



'How to do it?' workshops

An ESG initiative

This series of workshops is about how we can equip ourselves with tactical knowledge and skills that empower us to achieve collective aims for improving the quality of life in Bangalore. These workshops will help us appreciate the nuances of processes that address environmental and public health concerns, social cohesion, socio-economic equity and participatory decision-making, and instruct us how we can engage with them in practice. It is about how an informed and organised public can reclaim the city, which now has been appropriated by elite and divisive imaginations, such as "world class city", "smart city", etc.

A narrow and divisive elite imaginations tend to benefit decision-makers and developers who benefit from such undemocratic ways. In the process, scarce financial and administrative resources are diverted to particular projects and away from the fundamental needs of people. The need of the hour is a focus on social integration, public health, public transport, affordable education and housing, environmental conservation, making neighborhoods safe, which will transform into inclusive, sustainable cities that are viable for all.

There is plenty of debate on ways to deal with these challenges, but very little practical information on how to create change effectively through collective learning. Inspired from each other and from diverse geographical contexts, there are several effective and tactical ways to work collectively and make our cities worth living in for all.

In this series of "how to do it" workshops, participants from various disciplines, sectors and communities will work with experienced facilitators in closely examining various issues of public interest with a focus of building solutions for change through participatory methods. The idea is to enhance and build civic engagements in meaningful, inclusive and productive ways. The question we all want to answer is "how to do it". How to organise and save lakes? How to keep our neighbourhoods safe and healthy? How to green up our neighbourhoods? How to make our homes and offices green? How to organise a civic protest? How to make neighbourhoods safe to walk, cycle and travel in?

The 1st "How to do it" workshop is on **Saturday, 16th December 2017, from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm @ ESG Workshop Space**, 1575, Ring Road, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore 560070, and this time it is about:

How to Understand and Comment on the Revised Draft Masterplan (RMP) 2031 for Bengaluru

Facilitators will assist in appreciating the legal and technical nuances of urban planning, of how urban planning is about accommodating multiple imaginations, and of the rights of citizens to engage with planning in shaping their city.

They are:

- Leo F. Saldanha is Coordinator of Environment Support Group (ESG).
- Brinda Sastry is a consulting urban planner and adjunct faculty at RV college and was involved in the development of a former RMP.
- Dr. Swetha Rao Dhananka is an urban sociologist and has taught and researched on social justices issues in Bangalore. She is currently consulting with ESG.
- Martjin Rauwers is a Dutch planner and an expert on sustainable models for healthy cities, food supply chains, waste, energy and water infrastructure.

The workshop will be followed by the screening of "Our Metropolis" (from 6.30pm onwards), a documentary on Bangalore's transformations by Gautam Sonti and Usha Rao. The Documentary looks at the effects of the promise of a global city in Bangalore, India's I.T. capital and asks, to whose advantage such development taking place?

All are welcome!

To register for this workshop, please email esg@esgindia.org with subject "How to", or call 080-2671360-61 providing your name, address, and what you do. Suggested contribution/workshop: Rs. 250 per person. You may donate this contribution to ESG's general fund online at <http://esgindia.org/about-us/what-you-can-do.html>.