

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

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1. Brief Introduction

As per Census 2011, Kolkata city's population has not increased since the Census of 2001. The nighttime population of Kolkata is approximately 45 lakhs while the daytime population is projected to be closer to 1.5 Cr. However the Environmental challenges faced by the city are terrifying at best and if something is not done in a planned and systematic manner the city is looking towards a bleak and grim future in terms of environment and ecological balance.

Spread over 200 sq. kms Kolkata is divided into 144 Wards and 16 Boroughs. It is administered by the ULB, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

Kolkata city is rapidly urbanizing. Huge infrastructure development work is going on in the city – skyscrapers, bridges and flyovers, roads, shopping malls, metro railways, etc. are coming up at a tremendous pace. Alongside a huge number of Kolkata's population lives in urban slums and bustees – in very degraded urban environments leading to a very high instance of morbidity and disease.

As per a World Bank Report Kolkata is one of the leading Climate vulnerable cities – and is faced with threats of devastating cyclones and sea and storm surges over a hundred year time period.

CCCkolkata has been working in the city of Kolkata – for its Environmental Sustainability and Inclusive Development. CCCkolkata's focus in this area started in 2010. Research, Publications, Partnerships, Advocacy, Mobilization, and Development Communications are our tools.

Work started in 2010 for the conservation of Urban Greens and City Parks, has taken a big leap forward in the current financial year, by securing partnerships with the KMC (Kolkata Municipal Corporation) and the RRSC (Regional Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO). Awareness raising work with school, colleges and communities continues. Corporates are being approached to form strategic tie-ups and for mobilization of funds for the same. KMC the custodian of these parks and urban greens do not have the budget and / or the resources for this conservation and development. There are close to 760 urban parks and KMC has a meager budget of approximately Rs. 38.00 crores and a staff strength of 200 persons. CCCkolkata is exploring corporate, institutional support and partnerships for this conservation. A recent World Bank Report has stated that any Urban Revival / Rejuvenation Project must be a partnership between the Public and the Private. CCCkolkata is working hard to activate this Partnership. We are in dialogue with several Corporate Houses to sponsor Parks.

To reach out to the community CCCkolkata has strategized to work with institutions and community level NGOs. Since these institutions and NGOs have grass-root level connections and access it enables CCCkolkata to reach out and communicate with a wider and spread out community faster.

Starting in January 2015, CCCkolkata is partnering with an NGO called EKTARA to create Environmental consciousness amongst the community it serves. CCC started this programme on Environment, Hygiene in Ektara – which is a school for girl children of a Topsis in KMC ward number 59. It has 450 girls approximately from this area, which is amongst the dirtiest

areas of the city. Ektara draws its staff and a majority of its teachers also from the local community. CCCKolkata partners with Ektara for its work on Environment Sustainability and Inclusive Development. Issues addressed are health, hygiene, solid waste management, urban greens, importance of trees, and personal activism for Kolkata's environmental sustainability. Hygiene and Environment education and action is the main intent of this Programme.

To scale up this Programme and to extend it to other schools CCC has submitted a funding proposal to Coal India Limited. Their response is awaited.

Since early in FY 2015-16, CCCKolkata has partnered with CHIP, an NGO, which works in KMC Ward 58, the Tangra area – which is the center of Kolkata's rag-picking business. A Ward which is extremely dirty, most of the residents are immigrants who come into the city from neighbouring states in search of livelihood, and a Ward whose socio-economic profile is the lowest in the city of Kolkata. CHIP works with select schools of this ward for their empowerment. CCCKolkata is working with these schools to create awareness and action on Environment as well as on Teachers Training and English Language skills proficiency.

Education & Skills Development of Government Aided schools is a work CCCKolkata has just embarked upon. With its very successful and encouraging experiences at EKTARA CCCKolkata has now started to laterally taking it to other NGO and Government Aided schools in the city of Kolkata. Knowledge partner for this is Tata Consultancy Services. Adult Literacy Programme, Teacher Training Programme are being undertaken in CCCKolkata's Project areas / institutions in partnership with TCS.

English language skills, specially reading and speaking skills are being planned to be undertaken soon in the next Financial Year in Government Aided and Government Sponsored Schools of Kolkata City.

CCCKolkata is exploring several more such partnerships.

Youth – schools and colleges of Kolkata are major communities with whom CCCKolkata proposes to work with and is working to strengthening this link. Since its inception CCCKolkata has worked with this community and is taking this relationship and experience forward in all its work.

In continuance of its work on dissemination and societal awareness creation for Kolkata's Environmental Sustainability, CCCKolkata has co-organized and participated in workshops in partnership with Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development (iLEAD).

CSR Consultancy is another area that CCCKolkata proposes to get into in the next Financial Year. There is a huge amount of Funds available for Development. CCCKolkata intends to use its own Development Projects experiences in handholding both Corporates and other NGOs so that the funds can be spent in meaning work – joining the dots.

2. Institutional Challenges

CCCKolkata has been working on Kolkata's environmental sustainability since 2010. The work done by it is path breaking and acknowledged as such by those concerned about the city of Kolkata's future. The Research done by CCCKolkata, the data collected of the City's Parks, the publication of the Parks Directory and Parks Map are pioneering efforts. This data and these publications are being used by KMC in the absence of their own lists of the City's Parks.

However CCCKolkata has so far worked on volunteering. The Governing Council members undertake the various Projects and implement the same. CCCKolkata has received small funds as corporate partnerships but they have been only for a very small part of the Project.

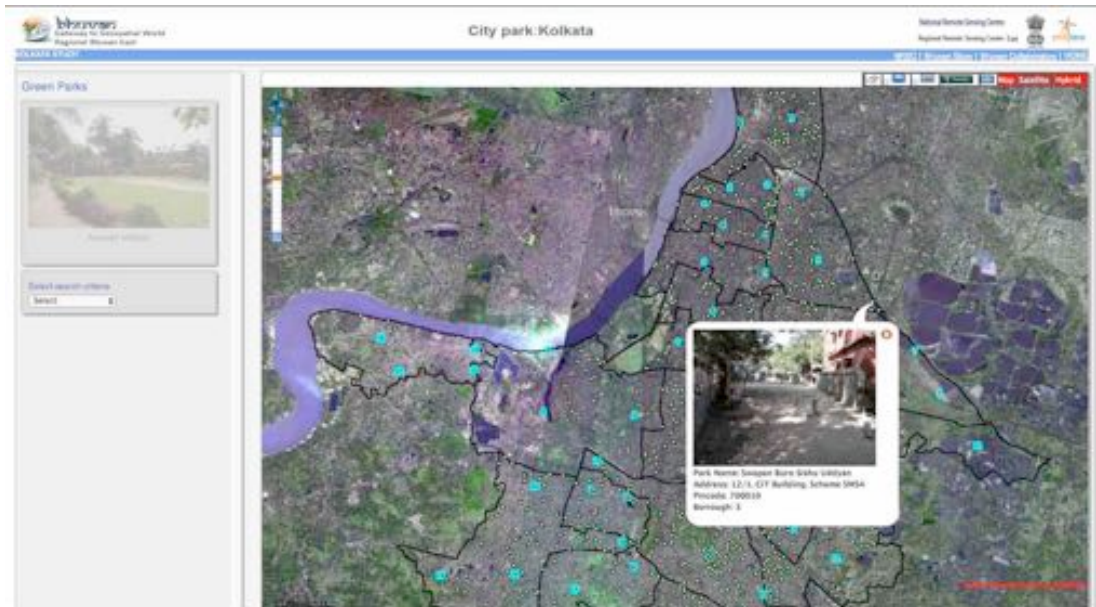
Projects on Environmental Sustainability, Ecological balance, urbanization issues though mentioned in the Schedule VII of the Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 does not find the Corporate houses interested in them. Securing Corporate Partnerships has so far been elusive.

The challenge ahead of CCCKolkata is to take the next step from being dependent largely upon volunteering to becoming an institution / organization. The Challenge is also in convincing Corporate Houses to partner with CCCKolkata in its Environmental Sustainability and Inclusive Development Projects.

3. Conservation of Kolkata City's Parks and Greens

Conservation of Kolkata city's Parks and Greens, is a major input to make Kolkata a city to live, work and play in. It is amongst the most important Projects to make Kolkata a green city and for the future of the community living in it. It can contribute immensely to Kolkata's environmental sustainability and strengthen Kolkata's abilities to face the challenges of Climate Change. CCCkolkata's research shows that much needs to be done urgently else the pressures of rapid urbanization will sound a death knell for most of these Parks and they will convert soon into built-up and/or private space.

CCCkolkata has with the technical assistance of RRSC-ISRO, GOI; plotted the GPS positions of the Parks (collected by CCCkolkata in its Survey) on a SATELLITE IMAGE of KMC. This has been hosted on ISRO's BHUVAN platform and can easily be accessed by all residents of this city and elsewhere.



<http://bhuvan-staging.nrsc.gov.in/projects/parks/green.php>

With the above CCCkolkata is now in dialogues with select Corporates, especially from the Builder community, to adopt a couple of Parks each so that a solution maybe found for the Conservation of the universe of approx.. 760 plus Parks.

CCCkolkata is also trying to collect a Fund whereby it can get into a Partnership with KMC for the conservation of all the Parks of the city of Kolkata.

4. Municipal Solid Waste Management

Kolkata city has a significant MSW problem. Segregation of waste has not yet started, there is no societal campaign for the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). The Dhapa Landfill has reached its optimum capacity a few years ago and KMC is unable to locate a site for the next landfill. There is VATS and litter everywhere. The residents and visitors of the city are not aware of this problem and litter at will. Schools, Corporates and Institutions have not yet taken up this problem.

KMC has introduced Compactors in several places all over Kolkata. These are used to compact collected mixed waste before it is taken to the Landfill Dhapa. KMC has also undertaken an extensive programme for cleaning the roads and transferring the litter / garbage to the Compactor.

CCCKolkata has started its MSW work at an NGO Ektara (www.ektara.co.in). The work started with Garbage Segregation and Garbage awareness at Ektara (which is a school for approximately 450 girls from Topsia area in KMC Ward 59. These children are living in slum / bustee environments. Ektara has classes from Nursery to class 2. After that the children are sent to other NGO and other schools. Ektara provides these other school going children with tuition support in the afternoons.)



CCCKolkata intends to work with NGO school, government sponsored and aided schools, KMC schools and other private schools of Kolkata for its MSW work. The aim of CCCKolkata is to make these schools 'ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS.'

Intense workshops were held with staff, teachers, children and management at Ektara. Blue and Green Bins have been installed and over a year's work Segregation and the 3R's has become a way of life at Ektara.



A Public Rally was held on World Environment 2015 to make the community and the neighborhood aware of this initiative at Ektara.



Plastic pollution consciousness is built into the MSW work at Ektara. Ektara observes Fridays as NO PLSTIC DAY now.

CCCkolkata's work on Municipal Solid Waste Management in KMC took the next logical step. CCCkolkata contacted KMC for the collection of segregated waste from the premises of Ektara. KMC has so far expressed its inability to do so but CCCkolkata is still working on it.

MSW work at Ektara naturally led into work related to Hygiene. Proper Hand Washing discipline, Personal Hygiene became essential in the course of the work.



Every Wednesday is the Personal Hygiene day and on this day each child is checked.

An Environment Corner has been opened by CCCkolkata at Ektara and CCCkolkata is training Ektara staff to run this Programme.

5. Skill Development

In its work at Ektara CCCkolkata realized the urgent need for skill enhancement for the teachers so that education being imparted to the students in these schools can be brought at par. CCCkolkata brought in Tata Consultancy Services and their programme of Teacher Empowerment (TEP) into Ektara. 2 sessions have been held. TCS has 8 Modules in their TEP Programme.



This Partnership with TCS, CCCkolkata plans to take forward as it collaborates with other schools in its MSW work.

CCCkolkata is also proposing in the next financial year to take its work of skill development further into supporting these schools with English Language proficiency.

6. Planting of Trees

In the year 2015-16 CCCKolkata did not plant trees. All efforts were directed towards conservation of trees already planted over the previous years, which counted to almost 2500 numbers.

With great sadness we will report here that we have lost 20% of the trees planted. But the rest have survived and are growing in full splendour.

7. CSR Consultancy

Having worked with Corporates and NGOs as well as Communities and for the purposes of Environmental Sustainability and to reach out to greater numbers and to bring funds for Environmental Sector, CCCKolkata is working as Advisor to Corporate to set up their CSR Departments or for their NGO Management.

CCCKolkata has started work with iLEAD – Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development in Kolkata.

8. Institutional Growth

CCCKolkata needs funds for its Institutional Growth. We have so far survived on Volunteering.

Proposals for CSR Funding has been given to Coal India Limited and Siddha Realty and we are awaiting their response.