



Annual Report 2020-21



Incorporating the values of Democracy in our Daily Life

Center for Promoting Democracy

Email : info@cpdindia.org
Website: www.cpdindia.org

1 / 2, Shiv Vaibhav Housing Society,
Majasgaon Tekadi, Near Bandivali High School,
Jogeshwari East, Mumbai - 400060.

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Letter from Managing Trustee's Desk

Zindabad! Greetings from Center for Promoting Democracy (CPD).

This year has been brutal for the population CPD works with. COVID -19 and the lockdown presented unimaginable difficulties to the urban poor, especially the homeless population. The labouring population living in informal settlements earns just enough to feed the family for the day. Without work, the family will starve. The lockdown took away the means of earning for people reliant on daily wages. With people staring at starvation before COVID even reached their homes, our focus this year was on providing rations and health support.

The suddenness of the lockdown meant many of the migrants living in Mumbai were stuck in the city. CPD worked to provide basic food and hygiene supplies to survive in lockdown. Also initiated dialogue with Municipal and State administration to communicate relief needs and coordination of relief distribution to reach last mile. We have also initiated a citywide civil society forum, known as "Mumbai Responds" with likewise organisations and people's movements.

Since prevention of COVID required frequent washing of hands and sanitation, there was an urgent need for the government to address the issue of providing water to informal settlements. CPD conducted a study on the status of access to water in communities and engaged with elected representatives and bureaucrats towards providing legal water connections to informal settlements.

We are proud of our team who worked day and night during lockdown and fear of life threatening pandemic. Also we are thankful to all our volunteers, contributors and supporters who help to keep our morale high.

In Solidarity,

Sitaram Shelar

For Center for Promoting Democracy

Introduction

Vision

CPD strives for the creation of a democratic humane society based on values of democracy, equity, affirmative discrimination, justice and secularism. It envisions promoting and strengthening everyday democracy as an integral value for daily living aimed towards building mutual respect and dignity for human beings and the environment.

To uphold universal human rights for all and to free the society from all forms of oppression and exploitation.

Mission

CPD aims to engage with the citizenry (with special focus on oppressed sections), civil society groups and the government to promote the vision of effective and engaged everyday democracy. Developing a process of advocacy for democratisation of institutions of polity to facilitate participatory policy making, enriching democracy through capacity building for various groups and disseminating knowledge about importance and inter linkages between the constitution and democratic functioning.



Values

The core values of CPD are Justice, Liberty, Equality and Democracy which guide our everyday work and interventions.

Our Board of Trustees:

- **Dr Chayanika Shah, Chairperson**

Doctorate in Social Sciences, Working as visiting faculty at School of Women studies, TISS. Frontier in LGBTQI+ rights campaign.



- **Sitaram Shelar, Managing Trustee – Director**

MBA(HR), 25 years of experience in development sector, Working as OD consultant with NGOs. Visiting Faculty on Urban Governance to Kamala Raheja Vidyanidhi Institute of Architecture and D Y Patil University. Convener – PaniHaq Samiti (Right to Water Campaign).



- **Mr Manohar Rajguru, Treasurer**

B.COM, 30 years of experience in development sector. Working as Senior Project manager at Slum Rehabilitation Society (SRS). Expertise in Participatory Urban Governance, Housing Rights and Rehabilitation and Re-settlement.



- **Prof. Amita Bhide, Trustee**

Doctorate in Social Sciences, Working as Dean, School of Habitat Studies, TISS.



- **Adv. Mihir Desai, Trustee**

LLM, Senior council, Bombay High Court. Active supporter of Human rights campaigns.



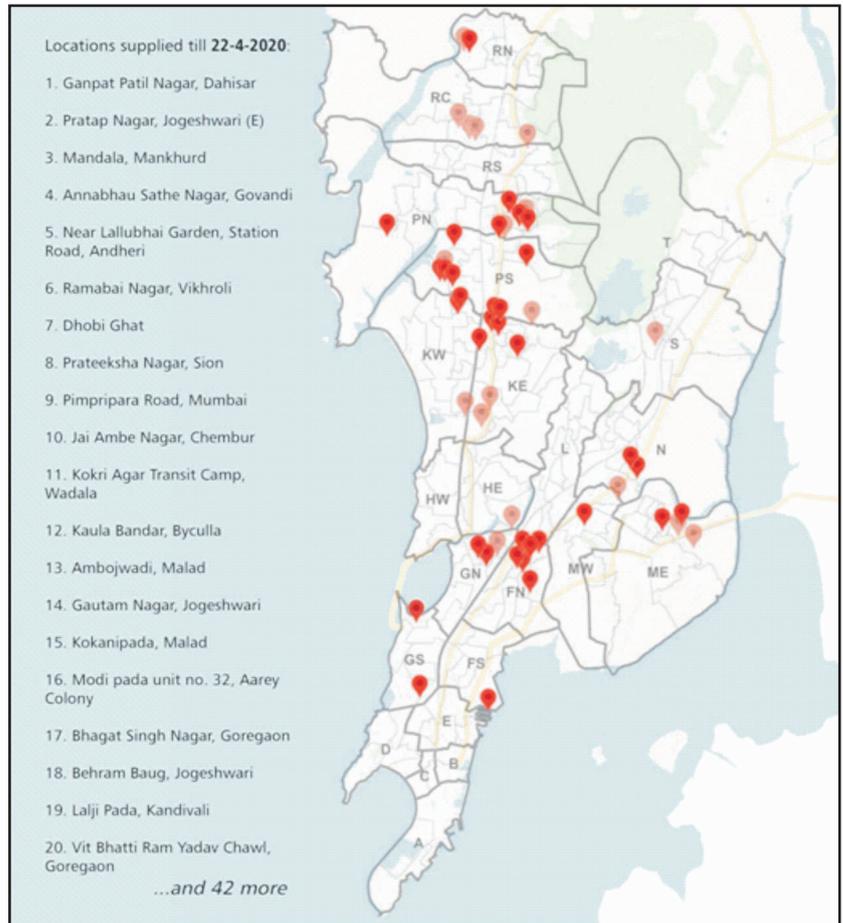
Our Work

Humanitarian response to COVID 19 pandemic:

The COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown adversely affected the urban poor. In April 2020, as Mumbai emerged as the epicentre of the pandemic the poorest were worst affected from losing means of earning a livelihood and staring at starvation.

The migrants and daily wage labourers who form the backbone of this city could not take benefit of the free rations promised through the Public Distribution System as most of them did not have ration cards. Not only were they unable to buy food grains, they could not afford to pay for fuel or electricity or rent for the homes they were living in.

CPD responded by raising funds to provide Food Grain and hygien kits to families. We collaborated with informal citywide civil society forum “Mumbai Respond” and organizations like Feeding India, Action Aid, Praja Foundation, Akshaya Patra Foundation, VSP, Vikas Ahhyayan Kendra, IGSSS and Reliance foundation as well as the Municipal Corporation and distributed essential items like daal, rice, wheat flour, cooking oil, onion, potato etc. **We were able to provide rations to 6866 families.**



In some communities where people could not afford cooking fuel, we collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to organize a community kitchen. Youth associated with CPD in Shivaji Nagar area of Mumbai set up a community kitchen which catered to 1000 families everyday providing lunch and dinner for a period of three months.

On account of the lockdown, with public transport shut down, it was difficult to travel. Our volunteers were front line workers who with adequate precautions took tempos filled with ration kits to different communities, managing distribution with social distancing. In difficult to reach communities, we did direct transfer of money. Money was also transferred for paying off electricity bills and mobile phone recharges for families to stay connected.

Networks & Collaborations:

CPD started communicating with the administration to provide the water, toilet and hygiene services to the communities across the city. CPD, Pani Haq Samiti and other citizens groups along with Human Rights Law Network prepared “A Citizens Charter on Urban Planning in Mumbai during COVID – 19 Lockdown”. The document provided an action plan for the government to respond to the needs of Mumbai’s citizens during the pandemic in more equitable and effective manner.



Building Active Citizenry

As the pandemic raged, and youth were unable to move about, CPD remained in contact with youth through online meetings. Our work on active citizenry was a conscientization on the impact of the pandemic and the need to educate our communities to remain safe. Youth were engaged through art, music, theatre and poetry to express their emotions and thoughts.

CPD conducted processes like Samvidhan Gupshup (Discussions on Constitutional values and ethos) online. These discussions had youth facilitate sensitization programs pertaining to COVID 19 in their respective communities. These youths were volunteers for need assessment, relief distribution and coordination with Collector office and BMC administration.

Youth expressed their learnings and thoughts through articles and poems which were published in our youth lead newsletter “Aisa Bharat Banayenge”.



Participatory Urban Governance:

We have work with communities leading the relief interventions. All our community leaders and youth volunteers were taking care of every family of their local communities. These active citizen initiated community kitchen of their own, facilitated COVID RT-PCR testing, provide help in hospitalisation, morale building, getting daily provisions. BMC and Collector office administration get well organised support from these community volunteers in implementing preventing measures, facilitating the deliveries of grocery provision and cooked food. We got insights of



experienced role of local democracy. It has enriched us with many experiments communities initiated in fight with pandemic, collaborations, demand generations, conflict resolutions, approaching administrations, judiciary and media.

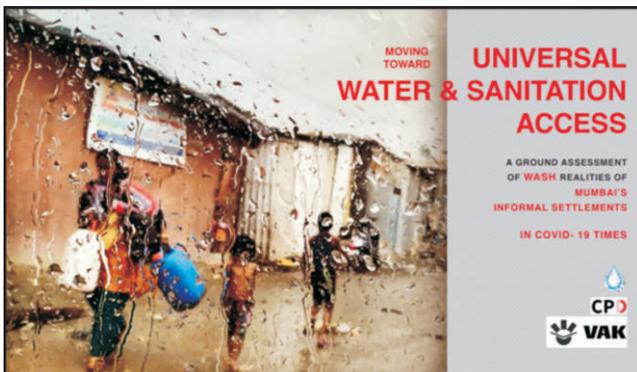
Democratising Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH)

The COVID-19 response guidelines advocated by different governments and international organisations included continuous and careful hand washing with soap and water. But tragically, many communities where CPD was working did not have legal access to water. This made keeping the personal and family cleanliness difficult. These communities being densely populated with inadequate access to water, sanitation, and healthcare services were at greater risk.

CPD in collaboration with Pani Haq Samiti and Vikas Adhyayan Kendra undertook a detailed study in 65 communities of informal residents and homeless persons that were denied legal water connections. The main objective of the study was to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related subsequent policy responses on the access to water and sanitation facilities among urban poor in Mumbai. The study had recommendations on creating access to water, sanitation and hygiene in communities. The findings from the study were shared with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Policy makers and Municipal Commissioner, BMC, scholars, academicians, civil society groups.



A campaign was initiated to convey to the government, the desperate need and demand for uninterrupted water supply. Peoples collective from 32 communities and PHS wrote letters to the Collector, Nodal Officer for Pandemic and Municipal Commissioner to provide basic facilities of water, toilet and hygiene in the communities. In response to the campaign, the Additional Municipal Commissioner (Project) (AMC(P)), Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), directed the water department to accelerate the process for providing water connections to the communities.



The campaign also made a demand for free public toilets as people did not have money to even pay for food, leave alone use a toilet. BMC issued a circular to Pay – and – use public toilets to stop charging residents during the lockdown. But public toilet operators were unable to keep up maintenance in the absence of support from the government as they were charged commercial rates for water and electricity.

At Ambedkar Nagar in Malad toilet tanks were flooded which caused unsanitary conditions. As there were no toilets for the citizens to use, they had to resort to open defecation. Residents were encouraged to write letters to the administration and follow up with officers. These actions resulted in municipal administration cleaning up the toilet tanks. The process of building new toilets blocks were also initiated in the area.

The Municipal Corporation also took cognizance of our request for sanitizing communities and started clearing garbage and sanitizing toilets at regular intervals. The administration also provided Mobile Toilet Facility on temporary basis in Malad - Kranti Nagar, Mandala – Mankhurd and Bhim Nagar.



Networks & Collaborations:

- This year collaborations are focusing on gathering ground realities and articulate for formulation of demands to have dilouge with policy makers and administration.
- Pani Haq Samiti in collaboration with CSO –Coalition undertook a study india Cities: In –Adequacy of housing in times of COVID -19
- Pani Haq Samiti along with HRLN and other organizations prepared a report Urban Planning Response in Mumbai during the COVID-19 Lockdown - A Citizens Charterhe document provided an action plan for the city of Mumbai that could help the government respond in more equitable and effective manner to overcome the pandemic.
- PHS collaborated with "MumbaiWater Narrative" to make an online exhibition depicting various aspects of water through artwork. Through this online exhibition, the journey of the campaign for a decade and the demands are presented in the form of a calendar with the help of photos.

Facilitating entitlements and basic services

Securing the temporary homes of oppressed communities:

The Bombay High Court in its order dated 19th March 2020 restrained the BMC and all other Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra from carrying out demolitions and evictions during the pandemic. Despite the order of Bombay High Court, 21 Pardi families were evicted from the footpath outside Bahar cinema in Vile Parle, 50 families were evicted from Goregaon. 18 homeless families who earned their livelihood through hawking and contractual conservancy work in Vile Parle (west) and 35 homeless families were evicted in Poisar Gymkhana, Kandivali (W) on the pretext of 'cleaning' streets. The families were told to "disappear" with a warning that they must not be seen in the area henceforth. The police refused to accept their complaint. Irony is most of these families are working as conservancy workers for BMC's contractors.

CPD intervened and filed complaints in the police station and simultaneously started correspondence with the Chief Minister, Maharashtra, Municipal Commissioner, BMC and State National Rights Human Commission. The campaign demanded a stop to evictions and setting up emergency shelters for the homeless.

Support to survive through Relief:

Since these oppressed communities families do not have ration cards, they could not benefit from the free rations provided through the Public Distribution System. CPD demanded cooked food or dry rations for non-ration card holders from BMC. CPD distributed 700 dry ration kits to the homeless in these communities which support them for 3 to 4 months to survive. This also defend them in from getting in a vicious circle of debt and poverty.

CPD campaigned for providing ICDS (Integrated Child Development Schemes) in homeless communities to ensure nutrition for vulnerable groups like children, elderly, pregnant and breast-feeding women and adolescent girls. The Maharashtra State Women and Child Development Department sanctioned 2 ICDS centres, one in Dattani Park, Kandivali and other in Chikkuwadi, Borivali.



Facilitating temporary Water supply on humanitarian ground:

Under normal circumstances, homeless families rely on neighbouring settlements for drinking water. But the struggle for water aggravated in COVID situations. The campaign requested MCGM to provide public stand post water connections to homeless communities wherever possible and provide water through tankers in other homeless communities on the humanitarian ground. **MCGM provided 1 stand post water connection in Sitaram Mill compound to meet the needs of 150 families. And water was supplied through tankers near Poisar Gymkhana**, but requests for water and sanitation access from other settlements went unheard by MCGM.

Independent Auditor's Report

The Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950
SCHEDULE VIII [Vide Rule 17(1)]
Registration No. E-0033367(GBR) (MUMBAI)
Name of the Public Trust-CENTER FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY
1/1, Shiv Vaibhav Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, Jogeshwari, Vikroli Link Road, Majasgaon, Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai-400060
Balance Sheet As At 31st March 2021

FUND & LIABILITIES	Amount in Rs.		PROPERTY AND ASSETS	Amount in Rs.	
Trust Funds or Corpus:-			Immovable Properties :		
Balance as per last Balance sheet	-	-	As per last Balance Sheet (Sch.-1)	-	
Adjustment during the year (Give details)			Additions during the year	-	
Other Earmarked Funds:-			Less: sales during the year	-	
(Created under the Provision of the Trust deed or scheme or out of the income)			Depreciation	-	
Depreciation Fund (Sch.1)	-				
Sinking Fund	-		Investment:-		
Reserve Fund	-		Note: The market value of investment is Rs.	-	
Building (Sch.-2)	-		Movable Properties:- (Sch.-2)		
Loans (Secured or Unsecured):-			As per last Balance sheet (Sch.D)	17,000.00	
From Trustees			Addition during the year	-	
From Others			Less: Sales During the Year	-	
Liabilities :-			Dep.Up to date	2,550.00	14,450.00
Audit Fees	17,700		Loan (Secured or Unsecured) : Good/doubtful		
Expenses	-		Loan Scholarships		
For Advances Member Deposits	-		Other Loans		
For Sundry Credit Balances	27,125		Advances:-		
For Tenant Deposit	-	44,825	To Trustees		
			TO Employees		
Income and Expenditure Account:-			TO Contractors		
Balance as per last Balance sheet..	(33,107)		TO Lawyers		
Add: Transfer From depreciation Fund			TO Others	53,269.00	53,269.00
ADD: Surplus as per I & E A/C	1,08,478	75,371	Income Outstanding:-		
			Rent		
			Interest		
			Other Income		
			Cash and Bank Balance :-		
			(a) In Saving Account with (Sch.E)	50,902	
			Cash in Hand with Trustee		
			(b) With the Trustees		
			(c) with the manager	1,574	52,476.00
TOTAL		1,20,196	TOTAL		1,20,196

For & on behalf :

Sahoo & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 322952E

CA Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB
Partner
M. No. 057426

Place : New Delhi
Date : 27.12.2021

For & on behalf :

Center for Promoting Democracy

Sifaram Shelar

Manohar Rajguru
Trustee

Amita Bhide

Independent Auditor's Report

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950
SCHEDULE-IX
Vide Rule 17(1)

Registration No. E-0033367(GBR) (MUMBAI)
Name of the Public Trust-CENTER FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY
1/1, Shiv Vaibhav Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, Jogeshwari, Vikroli Link Road, Majasgaon, Jogeshwari
(East), Mumbai-400060

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31st MARCH 2021

EXPENDITURE	Amount	INCOME	Amount
To Expenditure In respect of Properties :-		By Rent	
Rates, Taxes, Cesses	-	Accrued	-
Repairs and Maintenance	-	Realised	-
Salaries		By Interest	
Insurance	-	Realised	-
Depreciation	-	On Securities	-
Other Expense		On Loans	-
To Establishment Expenses	-	On Bank Account	10,910
To Bank charges/commission	1,045	By Grant From	
To Remuneration to Trustees	2,40,000	Various Institution	-
To Legal Expenses	-	By Income From Other Sources	-
To Audit Fees	17,700	By Donations	26,28,027
To Contribution and Fees		By Transfer to Depreciation Fund	-
TO Amount written off:-	-		
(b) Loan Scholarship			
To Miscellaneous Expenses	2,10,850		
To Depreciation	2,550		
To Amount transferred to Reserve or specific Funds			
To Expenditure on object of the Trust			
(a) Religious			
(b) Educational			
c) Medical Relief	8,00,180		
(d) Relief Of Poverty	12,58,134		
(e) Other Charitable Object			
To Surplus Carried over to Balance Sheet	1,08,478		
TOTAL	26,38,937	TOTAL	26,38,937

For & on behalf :

S. Sahoo & Co.

Chartered Accountants

FRN: 322952E

CA Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB

Partner

M. No. 057426

Place : New Delhi

Date : 27.12.2021

For & on behalf :

Center for Promoting Democracy



Sitaram Shelar



Manohar Rajguru
Trustee



Amita Bhide

Independent Auditor's Report

The Bombay Public Trusts Act,1950
1/1, Shiv Vaibhav Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, Jogeshwari, Vikroli Link Road, Majasgaon,
Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai-400060

Registration No. E-0033367(GBR) (MUMBAI)
Name of the Public Trust-CENTER FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021

RECEIPTS

Opening Balance :

Cash in Hand

Cash at Bank

173.00

1,42,798.00

Donation

Bank Interest

Loans & Advances Received

26,28,027.00

10,910.00

1,43,570.00

TOTAL Rs.

29,25,478.00

PAYMENT

Programme Expense

Administrative Expenses

Loans & Advances Paid

Current Liabilities Paid

20,58,314.00

4,69,595.00

9,000.00

3,36,093.00

Closing Balance

Cash in Hand

Cash at Bank

1,574.00

50,902.00

TOTAL Rs.

29,25,478.00

For & on behalf :

S. Sahoo & Co.

Chartered Accountants

FRN: 322952E

CA Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB

Partner

M. No. 057426

Place :New Delhi

Date : 27.12.2021

For & on behalf of:

Center for Promoting
Democracy

Trustees

Sitaram Shelar

Manohar Rajguru

Amita Bhide







