

BETTER BENGALURU Civic Authorities Come Up With A Slew Of Ideas To Beautify City: Waste Bins, Litter Cops, Afforestation Plan

BBMP instals waste drop boxes across city to erase black spots

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Bengaluru: Every morning, a segregation supervisor stands by the smart waste collect bins on Palmgrove Road in Victoria Layout, which was a black spot for a very long time. In early June this year, waste drop boxes were installed by BBMP and the area was beautified by volunteers from Ugly Indians.

Six months later, volunteers from Vipra (Victoria Layout and Palmgrove Areas Resident Welfare Association) took turns to supervise the waste in both the bins during peak hours.

Vipra member Mavis Mendonca said, "We have been religiously monitoring the bins. If people bring mixed waste, we request them to segregate and then give it. Sometimes, the crane that lifts it up splatters it on the road, which they don't pick up. That is sometimes a problem. We sold over 300 bins we procured from a private company, to make it easier for residents to simply carry segregated waste."

BBMP has installed about 15 of these waste drop boxes in the city, mostly targeting commercial and shopping zones, and slum pockets across the city. They have a target of



CHEER SPOT: Drop boxes for dry, wet and sanitary waste installed on Palmgrove Road in place of a black spot; residents say they monitor the bins to ensure citizens don't throw in mixed waste

installing about 2,000 metal dustbins in the next few months.

In 2004, Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) did away with the cement bins that dotted the city, and tried to introduce door-to-door collection. V Ravichandar, former member of BATF said, "I think these new bins are a step in the right direction. But I

strongly feel they need to be manned. Door-to-door collection isn't perfect yet and if people are not at home, they don't have the holding capacity to keep the garbage inside so they throw it out. There is a challenge there. Secondly, commercial establishments fall out of the door-to-door collection cycle. Conceptually, having a holding capacity in

one place is the right step for those not covered in the collection cycle. It will definitely help minimize the black spots."

The Social Venture Projects (SVP) is funding a pilot project in Langford Town, Shantinagar, along the lines of Victoria Layout. He added, "We are piloting this and trying to prove with data that if it is run prop-

erly, it will reduce black spots. The bins will be manned and people will be educated on segregation."

The bins installed by BBMP are currently unmanned. Also, expensive equipment is being used to pick the garbage out of the bins. "The answer lies in modifying existing trucks to lift the trash. Wet waste tends to be heavier. It complements the door-to-door collection but does not replace it. Also, locations have to be chosen carefully to locate the bins, after considering black spots, traffic and other logistics," Ravichandar said.

However, members of Solid Waste Management Round Table Committee (SWMRT) are not convinced by BBMP's garbage handling tactics. Ramakanth K, member of SWMRT, said, "They don't have the approval of the expert committee and did not take the opinion of the SWMRT. Unmanned bins will not work. These bins make sense in commercial areas like MG Road but in residential areas, door-to-door collection should be encouraged. The bin system cleans the city only visually."

Special commissioner for solid waste management Sarfaraz Khan did not take any calls from TOI.