
February 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 Project team. Despite the fact that a third wave hit us this year, making life harder for us, SOCHARA's activities have been ramped up with tremendous community support and an unbreakable objective of 'Health for All.'

The Bangalore and Chennai team resumed most of the activities that were put on hold in the month of January due to the increasing COVID cases. This month, the Bangalore team concentrated on awareness sessions, follow-up visits to schools for infrastructure development, and community and volunteer meetings. The Chennai team, on the other hand, focused on need based assessments in schools, community visits and the initiation of construction work at MKB Nagar Police Boys and Girls club.

As things begin to fall into place and people adjust to a new normal, let us hope that the coming months will provide opportunities for us to meet and greet each other in person.

-Aadira Stephen
Training and Research Assistant



The Meaning behind SOCHARA logo

The colour 'yellow' represents optimism, hope, and enthusiasm. The joyful figures represent community involvement and centeredness as essential strengths that support the teams' work. The tagline "building community health" encapsulates our mission and vision in three words. The interlaced pattern represents the numerous interconnected determinants of health that need transformation as we grow as a society toward 'Health for All.' The yellow-tinged empty area represents the creative inner space from which all team members and community members can draw energy to work for Health for All and to sustain it over a long period, through moments of hardship and achievement.

Activity list

Bengaluru

- **Three awareness programmes on the duties of keeping the environment clean by the community members, sanitation workers, and volunteers were conducted by BBMP supervisor and marshals in three distinct locations of Anandapuram. (Participants-158)**
- **5 Community meetings were conducted in Anandapuram. (Participants-70)**
- **2 Self help group training sessions were organized in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram for community volunteers. (Participants - 32)**
- **3 Community volunteer meetings were conducted in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram.**
- **An exposure visit to Maya Bazaar was organized for the Anandapuram community volunteers.**
- **15 Street play trainings were organized for Maya Bazaar volunteers and tailors.**
- **Our Field Coordinator, Jyothi visited the BWSSB department and met Asst. Engineer Murthy, raised the complaint on drainage blocking in Maya Bazaar.**
- **Our Field Coordinator, Prema along with Community volunteers visited the work division of Chamarajpet and met the Asst. Executive Engineer and registered the complaint about drainage issues in Anandapuram.**
- **The Technical team visited Haragadde GHS, and Huskuru GHS for observing construction work of new toilets**
- **Our Field Coordinator, Prema visited Zilla panchayath and followed up with Sarjapura toilet construction permission letter and also conducted need based assessment for 3 Schools**
- **Regular monitoring of milk cover collection drive in Mayabazar community.**
- **Regular monitoring of Segregation and Management of waste in Maya Bazaar and Anandapuram communities.**

Chennai

- **Infrastructure related situational analysis in 2 schools and ITI Campus, (Ambattur and Guindy)**
- **Infrastructure related follow-up visits to MKB Nagar and Saidapet Police club**
- **Discussion with the resource person on interactive session plans on waste management and hygiene for the Police club children**

Laying foundations for better sanitation

- Judy

The Chennai team along with the Contractor team from Bangalore has taken forward the constructions of toilet units in MKB Nagar and Saidapet Police clubs. The team mitigated through various field challenges with constant support from the community and the Police club itself, embarking on a journey of true and compassionate cooperation for social development. The MKB Nagar toilet construction is nearing completion and the renovation works on Saidapet Police club is ongoing. The team is making continuous visits, monitoring and evaluating the progress.

Chennai has also conducted Needs Based Assessments in Ambattur and Guindy ITI Campuses and 2 Schools of Madambakkam and Pallavarm. The team made a base evaluation of the existing sanitation facilities and systems in the campuses and held several discussions with the campus and school authorities on the possible infrastructural developments. The Team is looking forward to taking these infrastructural developments in the upcoming quarters of the WASH Project.



SHG Training - "A step towards women empowerment"

- Mallesh

In Bangalore's Anandapuram and Mayabazar communities, the SOCHARA HCL-F team held a training session on the formation of Self Help Groups. SHGs play an important role in women's empowerment as they help them gain confidence, give access to loans at lower interests, and start their own enterprises and avoid the economical crisis. Mr. Prahalad served as the training session's resource person. The programme drew a total of 32 people from the community.

Resource person introduced some government schemes that are available for women entrepreneurs. He encouraged the group to start cooperatives, pickle making, papad making, candle making business. The session was informative and educative; it gave some kind of hope for those who want to engage in business. It is also one way of self-empowerment. Before the session, as shared by the women of the community, their idea of SHGs was a Loaning giving agency, they were part of these SHGs only to avail loan but the intention of SHGs were to empower women in addressing the challenges faced them was explained.

The training session addressed community people on the importance, benefits, and potential of forming SHGs in their community. He highlighted the key points that each group should consist of 10 to 12 like-minded community members ranging from 21 to 60 years of age, as well as elect a president and vice-president who can read and write in order to keep track of the books and records. He also explained how the groups can be managed and sustained. They all agreed that in the coming days, they would identify the members and form groups. Mr. Prahalad and Mr. Mallesh answered all of their questions and doubts at the end of the session.

Community exposure visit

- Rajani and Prema

In Mayabazar, Bangalore, the SOCHARA team, with the support of the HCL Foundation, conducted a community exposure visit for field volunteers from the Anandapuram Community. They all introduced themselves first, followed by a community walk in the area by the volunteers. It centred on discussing their perspectives, knowledge, and methods for bringing about change in their own communities. Later, they shared the work, development and organisation's contributions during the previous three years, as well as the tool used to monitor waste management and segregation and other records. They were able to see the books maintained by the volunteers with regard to waste segregation, disposal and management. The volunteers from Anandapuram interacted with the volunteers of Maya bazar after brief self – introduction and orientation of the work related to WASH. The field volunteers were greatly grateful to the organisation.



Awareness is the key to Prevention

- Alfred

Management and Segregation of waste is not a new challenge for residents of Bangalore, especially those who live in urban poor areas with limited access to basic infrastructure and WASH facilities. As a result, SOCHARA- HCL-F's strategy is to continue to support communities through community awareness programmes, community activities, networking, and partnerships. To maintain our city clean and green, we collaborate with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), its health officials, Paurakarmikas (sanitation workers), supervisors, the BBMP's Waste Management Division, and field marshals.

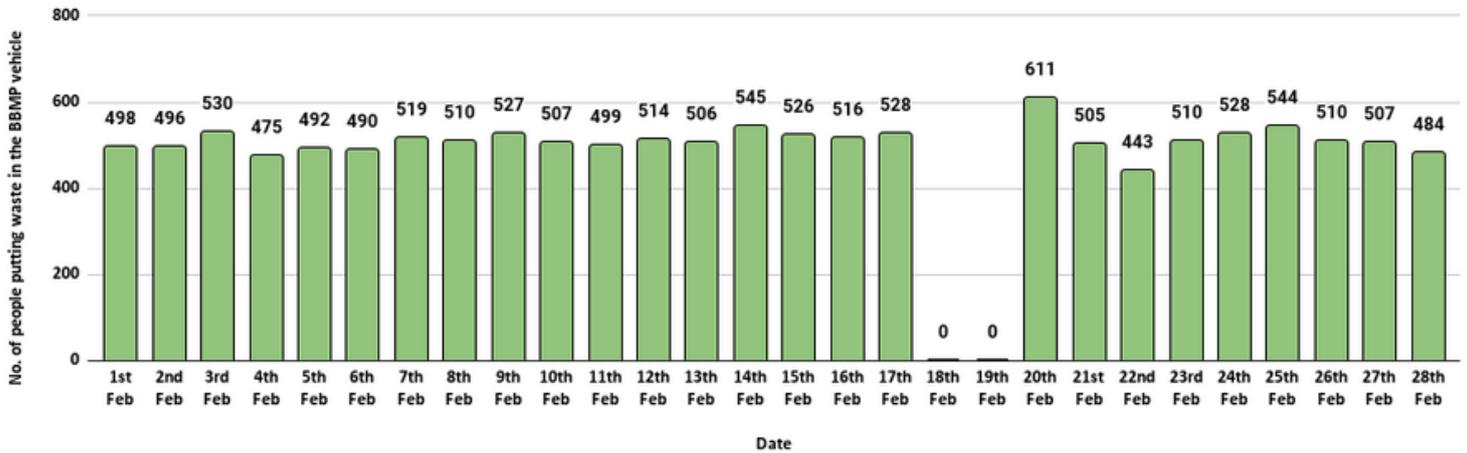
Since the Anandapuram community is next to Bangalore's famous vegetable market, Kalasipalya, we've used it as a field for addressing the waste management issue, holding community meetings and going door to door to guarantee that household waste is properly disposed of in the community. Despite increased awareness and BBMP tipper vehicles arriving at their door every morning from 7am to 10am, some residents, particularly those who had to go to work early in the morning, were dumping their garbage in the open drains in the streets, causing drain blockage, an increase in house flies, mosquitoes, and a foul odour in the area.

We held a community meeting in Anandapuram to address this issue, and the community volunteers expressed the need for awareness programmes in all three areas of the community. As a result, with the support of Mr. Venkat, a supervisor from the BBMP, an awareness campaign was held to address the issue of dumping waste in drainages. This can have an impact on their health because it raises their risks of contracting dengue fever and other infectious diseases. The session also covered waste segregation into dry and wet waste, which will aid in recycling. Finally, Mr. Venkat reminded the audience that it is every resident's responsibility to keep their community, area, and city clean. He will also assist them with any waste management issues they may have. The community has benefited from the awareness seminars, since the number of black spots in Anandapuram has decreased. The waste management in the community is monitored on a regular basis by community volunteers. The strategy of networking is helping the community to experience clean streets and also the civic body, community participation in tackling the waste issue in the community.

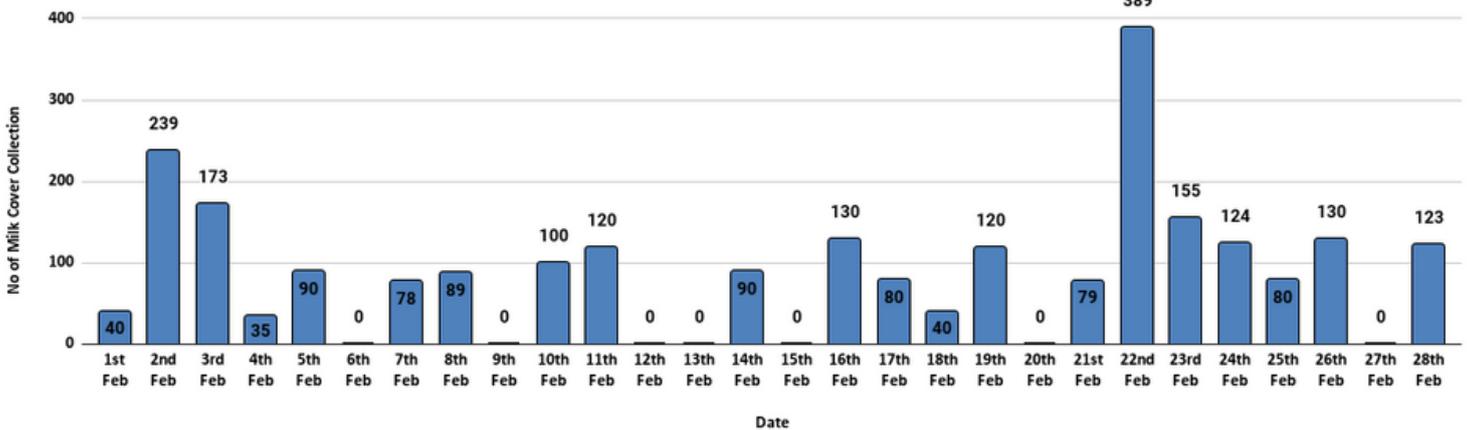


Graphical representation of regular activities - February

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

