

Can Bangalore Sustain, Sustainable Developmental Goals

Bangalore is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual city, blessed with pleasant weather that can make most feel at home. That is what it exactly did to me 14 years ago. More than a decade in the city, has given me first hand experience of deteriorating state of affairs when it comes to sustaining natural resources and least efforts at providing people with [livable conditions](#) by the municipal administrators. The situation around fuelled by the last workshop on 'sustainable development in a changing climate' conducted by Reuters Foundation & UN Foundation urged me to evaluate on how the United Nations and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change plan to address accountability and implementation helping reach Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable development goals get tabled in the first of the COP21 summits in New York this September 2015 followed by the Paris in Dec.2015.

The connectivity urban environs provide should drive us into collaborations that can help us solve problems at the most basic level, with the most basic available resources, backed by low cost, easily available technology to bring in efficiency. Problems like portability of [water](#), safe sanitation municipal solid waste management have to be community driven to keep a track on contamination and pollution.

SDG Goals:

1. Poverty

City environments provide for umpteen opportunities of employment in the semi skilled labor in the waste management industry, landscaping, sanitation, maintenance etc. The adverse impact of mismanagement of waste and resources can ring the death knell at will, a dedicated looked after force can ensure it is managed well and there are no let up's while creating employment and generating revenue.

The threshold of poverty pegged at \$1.00 by UNESCO is debatable in both the developed world urban and rural as well as the developing urban and rural context much like the Indian [index](#) by the RBI, a threshold of Indian Rupees 32 was considered the mark for rural poverty while Indian Rupees 47 was considered the mark for urban poverty. Considering INR47 as the standard for urban poverty, it is unimaginable that someone can get two square meals, leave aside a healthy nutritional diet, shelter, clothing, in the city of [Bangalore](#) all in the rupee forty-seven billing.

In the words of Hemant Kumar T.T, Founder, Ashankura Trust, Bangalore, says their organization works with 900 families, approximately 3600 members. These are all construction laborers, the man getting INR 300 and the woman getting INR200 as every day wages. They find it tough to make ends meet. There is no exception as far as sanitation and safe drinking water. It is completely absent at locations where the community resides. Our individual intent saw us set up a tent school for one community while our resolve gets challenged as more and more government schools are shutting down.



Slum dwellers behind IT park in Bangalore, cared by Ashankura

In a state of chaos settlements at [Ejipura](#) were erased in Bangalore, owing to extremely high real estate value the location held. The location will now have a commercial complex to increase economic activity and prosperity for a few. Some 1500 families were displaced overnight. Urban poor constitute 25 percent of the population in Bangalore living in make shift shelters without sanitation or health care.

2. End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The positive side of an aware citizenry is that their minds are curiously working on solutions to save us from modern day problems. The result is there are agencies on stand by that can help you save you extra food going to waste. Be it a multi cuisine marriage or a birthday gathering you can call [agencies](#) that would be happy to take away your excess food to serve it to the less fortunate.



In case of ending hunger the city of Bangalore fares the same as the other cities in India [wasting](#) tones of food. An additional burden due to the amount of [food](#) produced wasted because of insufficient storage facilities and handling.

3. Promote healthy lives & Promote Well-Being for all at all ages

Elderly in cities like Bangalore can breathe a sigh of relief for the acts of philanthropy that tries to bridge gaps between the have and have not's for all age groups. St. Johns Medical Hospital in Bangalore has taken the nodal drive of providing the elderly in Bangalore [medical facilities](#) at their doorsteps at a bare minimal cost, unfortunately for the poor it is out of their purview.

The place once known as the pensioner's paradise has now turned into craving for demise by the elderly. Almost [fifty percent](#) of Bangalore's elderly face some form of abuse. The future does not look very impressive either as a study by the [UN](#) found that India be home to as many as 300 million elderly by 2050. The report also warned of the lack of facilities moving into the future as two thirds of the one million over 60 years suffered chronic ailments.



The city like the other expanding cities in India is unable to provide [safe](#) breathing air to its children scarring their healthy growth apart from cramped environments that do not provide opportunities for outdoor sports or exercising.

4. Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education & Promote Life Long Learning Opportunities for All

Right to Education is to entitle every child quality education independent of one's fate. In Bangalore though RTE is all about fate as distressed parents are subjected to a scheme of [lottery](#) in order to accommodate their kin as students under the Right to Education Act. The state of education and institutions for the fortunate is no better either as increasing number of child abuse cases have followed one after the other.



Schools have become unsafe particularly for the girl child to top it all the thousands of government schools lack basic toilet facilities causing 24 % of girls to discontinue education as stated by the Annual State of Education Report 2011.

5. Achieve Gender Equality & Empower all Women and Girls

Cities fortunately are the breeding ground for brave women, who believe and work towards equal rights, fortunately for the educated the corporates have initiated attempts at absorbing larger group of women in to the [workforce](#).



On the other hand 70 per cent of girls in slums face harassment while on way to open defecation spots. Women working late shifts are always worried about their safety, especially after cases that had cab drivers rape and kill an employee. In lieu of the crime and security concern of women cabs on duty in the night have an escort in case there is a woman employee getting dropped.

6. Ensure availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation

Since 1990 when the millennium goals were announced 2 billion people have got access to clean drinking water and sanitation as of 2011. During the same period the availability of drinking water rose from 5 per cent to an impressive 61 per cent. Bangalore should replicate the successful programs to ensure every citizen in and around gets safe drinking water.

The crisis of portable water has touched the threshold with government agencies certifying 52% bore well water and 59% tap water available within the city unfit for consumption. There are about 312,000 bore wells in Bangalore, drawing about 300 MLD. The drawing of underground water is 3.7 times more than the recharge from the city's annual rainfall 900 mm.



As per the Bangalore Water & Sewage Supply Board 460 MLD of sewage water is generated from the city of Bangalore, 30 MLD of the sewage water diverted for industrial use, while the rest 430 MLD is channelized to valleys on the outskirts or drained into the lakes.

The mismanagement by the civic authorities has already on record contaminated water tables in half a dozen villages. It continues to create health hazards for residents around [Bangalore](#).

If it is the city administration that has the onus to guide the citizenry towards healthier living conditions and well being then the civic agency has failed miserably all sections of society. Its sphere of influence has only added to the woes with [garbage disposal](#) and its threat of disease completely over looked. The lakes in Bangalore have been turned into sewage outlets.

The Water Footprint Network, an organization hosted by the University of Twente in the Netherland, Based on pioneering research by Arjen Hoekstra, the Water Footprint Network has developed a method for calculating the average total freshwater use per capita in most countries