World Water Day-2018 Mysuru (India) Activities

Bogadi Kere/Lake Cleanup



The Rivers of the World volunteers, led by Dr. Sadashiva Murthy cleaned up a Lake (Bogadi Kere) in Mysuru, Karnataka, India.

Date: 25/03/2018

Place: Bogadi Kere (Mysuru, 500017)

Location: Lat: 12.3108531° N, Lon: 76.6140153° E

A Map (courtesy of google, inc.) showing the location of the Bogadi Kere is below.



Brief History:

Bogadi Kere/Lake is one of the oldest lakes of Mysuru City. This lake comes under the supervision of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

It is said that the Bogadi Lake is probably as old as Lingambhudi lake (approximately 190 years old), which is located at Bogadi road opposite to the Anthropological Survey of India close to the Nirmiti Kendra in Vijayanagara 3rd stage. The lake has rough area coverage of 7.5 hectare and an average distance of 4.2mi from the centre of the Mysuru city.

This lake is an upstream lake of Lingambudhi lake. The whole water collected, was earlier used for the farming and irrigation purpose in and around the Bogadi village.

And also Bogadi lake is the catchment area for the entire Vijayanagara 3rd stage as the water from all the drains will flow into this lake. This is the major ground water recharge point for the Vijayanagara and Bogadi.

Present Scenario and Problems:

As the lake is very much near to the municipal solid waste collection site (Transfer Station) it is needed to be guarded well and requires frequent cleaning, at least twice a week. But due to the negligence of the city corporation the plastic and other waste which are dumped in at site are flowing towards the lake and blocking the inflow channel. The waste flows into the lake due to an open land and improper management of the dump-yard site.

The people, who are living in and around the lake are generally low in their literacy rate and comes under low income group (LIG) category.

The corporation workers who come here to collect the waste in the area near the lake ask the residents near the lake for extra charge for collecting their waste. Since most of the residents there belong to a low income group they cannot afford the extra charge demanded by the workers. Hence the residents routinely dump wastes directly into the lake.

In the summer season the lake dries up about 60-70% and the ground surface of the lake contaminated with plastic, glass and other non-degradable wastes affecting percolation and recharge of the water from the surface to the perched water table and groundwater aquifer.

Due to the high quantity of waste in the lake the Lake water is not safe for drinking or other potable purposes. Due to the increased amount of contamination in the lake area, the impact on the groundwater aquifer has become a major issue. Despite these issues the Bogadi lake provides a home for various types of birds in different seasons.

Restoration work for this lake got started in 2012 by the City Corporation of Mysuru but the work was not completed properly. The report on the restoration work of 2012 was covered in the 'Deccan Herald' paper.

A few possible solutions to address the above issues:

Issue 1- Dumping wastes directly into the Lake by nearby residents.

<u>Possible solution - Improve communication between MCC and the local people.</u> Filing formal complaints against staffs/workers who demand extra money for trash collection. In addition, conduct awareness drives on a regular basis wherever necessary.

Issue 2- Overflowing MCC Trash Bin placed just beside the water body.

<u>Possible Solution</u> - Relocate the MCC bin away from the water body and demand MCC to clean it on regular basis. Since the bin is not emptied by the MCC on a regular basis, hence the trash overflows. The MCC must be persuaded by the local people with regular vigilance and complaints to empty the bins regularly.

<u>Issue 3</u>- Waste flowing in from the another water body (Hinkal) slightly upstream but in line with Bogadi Kere. There is no waste monitoring system in Mysuru and it is worsening the problem by mounting of waste and contaminants in the Bogadi Kere(Lake).

<u>Possible Solution -</u> Set up proper Waste monitoring system for Mysuru and also provide screens between two water bodies to limit the waste flowing into the Bogadi Kere from the Hinkal water body.

WWD 2018 Activities by the Volunteers from JSS S&T University:

As a part of the World Water Day- 2018 activities, 20-25 volunteers from Department of Environmental Engineering (JSS S&T University) cleaned up the Bogadi Lake under the guidance of Dr. B.M Sadashiva Murthy.

A total of 25 bags of waste was collected on that day, having an average weight of 7kg/bag. The collected waste was disposed with the help of Mysuru City Corporation(MCC) workers. Then the volunteers did a survey about the lake history and listed the problems and issues faced by the public from the general area including the residents around the lake. The volunteers also proposed a few possible solutions as listed above and suggested to the MCC officials.

A few pictures from the cleanup activities are below.



Fig 01: Transferring of solid waste from water body to transfer station



Fig 02: Collection of solid waste from City Corporation workers for disposal



Fig 03: Volunteers who participated in the Bogadi Kere cleanup activities.



Fig 04: Present status of the lake (after clean up and removal of mounds of trash)

These eco warriors lead the battle to save city's lakes

Students Spend Sundays Clearing Waste From Waterbodies

Shivendra Urs | TNN

Mysuru: Armed with grit and determination to rejuvenate the dying lakes of Mysuru, environmental engineering students of JSS Science and Technology Academy cleared the garbage at Bogadhi Lake on Sunday.

Their aim is to clear the solid waste before identify-ing the underlying problems of the lake. These green activists use their Sundays to study the problems of the lakes in the city and utilize their time to address these issues and keep a tab on the progress they have made.

Briefing about the lake rejuvenation project, Akshay Arakeri, a third year student, said, "Being students of environmental engineering, we are concerned for the cause of environment and pollution in the city. The Bogadhi Lake, which is home to many bird species, is on the verge of drying up and the garbage menace is only making things worse. We carried out a cleanliness drive to clear the garbage and in our next step we will be studying the water source of the lake. There is a link between the Hinkal Lake and the Bogadhi Lake.

Due to the feeder canals





Free Earth - the eco club

Free Earth, the eco club of the college, is open for all. Students who believe that a large volunteer base will help solve the environmental issues faced in the city have called upon the general public to volunteer and participate in various cleaning drives and projects of the club. To ioin the club contact: 9742034505

being blocked, there is no inflow of water to the lakes which may be lost to posterity if no immediate measures are taken up by the authorities concerned," he added.

Speaking about awareness drive conducted SHOWING THE WAY:

Environmental engineering students of JSS Science and Technology Academy clear the garbage at Bogadhi Lake in Mysuru on Sunday



Need fencing

Since the lake is not fenced properly, it is being used a dumping ground by the locals. If the MCC and Muda erect a fence, the lake can be saved.

Toxic waste

The students who took up the cleaning of the lake said toxic waste, plastic, and cushions are in abundance at the lakebed. Various species of birds and fish that thrive at the lake are under serious threat due to this, they added.

by the group in the residential area abutting the lake, Mohammed Fawaz, another third year student, said, "The lake being turned into a dumping site is the root of the problem. When garbage en-ters the lake along with plas-

tic, harmful chemicals enter the water thereby polluting the groundwater in the areas abutting the lake.

Pinning the blame on Mysore City Corporation, the students who had gathered at the lake said, "Had the MCC been more active and established a connection with the people, such prob-lems wouldn't have arisen. Time to time collection of waste is hardly done and there is no monitoring system in the MCC. This lack of coordination has worsened the problem."

We have interacted with the residents and urged them not to dump waste at the lake. We have tried to connect the people with MCC by educating them about whom to contact when waste is not collected. We are confident about a positive outcome," said a student of the college.

Stating that as budding environmental engineers it is the least they can do and are expecting a greater participation of public, Aishwarya Kagali, a second year student, said, "As environmental engineers, we want to bring in change and do something for the environment but it is the people who really have to propel the mission forward.

Newspaper Coverage by Times Of India (English)



Newspaper Coverage by Andolana (Kannada)