

Aarrey Colony

Aarrey Colony is located in the south of Mumbai city surrounded by thick forest. The well-known Chota Kashmir and picnic spot is also attached to the Aarrey colony. At present 20 thousand people are living in the area.

Name of the clusters

Krishna Nagar

Mayur Nagar

Janatha Colony

Muratha Pada

Film city area

Population / Occupation

Majority of the population has migrated from different parts of India and settled here. Large number of Warli tribe people also living in this area.

Warli people collect the wood from the forest and sell in the local market for their day to day living. Other people work in the Aarey Milk Dairy and film city. People say that dairy workers are not getting salary on time. This delay leads to the problem that people are not able to meet their routine expenses.

Health Problems

Most of the people are suffering from skin diseases. Garbage is thrown out in the open space and there are no garbage collection points. Due to lack of cleanliness people are vulnerable to dengue fever and other problems. At present nearly 50 people are suffering from the same. It becomes very difficult for the family if the earning member falls sick.

The elderly come for treatment of hypertension and diabetes for which they require daily medication and cannot afford it from outside. Elderly people are more vulnerable in situations like they have to make their way through busy crossing, flyover bridges etc to get the treatment. The elderly find it particularly difficult in the night and emergency to avail the medical treatment on time. Most of the children in this area are very weak. If people hire an auto for going to hospital, they have to pay toll in the toll naka's which is an additional burden.

Health services

There are two municipal hospitals located in Goregoan (W) and Malad. People say that municipal hospitals have been stretched to its limits. Hospital's out patient care is inadequate or under utilized because of inconvenient timings or location, long queues, language barriers and rude staff (which, in turn, is because of the over burden of work). Inadequate equipments, poorly maintained equipments, lack of manpower, over crowding and the sharp deterioration in the quality of their services have forced many patients to run to private hospitals.

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Water problem

Arrey colony does not get municipal water, so people are dependent on open wells. These open wells are not cleaned for many years thus likely to get contaminated. People have made efforts to get municipal water with no success so far. Open defecation is in practice due to lack of access to toilet facility. Drainage (sewage) is passing near by the open wells, hence no clean water for drinking and other purpose.

Public Toilets

The public toilets are constructed haphazardly with the same age- old models. Often, proper flushing does not take place and the drainage system gets choked Women are the worst sufferers, as they cannot go to such dirty places; nor can they go in the open during the day.

Possible interventions

- HelpAge would organize health camps in the area to provide the treatments to elderly people.
- Help the community to purify the water in the public well. by coordinating with other NGO/BMC also.
- Nutrition programme for children will help the children to strengthen the health.
- Working with BMC to put garbage collection points.
- More public toilets required in the area and maintenance of existing ones needed.

First hand report by Valerian Pais Programme Manger (Mah &Goa), Helpage India Mumbai

HSBC as well as Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group have shown interest to help.

You can be of critical help to Arrey colony inhabitants by sending your contributions in cash or kind at the following contact:

Mr John F Paul

Regional Director West

Helpage India Mumbai

No 34 - A/44 Gurucharya

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Mumbai 400053

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