



BalaJanaagraha
TODAY'S CHILDREN. TOMORROW'S ACTIVE CITIZENS.

YEAR REPORT 2015-16



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTED BY



Pirojsha Godrej
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MULTIPLES



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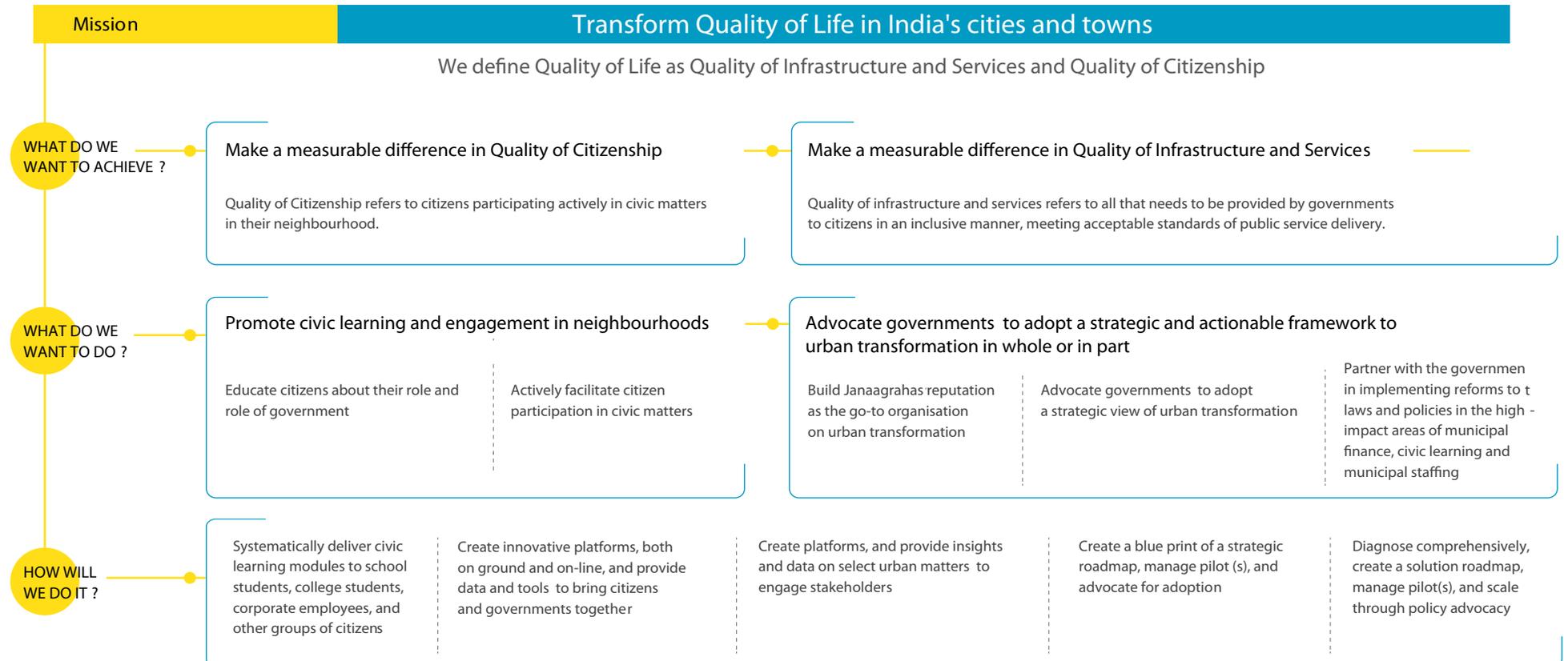
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Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy is a non-profit organisation based in Bengaluru, India. We aim to improve quality of life in urban India, through systemic change. Janaagraha sees 'Quality of Life' as comprising two distinct, but inter-related aspects – 'Quality of Urban Infrastructure and Services' (the quality of urban amenities such as roads, drains, traffic, transport, water supply etc.) and 'Quality of Citizenship' (the role that urban citizens play by participating in their local

communities). We work with both citizens and government to catalyse civic participation from the grassroots up, as well as governance reforms from the top down.

Founded in 2001 by Ramesh Ramanathan and Swati Ramanathan, Janaagraha started as a movement to enable citizen participation in public governance. It has now evolved into a robust not for profit institution for Citizenship and Democracy.



Bala Janaagraha - An Overview

Good citizenry is the key to building healthy and vibrant cities. The children of today will be the adult citizens of tomorrow, and will play a vital role in developing our future communities. The goal of the Bala Janaagraha programme is to encourage the youth of India **to become informed, responsible and active citizens**, by making the principles of good citizenship an integral part of every child's education.



The Bala Janaagraha Advisory Group

Given the way the programme was rapidly scaling up, the Bala Janaagraha Advisory Group (BJAG) was set up in 2015-16 to guide the programme at the strategic level. The members of the BJAG are:



Mala Ramadorai

The Chairperson of the BJAG, Mala Ramadorai is also the Chairperson of the Citi Academy for Special Education. With a Masters degree in Education from St Xavier's, she has had an illustrious career in education, including a stint as Head of the Training Department at Schoolnet India Ltd. She graduated from Stella Maris College in Chennai.

She has previously been the Principal at Bombay International School, Mumbai and has worked as a teacher of History and Civics and Music.



Amukta Mahapatra

Amukta Mahapatra is an independent consultant, working with the government sector at the state and at the centre. At present she is involved on the committee that is reviewing ABL and its variations in seven states, including Karnataka.

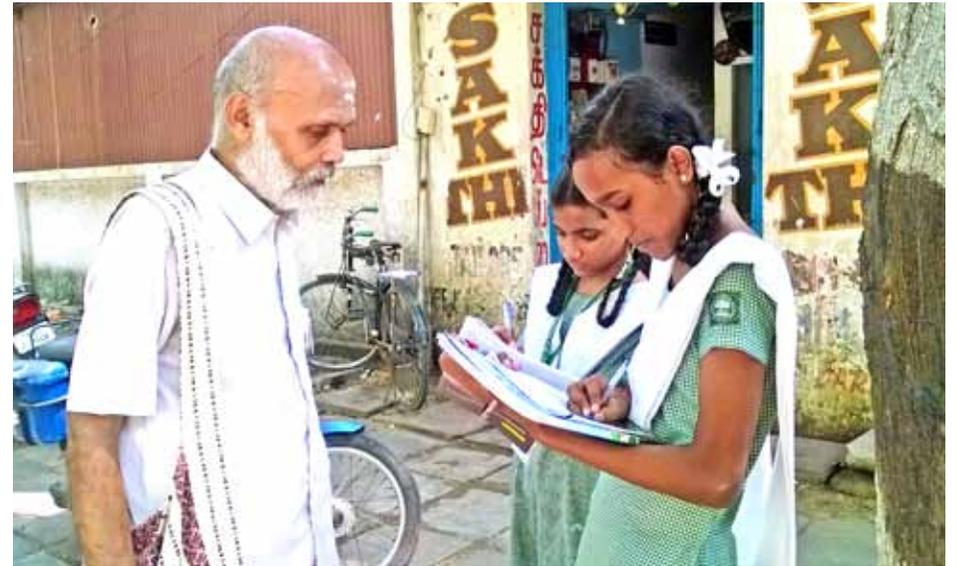
Also, she is working with UNICEF on CCE (Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation) that will be brought out as a guidebook for teachers and administrators. When she worked with UNICEF earlier, she was part of a task force that brought out the Quality Package, which was implemented in 1000 schools in each of the selected 13 states.



Hon'ble Justice
H.N.Nagamohan Das

Justice Das enrolled as an advocate on September 30, 1977. He has practised in Trial Courts and in the High Court, and was appointed as a permanent Judge of the Karnataka High Court in 2004.

He has written books in Kannada and English.



THE JOURNEY OF BALA JANAAGRAHA

“ In my vast experience as a teacher, I have not come across such a change in the attitude of students like the one I saw during Bala Janaagraha. They started loving the road that they have adopted. Quite often, they enjoy a stroll along it, with their eyes forever looking to improve the road. This project also made them understand the time-lapse between promises and their execution.

– **Prabha Diwakar**
Souharda School, Bengaluru

In trying to improve the quality of citizenship, Janaagraha recognises the importance of moulding children into active citizens. After all, they too are important stakeholders of their local communities and can be powerful change agents. And thus was born, the Bala Janaagraha programme.

The objectives of this programme are:

1. Act locally - connect children with local citizens and the local government in community action.
2. Empower through leadership training.
3. Educate children on the role of a citizen (rights and responsibilities).
4. Inculcate in children, the spirit of volunteering.

It was piloted in Bangalore in the year 2002-2003. The pilot phase covered 5 schools and 170 students.

The year 2003-2004 saw Bala Janaagraha reach 24 schools. 1100 children were covered that year with the help of 150 community volunteers. Thirteen classes were conducted on alternate Saturdays from June to December. In addition, activities like leadership training, workshops in communication and photography, and field trips to a sewage treatment plant, power stations and a police control room, were conducted. The year culminated in a Civic Fest, at which students presented their vision for their neighbourhoods.

The next year, the programme covered 70 schools and reached over 4,000 children from Class 5 to 9 (although the focus was on Classes 7 and 8).

The book 'Me and My City' was conceptualised in-house and distributed to the students free-of-cost. Students worked on projects on the topic 'Reducing and Recycling of Plastic' and, once again, ended the year with Civic Fests.

Over the next few years, the programme grew to include volunteers from the community, as well as corporates like Dell. In addition, Ernst & Young and Mindtree provided facilities and supplies for teacher training workshops. Classroom sessions were interactive and engaging, and facilitators paid special attention to nurturing democratic values like respect for another's point of view, the connection between the self and the community and the rights and responsibilities of the citizens of a democracy.

In their field sessions, students actively sought out various local-body representatives, proposed solutions to civic problems and began implementing them. For example, one activity conducted in 2007-08 focused on Pourakarmikas, representatives of the BBMP who collect garbage from homes. The students learned that these civic workers face serious health hazards and suggested that the government ensure safer methods of garbage collection.

In 2010, Bala Janaagraha began to implement the Facilitator and Volunteer Model, in which each facilitator would manage about ten schools. The facilitator would also ensure that a yearly calendar was in place. S/he would take responsibility for the smooth and high-quality delivery of the Bala Janaagraha curriculum. Among other things, the role

would encompass monitoring of sessions, quality management, frequent evaluation and alumni engagement, among other things.

In January 2011, the numerous cluster-level fests were replaced with a single Civic Fest. This gave students a common platform to share experiences and understand the problems affecting several parts of the city.

The following year, this plan was revised to include Mini Civic Fests. Each Mini Civic Fest would cover all the schools that came under the charge of a particular facilitator. The winners of each of the Mini Civic Fests compete at the City-Level Civic Fest.

2012 saw Bala Janaagraha tie up with 146 schools across five cities, reaching out to nearly 10,000 students. 2013 saw the program being extended to 233 schools across 11 cities with more than 16000 students part of it. In 2014, the program scaled to 24 cities with 484 schools with more than 36000 students participating in it.

In 2015-16, the program was administered in 527 schools across 25 cities, and reached out to more than 39,000 students. Since 2012, the program has scaled up through a partnership model where a delivery partner administers the program in partner schools in a few of the cities.

A DEEPER LOOK AT THE PROGRAMME

“ This book helps in understanding the view that our cities and their surroundings need urgent attention. These learnings definitely inspire the reader to look out for solutions by applying these measures in real life.

- **Mansi Purohit**

Bala Janaagraha Alumnus 2013-14
Bhavan's B P Vidya Mandir, on the
resource book

The Bala Janaagraha Programme recognizes that current civic education modules, though well meaning, fall short of this aspiration. The programme curriculum seeks to fill the deficiencies of India's civic education system by demystifying local governance and ward-level administration.

Additionally, it helps students build the qualities of leadership, team spirit, cooperation, civic consciousness, activism, communication skills, interpersonal skills, presentation skills and self-esteem.

Bala Janaagraha is targeted at **school children** of Class 8 - a strategic decision based on two factors:

1. Students of this age group are mature enough to understand the issues affecting them and their neighbourhoods.



- Schools are enthusiastic about receiving the programme at this stage, as it does not interfere with the students' preparation for the national and state board level exams.

Bala Janaagraha focuses on urban centres. The curriculum is delivered in the medium of instruction followed by the school.

Milestones

Bala Janaagraha – the second oldest of Janaagraha's programmes, and one of its core grassroots initiatives – is now in its fourteenth year of operation. **In 2014-15, the programme was delivered in a total of 485 schools, encompassing over 36,000 students from 24 Indian cities.** On a cumulative basis, the programme has reached out to over one lakh twenty five thousand students. **In 2015-16, over 39,000 students were covered in 527 schools across 25 Indian cities namely Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai, Kochi, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Dehradun, Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Patna and Ranchi.**

Methodology

The Programme is conducted from June/July to February. The programme module is currently structured around three main elements – **classrooms sessions** (including curriculum and e-module), **Civic Project and the Civic Fest**. The classroom sessions are interactive and activity-based. They



“ Earlier, my students were not at all interested in Government issues. But now, 75% of them like to talk about the issues and participate in them. This programme tells us that if we want to see a change in our country, we should first change ourselves.

- Ms. Anuja

Bala Janaagraha Mitra,
Shanthi Asiatic School, Ahmedabad

engage the students in the exploration of civic issues, directly related to their neighbourhood. The e-module consists of a computer game, which is purpose -built to reinforce the learning from the classroom sessions.

The Civic Project is a theme-based real-time research project which focuses on problem-solving skills. The theme of the Civic Project is based on the curriculum. Under the guidance of the teacher Point of Contact (PoC), students choose one issue to investigate in depth. They conduct field work and devise data collection tools to understand the issue in their neighborhood, and then develop simple, implementable solutions. These often involve interactions with stakeholders from the Government. Through this activity, they gain a deeper understanding of important civic issues that affect them on a daily basis. All students of the programme participate in the civic project.



Each year, the programme ends with the Civic Fests, which are held from October to February. These fests serve as a platform through which students can showcase their work and solutions to their peers, civic agencies and community.

Project Evaluation & Assessment

As a tool of evaluation, Bala Janaagraha conducts an **Impact Study** in each partner school to measure the impact of the Bala Janaagraha programme. Through a pre-programme and post-programme survey, the 'civic literacy' of students before and after the programme is measured. The two results are then indexed and compared, to obtain an accurate snapshot of the upward progression in the students' civic literacy over the course of the academic year. Moreover, internal audits are conducted to assess the quality of delivery of the programme.



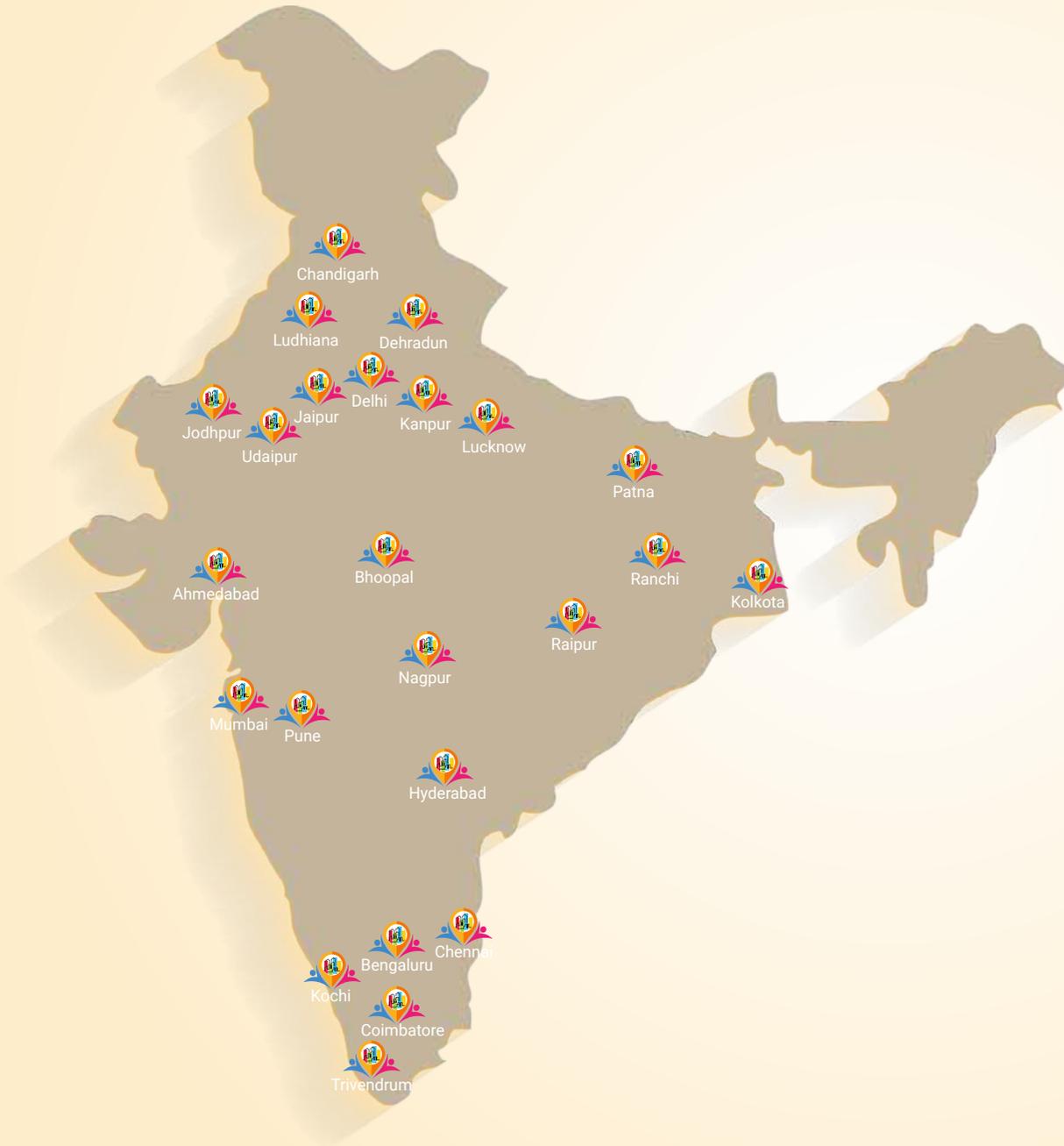
“ We could also voluntarily involve with the community, thus bringing about a positive change with the aim of improving the quality of life for ALL.

- **Students of Mary Nilayam**
Pongumoodu, Trivandrum



Bala Janaagraha 2015-16

Programme Reach



39,541
Students



527
Schools



25
Cities



4000
Civic Projects



5,86,666
Hours spent on Civic Learning



135
Educators Impacted

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

“ It was a great experience with the Bala Janaagraha Civic Project. Students learn about civic sense. We are happy that the students are taking a lot of interest, and I am really thankful to this project.

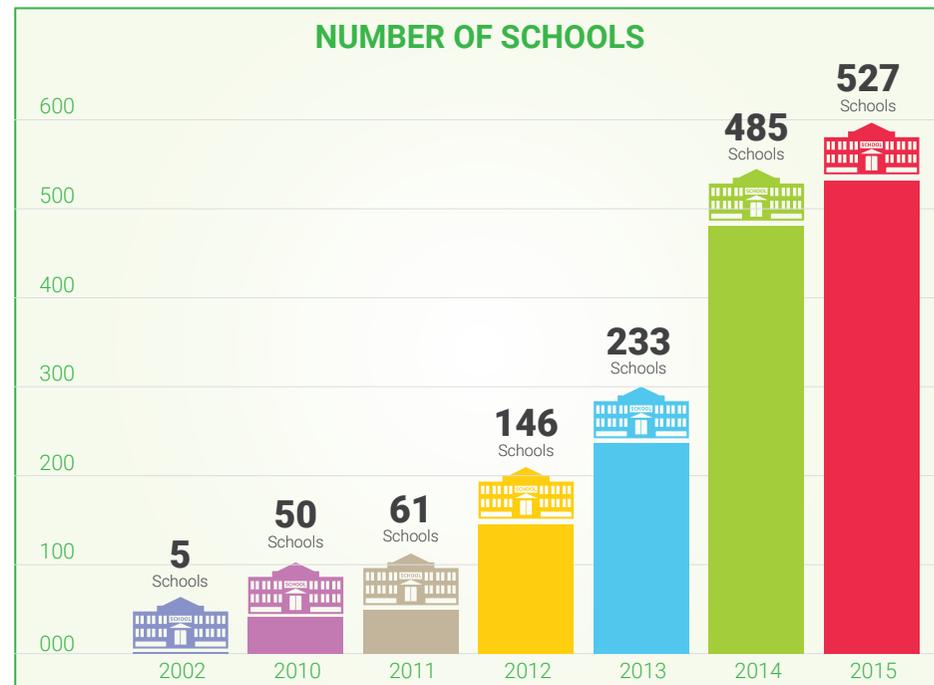
– Zaida Khan

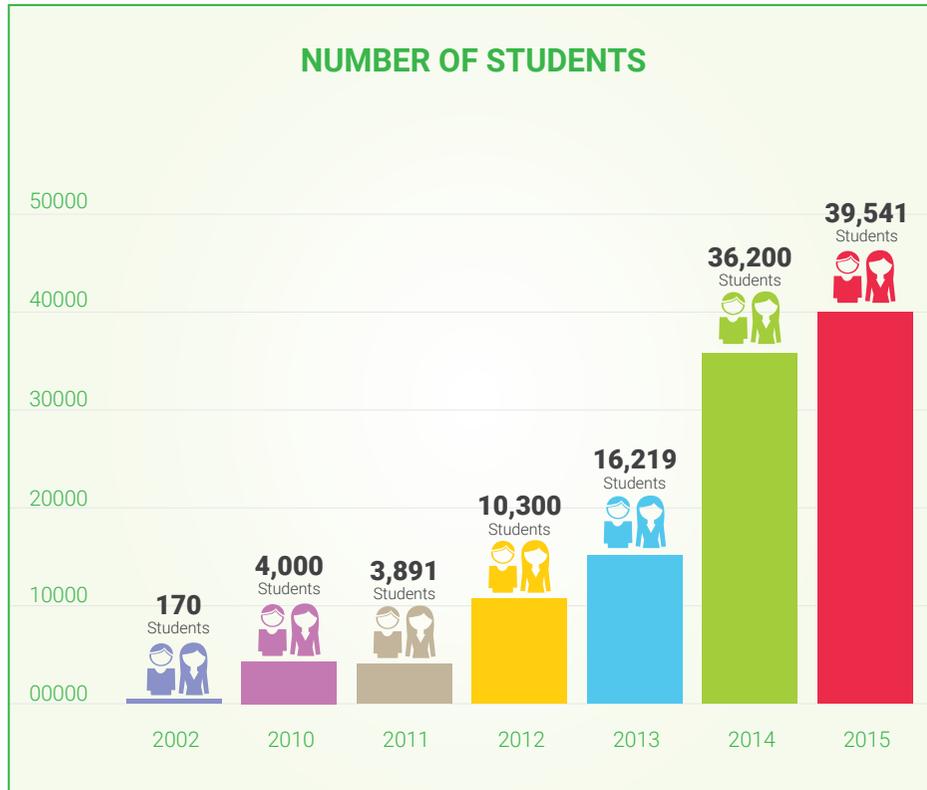
Teacher, Hind Convent School, Lucknow

1. Scale of Operations

The year 2015-16 saw the scale-up of the programme to 39,541 students in 25 cities across 527 schools. Coimbatore was added to the Programme in 2015-16, with DPS Coimbatore coming on board. The Programme was implemented in this school in partnership with Takshashila Education Society.

The next two charts show the evolution of the scale of operations since the inception of the Programme in 2002.





2. Centralized Training

A centralized training session was held for facilitators on the 4th, 5th and the 6th of May, 2015. Facilitators from 25 cities gathered for the 3-day event. The objective of the training was to orient facilitators with the revised content of the Resource Book and create a platform to share challenges and brainstorm ideas for the following year.

The focus was on the new curriculum, teaching methodology and back-end administrative processes, including data management and other related processes.

Two Bala Janaagraha Mitra (BJM) Training Programs were held in Bengaluru for 22 participants in May 2015. A similar program was held in Ahmedabad in June 2015 for 34 Teacher BJMs. Overall, the programme saw the involvement of 80 BJMs and volunteers from across the country in 2015-16.

3. Curriculum session delivery

The resource book “I Change my City” underwent a redesign with additional topics like RTE, Community policing, RTI, Corruption and Smart Cities included. The Resource book was made available in six languages - Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Kannada, Hindi and English.



“ I want to thank Bala Janaagraha for giving us the opportunity to participate in this project. It helps develop the abilities of the students, who are tomorrow's leaders. We have learnt many things which will help us in future. Through the project, we even learnt how to plan a city.

– **Sourav Chokhal**

Student, Model Higher Secondary School,
Bhopal

The year 2015-16 saw the delivery of 22 sessions across each of the 527 schools in 25 cities by 60 facilitators. Sessions included delivery of the E-Module. Best Practices, based on the experience of the facilitators, have been consolidated for implementation in the next academic year.

Some key concepts that were covered during the sessions were Sustainable Development, Smart Cities, Local Government, Social Justice, RTI, Corruption etc.

4. Internal Audits for the Programme

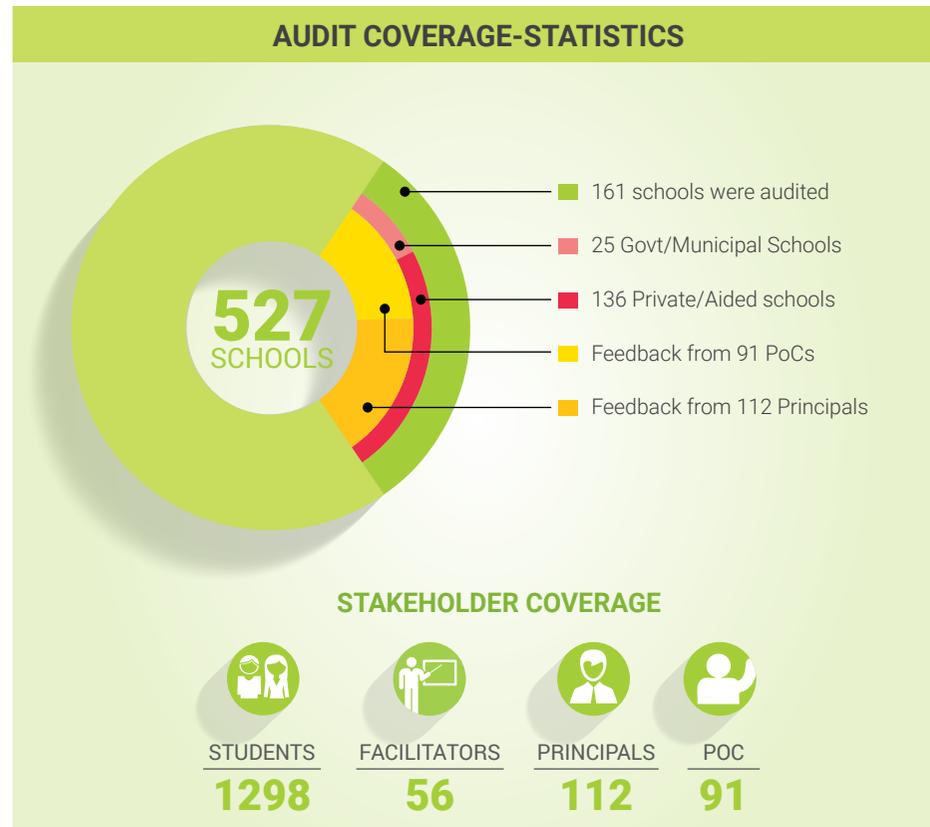
Internal Audits were conducted in all the 25 cities. The objective was to determine whether the delivery of the programme is in line with the standard processes and whether the intended steps have been implemented effectively to achieve the desired objective.

They were conducted in 4 phases - in July, August and September and October 2015 - by a total of 14 auditors in 161 schools (25 Govt. & 136 Pvt.). A randomised, purposive sampling method was followed. 1298 students, 112 Principals and 91 POC Teachers were covered in the audited schools.

Survey forms were designed to be administered to the various stakeholders- Facilitators, Principals, POCs and the students during the course of the audit, in order to gauge their understanding and receive their feedback on the programme on several parameters. Further, the sessions taken by the facilitators were also observed during this process.

The categories and parameters were as follows:

1. Students- Program Objective Awareness, Resource Book Feedback and Program Feedback.
2. Principals & POCs- Program Objective Awareness, Attending curriculum sessions and Program Feedback.
3. Facilitators-Challenges, Ways to improve curriculum delivery, Suggestions and Session Observation Ratings.



Some of the main recommendations of the audit were:

1. to simplify topics further in the resource book
2. to conduct a Principals' Meet at the city level, so as to familiarise school Principals and orient them to the programme for improved support/involvement in and
3. to have a more intensive training programme in terms of pedagogy, content and teaching aids for the facilitators.

Based on the findings of the audit, corrective measures are being incorporated.

5. Principals' Meet

The Annual Bala Janaagraha Principals' Meet was held in Bengaluru on the 17th of November, 2015 and saw attendance from over a hundred Principals/Teachers in Bengaluru. It was organised as a forum through which Principals could engage with the Bala Janaagraha programme and understand it better.

Some of the highlights of the event were:

1. an interactive session with Mrs. Mala Ramadorai
2. a talk by Kempraj H.V, Deputy Director of Primary Education and Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) and
3. a talk delivered by Sharath, an alumnus of the programme.

The Meet was attended by Mr. Nagraraju, Superintendent-Primary Education also.

Mrs. Ramadorai spoke about the role played by educators today and the challenges faced by them. She spoke about how to handle ethical dilemmas in a world of diverse moralities. The audience participated in the discussion enthusiastically and shared their thoughts.

In his talk, Sharat, spoke about how enriching the Bala Janaagraha experience has been for him and how the Programme is bringing about a positive change in the thoughts of students. The occasion also saw school Principals from Bengaluru present their thoughts on the programme.

An alumnus of Bala Janaagraha speaks at the Principals' Meet held in Bengaluru in November 2015



“ Team 'Parinaam' of DPS-Coimbatore, while sharing their experiences on the Civic Project, said that the great learning for them has been “to be an active and responsible person, and that even children can bring about a change”.

6. Conduct of Civic Fests

The year 2015-16 saw a total of 69 Civic Fests conducted across the country.

Mini Civic Fests: The Mini Civic Fests, involving the participation of 10 schools handled by each facilitator, were conducted in Bengaluru, Nagpur, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Udaipur, Pune and Patna.

Pre City Fests: The city of Bengaluru saw the conduct of 2 Pre City Fests. The best participating team from each cluster moved on to Bengaluru City Level Fest.

City Fests: The Bala Janaagraha programme conducted 25 City Level Fests with presentations from over 250 Teams talking about having implemented their ideas of Active Citizenry by bringing about a small change in their neighborhoods.

Zonal Fests: Children made presentations on their Civic Project and it involved the participation of teams from each city participating in four Zonal Fests held in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The **National Civic Fest** 2015-16 held in Bengaluru in February 2016 saw participation from Cambridge Court, Jaipur, DPS Patna, DPS Pune and DPS Coimbatore from the North Zone, East Zone, West Zone and South Zone respectively. Students of DPS Patna were adjudged the National Champions.

Students' presentation at the Zonal Civic Fest in Bengaluru



Students' presentation at the National Civic Fest in Bengaluru



“First of all, I would like to thank BalaJanaagraha for the initiative taken for a noble cause. This programme was really useful for the students. It helped them overcome stage fear. Hats off to you people. Once again, I thank you for conducting the programme in our institution.

- Ms Priyanka

Principal, SBV Matriculation Higher Sec
School, Chennai

7. Collaborations

American Indian Foundation (AIF): On 27th June, 2015, Bala Janaagraha collaborated with the American Indian Foundation (AIF) for the second consecutive year to provide a fun-filled knowledge platform for children. Around 40 students from India and the USA participated in the lively session.

Some of the interesting thoughts that emerged from the event are:

“Why are cities wasting the natural resources, instead of tapping them for sustainable development? Use rain water harvesting, and solar power to heat”.

- Mahesh,

Government High School, Bengaluru, India

Students interacting at the AIF event



“The mindset of people should be changed before changing anything else.”

- Dhruv,
AIF, America.

Child Friendly News: Child Friendly News, a prominent children’s newspaper, carried four articles about the ‘Young Champions of Change ‘2014-15.

Edelgive DFC: Another collaboration was with Edelgive, which saw participation from three teams of students from Mumbai in the Design for Change (DFC) School Competition – an Edelgive initiative. As a part of their approach and being a supporter of Janaagraha, Edelgive invited us to

**A Bala Janaagrahi reading ‘Child Friendly News’,
a publication meant for children**



take part in the Design For Change (DFC) “I CAN” Challenge, providing Bala Janaagraha students an opportunity to implement their learnings from the curriculum. EdelGive also acted as a platform for helping DFC train the Mumbai facilitators. DFC trained the facilitators on various interactive teaching methods.

Community Policing: Janaagraha runs the Community Policing programme to bring the Police and the public closer to each other. The objective is to get them to work together to solve neighbourhood-level security and crime concerns.

**Madiwala police station inspector Nagaraj interacting with students of
Govt High School, Hongasandra.**



“ N.Gnannakodi, a student from C.S.I.Monahan Matric Higher Sec School, Chennai shared his feedback on the programme. " The 'I Change My City' resource book has increased our civic vocabulary. Also, I have become conscious of water wastage. Once I saw a water tap leaking and tried to fix it with a tape. I am happy that I have become conscious of my surroundings".

As part of the Bala Janaagraha - Community Policing Convergence Programme, on the 15 December 2015, 38 students of Class VIII from Crystal School visited the Ashok Nagar Police Station in Bengaluru. Students interacted with Vijay Hadagali, Inspector of Ashoka Nagar Police Station, who answered all their questions. The Police personnel explained law enforcement to students: What is an FIR? How to register Complaints?, etc. He also spoke about the sections of the Indian Penal Code, about how the Police record & maintain crime data, about traffic rules, about the processes involved in registering complaints; etc.

The students were given a chance to look at rifles and learnt about their various parts. Also, they watched a video on women's safety. The myth that the Police were unapproachable and that the Police Station is an unsafe place was removed from the students' minds. Further, students of Government High School, Kodigehalli visited Kodigehalli Police station on 22nd December and interacted with the officers. Additionally, a substance abuse awareness programme was held as part of the Community Policing collaboration.

Participatory Budgeting: Every year, civic agencies carry out a budgeting exercise to allocate money required for various civic works in the city. This time to enable the children to voice their opinion & give their inputs to the government to help the civic agencies to spend right, a survey was administered across schools of Bengaluru through an initiative of Janaagraha called 'My City My Budget.'



Students providing their inputs through the MyCityMyBudget survey.

This activity was successfully conducted in 177 Bala Janaagraha schools and administered to 8264 students, from whom a total of 66,112 inputs were received. The chief issues highlighted by the children were

1. improving facilities in existing schools and colleges
2. not to cut trees, but to plant more saplings
3. providing 24 hour power supply and
4. maintaining regular water supply.

The inputs gathered were compiled into a report and presented to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

8. Donor Engagement

Donor Engagement is an important aspect of the Bala Janaagraha programme. This year, we have had 5 field visits involving 122 volunteers from Dell, clocking over 700 volunteering hours. We have received Rs. 1.63 Lacs through the Dell Ignite Youth Learning programme - Employee Giving and Engagement Initiatives - for the "Bala Janaagraha - Fun with Words" activity.

Dell Pen Pal (Big Small World Contest) is an online learning community where over 70,000 students in more than 70 countries connect to discover other cultures, learn about global issues and practice foreign languages. Learners of all ages connect through one-to-one online exchanges guided by a free, high-quality interactive curriculum. Bala Janaagraha had over 80 students registered in the contest.

Students along with Dell volunteers participating in a clean up activity.



“ The civic awareness projects for students of Class 8 implemented by the Bala Janaagraha programme have been very useful. The programme has been a success and students have been sensitized to issues.

- RD Singh

Principal, The New Public School,
Chandigarh

9. Alumni Engagement

The Bala Janaagraha Alumni Award (BJAA) through the “Bala Janaagraha Active Young Voices Competition”, was launched for the first time this year. The Bala Janaagraha Active Young Voices Competition is an essay competition open to all alumni of the programme, inviting them to raise their voices and write about their continued engagement with civic issues and about thoughts/ideas they may have towards improving the quality of life after the intervention of the Bala Janaagraha programme. The competition was launched this year and received a good response (130 entries were received). The winning students were honoured during the National Fest. Regular newsletters/SMSes were also sent to the alumni to engage with them after the end of the year-long Bala Janaagraha intervention.

Bala Janaagraha facilitator briefing the students about the Bala Janaagraha Alumni Award.

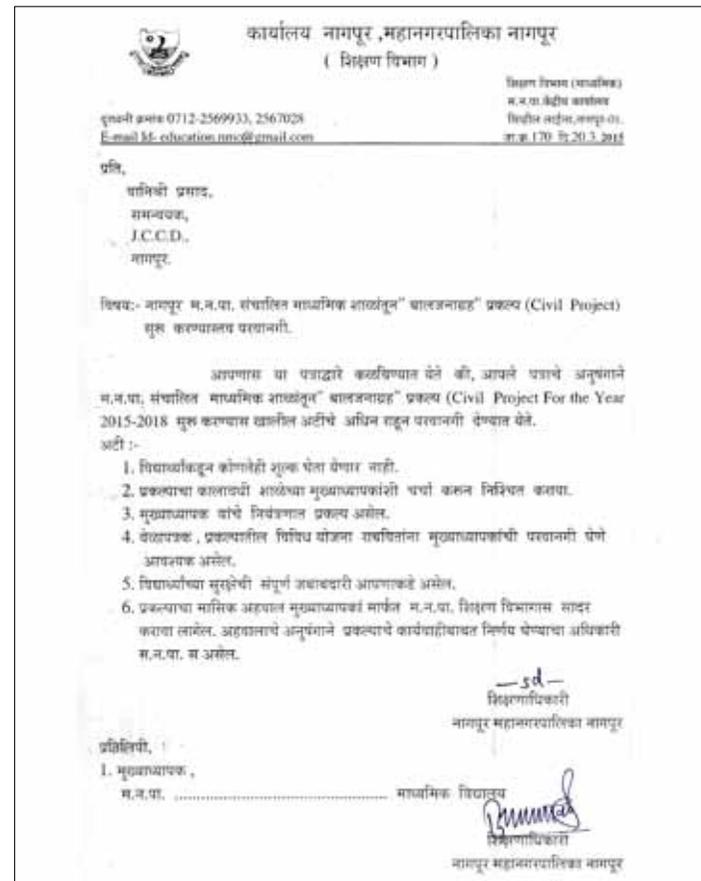


“ The Bala Janaagraha programme which was introduced in our school this year for Class 8 was a great learning experience. Through this programme, we learned the basic skill of team work. It made me more aware and concerned about our cities. It has helped us become more responsible citizens of the country.

- Khushi Malhotra
Student, St. Kabir Public School,
Chandigarh

11. Advocacy with the Government

The Bala Janaagraha Programme was conducted in Government Schools in Nagpur, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Udaipur. Response from the authorities with respect to the Programme has been very encouraging indeed. Here is a letter received from the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur providing permission for the programme to be conducted for three years.



NMC permission
letter to conduct the
Bala Janaagraha
Programme.

12. Success stories

Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Nagpur

Bala Janaagraha made its beginning in Nagpur in 2013 with four schools. It has now scaled up to 20 schools, including 10 Government schools.

For their civic project, a team of students from Bhavan's B.P. Vidya Mandir School chose the Meyo chowk Road near Ramjhula. Their survey revealed the major issues plaguing this road : like potholes, damaged footpaths, garbage disposal and drainage. Through their campaign titled "*Our City, The TenderSURE Way*", they conducted street plays, rallies and cleanliness drives, and interviewed the local residents. They approached the Municipal Corporator, submitted their findings to him and requested him to help solve these problems. Their effort bore fruit, because some of the major problems were resolved and they were assured that the remaining ones

Students interacting with the public during the course of the civic project.



too would be taken care of soon.

Some of the major steps initiated by the students were:

1. Interviewing local residents

The team of students interviewed the local residents and shopkeepers and listed down their grievances. The residents welcomed this enthusiastic effort of the eight graders.

2. Clearing weeds

Weeds that were growing on the road and obstructing it were cleared by the students.

3. Solving the drainage problem

The drains of the area were choked with garbage. The students cleaned them and rid the area of the long-standing water-logging problem.

4. Getting the drains covered

Uncovered drains were posing a serious risk to pedestrians, especially at night. The drains were covered through the efforts of students.

5. Street Play and Rally

Students spread civic awareness in the locality by conducting street plays and rallies. They conducted a door-to-door signature campaign. They even spoke to the local vendors and convinced them to throw the waste in dustbins only.

6. Cleanliness drive

A clean-up drive was executed by the students, who asked people to maintain cleanliness and sanitation in the area for a healthy environment.

Cambridge Court High School, Jaipur

The students of Cambridge Court High School zeroed in on a particularly problematic stretch of road that had lain neglected for years and which was impacting the lives of every stakeholder in the area – the Shipra Path. Shipra Path is situated in the Mansarovar area, in ward No. 32. It is 4.9 km long and 30 metres wide.

The students started with a survey of this road. Also, they interviewed residents of the area and Jaya Jain, a member of the current Parashad, to find out how this road was troubling the life of people in the area. Based on the findings of their survey, the team prepared a Vision Map for the road.

The team identified the absence of cleanliness, uneven road-level, traffic maintenance and the absence of trees/saplings as the major issues to be addressed. As a first step, they identified garbage heaps and removed them. They followed this up with a signature campaign and 'Nukkad natak' (street play), which made many stakeholders aware of the prevailing

“ The students who were aware of civic issues but did not know how to get work done, have found a way through Bala Janaagraha.

- Mrs Seema Goyal

HM, Doon Public Academy, Dehradun

Before



After



issues. In the process, the students also met the Honourable Mayor Mr. Nirmal Naheta, who promised to improve the condition of the road. Also, he promised to address the issue of slum-rehabilitation and to have LED lights installed along the road.

After the cleanliness drive, the students started working on levelling of roads by filling up the potholes. Mr. Younis Khan (Minister of Roads and Transport) and Mr. Sharma (Chief Engineer of Jaipur) were interviewed in this regard; they assured the students of speedy work for the levelling of the road. The students then worked on the sewage issue and slums in coordination with the concerned Ministers.

Next, the students attacked the issue of traffic control. They met the Shipra Path Police officials and got a constable and CCTV camera deployed in the area. Work on widening the dividers and planting saplings along the same was also undertaken by the students.

Among other initiatives carried out by the students were the making and distribution of paper-bags, segregation of waste, installation of compost bins, a 'no littering' pledge and beautification of the wall. The students met many elected representatives like Rajkumar Ranwa (Minister of Environment), Rajendra Kumar Rathore (Minister of Health), Kiran Maheswari (Public Health Department) in the process.

In the neighborhood of Shipra Road, residents now believe that they can be the change they want to see. This team of eighth graders not only

changed the opinion of people towards the Government, but also brought about a change that was sustainable in several ways.

The small steps taken by these children are bringing about big changes in Jaipur.

Delhi Public School, Coimbatore

A group of ten students of Class 8 participated in the Bala Janaagraha Civic Project. They named their team 'Parinaam', meaning 'change' in Sanskrit. They chose to work on VKK Menon Road.

This road was not just a menace for commuters because of several potholes; it was also a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects. Also, the heaps of garbage attracted rodents and stray dogs.

Street lights repaired



Garbage being cleaned



The students started by surveying the road and interviewing local residents and shop owners. The objective was to find out specific issues being faced by the people in the area.

This is what they found:

- There were only two dustbins for 250 houses.
- More than 10 meters of road was encroached upon by a slum.
- Tourist buses were parked illegally.
- Though there were two schools on the road, there was no zebra crossing.
- There was no footpath for pedestrians.
- The area had open drains, which were choked with garbage.

Illegal encroachment being cleared



Drains being widened



“ I like the idea of the civic project very much. Through it, we came to know about our duties and responsibilities towards our surroundings.

- Shivam Gupta
SGRR Public School, Dehradun

The students realized that the various stake holders of the area should be first made aware of the seriousness of these problems. Only then could they all be involved in solving those problems. They initiated a campaign to sensitise the local stakeholders of the traffic rules, waste-management and sanitation. Through this campaign, the team also reached out to the students of the two schools situated on that road. They then approached the Municipal commissioner Dr. Vijaya Kartikeyan, the Health Officer of Coimbatore Zone Mr. Chandrashekhar, the Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Dr. T K Rajashekar and the Mayor of Coimbatore Mr. Rajkumar. They presented the findings of their survey to each of these officials, and also discussed possible solutions with them. Interestingly, the media also took special interest in the work of these eight graders.

As a result of the sustained effort of the students, the civic agencies cleaned up the road, removed the illegal slum encroachments, cleaned and widened the drains and repaired the street lights.

By rolling up their sleeves and getting into the trenches, this team of eighth graders brought about visible, sustainable change in the area. In the process, they also opened the eyes of various people and infused a sense of civic ownership in them.

Delhi Public School, Pune

The transformation of the problem-ridden NIBM Road in Pune by the Bala Janaagraha students of Delhi Public School-Pune is sure to inspire many other schools in the country to take up similar efforts. NIBM Road was

Students participating in the Apollo Clinic 'Pink Movement'



ailing with several problems, which is why the students chose to work on it. Potholes and bumps, the absence of street lights, broken footpaths, insufficient parking space and stinky garbage piles were a few of the problems affecting the people using this road.

As a result of the survey they undertook, the students found that local residents, shopkeepers and commuters were severely affected by the condition of the area. As many as 204 local stakeholders participated in this survey. Expectedly, the students found that the road had a very low 'street quality score'.

Later, the students also met their Corporator Ms. Nandatai Lonkar and traffic officials to put forth the problems being faced by the people of the area. They also held cleanliness and sapling-plantation drives in the area, and educated the slum dwellers about vermicomposting.

“ The participants were very happy at the culmination of the fest. The general feedback from all of them is that they have learnt a lot from the Bala Janaagraha programme about civic awareness & how to get work done with united effort. Also, it has helped them enhance their presentation skills.

- Puneet Sharma
Facilitator, Kanpur

With the help of two Bala Janaagraha alumni, the students came up with two innovative ideas i.e. , an electricity-generating speed breaker and slurry gold. Slurry gold is actually green waste collected at home, that could be used to make fertilizer for plants.

The concept of the electricity-generating speed breaker won instant admiration from everybody, including the corporator, who decided to get it manufactured and get it installed in a few areas.

Thanks to the sustained lobbying efforts of the students, the civic agencies undertook several steps to improve the condition of the road - constructing new footpaths, installing new traffic signals, laying the foundation for a garden over a nullah and so on.

(Left) Innovative electricity-generating speed breaker & (Right) Preparation of green waste.



NIBM Road and the NIBM Road Chowk sport a completely different look today. Users of this area are now convinced that they can bring about significant change, if only they apply themselves to the task collectively.

Pallavi Model School, Secunderabad

Snigdha and Shalini are friends and co-students at Pallavi Model School in Secunderabad. They are also part of 'Bala-Janagraha', Janaagraha's flagship program for young minds. For the Bala Janaagraha project work, the two girls, along with their teammates, chose to transform Pakankula Road in Alwar.

The first step towards transformation was a detailed survey of the road, the needs of the local stakeholders (like residents and shop keepers) and the problems being faced by them.

Local MLA 'Mr. Reddy'

Local Media



The team realised that one of the main problems plaguing this area was that it had become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects. Also, there were several mounds of garbage.

Petition filed by the students.



PALLAVI MODEL SCHOOL
CHSE Affin. No. 130282
 Alwar City, Alwal, Near Father Balaiah Nagar, SECUNDERABAD-500 010
 Mobile : 09396956491, 09396956471
 Email: pmsalwal.school@gmail.com ; Website : www.pallavimodelschool.org



BETHE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE

PETITION
BALA JANAGRAHA
SWACH BHARATH ABHIYAAN BY PALLAVI MODEL SCHOOL , ALWAL

"CLEANING INITIATIVES FOR MAKING PAKALAKUNTA A CLEANER AND A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN"

This is a request by the residents of Pakalakunta and Pallavi Model School, Alwal in collaboration with Bala Janaagraha the students of pallavi model school, Alwal launched a Swach Bharat Abhiyan.
 The agenda of this Abhiyaan is as follows:

- To get the roads restructured.
- To have dustbins placed for proper disposal of garbage.
- Regular cleaning of the lake.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Keep your surroundings clean
2. Request the municipal authorities for
 - i. Fogging the area
 - ii. Regular cleaning of the lake
 - iii. Laying of well structured roads
 - iv. Provide green and red dust bins for proper disposal of garbage
3. Plant shade giving trees under the project 'Each one -Plant one'
4. Sensitize and educate your neighbours, shopkeepers, hawkers about the imp..... collective action/team work.
5. Compliment the efforts put in by the local municipal ward official by putting up appeal boards to maintain cleanliness.
6. Volunteer for facilitating the drive.
7. Arrange for logistics such as tools and equipments to support the drive.

Thanks and Regards

Principal 
 Pallavi Model school Alwal

Administered by
PALLAVI EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
7th Floor, Minerva Complex, 04, S. D. Road, Secunderabad -500 003



Bala Janaagraha is a highly inspirational programme.

- Mrs Anasuya Ganguly

Teacher, Agrasain Balika Shiksha Sadan,
Kolkata

Towards change for the better



Students with
Dy. Municipal
Commissioner

Pallavi Model School, Alwal, recently won the Bala Jana Graha civic fest competition 2015-16. It will now represent Hyderabad at the national level being held at Bengaluru on December 22. By keeping our premises alive to bring about a change in our surroundings, we have gone a step further.

We met the top authorities of the Municipal Corporation at their office to discuss our problems face-to-face and find out about possible solutions. This visit has been a very fruitful one as we got a

positive and constructive response from the authorities.

The cleaning of the Pokalankunta Lake, laying of dustbins and fixing of street lights has been promised. The construction of the road will take time as the area in which our school lies is not 70% populated and the map of the plots of the area has not been put up yet to the Municipal Corporation. We believe in action when it comes to bringing about change in society and we work towards it.

Pallavi Model School, Alwal

Armed with the findings of the survey, the students decided to highlight the local civic issues and sensitise the locals to their solutions. They staged interesting 'nukkad-natak' (street plays), put up informative flex board and got a petition signed by residents. They then approached Mr. Kanaka Reddy, the MLA of the constituency and Mr. B. Janardhan Reddy, the Municipal Commissioner. The media watched the youngsters with keen interest and kept reporting the progress of their campaign. This gave a further boost to the efforts of the young changemakers.

After weeks of patient, focussed work, the children succeeded in getting the civic agencies to take remedial action to clean up the various problems they had highlighted. The municipal body fumigated the entire area to get rid of mosquitoes and other insects. It has also assured the students that Pakankula Road would be strengthened in the near future.

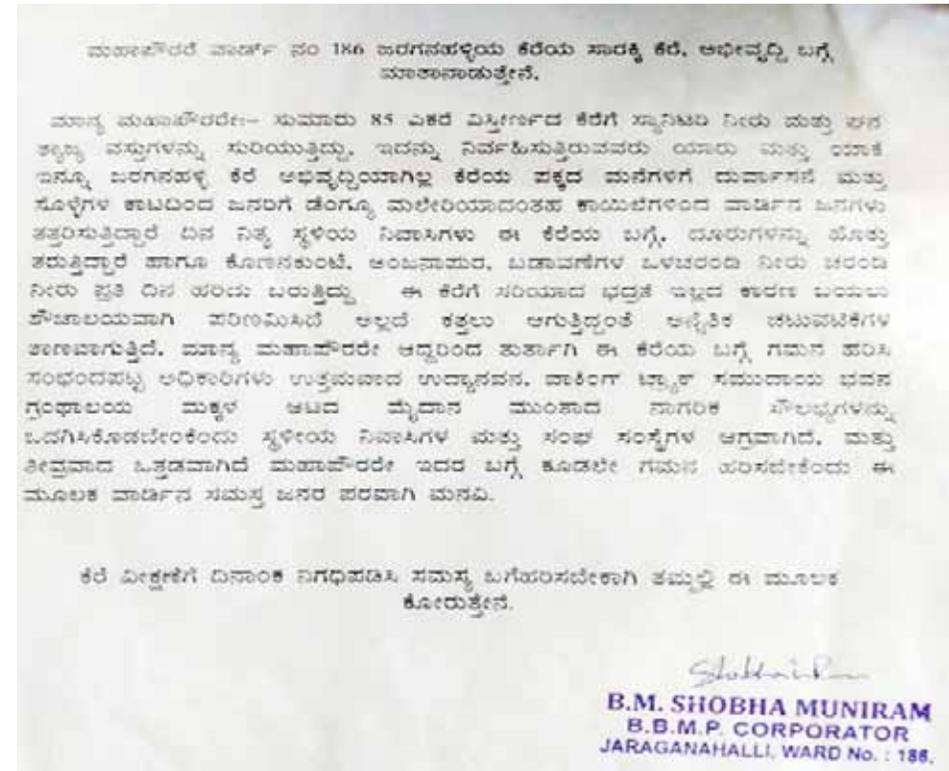
In a move that signalled to everybody that they took their civic responsibilities very seriously, the students did not stop with these efforts. They adopted a natural lake nearby and with the help of other people, cleaned it up.

Vivekananda Educational Centre, Bengaluru

For a long time, Jaraganahalli Road in Bengaluru was lying in a pitiable condition. Garbage lying in public areas, a large number of stray animals, pollution of the soil and air, potholes, a lack of street lights, broken footpaths.....the list of woes was long.

The nearby Sarraki Lake was highly polluted too, and needed immediate attention. With commendable energy, the children initiated a campaign to improve the condition of the area, including the lake. A detailed first-hand survey of the neighbourhood and interviews with local residents and owners of commercial establishments helped them understand the specific troubles being faced by them. Residents and shop owners were only too happy to give their wholehearted support to the Bala Janaagrahis.

Letter from Corporator B.M. Shobha Muniram to the Mayor of BBMP, Bengaluru



To impart better civic sense to people (in order to prevent the recurrence of civic problems), the students distributed pamphlets and put up posters all over the area. These collateral covered important issues like proper waste management at source, rules for proper road usage, how not to pollute the lake, etc.

“ The Civic Sense Awareness Programme run by the organization is one of the best programmes that enables the students to solve local problems by themselves.

- **Sanjay Cohora**
Principal, St Columbus School, Ranchi

Later, the students met the Corporator of the ward, Ms. B.M. Shobha Muniram, and updated her on their campaign. Ms. Muniram appreciated their efforts and instructed the local civic agencies to resolve the problems.

People were pleasantly surprised when the street lights were repaired and unauthorized construction along the road was demolished soon thereafter. They thanked the Bala Janaagrahis for their initiative, hard work and resourcefulness.

The neighborhood of Jaraganahalli Road bears a new look now. But, it is not just the area that has been transformed. The local stakeholders are a transformed lot too, because they are now keen to take ownership of their

Bala Janaagrahis meeting the Corporator Ms. B.M. Shobha Muniram.



locality. They now believe that they can be the change they want to see.

The stories do not end here. All over India, Bala Janaagrahis have been active throughout the year, engaging deeply with their local communities. Here are some other instances of the work done by them in different parts of the country.

- Students of **Little Flower High School, Kochi** started a Road Safety Club at school, to educate the students about the need for road safety. This club was inaugurated by the Assistant Motor Vehicles Officer Mr. Benny Varghese. Njarakal Sub Inspector Mr. Purushothaman also came to school and spoke about road accident and their causes, thereby educating the students and their parents.
- A group of 13 students studying in Class 8 of **Elite Educational Trust, Bengaluru** organised a free Medical camp on 14th December 2015 and conducted several awareness programs mainly to spread the importance of civic sense in Neelsandra. The camp was attended by 150 people and was highly appreciated. To conduct the camp and the various awareness programs the students coordinated with the Councillor, Zonal Commissioner, Govt. officials, Vasan Eye Care, Bike Ambulance, Police and Janaagraha. It was the first time that the elected representatives, Govt. officials, NGO, Pvt. Organisation and Education institution had joined hands to spread civic awareness in Neelsandra. The Bala Janaagraha students advised people on harmful effects of plastics and also encouraged people to buy their Elite school's eco-friendly bags.
- Students of **Shri Guru Ram Rai Public School (Talaab), Dehradun** met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr. Harish Rawat, and explained the Bala Janaagraha programme to him. Further, they suggested steps that could be taken to convert barren and filthy places in the city into parks and playgrounds. Impressed by the spirit of the students, the Chief Minister promised to do his best to ensure a clean and green environment in the city. Also, he invited the team of Bala Janaagrahis to a press conference held on 31st October, 2015, where he gave them a chance to present their views to the media. That way, the message was taken to the general public also.
- Students of **Delhi Public School, Patna** met the MLA, the Municipal Commissioner and the UDHC Minister to get their road fixed. They were able to get some major issues sorted. These included street lights, potholes, pavements, road-levelling and garbage disposal. Also, they created civic awareness in their neighbourhood through plays, cleanliness campaigns and distribution of posters and pamphlets. A road made of organic resin and a biogas plant are two innovative projects they are looking forward to implement in the near future.
- Students of **St.Kabir School, Ahmedabad** created a Facebook page book called 'Awakening, Bala Janaagraha'. As part of their civic project, they selected the road leading from SAL Hospital to Udgam School. They studied the road and interviewed the different groups of people who were using it. They researched the solid waste management practices in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. They wrote to the 'Ahmedabad Mirror' newspaper too.

“The project encouraged the students to work independently, as well as in groups, to understand urban planning and its various components. It helped inculcate in them, the feeling of a responsible citizen.

- Asma

Teacher, St. Michael's School, Ranchi

- Students of **Model Higher Secondary School, Bhopal** met the Corporator of Maharani Laxmi Bai ward, Shri Dinesh Yadar and discussed the street light problem their area was facing (the area was practically covered with darkness.) The Corporator promised to replace the existing sodium vapor lamps with LED lights, so as to save electricity.
- Students of **Government Palace High School, Kochi** installed a bio gas plant and managed it. The food waste and leftovers from the noon meal and all other bio-degradable waste is dumped in the plant. The biogas produced by the plant is used for cooking and the slurry is used as manure in the vegetable garden.
- Students of **Model High School, Hyderabad** met the Deputy Commissioner and explained the problems they were facing because of garbage, bad roads and street lights in the vicinity of their school. As a result, the road was repaired, the garbage was cleared and bio toilets were installed in their school.
- Students of **Gowthami Techno School, Hyderabad** conducted activities such as road-cleaning and clearing out garbage. They distributed pamphlets too. Additionally, they performed a stage show based on their civic project at the school's Annual Day celebrations, so as to influence parents attending the event to become more responsible citizens. During their civic project, they met the Corporator of their ward and submitted their set of requests to him. As a result of their efforts, the roads in the area were tarred, CCTV cameras were fixed at

vantage points on the streets and the practice of door-to-door garbage collection was implemented.

- The students of **Oasis International School, Bengaluru** took the initiative to try and improve Thanisandra Main Road in Bengaluru. Many problems faced by the residents were identified & analysed. Some of them were: traffic congestion especially after 5.00 pm, causing air pollution and accidents; narrow, broken & encroached pavements; lack of parking facility, public wash rooms, parks, etc. Also, there were a few dysfunctional or broken streetlights, drains that overflowed (especially during heavy rains) and heaps of garbage nearly everywhere.

The students initiated action on all these problems:

1. Spoke to the Security Manager of the 4-Star Hotel nearby and requested him to place dustbins and plant saplings along this road. He agreed.
2. Spoke to the Corporators of both the wards (to which the road belongs) for improving the road.
3. Lodged complaints on many websites such as www.ichangemycity.com and wrote to Deccan Herald, the popular newspaper. Also, they exhorted local residents to plant trees along this stretch of the road.
4. Held a cleanliness drive and met the Health Officer of Ward 6 and

Civil Engineer of BBMP. Also, they wrote to Dettol India regarding this and requested the company to participate in this campaign.

5. Sent ground water samples to BS Analytical Testing Laboratory to check if it was potable. Thankfull, the lab found that the water was safe for drinking.
6. Hung pollution-catchers (by greasing two paper plates) from lamp posts and checked them. They found a thick coat of dust, due to exhaust fumes.
7. Counted the number of vehicles and pedestrians in the area
8. Held a medical camp at Umar Farooq Masjid in Sarapalya, where free medicines and toothpaste were distributed. About 300 people got their eyes, teeth and general health checked at the camp.



Kanpur

City to Share Civic Awareness Text

The Bala Janagraha syllabus for Class 8 students, already in Bengaluru, could go places

Express News Service

A syllabus prepared by Bala Janagraha to educate Class 8 students on civic issues has caught the attention of the Bihar and Maharashtra governments. A representation to the Ministry of Human Resources seeks to take the syllabus all over the country, said Maj Gen Prasad (Retd), Programme Coordinator of the NGO.



Bangalore

15 छात्राओं का समूह प्रथम जनग्राह संस्था के बालजनाग्राह कार्यक्रम में श्रीराम सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल की 15 छात्राओं का समूह प्रथम रहा। यह समूह नई दिल्ली में 5 दिसंबर को होने वाले कार्यक्रम में भाग लेगा।

Udaipur



Dehradun

बच्चों ने किया नागरिक मूल्यों का समर्थन

जनपुर। एस्कॉर्ट्स वर्ल्ड स्कूल, केशवपुरम में शनिवार को 'जनग्राह' पर रचित सिविल-जर्नलिज एंड डेमोक्रेसी के तलावकन में आयोजित बालजनाग्राह कार्यक्रम में बच्चों ने नागरिक मूल्यों को बढ़ावा देने का समर्थन किया। कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि कर्मचारी राज्य बोध नियम के डिप्टी डिप्टी-डायरेक्टर पोषी हर्षा, भूपेश अवस्थी व अग्रक गुप्ता थे।

उक्त कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न विद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। उक्त कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न विद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। उक्त कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न विद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया।



जनग्राह प्रतियोगिता के विजेता बच्चे। फोटो: एस्कॉर्ट्स वर्ल्ड स्कूल।

Kanpur

Bala Janagraha held at SGRRPS



DEHRADUN, 5 Nov: The Bala Janagraha Programme, an initiative of Bala Janagraha, a Bangalore based NGO, was enthusiastically welcomed by students of the Government of Dehra. In the City Level Test, conducted at the Government Public School (G.P.S.) Middle School, Dehra, the students prepared by school principal were presented in which special attention was laid on topics like garbage accumulation, sanitation, power cuts and poor condition of electric poles, etc.

The programme envisaged dissemination and upgradation of security among children. In this regard, support was offered by Bala Janagraha, Dehra and SGRRPS.

Dehradun

THE WAY FORWARD

“ It has provided a first-hand experience to the students in dealing with their civic problems. This programme deserves commendation for taking up such a need-of-the-hour activity.

- **Dr (Maj) Jamal Mohd Khan**
Principal, Amiruddaula Islamia Inter
College, Lucknow

- **Revamp of the programme curriculum:** The “I Change my City” resource book will be made more interactive and story-based for use in the academic year of 2017-18.
- **Centralized Training for facilitators in May 2016** across the country with focus on pedagogy.
- **Alumni Engagement:** A plan has been put in place to engage more effectively with our Alumni.
- **Digitisation:** The new resource book will be progressively digitized to incorporate a higher degree of technology in Programme delivery and to standardize curriculum delivery across the country.
- **Launch of the Bala Janaagraha website:** Through this, we will be able to disseminate information better across all Bala Janaagraha schools and engage with the key stakeholders of the programme.
- **Structured and robust database management** using technology.





Snapshots from the Programme

Animated representation of the Civic Project

<https://youtu.be/ndw5QOQhJqM>



The National Civic Fest 2015-16

<https://youtu.be/kpXjCZBFH-E>



Principals' and Teachers' Views on the Programme

<https://youtu.be/f4sieBIfKD4>



Our Journey in 2015-16

<https://youtu.be/KfHm2HMYJlg>



The Balajanaagraha Website

www.balajanaagraha.org



Snapshots from the Programme

Glimpses of the Principals' Meet, Bengaluru
https://youtu.be/9l0Z6B_P9Ys



Sharath, an alumnus of the Programme, on the impact of
the Programme
<https://youtu.be/NJPkc0UMXyk>



Glimpses of the American Indian Foundation Event
<https://youtu.be/vmNdrEYBggY>



Young Champions of Change
<https://youtu.be/vmNdrEYBggY>



Rebuild - The Bala Janaagraha Signature Anthem
<https://youtu.be/UBwVLUtlpK8>



Story of Bala Janaagraha
https://youtu.be/cXFiM_I5gl8





BalaJanaagraha
TODAY'S CHILDREN. TOMORROW'S ACTIVE CITIZENS.