

## Unhealthy conditions plague Bowring Hospital

Unclean toilets and stinking ambience make the hospital unhygienic

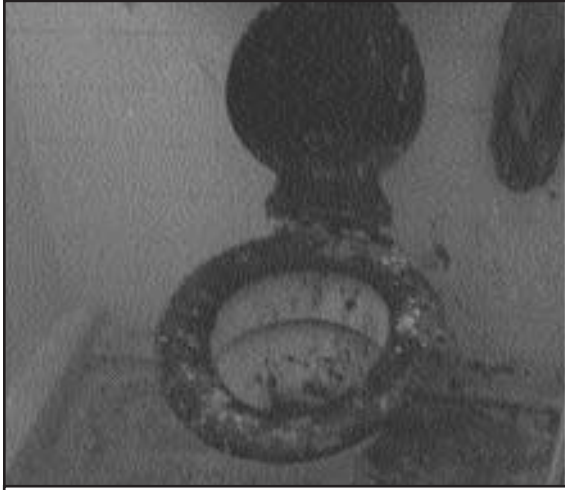
AKANSHA PRADEEP

Lady Curzon and Bowring Hospital, which is thronged with people at all times of the day looks well maintained. There is a stark difference in that appearance as one walks inside. The inside story is shocking. The dingy dark corridors lead to different wards jam-packed with visitors and patients.

The foul odour from the toilets makes breathing difficult for people walking down the corridors. Supriya, a visitor at the hospital said, "I don't know how patients live here when I can't even breathe in this atmosphere."

Dr. Asima Banu, Microbiologist said that the toilets are cleaned but the people outside the hospital also prefer to use the toilets in the hospital rather than public toilets. She added that people don't know how to use the toilets. She said

since there is not enough staff, there can't be sweepers cleaning the toilets after every use. The patients are so gripped with their



Unhygienic toilets at Bowring Hospital create an unhealthy atmosphere. by author

illness that no one seems to mind the stinking ambience.

Dr. S Rajanna, Resident Medical Officer said that the hospital caters to the lower strata of the society that is usually uneducated. They do not know how to maintain the basic

cleanliness and with so many patients it is difficult for the hospital staff to do so regularly. He said that their main focus in the hospital is to provide proper and quick medication to patients in need.

"We never exploit our patients because we know their financial background so we provide them the best medication available in lowest cost as compared to private hospitals. The private hospitals, which appear so clean, charge huge amounts of money even for the smallest treatment," he added.

In spite of these conditions in the hospital the patients are satisfied with the kind of treatment they get. A relative of a patient said that the doctors and the treatment are good. She even said that the doctors come on regular rounds and proper care is taken to ensure that the patients don't have any problems.

## No rainwater harvesting structures in shopping malls

CHITRA PHALGUNI

The shopping malls in Bangalore do not have Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) structures, which is against the Building Bye-laws, 2003 of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The Bye-Law requires every building covering an area of more than 100 square-metre to have one or more RWH structures. The structures should be maintained in good repair for storage of water for drinking purposes or recharge of ground water.

The malls, however, have not installed any RWH implement at all. They still depend almost entirely on ground water for all their water requirements.

The malls have to consult the Mines and Geology department of the corporation for installation of their water connection. This includes both ground water connection and RWH structures.

N Chandranna, senior geologist of the department, said, "The structure has to be necessarily

installed. But no mall has got it installed so far."

The public relations officers, of all the shopping malls checked with, said that their malls had no RWH structure.

Basavaraj, the public relations officer of The Forum, Hosur Road, said that they used ground water for their necessities. They ensured that the sewage water collected in the malls was recycled and used for the gardens. "We have not taken to rainwater harvesting due to lack of space," he added.

Rai, the public relations officer of Eva Mall, Brigade Road, said that they used water from Cauvery for most requirements. Other than this, water suppliers like M S Suppliers provide water to the mall.

Balaji, the public relations officer of Bangalore Central Mall, Residency Road, said that they had good water supply system for the mall. The source was the Cauvery.

The BBMP did not comment on the issue.

**Building Bylaws - "Every building with an area exceeding 100 sq.mts. and built on a site measuring not less than 200 sq. mts shall have one or more rain water harvesting structures."**

## Poor funding for Anganwadis

Anganwadis lack basic amenities like water, electricity, sanitation

ANIL DAS

The anganwadis situated in central and west parts of the city lack basic amenities.

Anganwadis are pre-nursery schools run by the government to take care of nutritional needs and health of kids ranging from three to six years of age.

The anganwadi located on T. C. Royan Road near Kempgowda bus stand houses 20 children. However, it lacks basic amenities such as water, electricity, doors, windows and sanitation. The condition is unhygienic for the children at the anganwadi. Vijayalakshmi R, the teacher, said, "We have informed the authorities and the corporation officials have visited several times assuring. But nothing has improved." Pushpalatha, The head teacher, said, "We live in constant fear during monsoons as the rains are heavy and it is tough to manage the kids as they are very young."

The Anganwadi at Valmiki Nagar has a problem even more serious. It houses 20 kids from the neighbourhood. They do not have a building to run classes and the classes are conducted at local community hall, which is in bad condition.

Lakshamma, the aaya (care-taker) said, "When a function happens, either the anganwadi declares a holiday or the function is conducted in a local temple. This prevents the smooth flow of classes." However, she added that the kids themselves are irregular in attending the classes.

The Integrated Child

Development Service Scheme (I.C.D.S) deals with the development and administration of



One of the reading rooms of anganwadi at TC Royan Road in pathetic condition. by author

anganwadis. Mr. Choudappa, Chief Development Programme Officer of the I.C.D.S said that due to constraint of space in the city they had been facing these kinds of problems.

The situation in many other anganwadis of the city is not any different. The lack of basic amenities is the general problem.

## Road in Victoria Hospital campus covered in dust

ANIL DAS

The stretch of road that connects the Emergency department to the Nephro-urology department in Victoria Hospital is engulfed in dust. This is because of the many construction activities underway in the campus. The 500-metre stretch of road is the only route that the patients can take to reach the Nephro-urology department and

the Dharamshala.

A patient Mallapa suffering from a leg fracture said, "I cannot even walk on this stretch as it is so uneven and full of stones and mud, which is really dangerous. I cannot afford an auto rickshaw as they charge Rs 20 for 500 meters and I am very poor".

Prakash, who has a Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Cooperative Society (HOPCOMS)

Store near the place, said, "There is a lot of dust. We need to keep wiping the entire fruit section every 10 minutes which is really tedious and inconvenient for me."

Dr. N. Anjunda ppa, Superintendent of Victoria hospital said that it is the responsibility of the Public Works Department (P.W.D) to handle the repair of the road, and that the repair work will start soon.

## Railway failed to renovate housing colony

Yeshwanthpur Railway houses are not repaired in spite of regular complaints by residents.

SAMEER R BAKSHI

The class three Railway employees stay with their families in their old and dilapidated quarters in the Yeshwanthpur Railway colony. Despite many complaints filed by the employees, the Railway authorities are not heeding to their woes.

P.Vijayan (locopilot), a resident of the colony said "We are facing a lot of problems. The roof of my kitchen, bathroom and bedroom seeps a lot not only in the months of monsoon but also anytime in the year whenever it rains. It becomes very difficult for us to manage." Another resident, Sashidana Nayar, said that when he complained to the IOW (Inspector Of Work), he was given the excuse that cement and chips were not available with the Department.

Some other residents of the colony echoed similar sentiments and said that due to the ignorance

by the Civil Engineering Department to the small and recurring problems, the conditions



A part of the Yeshwanthpur Railway quarters that is a shambles. by author

of all the quarters have become worse. The buildings are 50-55 years old and some of the toilets

pipes are also broken.

The Railway officials differed in their views and tried to pass the buck to one another. The Section Engineer, P.Umesh, said that they have issued a tender for repairing these quarters but no contractor came forward to take up the bid citing reasons that the tender has inherent potential for loss. Deepak Chabria, ADRM (Additional Divisional Railway Manager), said, "There is no convention to issue tenders for repairing and maintaining houses." He, while talking about the problems of the employees said, "Employees can ask gold but the Railways can't manage to provide that."

M.R.S.Chowdhary, the Divisional Engineer, North (DEN), differed by saying that he has not been aware of any problems and of any complaint filed by employees so far. He added that people are not complaining promptly.