

Ward Mapping in Moodubidire

Building the Foundation for Systemic Waste Management

In Moodubidire, effective ward-level waste management began not with vehicles or infrastructure, but with **understanding the ward itself**. The first step was to make the invisible visible—by mapping every road, lane, household, institution, and commercial unit on the ground.

How the Ward Mapping Started

The ward mapping initiative began on **25th October 2021**, with the support of **Town Municipal Council (TMC), Moodubidire**. Recognising that accurate data was missing at the ward level, the focus was on **creating hand-drawn, ground-truthed ward maps** rather than relying on outdated or incomplete records.

Students and volunteers played a central role in this process. **NSS students from Alva's College**, along with youth volunteers, Red Cross members, and Rover Rangers, were oriented on why ward mapping is critical for waste management and how to observe, record, and sketch ground realities

A **watcher group** was formed to coordinate field activities and ensure consistency in data collection.



The Pencil-Sketch Mapping Process

Instead of starting with digital tools, the team deliberately chose **pencil sketching** as the first step. This allowed flexibility, corrections on site, and deeper engagement with the ward.

The mapping process included:

- Walking every **road and interior lane**
- Marking **households, commercial units, institutions, temples, schools, and blackspots**
- Identifying **road widths, dead ends, and access constraints**
- Noting existing waste collection points and problem areas



Initial ward maps were prepared for **Ward 14, Ward 7, and Ward 6**, and the same methodology was later extended to all wards.

Students physically sketched the wards while interacting with residents, which also acted as an **informal awareness exercise**. This ensured that maps reflected **actual ground conditions**, not assumptions.

Community and Leadership Support

The process was strongly supported by elected representatives and ward leadership.

Notable support came from:

- **Mrs. Soumya, Councillor** – Ward 6
- **Mrs. Swetha Praveen, Councillor** – Ward 9
- **Mr. Prasad Kumar, President**, TMC Moodubidire
- **Ms Swati Prabhu** Ward 12
- **Mr Nagaraj Poojari** Ward 5

All 14 ward councillors eventually supported the initiative, enabling the completion and submission of 14 ward maps.



From Maps to Action

Once the ward maps were ready, they became the backbone for operational planning:

- Route maps were designed for waste collection vehicles
- Collection timings were fixed road-wise
- Pourakarmikas and link workers were oriented using the maps
- Households were informed door-to-door about when and how waste would be collected

WhatsApp groups were created for blocks, with residents, pourakarmikas, supervisors, and councillors included—turning the maps into live monitoring tools.

Why Ward Mapping Matters

The Moodubidire ward mapping exercise demonstrated that:

- Waste management fails without **spatial clarity**
- One-size-fits-all systems do not work across wards
- Mapping helps shift focus from **kilograms collected** to **coverage, efficiency, and accountability**

These maps enabled customised solutions—such as **vehicle design changes**, **trolley-based collection** for narrow lanes, and **block-level monitoring**—instead of generic interventions.

A Replicable Model

The Moodubidire experience showed that ward mapping is not just a technical exercise but a **social process**. By involving students, volunteers, elected representatives, and residents, the maps became shared tools rather than static documents.

This ground-up, pencil-to-process approach laid the foundation for:

- Systematic waste collection
- Reduced blackspots
- Improved segregation
- Better grievance redressal

Most importantly, it proved that **sustainable ward waste management starts with knowing the ward—street by street, house by house.**

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