene more accessible and convenient for the students.

Story of Shyamala - Maya Bazaar Community

- Jyoti



I am Jyothi working as a field coordinator in the Maya Bazaar community. I am sharing a story about a woman named Shyamala, A resident from the Maya Bazaar Community who was diagnosed with Tuberculosis

Shyamala is a 34-year-old Maya Bazaar Community resident who is also a diabetes patient. She is receiving treatment for TB as a Maya Bazaar Community resident. She lives with her family and works as a daily wage worker (Cooking). I was sceptical about her situation because she had a persistent cough and other symptoms for two months. I asked her about her health difficulties when I met her during one of my fieldwork on December 3rd, and she gave me a thorough explanation of how she's been feeling for the past few weeks. She complained of coughing for more than two weeks, as well as exhaustion and chest pain. Given my previous experience working at a tuberculosis centre, I was able to determine that her symptoms were similar to that of a tuberculosis patient, so I promptly referred her to the nearest PHC for a sputum test and chest x-ray. She had a checkup and was later diagnosed with tuberculosis. On December 28th, she began treatment. I advised her to eat nutritious foods such as vegetables, Ragi malt, and fruits whenever possible since this will aid her in managing both TB and diabetes.

At Sonnenahalli PHC, TB treatment began on December 28, 2021. I also explained about tuberculosis and urged her to become more capable of controlling her health, recommending that she eats healthy and exercise. Everyone is supporting her, and she now socialises with neighbours, relatives, and friends. She began taking her medications regularly. All of her family members were also given a T.B screening.

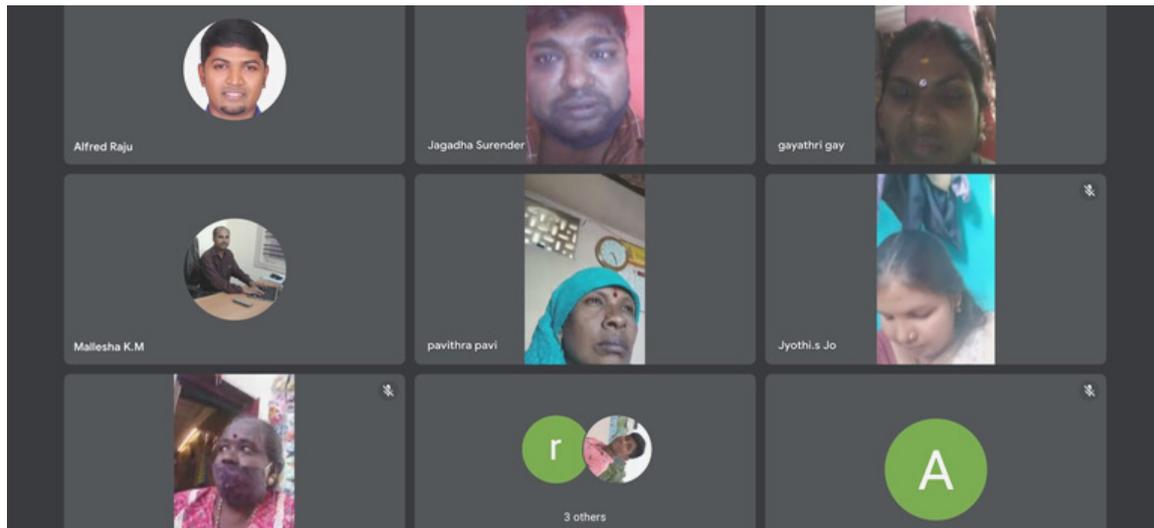
I'm providing counselling on the stigma and discrimination connected with tuberculosis so that community members have a better knowledge of the disease.

Community meetings held at Maya bazaar and Anandapuram

- Alfred

Thriving societies begin with social cohesion and social justice. When people and communities are empowered to address what divides them and uphold what unites them, and act together for stronger, healthier, and more just ties, they are better able to achieve development. The transformational change is the foundation for local leadership, local ownership and sustainable impact. Taken together social cohesion, social justice provides the glue for the people to live healthy and economically secure lives supported by the just institutions.

Participatory planning meetings were held online through google meet for Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities. Participatory Planning meetings are the stepping stone towards building a strong society with local leadership, ownership and sustainable impact. The meetings helped to explore the needs of the society in a systematic way. Where the members from the community appreciated the intervention of HCL-F and SOCHARA with regard to waste management, awareness programs, street lights, drinking water etc. at the same time, the needs of the community were voiced out by them. Need for increased awareness related to Covid vaccination, waste segregation, drinking water, drainage clearance, health camps, menstrual hygiene, and mosquito problem was expressed by the community members.



Rewriting stories of change

- Srilakshmi

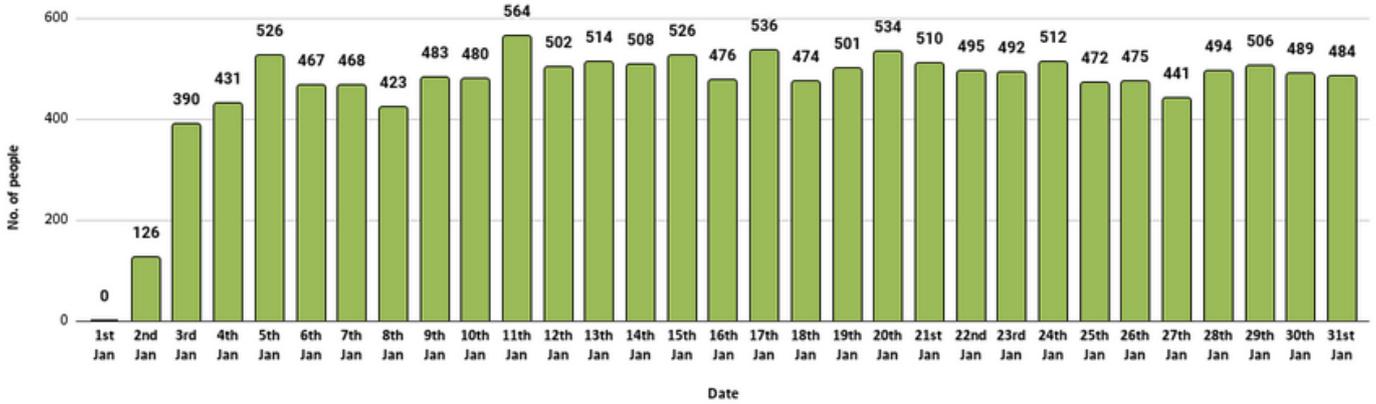
As the government initiated vaccination for children, team SOCHARA CWASH Chennai has decided to take forward the discussions and concerns that the community shares on the same. Parents were concerned whether their children should go ahead with getting vaccinated if they have any already existing medical conditions and allergies. This was a concern the general community had irrespective of their age. Community was concerned about certain health problems they have encountered after vaccination.

The team also conducted Need Based assessments in Avadi Boys Highschool and Lakshmpuram Government school. The team along with our contractors have started with infrastructural works in Police clubs of MKB Nagar and Saidaoet. The team is also mitigating several issues regarding toilet infrastructure development in Muthialpet Police club.

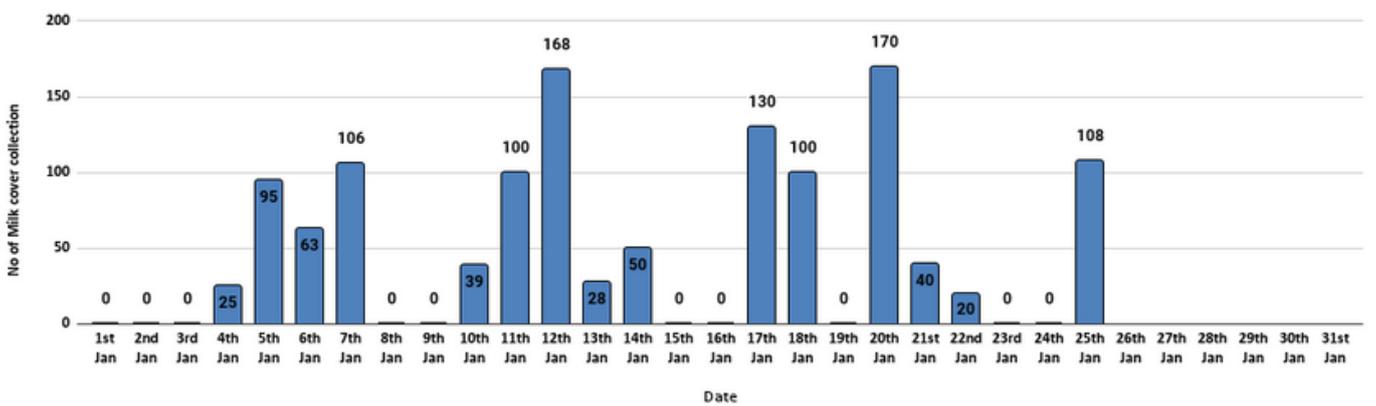


Graphical representation of regular activities - January

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

