



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to bring to you the latest edition of our newsletter to update you on all the action at B.PAC.

As the state goes into elections next year, we will be gearing up with a number of activities to get citizens more engaged in the electoral process. For a vibrant democracy, an engaged and informed citizenry is a must.

As a first step we have just released the findings of the B.PAC Citizen Perception Survey 2016-17 to better understand the priorities of citizens with respect to delivery of various civic services and their level of satisfaction. Waste management, mobility, water, lakes and safety of women and children remain key concerns for citizens in Bengaluru. While there has been increasing civic engagement in the city in these areas, the survey shows clearly that much more needs to be done. As the state steps on to election mode, citizens would do well to remind our politicians of these expectations.

Our various programs are aligned to these citizen priorities and we have outlined the progress we have made in each of these ongoing programs in this newsletter.

We also need to update you on the status of Ward Committee formation. In the history of Bengaluru city, this is the 2nd time that the ward committees are being formed. In

1992.

34 of our trained B.CLIP civic leaders applied for membership to the ward committee. These civic leaders have undergone rigorous training to understand local governance issues and are actively working on field with citizens and elected representatives to address the pressing problems of the ward.

Of the 34 qualified applicants only 3 of them have been selected so far. The process of appointing members to the Ward Committee has been far from transparent with kith and kin and close allies of Corporators finding way into the ward committee while deserving and engaged citizens have been kept out of the system.

A broader citizen participation in the Ward Committee is required to foster accountability, transparency and for addressing key challenges at the ward level.

B.PAC met with the Commissioner, BBMP to appeal considering the relevant training received by the applicants through the B.CLIP program and the good work carried out by the Civic Leaders in their respective wards. However, in the absence of set guidelines on selection process to the Ward Committee, Commissioner was hesitant to take decision and left it to the discretion of Corporator and BBMP ward engineer(Termed Nodal officer).

We have now written to the Chief Minister highlighting the lack of transparency and requesting them to make the selection process public. To read, [click here](#).

The matter has been brought to the attention of the High Court as well by other civic organisations in an ongoing case which is being heard.

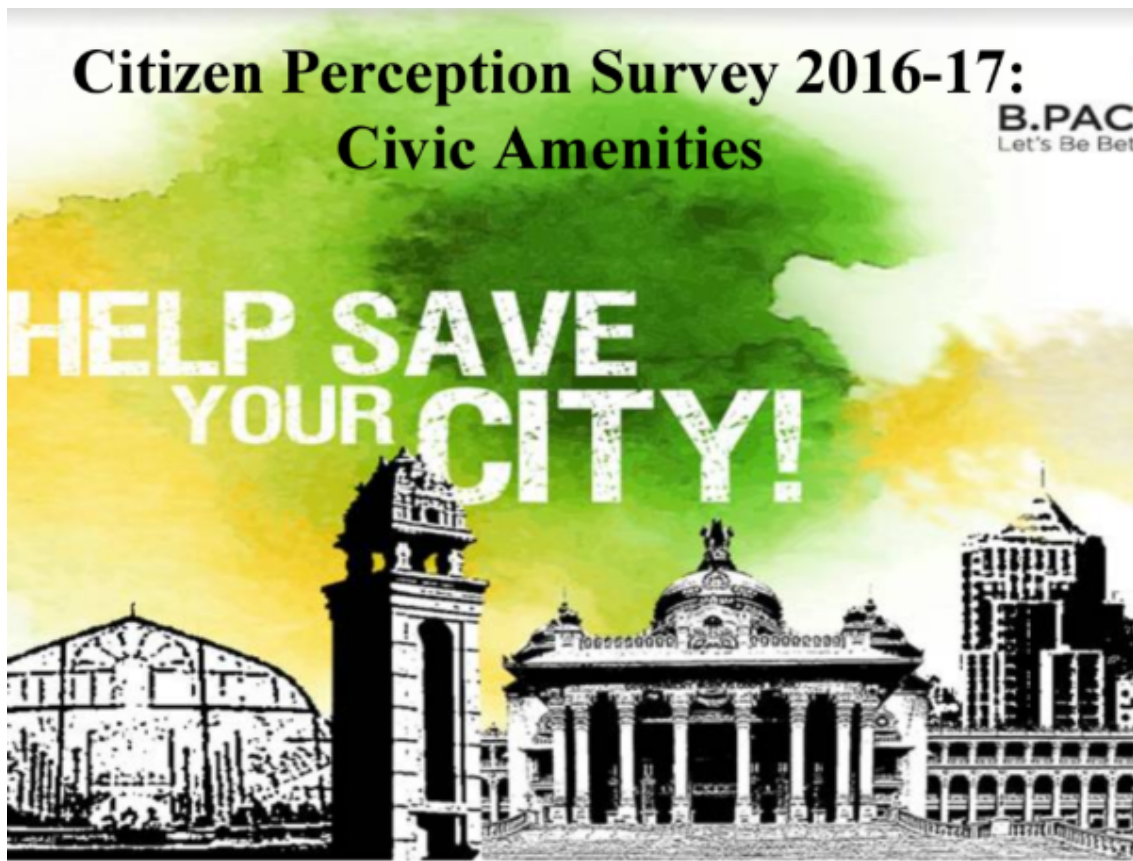
Stay tuned for more developments and if you have an opportunity please do get involved with your local ward committee. If you need any help in this regard please contact us at forbangalore@bpac.in

With warm regards

Revathy Ashok

CEO & Managing Trustee

B.PAC



During 2015-16 B.PAC rolled out a large and comprehensive survey with over 10,000 respondents to understand citizens' perception on various services offered by BBMP. In the survey, the top 3 priorities for citizens emerging were Waste Management, Roads and Bus shelters. For the year 2016-17, B.PAC conducted a dipstick survey with around 1140 citizens to re-validate perception changes with respect to the key priorities from the 2015-16 survey and a few additional services offered by other civic agencies.

Areas covered



Bus Shelters



Garbage Management



Water Supply



Pothole Management



Women Safety Measures

Key inferences:

Civic Amenities:

Garbage Management:

- 47 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that the improvement in garbage management has become much worse from the 2015-16 survey.
- However, in absolute terms 71 per cent of respondents across the city opined that the garbage disposal mechanism was average or below average, specifically for Mahadevpura (83 %) and Bomanahalli zones (70%).

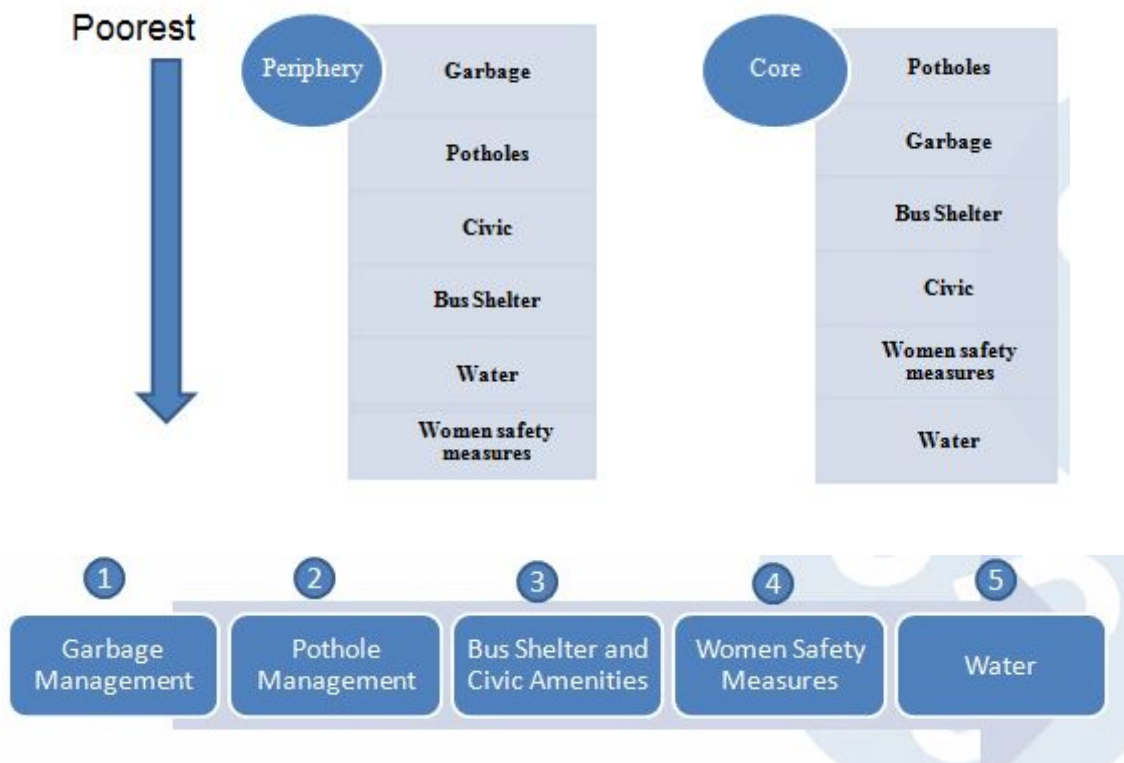
Bus shelters:

- 77 per cent in 2015-16 were of the opinion that the service delivery of bus shelters was average or below average, however, 60 per in 2016-17 opined the same.

To read more inferences, [click here](#)

Perception on service delivery:

Majority of the citizens’ in both core and periphery zones were dissatisfied with the service delivery of various civic amenities and rated them as average or below average. However, between core and periphery the dissatisfaction levels across various parameters showed some variation.



B.PAC urges for representation of citizens at Ward Committee



B.PAC is pleased to inform you that the following 2 B.CLIP trained Civic Leaders and a B.PAC team member have been selected to the Ward Committee in the 129 Wards where the ward committees has been constituted.

Congratulations to the following:

1. [Mohammed Saleh](#) from Batch 1 (Sampangirannagar Ward – 110)
2. [Anthony Arul Dass](#) from Batch 3 (Kodigehalli Ward – 8)
3. Meenakshi Ravikrishna from Batch 3 (Shantalanagar Ward - 111)
3. [Shilpa Narayanan](#) from Team B.PAC (Vijinapura Ward – 51)

34 B.CLIP Civic leaders across 30 wards submitted the nominations. BBMP is yet to constitute Ward Committees in 69 wards out of which 6 wards has 7 B.CLIP trained Civic leaders submitted their nominations.

Hope to see few more B.CLIP leaders make it to the Ward Committee from the

In the history of Bengalure city, this is the 2nd time that the ward committees are being formed. In the recent past, High court of Karnataka direct the BBMP to constitution ward committees immediately as per 74th constitutional Amendment (Nagarapalika) Act 1992.

Revathy Ashok, CEO, B.PAC met the Commissioner, BBMP to appeal considering the relevant training received through B.CLIP program and the good work carried out by the Civic Leaders in their respective wards. However, commissioner was hesitant to take decision and left it to corporator and BBMP ward engineer(Termed Nodal officer) since there are no set guidelines on how and whom to select to the Ward committee.

During the meeting, B.PAC reiterated to the commissioner, as per the notification of the Ward Committed from UDD, GoK the power to section of members to the ward committee rests with the Corporation and Commissioner being the executive head should exercise his good judgement on behalf of Corporation in allowing capable citizens who have submitted their nominations at his office to be selected to the Ward committee.

The Governance Dialogue with Australian Labor Party Delegation

Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) organized a panel discussion, ‘The Governance Dialogue - Roles, Responsibilities and Decision-making process in a decentralized set up’. The panel members were elected representatives from Bengaluru city and Australia.

B.PAC constantly conducts session to impart knowledge relating to participatory democracy, civic engagement, issues prevalent to the current scenario. Today’s session focused on subjects such as citizen participation in electoral process, decentralization of power, local self-governance & the process of elections in India and Australia, among others.

Mr. K Jairaj, Secretary, B.PAC moderated the panel discussion which was attended by the following panelists.



Panelists from left to right: N.A.Haris, MLA(Shantinagar), Tanveer Ahmed, National Spokesperson, JD-S, Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan, MLA(Malleswaram), Prof. Rajeev Gowda, MP(RS), K. Jairaj, Secreatry B.PAC, Dr Sally Talbot MLC, WA State Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Kate Worden, Member of Saderson, Palani Thevar is the Deputy Convener of Multicultural Labor and Vicky Burrows, Director, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

While Kicking of the panel discussion, Mr. Jairaj said that decentralization is important because the quality of life and infrastructure can be improved in the urban set up only by empowering the local bodies.

Commenting on the compulsory voting system in Australia, N.A Haris, MLA said that compulsory voting can be a promising idea if the ones who vote are given benefits for voting. The average turn out rate during elections in Australia is about 88%, while in India, the voter turnout rate in the local body elections is a mere 25%.

Dr. Sally during the panel discussion said that, “The world of Australian politics can be stressful and difficult. As women enter politics the proceedings in Parliament is considered to be gentler. But this is a myth. Women are more resilient and articulate.”

Prof. Rajeev Gowda answering question on **Whether electoral politics is clean?** Said that “We all would be fighting for some cause. In today’s world, we are going through a polarized environment. The entire discussion is happening to prove the other person as enemy. The GST was opposed by the current ruling party when they were in opposition. The same case with Aadhar. This is not the right way to stick to ideologies”. With regard to devolution of power, Dr. Ashwathnarayan, MLA opined that “In local bodies there is more devolution of responsibilities and not power. There is always a question and doubts on the ability of the Council to manage the system. To go for transparency and accountability, there is a need to devolve more power to the LSG.”. Continuing The same question, Mr. Tanveer Ahmed said “Friction has to be there. Until and Unless we have the civic bodies participation, the perfect decentralization is not achieved.”

The audience kept the session going with pressing questions to understand the Australian constitution, structure and devolution of powers.



B.PAC launched One Million New Votes Campaign with Bangalore Apartment Federation

Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has been working to represent & protect the interests of apartment complexes in Bengaluru City. One Million New Votes (OMNV) Campaign was introduced to [Bangalore Apartment Federation](#) during its Managing Committee Meeting. A series of voter registration drive is being planned in association with BAF during 2017-18 to increase the registrations in the gated communities.



B.CLIP Alumni Session: Government schemes for upliftment of urban poor

B.PAC's B.CLIP (Civic Leadership Incubator Program) has a network of over 150 leaders who are engaged in number of programs for betterment of Bengaluru city. One of the under-addressed issue of Bengaluru is the needs of urban poor. Understanding this B.PAC hosted an exclusive session for its network of civic leaders to get an insight into upliftment of urban poor.

The State Government of Karnataka has launched a number of initiatives, programs and schemes to support urban poor. However, a larger awareness about these programs is need of the hour. To address this, heads of different social welfare departments shared information about schemes available under their department to B.CLIP leaders.

Speakers:

1. Dr. M.R.Ekanthappa

2. Mr. Shivvaslu IAS

Managing Director Ambedkar Development Corporation

3. Mrs. Bharathi Shankar

Chairperson Karnataka State Women Development Corporation

4. Mrs. N.T. Abroo

Managing Director Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation Limited



Mr. Ekanthappa, Managing Director, D. Devaraju Aras Backward Classes Development Corporation with B.LCIP Leaders Subbaiah & Anand Begur



Mr. Srinivasalu, BR Ambedkar Development Corporation shared about various schemes available for backward communities



Smt. Bharathi Shankar, Chairperson, Karnataka State Women Development Corporation shared programs and schemes available for upliftment of women



Mr. Chandrasekhar, Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation shared about schemes exclusively available for minorities (Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis)

If you are interested to work for upliftment of poor, write to forbangalore@bpac.in

To know about B.CLIP and to apply [click here.](#)



Agenda for Safety at schools

Safety of Children is one of the key issues facing us all. The Karnataka Government has introduced **Child Protection Policy** for schools. However, the challenge is to build greater awareness, create larger community engagement and ensure implementation of these policies, to truly guarantee a safe environment for children. To address this, B.PAC is working with over 200 Government schools across 10 assembly

sensitization and training programs for teaching and non-teaching staff and parents and self-awareness workshops for students. The program will implement preventive and pre-emptive measures such as setting up Mena Club and fixing complaint/suggestion box in schools along with safety collaterals and track quality of implementation.

On 3rd of June, B.PAC conducted a general open session regarding the program, following which B.PAC held exclusive programs at Malleshwaram, Rajajinagar and BTM Layout Assembly Constituencies.

Agenda for safety at schools: Malleshwaram

B.CLIP civic leader Kaveri Kedarnath led the initiative at Malleshwaram assembly constituency. The program was supported by Dr. Ashwathanarayan, MLA Malleshwaram. Around 25 Government and Government aided schools participated in the program. Neha, Enfold Proactive Health Trust held the session and a safety kit was given to schools.



Agenda for Safety at schools: Rajajinagar

B.CLIP Civic leader Suma Anilkumar led the initiative for Basava Sangha Samithi group of schools in Rajajinagar. Around 70 teachers attended the program.

Agenda for Safety at schools: BTM Layout

B.CLIP civic leader Sowmya Reddy led the initiative to build the capacity of Government school teachers to implement Karnataka State Child Protection Policy at BTM Layout assembly constituency. The program was supported by Mr. Ramalinga Reddy, Minister for Transport, Government of Karnataka.



Call for action: If you are interested to volunteer/work for safety of children at schools, please do write to sushma@bpac.in



Tree Plantation Drives

B.CLIP Leaders held tree plantation drive across Bengaluru city. Few photographs of the tree plantation drives are below.



Composting Santhe at Basavanagudi



Activism for lake rejuvenation



B.CLIP Civic leaders along with Vijnapura Eco-team organized lake walkathon and lake clean-up drives at Vijnapura lake. We appreciate the efforts of Biju Gangadharan, Kiran Divakaran, Sivaraman for the program. The program was supported by B.CLIP civic leaders - Kavya Simhan, Jairaj, Srinivasan, Anand Prasad, Shantha Krishnamurthy, Mohan and others

If you are interested to volunteer for betterment of Bengaluru city, write to forbangalore@bpac.in

Thank you!



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