**Report on the Public Consultation on Anganawadi and Book Release Programme.**

More than 100 delegates from various urban poor settlements participated in the “Press Note on Public Consultation on Anganawadis and Book Release Programme jointly organised by CIVIC, APSA and Bridge Network on 22-5-2015 at Jain University, J.C. Road, Bengaluru.

**Shri. Ramalinga Reddy, Hon’ble Minister for Transport and District Incharge Minister, Hon’ble Justice Nagamohan Das, Former Judge, Karnataka High Court, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, Shri Y. Mariswamy, State Organisor, Samajika Parivarthana Janaandolana(SPJ), Bengaluru. Shri.Shivarame Gowda, Deputy Director, Women and Child Development, Govt. of Karnataka. Shri. Vasudeva, Shri. Prakash and other staff of the Women & Child Development**, Govt. of Karnataka. Smt. Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee, CIVIC, Shri. Lakshapathy, Chairperson, Association for Social Action, Bengaluru, Ms. Suchitra, Co-ordinator, Bridge Network, Bengaluru participated in the consultation. . **Smt. Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee, CIVIC,** presented the power point presentation depicting the status of Anganawadis and its services to children below age group of 6 years. She said that there are 10,52,837 children below the age of 6 yrs in Bengaluru urban district as mentioned in the 2011 Census. The total number of Anganawadis is 2137 in Bengaluru urban district, of  which, 489 (24%) operate in the rental premises. 1.134 Anganwadis of the total 2137 Anganawadis have toilet in their premises. The remaining 963 Anganawadis (49 percent) does not have toilet in their premises.

It is estimated that 40 percent of the total children (10,52,837 ) below the age of 6 yrs in Bengaluru Urban district are from urban poor community. In otherwords, about 4,00,000 children are from the families of urban poor community. If 2,137 Anganawadis can cater services to 85,000 children only. Then, 3,15,000 children in Bengaluru urban district are still not covered under any ICDS/Anganawadi scheme.

**Smt. Kathyayini Chamaraj** demanded that the Government should earmark land from the total pool of land released from the land grabbers for the construction of Anganawadis. The report by Shri. N.K Patil provides all details related to Anganawadi. The **Karnataka Building and Other Construction Worker Welfare Board** has collected more than Rs. 3,000 crores which is being set aside for implementing various labour and social security schemes of the government. The Women and Child Development Department should write to the Board for allocating money for building Anganawadi centres/Day care centres near the construction sites in all the districts in the state of Karnataka.

 **Shri. Ramalinga Reddy, Hon’ble Minister for Transport and District in charge Minister for Bengaluru Urban District,** expressed concern about the implementation of Anganawadi programmes in Bengaluru district. He said the new anganawadis can be setup in the BBMP buildings which is not use for long time. He applauded the organisers of the consultation for bringing attention the issues concerning Anganawadi before the state government.

The Minister promised that he will take the lead in organising a meeting between the **Women & Child Development Department** in Bengaluru and members of **CIVIC, APSA and Bridge Network**. Similarly, one more meeting with the officials of the Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

**Shri Y. Mariswamy, State Organisor, Samajika Parivarthana Janaandolana**, said that the Anganawadi programme does cover the majority of children from urban poor settlement. Most of the Anganawadis centres are located in the tinsheds, some are located within the public toilets and some just outside the toilets. This is the scenario of Anganawadis and one can draw conclusion about the functioning of the officials of Women and Child Development organisation.

**Hon’ble Justice Nagamohan Das, Former Judge, Karnataka High Court, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi,** said that the present situation is the result of non implementation of laws or half-hearted implementation and biggest issues non accountability of the officials. He appreciated the efforts of CIVIC, APSA and Bridge network to bringing the issue of Anganawadi into the forefront, and expressed support from him to take this Campiagn forward.

**Shri. Shivarame Gowda, Deputy Director, Shri. Vasudeva, Shri. Prakash and other staff of the Women & Child Development**, Govt. of Karnataka addressed the grievances of selected cases and promised to streamline their functioning, and solve all the cases.

Shri. Venkatesh, Project Co-ordinator, CIVIC, Ms. Sahana , Bridge Network, Mr. Madhu Sudhan, Mr. Veeresh and Mr. Ramanji gowda, Project Co-ordinators , CIVIC, participated in the Consultation.