

Environmental Social
Justice
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Governance Initiatives

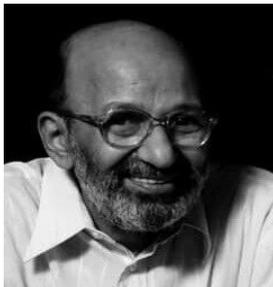
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Report of the third webinar held on 14 August 2020 as part of

“Better Bus Bengaluru”

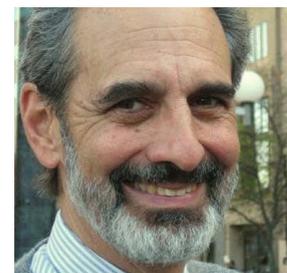
A campaign initiated by ESG in collaboration with #BengaluruMoving

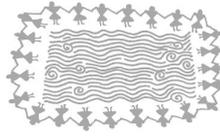
ESG’s campaign “Better Bus Bengaluru” stepped up into the 3rd webinar today addressing the theme “**Fearlessly cycle, walk and bus everywhere - Making urban mobility infrastructure accessible to all**”. In this campaign ESG, in collaboration with #BengaluruMoving, is working to develop imaginaries that would ensure this sprawling metropolis’ functionality is enhanced without any further destruction of its greenery, of homes, neighbourhoods and villages, and thus make this city a space of ingenuity moving towards carbon neutral mobility.



Opening the webinar, **Architect and urban conservationist Mr. Satya Prakash Varanashi** brought to attention the idea that the city has been shaped by the way people move through it. As mobility has shaped the city, it is clearly something that needs to be given it’s due importance.

Mr. Ken Krukemeyer, Former Associate Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Works, asserted that auto-centric thinking was the major problem of urban mobility. “Our cities should be designed keeping the needs of people in mind, not cars”, said Mr. Krukemeyer. He also shared ideas of how cities across the world are arguing in favour of making urban mobility inclusive, possible for all, and personable. Sharing visuals from Vietnam, Bengaluru, São Paulo, Netherlands to Boston, Krukemeyer spoke about the need for people to shape imaginaries of inclusivity and mobility and the need for the State to support such interventions.





Mr. Dasarathi, a Bengaluru based entrepreneur, spoke about how he's commuted 26 kilometers every day from home to office for the last twenty years, using just his bicycle. He also added that the imaginaries for non-motorised transport should not be limited merely to walking and cycling, but should include other forms such as cycle rickshaws and animal-powered transportation



He shared a brief anecdote about what has made the Netherlands the Mecca of bicycling. "In the 1970s, 500 children were being killed by road accidents in the Netherlands. This inspired them to become the bicycling capital of the world." He brought to attention the fact that in Indian cities too thousands of children are dying, not just in road accidents, but from lung cancer caused by the fumes of automobiles.



Ms. Nandini BK, Karnataka Regional Director of ActionAid, began her intervention by sharing a beautiful poem she had written on mobility. She highlighted the need of making public mobility accessible to all sections of society, especially for children, senior citizens and people with disabilities. She then went on to question the rationale behind making Bengaluru a 'world-class city'. "Why is the Bengaluru of three decades ago lost now? The modern development models have destroyed the city, destroyed accessibility", she asserted. She spoke of the need to plan and shape mobility and public transport taking into account vulnerabilities, and not the strengths and privileges of the elite.

Mr. Shamanth, Head, TETC, of the Karnataka Directorate of Urban Land Transport drew attention to the need of including interests of high-income citizens in public-mobility planning, because otherwise they would simply continue to use their cars. He also stressed the importance of planning for the future, as Bangalore is projected to have a population of 21 million people by 2031. Shamanth agreed that the bus based transit systems are most accessible. Yet, very little has been done to ensure it is accessible physically, monetarily and socially.



Mr. Varanashi wound up the discussion by identifying that the onus of making cities more habitable, sustainable and inclusive is not just on the municipal authorities, but on the public as well. "If we want to have a people friendly city, we also need to have city friendly people", he ended.

ESG continues "**Better Bus Bengaluru**" campaign with **#BengaluruMoving** next Friday, 21st August 2020 (4-6 pm on Zoom and Facebook) addressing the theme: "**Making public transport affordable to all.**"



Register to participate in the next webinar: <https://tinyurl.com/y68jmweb>

For more details of ESG's "Better Bus Bengaluru" Campaign, please visit: <https://bit.ly/esg-bbb>

[This report has been prepared by Ashwin Lobo, Research Associate at ESG, Karthik Anjanappa, Research Associate at ESG. Leo Saldanha, Coordinator, ESG provided inputs.]

WEBINAR

14 AUG
4-6 P.M. IST

**Fearless cycle, bus + walk everywhere:
Making urban mobility infrastructure
accessible to all**

Leveraging the experience of experts to discuss innovative ideas to make our cities faster, smarter and more accessible

MODERATOR
Satya Prakash Varanasi
Architect + INTACH Member

PANELISTS
Dr. Ken Krukermeier
Former Associate Commissioner of the Massachusetts
Department of Public Works + Project Manager of the Southwest
Corridor Project in Boston

Ms. V. Manjula, IAS
Commissioner, Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT)

Mr. Shamanth
Head, TETC, Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT),
Govt. of Karnataka

Mr. Dasarathi G. V.
Innovator + Entrepreneur

Ms. Nandhini B. K.
Regional Director, Action Aid, Bangalore

ESG
Environment Support Group Trust

**#Bengaluru
moving**