



(Regd., Public Charitable Trust No 599 / 94--95 IV)
18/2 Andree Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore 560027

Tel: 080-41144126, Mob: 9731817177 ; E-mail: kchamaraj@gmail.com ;Website: www.civicspace.in

7th February 2020

Dear friends,

Subject: Invitation to “Consultation on transparency and accountability in the paradigm of urban governance” – Tuesday, 18th February 2020, 10AM to 5PM at BMS College of Law, Bull Temple Road, Bengaluru - 560019

CIVIC, the Social Accountability Resource Unit (SARU), MazdoorKisan Shakti Sanghatan (MKSS), SATTVA Bangalore and Sensing Local Foundation (list of coorganisers yet to be finalized) are writing to invite you to a consultation at BMS College of Law (BMSCL), Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560019, on 18th February 2020 from 10am-17:00pm.

Promoting transparency and accountability in the paradigm of urban governance has been a subject of immense opportunity, and challenges. While the 74th Amendment to the Constitution brought a watershed opportunity for urban citizens to exercise their democratic rights to participation in decision making, its implementation leaves a lot to be desired. The existence and robust functioning of Ward Committees and Area Sabhas in a meaningful way is still far below the mandate. A recent PIL filed in the Karnataka High Court with reference to the Mangaluru Municipal Corporation has resulted in an order directing the government to notify Areas for the formation of Area Sabhas immediately and to constitute Ward Committees immediately after the formation of the Council.

In order to engage more meaningfully with institutions of urban governance and promote transparency and accountability in the same, a consultation is being organized with the following objectives in mind:

- i. Discuss the preliminary initiatives underway in Karnataka such as facilitating the development of an online public information portal; exploring how the monthly Ward Committee meetings can serve as a platform for residents being informed about relevant information relating to the Ward’s budget and expenditure, and for registration and follow up on public grievances, and on conducting social audits, etc. - to explore whether other local organizations are keen to collaborate and widen the scope of the initiative;
- ii. Solicit feedback on the draft primers prepared by practitioners on engagement with Ward Committees and Area Sabhas; Ward-level planning and status of pro-active disclosures of Municipal Corporations across Karnataka, so that they can be revised as per their requirements, for ensuring widespread use;
- iii. Come up with a tentative roadmap for deepening initiatives to work on furthering social accountability in the urban context, in consultation with those organizations, networks and individuals who are willing to engage in it.

Given your long standing experience in promoting transparency, accountability and public participation in diverse contexts, we request you to please attend the consultation. Your participation will contribute towards the consultation being more informed and deliberative. Travel cost for out-station participants to the extent of 3-tier AC train or bus fare, whichever is less, and cost for local travel and one night's stay in a hotel in Bengaluru to the extent of Rs. 1,000 will be borne by CIVIC, on production of original bills.

Look forward to hearing from you. Kindly RSVP Mr. Y.G. Muralidharana ygmuralidharan@gmail.com [944814510] about your participation in the event. Final invitation and agenda will be sent to you on hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Kathyayini Chamaraj, RakshitaSwamy, Nikhil Dey, Dr. Anjali K. Mohan, Narendra Kumar, Ms Sobia (list of representatives of organizations who have agreed to be co-organizers yet to be finalised)

On behalf of CIVIC, SARU, MKSS, SATTVA, Nagarika Shakti and 'Sensing Local Foundation' (names of organizations who have agreed to be co-organizers yet to be finalised)

Encl:

Draft Agenda

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“Consultation on transparency and accountability in the paradigm of urban governance”

Tuesday, 18th February 2020, 10.00am-17:00pm

Venue: BMS College of Law (BMSCL), Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560019

Time	Subject	Tentative Speakers
10.00am - 10.30am	Registration & Tea	
10:30am -10.50am	Welcome & Introduction to the consultation and its objectives	Dr. Anitha F.N. D’Souza, Principal, BMS College of Law, & Rakshita Swamy, National Coordinator, Social Accountability Resource Unit (SARU)
10:50am -11:00am	Introduction of participants	
11:00am-11:15am	Opening Remarks	Nikhil Dey, Founder, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)
11:15am-12:15pm	Presentation on i. Primer for participation in ward committees and area sabhas ii. Primer on ward planning iii. Analysis of status of implementation of suo-moto disclosure of information by Municipal Corporations of Karnataka	(i) Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee, CIVIC Bangalore (ii) Dr. Anjali Mohan, Urban Planner, SATTVA Bangalore & (iii) Y.G. Muralidharan, Consultant, CIVIC Bangalore
12:15pm -13:30pm	Feedback on presentations	
13:30-14:00pm	Lunch	
14:00-15:00 pm	Presentation and discussion on public information portal being developed by Government of Karnataka – Mahiti Khanaja	Rakshita Swamy and Santosh Kadam (Centre for E-Governance, Government of Karnataka)
15:00-15:30pm	Presentation on Draft Municipalities Bill of NLSIU	Dr. Sathyanarayan Mr. Raghav, NLSIU, & Representative from Urban Development Dept. *To be confirmed
15:30-16:00pm	Feedback on Draft Municipalities Bill	
16:00 - 16:45pm	Way forward for a network of practitioners to be involved in promoting these measures	Nikhil Dey to chair panel of coorganisers of the event
16.45 to 17.00pm	Vote of thanks & Tea	