

Standard VI

Action Research Project

Topic for 2018–2019

Locality Brigade for Locality Betterment

Introduction

In 1997, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) started Advanced Locality Management (ALM) concept to involve citizens to set up a system to deal with the problem of solid waste management and to improve the quality of life in the locality.

In the same manner, students can form a group of people from a particular area to manage various aspects to improve quality of life within that locality. We can call such a group as Locality Brigade.

What is locality brigade?

Locality Brigade is a group of individuals from a particular place (locality), organized for a particular purpose (that is - for the improvement or betterment of the locality.)

Need of the locality brigade

Though the civic authorities like the municipalities provide services to any given locality, people always seek more services and a better locality. It is observed that no locality can stay in a good condition till there is a public participation and involvement to sustain the betterment. Hence, there is a need for greater public participation for good governance and better delivery of civic services to maintain the betterment of any locality.

Area for locality management

- Residential area
- School premises
- Recreational area

- Shopping area
- Native place
- Sports area
- Any common place of interest.

Aim of the locality brigade

- To provide a platform for interaction of residents from the concerned neighbourhood
- To make the locality a better place to live, use and for better management of services in the locality
- To make the area sustainable and self-sufficient
- To co-ordinate between the authorities and the public.

Functions of the locality management

- Maintain cleanliness
- Control pollution
- Animal welfare
- Maintain greenery
- Waste management
- Traffic discipline
- Car pooling
- Community welfare
- Beautification
- Resource management
- Sustainable practices
- Awareness programs
- Support-group formation
- Disaster management
- Create a data bank

How to form the locality brigade?

For the formation of locality brigade, people or residents of the locality should come together and

hold a preliminary meeting. The main agenda of the meeting should focus on managing the locality issues in a better way.

Steps:

1. **Selection of the Committee Members:** Select one member from different sections. E.g.:
 - For the school, brigade members will constitute one student representative from each classroom
 - For residential area, the brigade members will constitute one member from each residence in the locality
 - For any other locality, the brigade members will be the members using that locality.
2. Select the name of your brigade for identification.
3. Assign duties to the brigade members like the adviser, experts, president, secretary, joint secretaries, treasurer, brigade members etc.
4. Inform the authorities and concerned people about the formation of the brigade and its purpose and mode of cooperation from various sectors of the locality
 - The residential brigade will inform the residents, shop owners, hawkers, ward officers, police station etc.
 - The school brigade will inform all students, teachers, senior authorities, parents etc.
5. Discuss the locality issues and betterment plans.
6. Create a strategy to implement the betterment plans.
7. Follow-up and improvise the plan.
8. Keep a record of the brigade activities.

Next Steps:

Continue to measure, monitor and develop the plans over the coming years to reflect the changing needs of the community as well as the associates' objectives and plans.

Responsibilities of brigade members

- Attend brigade meetings to discuss the local issues and the action taken
- Create awareness about resolving the issues of the locality
- Form a support group and a data bank
- Provide a platform to invite complaints, suggestions, comments etc.

Essentials of the locality brigade

To achieve better outcomes for people and communities, the Locality Improvement Plans look at how each area could be improved, based on various aspects like:

- Keeping the place clean and green
- Health and well-being of the people, animals and plants
- Requirements of the children, young people and families
- Community safety
- Economy and employability
- Highlighting geographical areas of greatest need and the actions needed to make a difference. (E.g. Taking care of areas prone to floods or traffic congestion.)
- Outlining the key objectives and how to achieve them.

Benefits of the locality brigade

- Builds good rapport between the citizen and civic administration
- Waste disposal in the right direction providing bin free streets and healthy surroundings
- Proper sanitation and hygiene
- Cleanliness in drainage system
- Motivation for more citizens to take active part and make them aware and resolve civic issues.

Probable associates of the brigade

- The Police
- Fire brigade
- Institutions from the neighbourhood
- Traffic police
- Other organizations from the locality

- Neighbouring locality brigades (to cooperate and share experiences)

What students have to do?

- Read the topic description carefully
- Select any one locality either near the residence, school, native place or any place of frequent visit and interest
- Form a group of locality brigades. The number should be not less than five and should be proportionate to the size of the locality and the complexity of the task to be completed
- Make a survey of the locality and select any one aspect of locality enhancement or upgradation apart from the basic requirement of cleanliness.
- Focus on the aspect where there is a scope for sustainable upgradation
- Make a plan to bring about the change. It should be feasible and economically viable
- Try to implement the plan
- Do the follow-up work
- Analyze results and draw conclusions
- Write a detailed report.

Some examples

- 1. Waste management:** Segregation of garbage at source and keeping it in separate bins (Wet and Dry). Dry waste disposal once or twice a week through vehicle, authorized waste-pickers or rag-pickers etc.
- 2. Cleanliness:** Prevent littering and spitting in the neighbourhood, timely waste disposal, keeping the drainage clean, removing the debris from the common area. If the cleanliness issues have not been resolved, present them to the concerned coordinator and zonal authorities.
- 3. Pollution control:** Keeping air, noise, water, soil, electro-magnetic pollution etc. under control.
- Traffic control in the locality by way of keeping the roads clear, systematization of traffic (two-way and one-way), carpooling etc.
- Arranging carpooling with the help of traffic inspector. E. g. From railway station/bus stand to schools, colleges, hospital etc.

- Animal care in the locality through feeding, providing medical facilities, sterilization of strays, developing shelter homes for strays, adopting animals etc.
- Pest control and inspection of mosquitoes, flies, white ants, rodents, bed bugs etc.
- Preserving biodiversity in the locality by way of protecting birds, their nesting grounds, protecting the plants, providing food and water to the birds and animals, bringing awareness to protect species of snakes, insects, lizards etc.
- Keeping the locality green through the use of vertical gardens, plantation, plant care, starting social forestry programmes etc.
- Developing a data bank and support system for locality users such as hospitals, locality offices, franking facilities in nearby banks, procuring Aadhar card, PAN card, senior citizen card etc.
- Starting a newspaper reading club and a library that distributes magazine, books and other publications.
- Establishing a community centre for babies, new mothers, senior citizens, house wives, music and sports lovers etc.
- Controlling the hygiene standards of streetfood, swimming tanks, public lavatories etc.
- Developing rapport between the authorities and the locals.
- Implementing non-conventional sources of energy for the local street lights, rain water harvesting for street plants and trees, installing *gobar*-gas plant etc.
- Beautification programmes.
- Zero garbage projects by Rethinking, Refusing, Reducing, Reusing, Recycling and decomposing the wet and dry garbage.
- Arranging environment awareness drives. E.g. Giving education of first aid for human and strays, disaster management strategies, eco-friendly celebrations etc.
- Arranging health check up and vaccination camps.
- Any other measure for the betterment of the locality.

(Ref.: memumbai.com, www.mcgm.gov.in)