



Dear Friends,

Wishing all Bengalureans, readers and supporters a very Happy New Year!

B.PAC has launched several new initiatives over the last three years and we are beginning to see some green shoots of change. During 2015, our maiden attempt at bringing together meaningful information about contesting candidates for Corporator elections and endorsing 50 of them, doing a perception survey of BBMP functioning across 10,000 Bengalureans were received well by both, citizens and political leaders.

Our ongoing activities with waste management and women and child safety saw us forging newer partnerships with Rotary and PHANA (Private Hospital Owners' Association). We submitted comprehensive recommendations to the Government on BBMP Restructuring, to the Chief Minister, GoK on Water situation in Bengaluru City and to the Chairman, KERC suggestions to improve the performance of BESCO including the safety measures to be taken up.

Our third Batch of B.CLIP is undergoing training and with this we would have trained 150 passionate citizens who are slowly but steadily effecting positive change across the city. 20 of our B.CLIP participants contested corporator elections and we had 1 win. Sampath

Kumar of Vasanthnagar ward won the elections.

Our B.CLIP participants have been very active in their local areas and several of them have been successful in getting the citizens in their respective wards energized. Kavitha Reddy from B.CLIP and a group of volunteers from HSR layout have been very active and have set up Hasiru Mithra in HSR Layout which has actively taken up waste segregation in its ward and is now assisting BBMP in locating defaulters for fining by BBMP.

Subbaiah and Geetha from Sanjay Nagar won the City's first NIP challenge and are busy setting up cycling lanes, evangelising "no plastic" and "walk to school" programs. Easwarappa continues to be our crusader for illegal hoardings, Sagar Satish is busy mobilising the youth of the city for Bengaluru Youth Festival to be held on Feb 12th. Sampath Kumar, Corporator Vasanthnagar and B.CLIP participant is busy with an aggressive clean up drive in his ward. These are just a few mentions and the list goes on. We are proud to have been able to bring under one platform, so many passionate civic leaders who are working tirelessly with us to make the city one of the finest in the country. We are now working with the newly elected Corporators in several wards and hope this will catalyze some much needed focused initiatives in these wards.

If you see some sections of the Metro cleaner than they were 6 months ago, it is thanks to our team's constant engagement with Upa Lokayukta, BMRCL and BBMP

This is dedicated to all the wonderful women and children of the city and to their empowerment and safety. We have done tremendous amount of purposeful work and have made great strides in this area. This newsletter is an attempt to give you a snapshot of all the work we are doing to make our women and children safer. The road is still long and we have a great distance to traverse, but we can justifiably be proud of the fact that Bengaluru would be one of the first cities to have a child protection policy and to have been able to suggest comprehensive reforms in the functioning of special fast track courts for women and children.

We look back at 2015 with satisfaction that B.PAC has become an effective platform for civic engagement. All of this would not have been possible without your active support - coming up with new ideas, giving us suggestions, spending time on ground with us, encouraging us to do more.

Thanks for your support and patronage, together we can scale new heights and ensure we transform Bengaluru to a better city. We have begun this year on a high note and we hope that these stories set the precedent for the ensuing year.

Warm Regards,

Revathy Ashok
CEO & Managing Trustee
B.PAC

Women Leaders for a better tomorrow

Bangalore has witnessed a historic moment in its political history with the recently concluded BBMP Elections having 52 % representation of women elected members in the BBMP council, highest ever in the country. We thought that this was the right moment to celebrate this win and inspire our corporators with mind blowing stories of several women political luminaries of Karnataka such as Leeladevi R. Prasad and B.T. Lalitha Nayak.

B.PAC (Bangalore Political Action Committee) organised an interesting leadership workshop for these newly elected women corporator leaders in association with the Bruhat

Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Speaking during the inaugural session Dr. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, President, B.PAC said, "We have trained over 150 passionate citizens, aspiring corporators through our B.CLIP programs. Across 3 batches. Last month we organised a program for all newly elected corporators on critical issues facing the city. Today's program is the beginning of series of conversations we want to have with our women corporators. We want to see them emerge as strong successful leaders who will transform their respective wards through their passion, commitment and good governance."



Leeladevi R Prasad, former Minister, GoK and B.T. Lalita Nayak, former Minister, GoK addressed the young women corporators leaders and shared inspirational insights of their humble beginnings and their political journey in a very tough environment. Their deep commitment to public service and engagement with the city, high standards of governance, integrity, and humility, were the key take aways for the participants to emulate.

[Read more](#) about Leeladevi R Prasad, first woman corporator of Bengaluru. Click [here](#) to watch Leeladevi R Prasad's speech.



B.T.LalithaNayak, former Minister, GoK addressed the young women corporators and shared inspirational insights. She said that the elected representatives of any level are equal to people and advocated the need for simple living while being selfless at helping people. She urged the coporators to first rid corruption in the society and pressed on the significance of gender equality and said that gender is not a discriminative factor if one has the will to implement good initiatives.

[Click](#) to watch Lalitha Nayak's talk.



SP Hemalatha, Dy Mayor, BBMP spoke about the huge opportunity for women corporators to make a mark and spoke of the initiatives on waste management and health related

programs and initiatives in her ward that could be successfully replicated by other corporators.

“When a Woman is educated, the whole family benefits, when women corporators are educated the whole ward and city will benefit”, said Suresh Moona, eminent historian of Bengaluru. He took the audience through the need to connect the generations with a sense of place by recording the history of each ward and its uniqueness and requested each corporator to install a “Green Plaque” as a symbol of heritage in their respective wards.



There was a video message from the Mayor and from the former Minister Rani Satish exhorting the corporators to bring about positive change in the city. Click [here](#) to see their messages.

C. Manjula, former Chairperson Karnataka State Women Commission, while addressing the corporators spoke about the delicate balance that a corporator has to exercise between party priorities and greater public good and asked the corporators to be bold and fearless in their service to their respective wards.

Nitin Pai, Founder of The Takshashila Institute explained to the participants the need to develop a comprehensive vision for the ward, prioritize, plan and execute on the vision with a well documented and standardized process, so that corporators can leave behind a

strong legacy of positive action in their respective wards. Click [here](#) to see some ideas for transformation.

K. Latha Narashima Murthy, Former Corporator, HSR Layout took the participants through the Best Practices to emulate in the Wards by – showing how she developed a vision for the ward and the learnings she had during her journey as a Corporator. The Program was well received by the women corporators and they were keen to work in a collaborative manner along with local citizen groups to solve pressing problems and get their voices heard.

Deepa Nagesh, corporator from SriramaMandira ward in Rajajinagar said it is important to talk to citizens about the pressing issues of the ward to come up with a solution that will benefit all. She was quick to point out the problems that plagued her ward like disposal of waste. She sought the help of B.PAC to solve these issues in a holistic manner.

The uniform refrain from all leaders past and present was that the Mayor and Dy. Mayor's role currently is only recommendatory and should be given greater powers for effective governance of the city. B.PAC, through this endeavor has reached out to women Corporators of Bengaluru city to realise their full potential and capability and to lead important transformational change in city's developments - making the city a pride of place for every citizen. Thanks for your support and patronage, we are able to provide sustained efforts in promoting a better governed Bangalore.

Billion Eyes Program

B.PAC & PHANA Workshop on Prevention of Sexual Harassment



Earlier this year B.PAC launched the Billion Eyes campaign for safety of women at the workplace. Our goal is to sensitise organisations and industry bodies on the need to take up the issue of women's safety in organisations seriously, have ICCs and conduct training and awareness programs within their respective organisations.

B.PAC partnered with PHANA (Private Hospitals and Nursing homes association) to conduct several workshops across the city to create awareness about the SHWP Act and emphasize its relevance in the Healthcare sector. We also engaged PHANA to take the lead in making their members implement a sexual harassment policy and comply with the law at their workplace.

Though the Sexual harassment at Workplace Act came into force in 2013, a research study by a leading organization revealed appalling statistics that over 50% of business organizations had not implemented the guidelines of the Act.

Our key points of discussion during the workshops for 8 zones of PHANA Bangalore chapter were:

- Every organization should have a policy on sexual harassment (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal)
- Policy should be transparent and communicated to every employee at the organization, at all levels & at all times
- Procedure for investigation and redressal should be in place that is known to all employees
- An active Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) should be constituted
- The due process should be followed in case of an incident



Dr. Nagendra Swamy, President, Private Hospital and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) request for support to drive the initiative to 400 members, who are small, medium and large hospitals and private nursing homes.



Subject matter experts walking the audience through the SWH Act, the definition of harassment,

drafting internal policy of ICC (internal Complaints Commission) and its redressal mechanisms.

Dr. Nagendra Swamy while attending conclusion of the workshop spoke about the gender sensitization initiatives taken up by PHANA and urged the need for implementation of the SHWP act through various examples. He also emphasized the need to implement right measures to ensure the safety of patients and their families. Various doctors shared the best practices followed in their respective hospitals to uphold the safety of their employees. Dr. Swamy emphasized the need of CCTV cameras and also, insisted that complaints raised in the verbal format must be accepted and immediate actions to be taken.

Write to us at forbangalore@bpac.in to engage with us in conducting similar workshops for specified sectors in Bangalore city - Call for champion who can bring us leads to implement the act in others sectors. To know more about this [Read More](#)

Child Protection Policy

Karnataka moves towards becoming the first state to have a child protection policy in India and proposing comprehensive reform in functioning of fast track courts

Bengaluru has witnessed several incidents of sexual harassment of children in schools over the last two years. B.PAC has conceptualized a continued intervention under its B.SAFE program to advocate for the right laws to be brought in, strong enforcement of the same including timely judicial action.

In this regard B.PAC took the lead in getting various institutions and individuals working in the space of child safety including subject experts, academicians, doctors, legal

practitioners under the B.SAFE platform to detail out the challenges and issues in implementing a workable child protection policy, understanding the issues in the poor functioning of fast track/special courts for children .

We have looked at child protection from sexual harassment in a holistic manner addressing multiple dimensions of a child's vulnerability through various stages- prevention, emergency response and judicial action.[Read More](#)

Model policy for Fast Track Courts

One of the big issues in India to tackle cases of sexual harassment of children has been poor compliance of the POCSO Act and poor functioning of the fast track / special courts to try these horrendous crimes. [Read more](#) about genesis of Fast Track Courts.

The [report](#) prepared by the CLPR after a study of the functioning of fast track courts in the state revealed glaring issues and highlighted the pathetic state of functioning of fast-track courts B.PAC has now led several rounds of consultations with experts and practitioners in this field and we now have a draft set of recommendations for effective functioning of these special courts ready to be submitted to the government .

You can read more about this [here](#)



Child rights activist Nina Nayak, Suchitra Rao UNICEF and B.PAC member, team from Enfold Dr. Shaibya Saldanha, Kushi Kushalappa, Suja Sukumaran, Executive director – Child Rights Trust Vasudev Sharma, Coordinator of Karnataka Police Project on women and children Rovina Bastin, Priya and Vidhya Venkatesh of Ashwasan, virtual presence of Prof. Babu Mathews, Aparna Ravi of CLPR, Revathy Ashok and Chitra Talwar from B.PAC discussing guidelines for better functioning of fast track courts.

When in danger hit the Durga Alarm

A study in Bangalore conducted by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has brought out how almost all the women passengers (at least 90%) admitted facing one or the other safety issue while using buses. Eight in ten women respondents felt alighting and boarding unsafe while over 40% felt unsafe at bus stops.

The members of the B.SAFE program received continuous complaints about the safety of women in buses and a pilot project of installing alarms was launched. The BMTC officials installed a women safety alarm in five buses, on a pilot basis, as we had reported earlier



Speaking to B.P.A.C the founder of Durga Alarm, Priya Varadharajan stated that the pilot has been completed and the need for the alarm is now well established. The product will be equipped with few more features and the process of getting it certified by the relevant public transport authorities is underway, she added.

If you have any interesting ideas/pictures/videos that concerns our city, please reach out to us at kishore@bpac.in/ forbangalore@bpac.in

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