

2017-18

Annual Report

Livable Cities Project, Bhopal



Introduction

The baby steps CFI has made into creating an enabling environment in Bhopal to address Non-Communicable Diseases, over the last one year, is firmly footing to move forward and make an impact. The Non-Communicable are estimated to account for around 60% of all deaths, thus making them the leading causes of death. One of the major socio-environmental factors that are associated with such a rise in NCDs is urbanisation. Reports suggest that the urban population of India is expected to rise to 700 million by 2050. As urbanisation rapidly increases, the proportion of poor people living in urban areas is increasing while it decreases in rural areas. A large section of rural migrants ends up living in slums.

Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in India by area. With over 75 million inhabitants, it is the fifth-largest state in India by population. The capital city of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, is a city of 14 lakes and numerous hillocks, with 1.796 million population of which an estimated 35 percent live in slums. It is an age-old trade centre which has confronted issues from time to time. After the infamous Bhopal Gas tragedy, the city has risen to become one of India's greenest cities.

Being selected as one of the first 20 smart cities by the smart cities mission of Government of India, Bhopal is handed with a unique opportunity for strategic urban planning.

The Livable Cities Project, Bhopal by the CFI Charitable Trust, supported by HealthBridge Foundation is an attempt to influence the planning process and overall policy environment in Madhya Pradesh towards encouraging citizens to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle through better utilisation of **public spaces** and ensuring **access to healthy food**.

Public Space Program – Results

Public spaces can help urban centres meet the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals, for example, Goal 11 “making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. Cities are diverse. Thus, public spaces should correlate with this diversity. Different types of public spaces for different needs. The Bhopal city is basically divided into two parts – old Bhopal and new Bhopal. Bhopal is known as the City of Lakes for its various natural as well as artificial lakes and is also one of the greenest cities in India. According to current master plan, the Bhopal municipality covers 697 square kilometres and is divided into 85 wards. As of now, CFI has looked into understanding urban neighbourhood parks in Bhopal and has identified the need to explore much deeper policy environment that influences the healthy development of the city. The project also was successful in engaging faith-based organisations to appreciate open and green spaces as God's creation. A running club formed in Bhopal is inspiring people to adopt physically active life as part of the lifestyle.

Projected Activities- Research	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Studied two academic research papers namely (1) <i>Evaluating the Urban Green Space benefits and functions at macro, meso, and micro level: a case of Bhopal City</i> , And (2) <i>Spatial distribution of Parks- A case of Bhopal</i>		The project staff has a better understanding of the quality and quantity of parks in Bhopal

Employed public space audit tool for 33 private neighbourhood parks, spread across five wards (micro governance unit) in Bhopal City.	Neighborhood Park Audit Report Card Prepared	Increased understanding of the quality of neighbourhood Parks, and the absence of policy directives in the M.P Real Estate Regulation and Development Rules 2017 for space making.
Review of MP Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules 2017	Review note available	Identified advocacy ask to include policy directives for space making in the real estate sector
Identified 5 parks and began intervention in one park		Increased rapport with the resident association members accessing parks; discussion in progress on improving its usability.
Project Activities- Policy Development	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Mapping of stakeholders and assessment of the policy environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of key stakeholders and actors available Met with executives of the Garden Department, Zonal Offices, Bhopal Municipal Corporation, and the Smart City Mission Cell. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarity with the government mechanisms that influence relevant policy making Reviewed the M.P Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rule 2017.
Project Activities- Community Engagement	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Three slum communities in the Bhopal city are convinced to convert few mushy land into usable public places	Republic Day Celebration at Piplani slum elicited the importance of public space within in the slum for healthy living of its inhabitants.	Slum inhabitants had one to one interaction with the Municipal Councilor and few key political leaders on key issues of open space maintenance
Collaboration in the coordination of Run Bhopal Run a flagship event in the Bhopal City.	Networking with the high profile event coordinators and visibility to the project	Around 50 students from Ideal school Bhopal and 26 staff from CFI Trust participated in the marathon.

Engaging public to appreciate open spaces and improve physical activity	Formed a running club in partnership with Run-Bhopal-Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media is used, to- spread awareness to stay healthy and start running • Services of a professional trainer is availed for orienting participants on physical exercises • The number of neighbourhood residents running in the nearby open space increased
Engaging faith-based communities to appreciate open spaces as God's creation	Shalom Bride's church Bhopal has conducted its new year service at the high profile Mayur Park. The church organises youth gathering in the park in every Friday evening.	Religious reverence and importance to open space have become an acceptable norm for one practising church in the Bhopal, city.
Discussions with Senior Citizens of gated communities regarding NCDs and its relationship with open spaces and access to healthy food.	The project now has an interest group which is keen to get engaged	Increased rapport with Senior citizen groups of gated communities
Meeting with Park security guards, gardeners, sweepers, children playing in the parks and the nearby food vendors	Exchange of ideas regarding maintenance and upgrading of park facilities Important yet neglected stakeholders felt the need to get engaged	Increased rapport with different stakeholders
35 Focus Group Discussion before filling up of private neighbourhood park audit tool	Around 300 people got directly involved in the conversation around NCDs and the importance of parks	The objectives of the project are understood by a handful of people within the vicinity of each park and residents became interested in the conversation around inclusive parks, open spaces, and NCDs
Sensitizing media personnel	Met with Mr Rakesh Divan, Mr Sachin Jain and Baba Mayaram, senior journalist and few local media reporters	Rapport with the media

Projected Activities- Organizational and Community Capacity Building	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Engaging slums youths in the conversation around space making in slums	Awareness generation meeting with 18 adolescents' groups organised in six slums in Bhopal, emphasising the importance of open spaces within the slums	A decisive population is available in 6 slums amplifying the conversation around the importance of open spaces in the slums.
Staff exposure visit to livable cities project Nagpur	Staff empowered with a better understanding of project implementation	Enhanced capacity to prepare action plans
Increased capacity among stakeholders to advocate for parks.	Leaders of Brahmapuri Colony Residence Association has been provided continuous handholding to build an alliance to demand provision of public parks in the city periphery areas, newly getting into the municipality, including theirs.	Framework for an advocacy alliance is evolving
Dedicated interaction with the executives of National Association the Blind, Arushi- an organisation working with the differently abled, and the Regional Centre for Persons with Disabilities.	Three key people from these organisations got an impetus to think about accessibility to parks	Increased collaboration and future collective actions
Participated in the National Workshop cum Expo on Public Sharing Bike at Bhopal by the smart city mission.	Availed the opportunity to network with NGOs associated with the smart city mission, especially World Resource Institute.	Expanded civil society stakeholder base for the project
CFI Staff participated in the WUF9 held at Kuala Lumpur	Networking with HealthBridge partners and NOGs working on New Urban Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project could understand the global context in which Livable Cities Project is placed and could develop linkages. • CFI could participate in Health-Bridge partners Meeting

Access to Healthy Food Program- Results

CFI has started exploring the policy environment surrounding vegetable markets and street vendors because they ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of nutrition supply to the city's common public. However, in due course of time, we realised that the scope and need of dealing with Urban Agriculture is enormous in Madhya Pradesh and begun focusing more on urban agriculture. Urban Agriculture is one of the solutions that are perceived globally to meet the demand of food of urban population. There are a number of ways through which urban agriculture can, in principle, have an impact on urban food security. At the household level, urban agriculture can be a source of income; can provide direct access to a more substantial number of nutritionally rich foods.

Taking cues from the successful rooftop agriculture farming and organic farming practices, promoted by the Kerala Government and increasing policy discussions doing rounds by institutions like the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, CFI has begun developing models and seek attention from authorities and public to work towards promotion of rooftop farming in Bhopal City and organic farming in urban peripheries of Bhopal.

Projected Activities- Research	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Reviewed Street vendor's Protection Act 2014.	Review report available	The project has identified 27 small, 11 medium and five large-sized markets in Bhopal to assess the implication of street vendor's protection act 2014 for the formulation of advocacy action plan.
Project Activities- Community Engagement	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Engaging street vendors in policy dialogues	The project has made rapport with a decisive number of street vendors and the national association of street vendors India.	Identified eight street vendor leaders who are capable of mobilising vendors
Modelling a rooftop farming for demonstration and promoting conversation around urban agriculture	A miniature model of rooftop farm installation began at CFI Office	Assured commitment from CFI leadership to expand the initiative
Projected Activities- Organizational and Community Capacity Building	Output	Immediate/ Intermediate Outcomes - Results
Project team visited Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering in Bhopal and met and Assistant to Institute	The team understood that there are no existing initiatives	The team got an impetus to focus attention on promoting urban

Director Mr Jaison and the Principal Scientist Mr R.S Singh to inquire about the initiatives towards urban agriculture in Bhopal	towards formalising urban agriculture in Madhya Pradesh	agriculture in Madhya Pradesh.
Promotion of Organic/ Natural farming at Amoni village, the urban periphery of Bhopal city.	<p>Ground Preparation completed</p> <p>Procurement of Seeds for Cultivation</p> <p>Maize for 4 acres, Coriander for 1 acre</p> <p>2 acres getting seasoned for Soya Bean Cultivation</p> <p>Procured Organic Farming Fertilizers and 250 litres of organic solution are prepared in for use in 4 acres.</p>	Amoni farming team is prepared to go ahead with the organic farming practice and promotion

Reflections and Recommendations

The project has taken efforts to narrow down on the feasible and relevant areas that CFI could focus, on a long-term basis, within the broader areas of space making and access to healthy food. The initial hiccups in understanding the modus operandi, under the new urban agenda framework, have given thoughts to bringing more specificity into the plans ahead. Considering the constraints in going ahead with multiple foci plans, CFI would maintain its focus on open spaces and urban agriculture.

List copies of materials produced

1. Neighbourhood Parks' Audit Report Card
2. Review notes on M.P Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rule 2017.
3. Review report on The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
4. List of key stakeholders identified
5. Photographs