



Neighborhood
walk

May 4

2013

Mayur Vihar I residents walked to share their concerns to make their locality better and meet their counselor. They resolved to meet weekly to organize themselves to care for the neighborhood to help themselves better.

Organized by Sathi All For Partnerships
email:safp.sb@gmail.com, 9810536717

Healthy us for
a happy
neighborhood

Neighborhood walk (2013)

Raghav Gautam and Shivani Bhardwaj SAFP,

After the success of the previous neighborhood walk which was organized by Sathi All For Partnerships(SAFP) in the year 2012 for East Delhi from Oklha to Mayur Vihar, the neighborhood walk this time was organized only for the Mayur Vihar Phase I, to focus on constituency of just one elected leader. SAFP decided to take one step at a time so that we can concentrate on one place and try to understand concerns of the people and locate gaps to address problems faced by residents in that locality and think of solutions before taking on a different locality. Based on the principle of Jane's walk which strives to include a wide array of voices and ideas in discussions about cities, neighborhood's and community engagement, the objective of the walk was to create an environment where people chose to walk, not merely as an individual health routine, but as a enjoyable way to improve the health of the area that sustains them and increase social cohesion. The motive behind this walk was to know whether residents of the area are also aware about the development agenda the elected representatives of the area has in mind. Most of the residents don't even find time to know who is leading the area development and what they want to do to come back to serve another term of their public service responsibilities. Thus leaders work with those who reach to them and during time of elections some things gets done while others are left simply because the residents are busy in their own daily lives.



Jane's walk

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151259598081727&set=a.10150595480146727.374576.246784276726&type=1&theater>) in Mayur Vihar I, took place on May 4th, residents from 10 housing societies gathered at 7.am at the Mother dairy Milk booth near Supreme Enclave and discussed issues of concern. Four women from IFS apartments shared that the park walk way has to be leveled as it is raised from ground level and broken on the sides. A person walking has to stare at the ground while walking, lest they fall and get injured. Another IFS resident was worried about the emissions from the mobile phone towers while he neighbor said that “The trees need space to nurture themselves, but their trunks have been choked with cement paving”. We had women from Pandav Nagar who wanted clean area and sanitation as a priority. A resident of Anand lok wanted verified workers placement services authorized by RWAs for care services in the area that cater to housekeeping issues of homes and enterprises in Mayur Vihar.

Vehicles and hawkers on the roads are causing traffic blockage. Rickshaw pullers and grameen bus seva drivers near the metro station should be more organized. They generally block up the whole road in search of a passenger. Students and their mothers wanted walking space especially

during office and school time as the area is getting jammed then. The youth wanted spaces to hang out and to cycle. Cycle stands are a need. The elders and kids wanted parks greener. The walk thus had participation all age groups and each realized that their concerns were similar and that we cannot stop at just complaining as action should come from among us. While walking together ideas to solve the problems were discussed. Some of them are mentioned below

- Cleanliness, greenery and traffic chaos seems to be major concern for almost all the participants they have advised us to make it compulsory for all the small shopkeepers to have a dustbin and the shopkeepers should make sure that all the customers who buy things from their shops do throw the wrapper in the dustbin. This would help in keeping the place clean. The participants suggested that the vendors should stand after leaving space for the pedestrian and the motorists to pass by and keep the area between them and the next vendor clean or else be fined for littering.
- Lack of parking is a concern that cannot be solved by the residents or the counselors alone. It needs planning from the MLA. Immediate work to de clutter walk ways is to tow away unattended cars which have parked at non designated parking places for more than week such that the owner disposes it or parks it at a space which can be designated for parking. Residents and leaders must decide where rickshaws and other vehicles should be parked. The space under metro line should be negotiated for parking of metro feeder buses and rickshaw pullers with space for the drivers and rickshaw puller workers to have water and shade while waiting for passengers or their off duty standing. The Monday market should be given a specific area or vehicles should not be allowed to enter the area when this market is being organized.
- The ground parks in the neighborhood needs to leveled elderly feel that the walk ways are too high. Well maintained toilets in the parks are a requirement to improve the hygiene of the parks that need to be cleaned up twice a day. The dry leaves which are mostly burned should be converted to make manure.
- Some residents wanted that the stray dogs should be sterilized and bird feed platforms and water bowls for animal care be provided, while others felt that this is a task that residents can do by their own efforts. “Each walker can carry their water bottle to empty at a particular tree before walking and carry bread or roti for the animals to relate to other beings for at least five minutes in a day”.
- There are no dustbins along side the road. Twin dustbins (1 for biodegradable waste and 1 for non biodegradable waste) need to be placed alongside the road at regular intervals. People in the neighborhood can also walk with their own bags to collect wrappers and throw away items with them instead of discarding them in any other space but a dustbin. Those who are caught throwing waste material outside can be fined by the police men and the money collected will be used in the betterment of the neighborhood.

- The use of plastic bags is banned but the vendors have again stated use of this banned material. Jute/ biodegradable bags are now available in plenty but it is a matter of changing our lifestyle which we must.,
- Sikka Plaza has been developed in the last years which has boosted the income of shopkeepers and enterprise owners. They however have deposed to the MCD and the DDA for leveling the common area. If this can not be done at least they can deploy their staff to clean the area or contribute to level the area and keep it lighted. Instead the Pan shops have come around dark corners of Sikka Plaza and often under 18 youth flock in darkness to smoke till late hours in the night. The space is strewn with cigarette butts and pan marks, while the entire place liitered with animal and construction waste.

The walkers raised slogans and stop to talk with venders and shop keepers advising them to keep the area clean and the walkers then decided to depose their concerns to our elected counselor Mrs Sandhaya Verma. She was woken up by a large group ringing her bell early morning! In response the counselor came out on an inspection of the area and pull up local officials for not discharging their roles. She saw for herself that the MCD truck had not picked up garbage for the past two days in the area and the vehicles that were parked on the roads are obstructing cleaning



and passage of people and traffic. At least six vehicles have been rotting on the road as their owners do not get the desired rate to sell them as junk. The Counselor said that she has no authority to get this removed but the residents argued that these should be towed away by traffic police. She however assured that she will supervise that the MCD staff does clean the area as it is their duty to do.

Pictures of the walk with more quotes from the walkers are posted at a face book page .

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151642995798760.1073741827.668633759&ty>

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The walker group has decided to meet every week on Saturdays at 7 am at the Mother dairy Milk booth to continue this effort and to discuss the possible solutions can be worked on to support leaders and staff to discharge their duties in a way the neighborhood could be a better place to live in. Wait and watch to see if the walkers meet again.