

RESIDENT WARRIOR: WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE CITY?

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Lakes are the lifeline of Bengaluru. If we do not protect them, we are in trouble

By Deepanjali Naik

It is so ironic that in the name of progress, we have thrown Bengaluru into utmost chaos

Water, water, water! In summers and winters, it is definitely a problem in Sarjapura. In the rainy season, it is a bigger problem. Historically, Bengaluru has such a wonderful system to manage its water. A network of lakes that would prevent flooding during rains and keep the city cool in summers and can ensure year-long supply of water is in utter neglect.

It is so ironic that in the name of progress, we have just regressed and thrown the city in utmost chaos. What is up with us humans? Why are we working against ourselves at such great pace. If we seriously start looking at our water, we will see everything is linked to it....our health, our climate, our flora and fauna...and most importantly, the city's very existence. A scientist at IISC has already predicted that Bengaluru will be evacuated by 2030 due to water problems....

And, here we are walking in knee-deep water clogged in our basement just after an hour of heavy rain. This just proves that it is such a mismanagement of water in the city. A timely intervention in water management can make Bengaluru self-sufficient.

We just don't need to create inter- state animosity with our neighbours for water. Bengaluru has the best topographical advantage to house the best Indian trees that bring rain.

I appeal to each and every citizen of this city to look around in your area, and you will find a water body. Just go and spend time with it. That space will tell you what needs to be done. Reviving our water bodies is one thing this city needs on a war-footing. It can be done by citizen participation.

I say this because, here in Sarajapura, we are surrounded by 26 lakes. There is a high chance of encroachment of land and garbage dumping. As local residents, if you do not guard them, and make noise every time an untoward incident takes place on a lakebed or buffer zone, we all will suffer.

We will lose our natural resources and suffer in future for want of water.

A city resident has much more at stake than obvious on the surface. Some of us are just busy with selfish pursuits that we have no time for social work. The fundamental right to natural water supply has been neglected.

If we continue to neglect our duties as citizens, we will be visited by disease and death. A safe and healthy lifestyle is every citizen's right, irrespective of socio-economic background. There is no point in calling ourselves education if we cannot rise to the occasion.

(The author is a resident of Sarjapur)

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