



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY



BalaJanaagraha

TODAY'S CHILDREN. TOMORROW'S ACTIVE CITIZENS.



I CHANGE MY CITY

A guide to Active Citizenship

Vision:

*Transforming every child of today into an Active Citizen of tomorrow
contributing to an improved Quality of Life.*

Mission:

*To incorporate the Bala Janaagraha Programme into the Core Curriculum of
Schools at the National & State levels.*

Foreword

Dear Bala Janaagrahis,

Bala Janaagraha was launched as a pilot effort in Bengaluru in June 2002. The pilot effort covered 170 children spread over 5 schools. The children were students of Classes 5 to 9. The objectives of the programme were defined as:

- Educate children on the role of a citizen (rights and responsibilities)
- Connect children with local citizens and the local government, and motivate them to participate in community action.
- Empower them through Leadership Training
- Inculcate the spirit of volunteering, right from childhood.

All of you will agree that we want our city to be comfortable, safe, secure and liveable. Uninterrupted power and water supply, smooth, broad roads without potholes, broad footpaths and cycle lanes, playgrounds, a lot of trees and so on...the wish list is pretty lengthy, isn't it?

But, pause for a minute and think. What are we doing to ensure the planned growth of our city? Are we contributing towards the betterment of our city? If yes, how and to what extent? Yes, we can do much more than what we are doing currently, right?

For us to participate actively in the development of the city, we must have adequate knowledge on local agencies and governance. This directly impacts the quality of our lives.

This is a guide book that we have developed which gives you inputs on your city, your community and your government. It will take you forward in your quest to become an "active citizen". Each unit in this book will give you essential information, which you can use to improve your neighbourhood and your local community. This is the first step in your journey towards active citizenship. I am sure this is going to be a fun learning experience for you!

Go ahead and use this knowledge, be it to start a waste segregation unit in your school, to study the implications of a new bus stop outside your colony, to use solar energy at traffic lights or to know all about rain water harvesting. There are many ways in which you can contribute to your city and show that you are a concerned and active citizen.

Remember, you have many freedoms and privileges. But at the same time, it is important to know that you have duties and responsibilities too.

So, let us work together for a better quality of life. Let us make our community, city and our country a much better place to live in!

Maj Gen K R Prasad, Veteran
Chief Mentor
Civic Learning and Community Policing

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