

A Case Study of Netravati Layout, Ward 55, KR Puram

From Waste to Worth – How One Layout Sparked a Community Revolution

From Black Spot to Model Community

Bengaluru's waste management system has long struggled under the weight of mismanagement, corruption, and lack of accountability. Despite the tireless efforts of volunteers, NGOs, and BBMP, the city still battles with littered streets and recurring black spots. Yet, in the middle of this challenge, one small community — Netravati Layout in Ward 55, KR Puram — decided to rewrite the story.

Before



After



How It All Began

It all started with a black spot — a dumping area that had become a symbol of neglect. The smell was unbearable, and residents were frustrated. Volunteers from Vedan stepped in to beautify the black spot and begin a conversation with the local community.



The Heroes of the Story – Children and Students

During the summer holidays, a group of school children became the heart of the initiative. They took up awareness work voluntarily, going door-to-door and educating residents on segregation.

Their contributions were remarkable:

- Conducted **door-to-door awareness** for 928 homes in just five days.
- **Mapped the layout** with a top-view drawing.
- Mobilized residents for community meetings.
- Followed the waste collection auto daily, reminding people to hand over segregated waste.

They were later joined by NCC students from KR Puram Government College, who explained the difference between wet and dry waste to each household.

Mapped the layout



Volunteers in action

Awakening the Community

With the help of local women and children, Vedan organized **five community sessions** across the layout. Residents watched videos on the impact of plastic — including visuals of cows eating waste and the plight of Mandur village.

The response was overwhelming. **150 households participated**, and several residents volunteered to take charge of their own lanes — ensuring every home segregated properly. For the first time, the community became an active part of the waste solution.

A Digital Bridge – The WhatsApp Movement

WhatsApp group of 50 residents was formed, including those who had volunteered during the campaign. The group became a channel for updates, monitoring, and support. Even today, over 30 members remain active, keeping the spirit of Netravati alive and ready to revive the system whenever needed.



The Results

- Residents became fully aware and started segregating waste.
- About 10 households began composting at home.
- The children's team became local change ambassadors.
- Waste collection became more efficient — 850 houses covered in 3 hours.
- Wet waste: 0.5–1 kg per household/day.
- Dry waste: 0.5–4 kg per household/day.
- A strong community network emerged — committed, vocal, and self-driven.

Challenges Faced

Despite success, the project faced real-world hurdles:

- Irregular auto service (only twice a week).
- A single auto serving 1,500 homes.
- Lack of BBMP support and funding.
- Some residents still dumped waste into the lake.
- An auto strike temporarily collapsed the system, demotivating volunteers.

A Legacy of Learning

The Netravati Layout initiative proved that community ownership is the foundation of sustainable waste management. Even with limited resources, awareness, and coordination, residents showed what is possible when people care for their own surroundings.

The effort didn't just clean one street — it ignited a sense of responsibility. With consistent collection support, Netravati Layout has the potential to become a 100% segregated, zero-waste model for Bengaluru.

In Essence

This is not just a case study — it's a story of courage, collaboration, and change.

When children, women, and residents come together for a cause, even a small layout can inspire an entire city.

