

FROM THE FILES Has Quality of Life improved with Budget per capita in the last 10 years?

BMPM	2000-01	2010-11	Note: Budget is revised estimates for 2000-01 and 2010-11. In Rs
Budget in crores	476	3,857	
Population (census)	42,92,223	84,25,970	
Per capita budget	1.34*	4.57*	



DIFFERENT STROKES

Funds given, area not named

Where do funds go?

A close reading of the budget shows that there has been no mention of the ward or area name. In some cases, areas are not mentioned where works will be taken up. Thus, the budget of both the years, 2010-11, 2011-12 is vague to that extent. It includes projects like road widening, covering drains, beautification of urban spaces, clinical laboratories, maternity homes and referral hospitals, stadiums and playgrounds.

Lakeside view

A week ago, BMPM commissioner MK Shankarling Gowda and newly elected mayor D Venkatesh Murthy inspected the historical Kempambudhi lake and announced that a boating facility will be opened by August. However, a similar announcement was made in the 2010-11 budget. There was a budget allocation of Rs 2.2 crore for the beautification of this lake as part of spillover works. Funds remained on paper. The BMPM chief must have noticed during his visit the weeds choking the lake and the unbecome stench as sewage water enters the lake.



Kempambudhi Lake—where is the water?

E-library in Jayanagar?

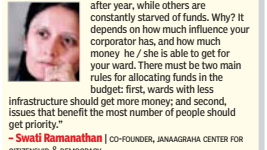
In the year 2010-11, the BMPM budget allocated Rs 10 lakh for the development of an e-library. Jayanagar residents are yet to read their books online. Construction of the building started eight months ago, but it came to an abrupt halt, for reasons best known to BMPM. When will it log into this project again, ask residents.

Nil allocation for three years?

Can BMPM explain this? There are ten unfortunate wards, which have not got any allocation in the last three years' budget. They are Vannappet, Domlur, Chalaudipalya, Agaram, Nilasandra, Kempapura Agrahara, Manali Seva Nagar, Singasandra, Shankar Mutta and Bharathi Nagar. All these wards had below average/marginally above average ward scores. And there are wards like Vannappet and Nilasandra near Koramangala which are plagued by unsanitary garbage management.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Not all wards are created equal. You might be in a ward that has no water, or has poor roads. But most of the time, this has little to do with how much money your ward gets for development—some areas get multiple and repeated funds year after year, while others are constantly starved of funds. Why? It depends on how much influence your corporator has, and how much money he/she is able to get for your ward. There must be two main rules for allocating funds in the budget: first, wards with less infrastructure should get more money; and second, issues that benefit the most number of people should get priority.



Swati Ramanathan | CO-FOUNDER, JANAAGRAHA CENTER FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY

The elected representatives are not committed. In the army it is frequently said—what is superior supervised is not done. This is true of the way BMPM works. People can always give their inputs to the corporators but the decision to take up the works remains in the hands of the corporators. In the budgeting month of March, the corporator wakes up and fills up the blanks with random figures. This is not the way budgets are presented.

Brigadier RS Murthy | HSR LAYOUT

Where is the ward committee? Why don't corporators have Ward Sabhas to get public opinion of what the residents require? I have not seen a Ward Sabha in the ward I live. Even if 200 people attend such meetings and their requirements are known, it will be enough for the corporator to prioritize works to be carried out in the next financial year and estimate budget. For regular budget, you should be consulted because this process is not followed.

Meenakshi Bharat | CIVIC ACTIVIST

It's a political game which the corporators and BMPM standing committee plays when it comes to budgetary allocations. Our ward in Padmasubrahara constituency gets special attention due to eminent people living here. The budget represents the whims and fancies of corporators and unreasonable allocations. There should be feedback from the people at the ward levels and BMPM should consolidate the data to look into which ward needs how much funds. Budgeting activity should begin from October. For regular budget, you should be consulted because this process is not followed.

Ravindra Nath Guru | MEMBER, BANASHANKARI II STAGE WARD

Please send your suggestions and comments to speakoutbangalore@timesgroup.com with "Times Civic Audit" in the subject

BBMP's Skewed Budgetary Allocations Perpetuated Lopsided Development In the City

Suritha Rao R and Aparajita Ray | TNW

All are equal, but some are more equal. The Orwellian quote rings true nowhere else more than the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and its works. Budgets reflect the planning and priorities of municipal corporations. A study of BBMP budgets shows that the extent of poor quality of services was a result of skewed allocations: wards that were well developed walked away with the lion's share in the allocations while those in the

Best wards

Ward No.	Ward name	WISA	2011-12	2010-11
165	Ganesh Mandir	7.16	742	770
108	Sri Ram Mandir	7.12	1,045	338
177	J P Nagar	7.04	1,756	650
67	Nagapura	6.94	400	100
93	Vasanthi Nagar	6.92	400	318

Worst wards

Ward No.	Ward name	WISA	2011-12	2010-11
40	Doddabidarakallu	3.19	1862	976
192	Begur	3.39	443	11
82	Ganadachar Palya	3.39	163	212
194	Gottigere	3.61	143	111
25	Horamavu	3.76	383	847

Note: Budgetary allocations for the wards in 2011-12, 2010-11 are in lakhs. WISA refers to Ward Infrastructure Survey assessment on a scale of 1-10 conducted by Janagragha and TOI in 2009-10

city's periphery that needed development got just a pittance. These new wards, added to BBMP in 2009, were till then part of 110 villages. They needed special attention to get out of the boondocks and on par with the developed wards. However, an analysis of these wards by Janagragha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, both in terms of civic amenities and budgetary allocation, shows that the money does not reach the needy.

Begur, the second worst ward, as per the Ward Infrastructure Survey Assessment (WISA) done by Janagragha (Bangalore Patrol), scores particularly in sanitation (18th rank) and in public amenities (193rd). But the BBMP budget of 2010-11 made no allocations for development works in this ward.

As for Gottigere, every tourist who visits Banerghatta National Park, passes through this ward, newly added lake Begur. Gottigere too got

BEST wards get more, WORST get peanuts



MONEY MATTERS: More funds are pumped into best wards like Ganesh Mandir and Sri Ram Mandir while worst wards like Begur and Gottigere are ignored

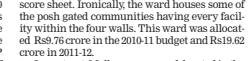
no allocation in 2010-11 budget.

However, wards that have an educated hub of residents and prominent citizens have been able to get amenities for their areas by influencing the "powerful". Sri Ram Mandir ward in Rajajinagar is one of the well-developed areas, which was ranked second in the WISA scores. The 2010 budget made no allocations to worst wards like Begur and Gottigere, allotted Rs 33.18 crore to the city's second best ward. In 2011-12, the same ward was once again the beneficiary of the BBMP munificence as it got a budgetary allocation of Rs 11.45 crore.

These statistics only reflect that budget makers hardly make an effort to identify the needs of each ward before making allocations, thus making the BBMP budget most unscientific.

Doddabidarakallu is one of the worst wards scoring a mere 3.19 on a scale of 10 on the WISA

TIMES civic audit



score sheet. Ironically, the ward houses some of the posh gated communities having every facility within the four walls. This ward was allotted Rs 76.70 crore in the 2010-11 budget and Rs 19.62 crore in 2011-12.

In contrast, Malleswaram ward, located in the heart of the city and one of the most sought-after localities in Bangalore, received as much as Rs 40 crore in 2010-11 budget. Thanks to the respective political leaders. Ditto with the Yelahanka Satellite Town ward, which got Rs 5 crore. Vijayanagar corporator H Ravindra who headed the major works committee during 2010-11 was

able to mop up Rs 13.37 crore for his ward. But Rammurthy nagar ward which lacks civic amenities got a meagre Rs 3 crore. Cottonpet area, one of the trade centres of the city, the neighbourhood of Majestic, has narrow roads, unhygienic surroundings and missing footpaths. This ward received just Rs 1 lakh in 2010-11 and nothing in 2011-12 budget. But the better off, J C Nagar ward got Rs 5 crore in the 2011-12 budget.

Though the rulebook says that the elected representative has to hold 'Araha Sabhas', Bangalore's 198 corporators have hardly held any public meetings to know what their people want. In 2011-12, the budget was presented by the then standing committee chairman G Manjunath Raju, who represented Kadu Malleswara ward in the core of the city. His ward received Rs 29.36 crore, whereas Jajeevanammagar dotted with ghettos, got no funds.

Residents see how their rupee goes



PEOPLE'S BUDGET: Parks and playgrounds, roads and footpaths— all works included in the wish list

agapuram was once known as the ward represented by farmer hooch queen Mari Muttu (2002-2007). But the ward barely saw any development, say residents.

Today, it is synonymous with people power. After realizing that their ward needed a good shakeup, the residents decided to use their collective

power for civic action. And they created history by preparing their own budget. On July 5, 2010, the Federations of Civil Societies of Sagapuram (ward number 60) presented their budget for the year 2010-11 to their newly elected corporator Pankaj Ammal.

The preparation of the budget was facilitated by NGO, Citizens' Voluntary Initiative for the City (CIVIC). Volunteers of CIVIC took

six months to study the ward thoroughly and understand the intricacies specific to each street and came up with an estimation. The residents prepared a budget of Rs 19.248 crore by prioritizing the works. The works listed in the budget included replacement of streetlights, desilting of drains, construction of community toilets, regular clearance of garbage and laying new footpaths.

What actually triggered this initiative? The residents were fed up with BBMP's often shoddy and slow pace of work. And believing in the maxim that engagement of citizens holds key to good governance, they seized the initiative. "We had brought to BBMP's notice several times about the civic works to be taken up in our ward, but not all our demands were met. So we came up with our own budget which we submitted to the ward corporator," said ET Ponnukuttan, executive committee member of Richards Town Citizens' Association.

This citizen-driven enterprise has seen slow but steady results, showing that perseverance really pays off. According to A Shivashankaran, president of Jago Federation of Residents in Sagapuram, about 40% of the works suggested by the residents have actually been included in the last two BBMP budgets. "BBMP has completed about 15% of the works that we had asked for and about 25% of the works have got work done. Because we took the lead, we could see some development." Echoing him, residents said with pride how they outside how their money should be a facelift, thanks to their budget.

It is perhaps a baby step, but the residents have shown that they will stand up for their money should be spent by their local government. And the result is there for all to see.

Per capita budget of other cities (2012-13)

City	Population	Budget*	Per capita budget (in thousands)
Mumbai	12,478,447	26,581	21,302
New Delhi	11,257,833	10,359	9,202
Kolkata	4,486,679	2,396	5,340
Hyderabad	6,809,970	3,600	5,286
Chennai	4,681,807	2,807	5,996
Almhadabad	5,570,585	4511	8,098
Pune	3,115,431	3,633	11,661

Bangalore budget yet to be presented
* 2012-13 (in crores/rupees) Source: Janagragha



POOR CITY: No match with other metros. This is the state of a playground here

Citizen participation, infra index are a must

Srikanth Viswanathan

What is the Quality of Life in the city? To know that, we must understand the basic structure of BMPM? Bangalore is divided into 198 wards. Eligible voters in each ward will elect a corporator every 5 years to represent them in the corporation.

Each corporator on an average represents 43,000 Bangaloreans or roughly 10,650 households over an average area of 3.7 sq km (the size of 60 Chinnaswamy stadiums). This is also the microcosm in which your and my Quality of Life is determined. How is our civic destiny shaped and what good Karma can transform our Quality of Life? That is the secret we unravel today. In 2010, Janagragha and the Times of India through the Bangalore Patrol campaign had ranked each ward across 30 Quality of

Life parameters spread across 6 categories leading to a Quality of Life (QoL) score for each ward. The ward scores are a narrative of the budgetary outlays and their utilisation over a period of time in each of the wards. Budgetary outlays and their utilisation therefore are the karmic levers that can transform QoL of wards, for better or for worse.

BMPM needs to allocate funds for works in various wards based on 2 criteria:

1 What is the existing QoL in a ward across aspects like roads, footpaths, parks, sewerage, garbage as evidenced by a quantifiable indicator like the ward score; what spends are required to raise the QoL?

footpaths or they want to fix their drains before the monsoon?

Responses to these questions need to be ascertained for each ward prior to the BBMP's annual budget. In comparison, the current process of budgeting is not only opaque but also seemingly ad hoc, neither driven by metrics nor taking into account citizen priorities in an institutionalised manner. The Community Participation Plan (CPL), a mandatory reform under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, requires both institutionalised citizen participation and computation of a ward infrastructure index. Vidhana Sabha needs to enact the model CPL for better livability in our wards.

2 Where do citizens want to see monies spent in their respective wards? Do they want to spend this year on roads and

Figure it out

86 below average wards received 35% of the funds whereas 112 above average wards received 65% of the funds (5% of clearly assignable funds), demonstrating BBMP's lopsided prioritisation of wards

59 wards, representing 30% of total number of wards that had a score of less than 5 on 10, received only 22% of funds in the budget

The writer is manager, Public Record Operations and Finance (PROOF), the civic public discourse and accountability initiative of Janagragha