

Unhealthy conditions at Madiwala vegetable market

There are no proper garbage bins and so the vendors dump the garbage right next to their shops. Despite the cleanliness drive by BBMP, there has been no improvement in the situation

GEETHA JAYARAMAN

Bangalore—The vegetable market at Madiwala is in an unhygienic condition. It hardly looks like a vegetable market because of the garbage dumps in the area. There are no proper garbage bins. The vegetable vendors dump the garbage right next to their shop which makes the place even dirtier. Due to monsoon rains the whole market is full of puddles and that worsens the condition.

It's not only our responsibility but also the vegetable vendors," said LT Gayathri, Chief Health Officer, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). "We pick the garbage everyday and clean the area every Friday. Apart from that, twice a month we do a mass cleaning of the area," she added.

"We have educated the vegetable vendors that they should throw their vegetable waste in those areas which have been marked by us, so that the garbage is collected properly. But these people don't follow the steps. We can't impose

penalty on them as the market is not under our control," she said.

Parvati, a vegetable vendor, said



Garbage piles up at Madiwala vegetable market

- Pic by author

they had been there for last ten years, the BBMP people come

every morning to clean the place but they are not told about any specific place to dump the garbage.

the back of their shops. The garbage is just being shifted from one place to another but no

The Chief Health Officer also said that they have not provided garbage bins as earlier the area used to get flooded with garbage, which attracted stray dogs.

Lakshmi, a customer, had a tough time selecting the vegetables. She did not have any other option but to buy vegetables from that area. "There is a function at my place tomorrow and this is the only place where I will find vegetables in bulk. So we are forced to come and buy from this place."

Anuya, a local resident said, "The market stinks very badly, worse than a fish market. And it is very difficult to walk around all this filth. And it probably affects the business of the nearby mall (Total Mall) since people wouldn't go there if they have to pass by the stink. Why isn't anyone taking action?"

The garbage heaps attracts many stray cattles which further block the way adding to the malady. Swift action should be taken to put an end to this public inconvenience.

They collect the garbage in polythene bags and keep them at permanent steps are being taken to get rid of it permanently.

Lost in transportation

Tankers wasting water through leakage while transportation

AYESHA ALEEM

Bangalore—Water tankers of the city, spill water during transportation, at a time when parts of Bangalore are facing a water shortage. It isn't uncommon to see a plying water tanker either leaking a steady trickle or gushing forth large amounts of water. This water is spilt on the road and wasted.

action against them." "BWSSB water is used by almost a crore of people through around six lakh connections a day. So some amount of leakage will be there", he continued. "But if we find out that there is a leakage somewhere, within 20 minutes or half an hour we fix it."

He added, "The most we can do is



A tanker carrying water

-Pic Google images

Prahlad Rao, Public Relation Officer, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewage Board, (BWSSB) said, "We do not have the power to penalize these tankers because they are mostly owned by private companies. BWSSB tankers are limited and operate mainly in the rural areas, and not inside the city. Also, the water that these tankers use is not provided by BWSSB. They use some borewell water. So we cannot take any

put some ads in the newspaper or on the radio for public awareness. But yes, these private tanker companies should take care not to waste water."

Avinash, manager of The Rainwater Club, an NGO in the city said, "Between 35-47% of the water that the BWSSB pumps from the Cauvery River is wasted. Wastage of water from water tankers is a small issue. We are looking into much larger issues."

Parking fees being fraudulently charged at Mahatma Gandhi road

Small-time shop-owners make a quick buck by charging parking fee

RATUL SUR

Bangalore—The owners of small shops at M G Road are collecting parking fees from people despite the fact that parking has been made free.

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) previously used to collect parking fees from people who would park their vehicles—both two-wheelers and four-wheelers—in the parking place.

But this system was later withdrawn and free parking has been started since then. But this withdrawal has not been put into action in M G Road area. Here the local shopkeepers collect parking fees. MG road has many important shops and malls of the city and has almost 900 vehicles including two-wheelers and four-wheelers visiting every day.

D. Raja who owns a tea stall on the road uses the place in front of his stall for public parking. He said that he charges Rs. 10 for two-wheelers and Rs.20 for four-wheelers. When he was told that it was illegal, he said that people have no problem in parking

vehicles in front of his shop and paying him the amount. He said that he would continue this business as it gives him easy money. He earns Rs.40- 50 per day by this business which adds to his income. Firoz, another man who owns a magazine shop on the

pulsar bike said, "I don't want to give such illegal fees but then where can I park my bike? Most of the places have such illegal parking. I am compelled to pay."

P. Narsimayyah, Assistant Commissioner of Traffic Police (Planning) said that it is illegal to

collect such fees but the violation of this rule has not been defined. "We are aware of this problem but cannot do anything unless the offence is defined".

He said that to take appropriate action they need public complaints. "If the public gives us a complaint then only can we sit with the Commissioner of Traffic Police and take legal steps. We go on rounds regularly they see lots of people violating the law, but we cannot do anything about it. There is no law defining this wrong practice as



Local shopkeepers earn extra money by charging parking fees on M G road's free parking zone.

-Pic Google images

footpath also said the same thing. He said that he does not make enough money by selling magazines. He resorts to this, to earn something more.

"I want my vehicle's security. I am ready to pay any amount for it," said P. Murali, who owns a Honda City car. S. Gulati, owner of a

an offence" He said that no such case has been registered this year and it is only because of lenient traffic laws, the people are making money so easily. When asked about the future course of action he said that people should voice their objections before police exercise their power.