

Swati Ramanathan presenting the 3 Year Ward Plan proposals to the Citizens at the citywide community meeting on July 12. Ramesh is seen on her right.

Yuva Janaagrahees Busy in Ward Survey

The second batch of Ramaiah College Management students is surveying Sanjaynagar in ward 100.

Students of Jyothi Nivas College (JNC), Christ College, New Horizon Girls College and Garden City College have had orientation sessions and 50 students from each college have volunteered to do the survey in various wards. JNC and Christ College will have a joint session on the actual process of the survey and filling up the data sheet. Mahavir Jain College, MES College and Mt. Carmel College are some of the other colleges that Janaagraha is planning to visit.

City-wide Community Meeting

Citizens of Bangalore in about 15 wards are warming up to work out development plans for the next 3 years, and in preparation to it training sessions on team building

and meeting management are being organised.

And the associations in several wards will come together and form federations to increase citizen participation in Public Governance.

Citizens from several wards in Bangalore met on July 12 with the Janaagraha team headed by Swati and Ramesh Ramanathan and decided to take these steps to improve their wards. These residents have been interacting with their engineers at the ward office in the Monthly Review Meetings (MRM) for the past several months.

Residents from the wards who do not have MRM were present to observe and then decide if they want to participate in such activities for improving the quality of lives in their wards.

Mr. Ramesh Ramanathan spoke about what the citizens in the wards having MRM had achieved in the past

few months. He gave examples to show how the power of the citizens coming together could change situations in a ward.

Ms. Swati spoke about the survey being conducted by students of Ramaiah College Management College in wards 55 and 100. She said that these surveys would show the true potential of revenue sources of a ward. She added that only when the citizens get the maps with all the information of the commercial and residential properties and parks could they plan properly for their wards.

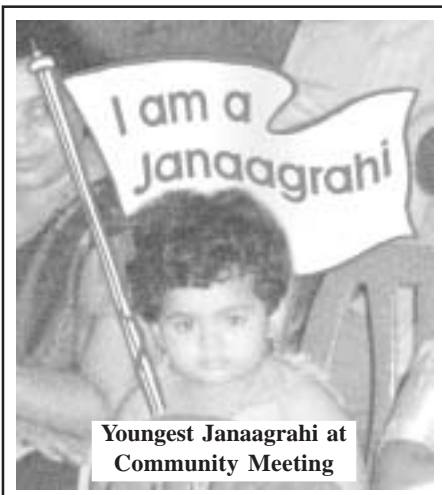
The key people for all these activities were introduced. Mr. Shiva Rudraiah from BDA provides all the maps necessary

(Contd...Page 5)

INSIDE PAGES

Page-3 Personal Notes

Page-6 Ward 101 Vision !



Youngest Janaagrahi at Community Meeting

LETTERS

The last few years of my life had lead me to incorporate a different way of looking and interpreting new situation. A youngster who would jump to conclusious and have high expectations easily had changed to one who was unassuming and believed in studying a situation several times over before sizing it up. The MBA course that I was undertaking definitely had something to do with this.

The requirement of having to undergo a 2 week program with a voluntary organisation for my MBA program had thought me to Janaagraha here, so it was more

If One Wants to, He can

of an academic requirement than a self driven endeavor. Somewhere, somehow, something about me was going to change.

My first interaction in Janaagraha was with Elizabeth who was the volunteer co-ordinator. From the moment she started explaining about the activites of Janaagraha, I realized these was something different about this instituion. Here were people who believed in a cause, were self driven and knew that they could make a difference not only to themselves but to all those whose lives they touched. At that precise moment I realised this wouldn't he just another fortnight in my life. If the first day was inspiring, the second day left me in awe.

An article in a publication had described him as one with perfectly groomed hair and well manicured nails. I was amazed at how the author could have mined so many other ohvious facts about Mr. Ramesh Ramanathan, co-founder and campaign co-ordinator of Janaagraha - the charming smile, the clear look of cletermination and a never say die attitude. so this was from where the spirit of Janaagraha had evolved.

July 12, was a great day for 180 Bala Janaagrahis of five schools-Crescent, East West, Vasavi Education Trust, Saraswathi Vidya Mandir and Sajjan Rao Vidya Smasthe in Ward 50. These children after listening to scintillating speeches on the importance of planting trees by experts Dr. Vishwanath and Mr. Vijaykumar Misra, with full of enthusiasm and excitement went out in batches wearing Janaagraha caps and surveyed 20 roads in the vicinity of their schools and identified spots where they could plant some more sapplings to make the ward greener and healthier.

Ward 50 needs 210 Plants

They have come out with a demand for 210 sapplings!! In addition they have recorded the number of street lights,houses, garbage bins, condition of footpaths and roads of all the streets they surveyed. After completion of the survey work, when asked about their experience, they said it was marvellous and asked how the roads and footpaths could be made cleaner!! A good observation indeed. They also said that the programme was unique because, they now have new friends from Crescent school of Mohammaden block. Thanks to Janaagraha, their bonds of friendship will grow for ever.

-Suprajaa, Federation of Ward 50

The next few days went into understanding the functioning of Janaagraha and its programs like the Ward Works program, SJSRY campaign, PROOF etc. I was also given the opportunity of attending a meeting that involved planning of campaigns of high priority and to contribute to it.

My experiences here developed in me a sense of giult when I realised how many of us dont even bother to help ourselves because we feel its not our responsibility. The ward that we live in is nothing but an extension of our homes, but how many of us feel that way. Any improvements made to our ward by us will only go into making our existence more comfortable and providing ourselves with a better place to live in. It is sad that we need a Janaagraha to make us realize this.

My stint here changed a lot of my views regarding social causes, and aligned me to a higher degree of social respnsibility. Something that would not have happened if I had'nt come here. though it is very easy to notice and appreciate, learning the nuances of an effort that involves a high degree of dedication, patience and selfless virtues is always difficult but somewhere down the line I realized that if one wants to, he can certainly make a difference however small it might be.

-Nitin R. Shetty, TAPMI, Manipal

ABHYUDAYA Featured



Here is a copy of the Photo-feature published in Enadu, Telugu Daily of Hyderabad, about ABHUDAYA federation of Ward 55, Padmanabhanagar. Please publish it in JT for the benefit of Janaagrahees.

-Raju T.G., Srinagar

Personal Notes on Janaagraha

Janaagraha was launched as a result of a specific need to get citizens more involved in governance. But within a few weeks of its launch, I realised that this was about much more than that. For Swati and me, this was going to be another aspect of our life.

In a way, it felt good. Because, one of the words that I had always sworn by was "consistency": there cannot be a grain of inconsistency in any of one's actions. Throughout our lives, we have attempted to live up to this ideal.

Living up to something means that you don't succeed all the time, but keep aspiring to it, and get better over time.

Janaagraha required an opening up between our personal and our public lives. While it has not reached a seamless continuum, this line has blurred quite a lot. However, it is not without its share of experiences.

On so many days, there is an internal struggle to understand the true seat of power; to see the shallowness of my own ego; to not look for one's place in history.

These emotions are inseparable from the goals that I set for myself when we returned to India, to have an impact on scale, to address fundamental issues, not apply band-aids to the millions of problems that we have (with a billion people, I can show you at least 100 million problems; the challenge is to find structural solutions).

On the other side are the wonderful lessons that Janaagraha teaches us every day: simplicity and modesty and truth; that the best source of power comes from truth.

That if the idea of Janaagraha is to flower, it is the idea that will grow, and not me. That we will have our feet planted firmly on the ground, doing the simple things, and getting the true pleasure out of it.

In fact, the energy for Janaagraha comes completely from the love and security of our personal life. If I were to pursue the illusion of glory with Janaagraha, I would forsake the very source of inspiration for it.

Intellectually, I know where the answer lies, and invariably,

I stick to the path. And on the days that this happens without a hitch, the feeling is like soaring on the clouds. But occasionally, I slip. The reasons could be many: either the inefficiency or selfishness or territoriality of other stakeholders; or the imperviousness of the system to the obvious moral truth of what we are asking for; or my own weakness of wanting to be seen as someone who has vision; it could any one of these, or a combination of these.

The core tenets of simplicity and morality and humility disappear like the dewdrops in the harsh glare of the morning sun, and I am beset by a set of emotions which I am not really proud of. I look back on these moments and introspect.

Janaagraha has been a journey in many ways, of discovery about the philosophy of democracy, of being a change agent, but also at a very personal level of finding the truth and consistently sticking to it. When I retire every evening, it is with the knowledge that most days I have managed to stick to the path. Some days I haven't but at least I know that I haven't. That itself is progress, I guess.



Ramesh Ramanathan
Campaign Co-ordinator

Published by Janaagraha at 198, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahal, Bangalore - 560 046 and Printed at Shubhodaya Printers, (Ph : 6679508) No. 117/78, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

Editorial Team : Ishwar Daitota (Communications Advisor), Chandrika Krishna

JANAAGRAHA TIMES

Phone : 3542381/2, 3542977 Fax : 3542966 E-mail : janaagraha@vsnl.net

Read Janaagraha Times on the web at www.janaagraha.org

It was under the aegis of the GDA foundation that Surana College was started by Sri G.C Surana in 1995. The motto of the college "Moulding Characters and Careers", seeks to harmonize technological advancement with time tested traditional values.

It takes courage to run an institution. The efforts, the dedication, the toil, the struggle.

The college gives priority to a balanced intellectual and emotional growth of young people, which it believes, is the truest system of education. With a zealous bunch of 1500 students, the college is guided by the able Prof. K.E. Radhakrishna as its principal and Ms. Archana Surana as its managing trustee.

From the initiation of the college, the department of Journalism, with combinations of English, Political Science

SURANA COLLEGE



and Journalism (EPJ), has tried to carve youngsters into professionals in the field of mass media. Headed by Prof. Chandramouli A.S., the department has various activities for the students, apart from imparting quality education. Students are trained to develop their leadership qualities and hone their creative skills through opportunities like, bringing out wall magazines, newsletters, hosting group discussions, mass media workshops and media visits. The department also provides facilitation for internships for students in various print and electronic media organizations, during their holidays. The college has an annual college magazine "Darpan" which highlights the achievements of college in the previous academic year.

Eight years of its establishment, Surana College has achieved a lot in a short span of time. Fostering the idea of excellence, this college is striving to achieve the dreams conceived by its founders.

-Dewaker

Coordinating Bala Janaagraha Activities

Coordinators from the communities of seven wards met at Janaagraha office on July 8, to discuss their roles and the Bala Janaagraha campaign in detail. Sunita and her team of volunteers are busy anchoring thers.

3 to 5 schools are participating in each ward with 50 students from each school. 15 to 30 community members will participate in the tree planting session, field trips and leadership training sessions. Every 6 children will have one adult community member accompanying them for all fieldwork, both surveying and tree-planting.

Each of the coordinators was provided with a kit for the activities. The kit contained contact information, contacts at the wards, fieldtrip guidelines,



maps from Street Atlas, data to be surveyed and fact sheets on fieldtrip facilities.

Buoyancee has volunteered to conduct the Leadership training sessions assisted by students of Mount Carmel College, Home Science Department. There will be two sessions of leadership activities for each ward.

Surveying is graphical, with a map of the entire ward and a smaller one of individual sections in that ward. Each group of 6 students will survey a neighborhood and mark off items on the map. This will be used to drive a planning session later on for the development issues of the ward.

For the tree planting sessions the students will be picked up from their school after classes on Saturday. Along with the community members, they will first identify the different locations where trees should be planted. Then the BMP's horticulture department will work with the local communities; they will dig the pits, bring saplings, plant them and

provide and install the tree-guards.

For the field trips the children can visit the police control room, water treatment plants, rain water harvesting, water pumping station, electricity distribution centers, solid waste management and BDA from where they will be taken to flyovers to meet the engineers.

Gayatri is a volunteer from Jayanagar who is responsible for the community volunteer coordination. Devyani, a college student, has taken on responsibility in several areas of the Bala Janaagraha programme, primarily in fieldtrip coordination, surveying, and overall programme administration. Several other volunteers include Shashank for the

control room on Infantry Road, rainwater harvesting in Vidyananyapura and BESCO station at Peenya respectively. Ward 85, Sarvagnanagar will be conducting a survey of their ward with children from 3 schools and community members. Yelahanka will also be surveying the New Town area with 2 schools.

Ward 50, V.V. Puram will be launching their tree-planting programme with an Orientation from Horticulture and Forest department experts. And Ward 77-27, Sampangiramnagar will be having leadership training for children from 2 schools.

On the of July 5, Bala Janaagraha had their second session in 3 wards - 54, 55 and Yelahanka CMC.

Ward 55 had an orientation session for Tree Planting. 200 children formed 3

Leadership Facilitation manual, Balaji for the communication material and Mrs. Ramanathan and her group, Kusum, Sowmie Somanna, Dewaker, Madhavi and Nisha for ward coordination.

On July 12, students of 3 schools in Ward 7, Malleswaram, visited the police

groups and an expert from Horticulture/ Forest Dept went to each group and addressed them and told them the importance of trees and planting and nurturing them. The children along with the community members surveyed the wards for the location of new trees.

Ward 54 had a Leadership Training session. Buoyancee volunteers as facilitators conducted this with Mount Carmel college students to assist them. Children learnt the basics of teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills through many group games and challenges.

Yelahanka CMC had its Orientation programme at Aditi School along with children of Seshadripuram School. The Commissioner of Yelahanka, Mr. Basavaraju presided, and many community members, teachers, college volunteers and Janaagraha volunteers attended the function. Buoyancee did the ice-breaking activities, and children took part in an art contest on problems in their ward.

The Coordinators for 7 Wards

Sitalakshmi - Ward 7

Preetha - Ward 77/27

Mr. Venkatram & Veena -

Ward 50

Mr. Damodar - Ward 54

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi - Ward 55

& Mr. Murali - Ward 85

City-wide Community Meeting

(Contd from Page 1)

for the survey by students.

Mr. Raju from Thematics, a software company will collate the maps marked by the students with the existing maps of BDA.

Mr. Saurav Mohanthy and Mr. G.C. Das from Competency Development Services (CDS) will be training the citizens on team building and meeting management.

Ashutosh from Momentum presented the communication strategy

federation shall work towards Participatory Democracy. The other is that the amount available to the federation from JCDF will be ploughed back into similar activity once the federation becomes financially self sufficient.

Abhyudaya has decided to take up certain works like desilting, solid waste management etc. initially within their ward and later in other wards. Here the participating personnel will get paid and the profit will go into Abhyudaya account. "We have initiated a preliminary

being consulted?

Q : It is not enough to train the citizens. The corporators and the engineers should also be trained.

Q : Federation is a very good idea. How do we get more associations to come together?

Ramesh answered these questions and said that the student survey and the Comprehensive Development Plan by the BDA will solve these problems. Some engineers will attend the training. The citizens could invite the corporators for training.

As for forming the federations he said that if the citizens want to come together and work as a group it is possible.

Q : Is data available for the areas where there are BWSSB connections and the areas where they are not?

Swati said that only analog data is available and spatial data is not.

The residents of Manjunatha layout a slum in ward 54 wanted to know how they could work with the citizens of their ward.

Mr. Damodar answered them saying that they could participate in the MRM and also in the 3 yr ward plan.

The citizens of the focus wards participating in the 3 yr ward planning sat in groups with their ward members and discussed the training sessions. They have given 3 preferred dates for training for team building and meeting management workshops.

The Momentum team arranged for a photo session for the members of the wards which will used for the ads and making posters. Wards 50, 54, 55, 68, 74, 78, 85, 94, 96 and 100 participated in the meeting.



through posters, ads, hoardings and many other ways for Janaagraha.

Mr. Rajesh from Abhyudaya ward 55 spoke about the advantages of forming a federation and how their federation was formed. He said that the federation has Committees for Engineering Planning and Implementation, BWSSB, BESCO, Revenue, Horticulture and Education. These committees are necessary for the federation to function effectively with all the members sharing responsibilities.

Mr. Mukund from Abhyudaya explained the Janaagraha Community Development Fund (JCDF). He said that Abhyudaya has worked out the cost of having an office, office staff, running meetings, conveyance and printing material for the federation. The total came to 6.5 to 7 lakhs. Abhyudaya has collected some funds through memberships (Rs.500 for an association and Rs.100 for an individual.) and advertisements for their souvenir. This came to Rs. One lakh.

Abhyudaya has now prepared a business plan for the infrastructure needs of the federation and approached Janaagraha for JCDF. They will enter into a MoU shortly with Janaagraha. There are 2 conditions. One is that the

study to understand all the implications of such a move including financial implications, logistics of working in terms of time, personnel and other infrastructure facilities etc," he said. Abhyudaya hoped to start work in the next financial year.

Regarding the fear of loss of identity of Abhyudaya, Mr. Mukund said that their successful action will give them enough of identity in their ward and outside the ward they have no problem sharing their identity as both are working for Participatory Democracy.

The citizens from non focus wards wanted to participate in the MRM and ward planning. They asked Janaagraha to support them.

Some of the questions from the focus ward members were

Q : Will Janaagraha provide legal assistance where the residential areas have been commercialized?

Q : What can citizens do in some areas where there is unplanned development?

Q : In the areas where the survey by students are being carried out, are the residents

Janaagraha Calendar

(July 16-31)

Yuva Janaagraha

July 21 : Signing of MoU with Surana College

Bala Janaagraha

July 19 : Leadership Trng Session1-Ward 54

July 19 : Tree Planting Session 1 - Ward 55

July 26 : Tree Planting Session 1 - Ward 50

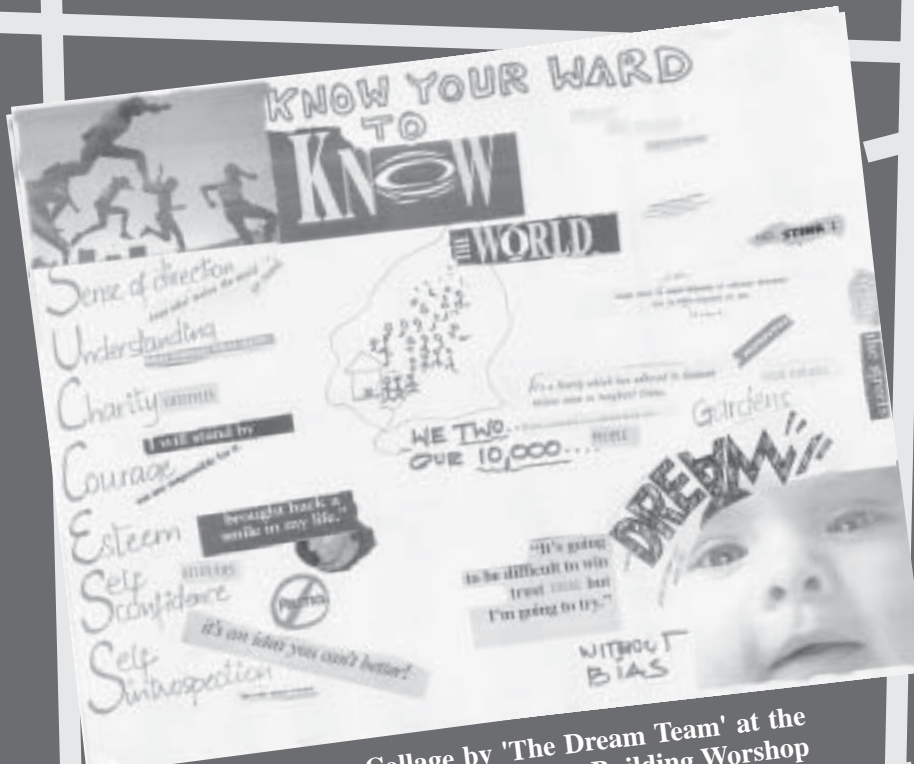
July 26 : BWSSB Field Trip - Ward 85

July 26 : Leadership Trng Session 1-Ward 7

July 26 : Survey Session 1 - Ward 27/77

Yelahanka CMC- Survey Session

Team Building Workshop for Janaagrahees



Collage by 'The Dream Team' at the Team Building Workshop



Collage by 'Team One O One'



Janaagraha volunteers attended a workshop on team building. The residents who will participate in the Ward Planning campaign will go through a similar workshop.

In this workshop we were asked to be members of a hypothetical ward and discuss the issues as a team and come up with a plan for the ward. So, Ward 101 was formed and the volunteers were divided into 4 groups.

The session began with a definition of a team. A team of people is a group people with a common goal and their complimentary skills help them achieve that goal. They hold themselves mutually responsible and accountable.

Team identity, team characteristics and sustenance were discussed. The team members played a game through which they understand interdependence, leadership, commitment and following a leader. It also teaches them to move from I to WE.

A successful team should be able to resolve conflicts among its members. Dialogue is necessary for conflict resolution. The team should move from avoiding to accommodating to collaboration and competing. Assertiveness and cooperativeness are very important for the team.

We were also asked to produce 4 WALL POSTERS - projecting our visions for development of our wards. (2 of them are reproduced here)

That was a wonderful training.

-Chandrika