

Annex 5

Community Engagement

Introduction to BASS: Given the cramped nature of home, and a child's inability to be heard through these concrete walls if needed, the issue of child sexual abuse has assumed serious proportions here. Children are also addicted to drugs, and begin drinking and smoking from a young age. The duality of lack of space at home and in the community often results in complexes developing early in children. They grow up without adequate mental, physical, and emotional well-being, feeling extremely marginalised in a community that cannot care for their needs.

In the early 2000s, YUVA played a pivotal role in establishing Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathan (BASS), a collective dedicated to children's rights. This initiative operates within various communities across Mumbai, focusing on interventions specifically tailored for the well-being of children. The group is collectively owned by the member children and has transformed into a platform for self-expression for marginalized young urban leaders.



Figure 4. BASS meeting in Lallubhai Compound in 2018, Photo Credits: YUVA

In the Rehab and Resettlement colony of LBC, BASS has striven to empower children, helping them find a voice to articulate their needs and fights for their rights, in turn inspiring other children to join hands and drive change. Children's participation in this collective helps them develop a stronger voice and the agency to fight for their rights and drive changemaking. Over the years, BASS has facilitated several campaigns in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd.

Over the years, the BASS groups have spread awareness through the medium of street plays. They have built networks with their own cooperative society members (articulating the need for a mobile Child Resource Centre for those children who can't attend the existing space) and the need for library and

recreational space within the buildings. They have also engaged with the police and other civic authorities, taking forward the dialogue on housing and demands for better living conditions. Their demand for clean and safe child-friendly communities is critical, and their participation is important for the effective functioning of the Community-level Child Protection Committees (CCPCs).

Examples of engagement activities that YUVA engaged in:

- **Events such as World Environment Day** – We celebrated World Environment Day with children, aiming to share knowledge about environmental importance. The event included engaging children in environmental activities, emphasizing their role in caring for and developing sites. During this celebration, 30 children, along with 18 females and 12 males, actively participated. The occasion also involved the children taking a pledge to contribute to environmental conservation.
- **Co-Design Workshop with Children:** To better understand their perspectives and ideas for site development, we organized a co-design workshop with children. This workshop provided insights into their views on biodiversity and environmental changes. Through interactive sessions and questions about their surroundings, we sought to enhance their interest in nature. A total of 24 children, comprising 12 girls and 12 boys, participated in this workshop. Co-Design Workshop with Women: Women learnt about the biodiversity of their neighbourhood, gained information about climate, and shared their design ideas for Site 2.
- **Co-Design Workshop with Women** – Recognizing the lower participation of women in various initiatives, we organized a co-design workshop to encourage their active involvement. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for women to share their views, ideas, and ideas on nature-based solutions. 17 women actively participated, contributing valuable insights to the environmental discourse.
- **Study Class:** We conducted study classes for children within the community, addressing their academic challenges and providing information on environmental justice. These classes, attended by 25 children daily, served as a platform to engage them in educational activities and simultaneously promote environmental awareness.
- **Bylaws:** Informed residents about housing society bylaws. Residents shared their societal problems and discussed the implementation of bylaws.
- **Mixed Meeting:** Promoting inclusive participation, we organized a mixed meeting involving various community members, including children, women, society chairpersons, and federation chairpersons. The meeting served as an opportunity to share information about the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and discuss plans for Lal Maidan's development. The inclusive gathering witnessed the participation of 14 females, 18 males, and 10 children, totalling 42 participants.
- **Surveys of Waste Management, Environment, Water Management:** Conducted surveys involving 40 individuals to assess interest levels in environmental and climate management. The survey covered topics such as water management, environment, and waste management. Additionally, surveyed 1,776 people from 8 buildings, addressing questions related to water usage, availability, and timing.

Additional feedback provided by YUVA: Active participation from local representatives and departmental involvement at the ground level are crucial for the ongoing improvement of the Lal Maidan process. Additionally, engaging local parties and corporate entities is essential for comprehensive support. Being a rehabilitation colony, Lalubhai Compound lacks basic amenities, leading to challenges such as blocked drainage systems during the rainy season, causing health issues for residents. The R&R colony felt suffocating, and safety concerns hindered community. To address this, we collectively connected with

residents, understanding their issues, views, and ideas about Lal Maidan, enabling engagement in the developmental process.

Initially, residents were hesitant to actively participate, but through workshops and meetings, inclusivity was at the center leading to significantly increasing interest levels among children, women, and society stakeholders. This inclusive approach united and coalesced the community, creating awareness and sustained contributions to the developmental process. Despite challenges in securing suitable meeting spaces, especially during rainy days, collaboration with the federation resulted in utilizing their office as a community space, overcoming the hurdle.

To address internal conflicts within the federation, related to space usage and a lack of knowledge about society by-laws, meetings were organized to inform and mitigate conflicts. This collaborative approach resolved internal challenges and facilitated the functioning of the federation.

Looking ahead, post the Detailed Project Report (DPR), continuous engagement and regular conversations with the community are planned. Meetings will focus on the implementation of the final DPR, ensuring ongoing collaboration and sustained community involvement in the developmental process of Lal Maidan.

Table 8. List of indicators to capture number of stakeholder engagement sessions

Indicators	Unit (Nos, Y/N, etc.)
Meetings with community groups	
Types and nos. of engagement sessions	Two Co-design sessions, 1 bylaws session
	10 meeting (ICDS/mix meeting/Parents/Children/youth/women/society f-25 ,M-30 children-60
	125 meetings with individuals for awareness about water, waste, biodiversity F-162,M-81
	2 Maintenance related discussions
	12 life skill session
	3 events - exposure Visit MNP/ -world environment day/ 15 august program to share biodiversity knowledge
	90 site Visits
	Study Class - 80 lecture -25 children
No. and types of surveys conducted for data collection	8 Building Survey to interview 222 People.
	Waste audit survey support with 1298 house
	7 ICDS visits
Types of local stakeholder engaged (Community groups, institutions, corporator, etc.)	6 BASS groups BASS / Parents group /women group /societys /federation/youth group /ICDS -angnwadi tai/3 party people/police stetion/NGO forum
No. of community members engaged for each type of session	Adult M- 30,F-70/ Children M-169,F-150/youth F-7,M-15
Change in awareness level amongst people on	On-going campaigns led by YUVA for upscaling biodiversity solutions for climate resilient public spaces in LBC- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGOuR3c0224

