

Urban Sustainability (contd.)



Kaikondrahalli lake in Bengaluru, Karnataka has been restored through community action.



A water-harvesting tank in Rainbow Drive colony, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Kaikondhrahalli lake in the city of Bengaluru faced many of the typical problems that urban water bodies in India face, including encroachment by buildings on its periphery, sewage disposal and immersion of religious articles during festivals.

However beginning in 2009 people of varied backgrounds including citizens, private donors and the local administration came together to carry out various restoration activities such as de-silting and providing alternative tanks for religious activities. Kaikondhrahalli is now a source of fodder for nearby villages, a recreation site for urban visitors and home to bird and other animal life. It is part of a wider attempt to restore a chain of water bodies in a city which was once famed as the city of lakes.

Part of that effort recognises that protecting lakes begins at the points of origin of sewage and other urban waste - homes, colonies and offices. Rainbow Drive is a colony of over 300 households in Bengaluru that harvests rainwater in each house and on street-sides, treats and recycles its wastewater, composts all its wet waste and organizes recycling of its solid wastes. This effort was begun by the residents themselves and the systems are maintained collectively.

In the city of Pune in Maharashtra, a unique effort is ongoing in an attempt to decentralize decision-making of budget allocation. Citizens have a say on where money should be spent on a range of urban works including paths to walk and cycle, playgrounds and gardens, treatment of waste and water, bus stops, planting of trees, etc.

A Centre for Environment Education (CEE) poster (right) documents the monthly process.

Participatory Budgeting in Pune

Pune Municipal Corporation makes a separate allocation of Rs 50 lakhs per electoral ward for citizens to make suggestions for works to be done in their ward.

- Provision introduced in 2006 and implemented every year since then
- Budget allocated for such works is 1-2% of the total municipal budget
- Type of works eligible: Footpaths/bicycle tracks, Playgrounds, Gardens, Signs, Bus stops, Traffic lights, Streetlights, Toilets, Waste, Water, Sewage, Roads and Others.

*Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Urban Programmes Group is working with PMC and citizens group in Pune to evolve such improvements to PB processes.

	Current Budgeting Process	Additional Proposed elements in Budgeting Process*
April	Pune Municipal Corporation publishes its budget on website	Budget presentations / discussions on local cable, through newspapers and at ward level
May	Printed Budget book publicly available	Social audit of works done in previous year
Jun	Administrative and financial approvals for proposals which are not affected by monsoon	Participatory needs assessment
July		Development of proposal ideas for PB
Aug	Tenders issued for works to be executed in current year. Advertisement about Participatory Budget inviting citizens suggestions for works for their neighbourhoods	Monitoring of tenders issued for PB works to be executed in the current year
Sept	Re-allocation of budget(Financial half year) Last date for citizens to submit PB forms	Deliberative meetings at neighbourhood level on proposals for PB
Oct	PrabhagSamiti (Wards Committee) meeting for shortlisting and approval of projects/ works suggested by citizens under Participatory Budget process As above	Prioritization of proposals for PB through an open exhibition, deliberation and voting at Prabhag(electoral ward) level
Nov		Prabhag Samiti meetings and publication of minutes with reasons for selection/ rejection of proposals through PB process
Dec	Draft Budgets by Administrative Ward Offices including citizens suggestions (those approved by Wards Committee) submitted to PMC Accounts Dept	Children's Day announcement of relevant works
Jan	Municipal Commissioner's Budget presented. Has a special section for works approved under PB	World Disability Day announcement of relevant works
Feb	PMC Standing Committee's Budget presented (revised version of Municipal Commissioner's Budget)	Monitoring of budget revisions by Municipal Commissioner and General Body to track inclusion of PB works
March	General Body of PMC debates and approves the Budget accepted by Standing Committee before 31st March	Discussions on Draft Budget in public meetings, media.
		Women's Day announcement of relevant works

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