

A photograph of a group of children and a woman in a slum in Bangalore. The woman in the foreground is smiling and pointing towards the camera. Behind her are several children, some looking at the camera and others looking away. The background shows a dirt path with more children and lush green vegetation.

ONE MANGO, PLEASE?

SLUMS IN BANGALORE



THE ISSUE

It is the mango season, and who doesn't love mangoes? For hundreds of slum kids in Bengaluru, it's a distant dream. They can barely afford the essential amenities, let alone such joys of life. We wanted to bring a smile to their face. A moment of happiness, albeit short-lived.

We started collecting funds through our local circle, between one and a thousand rupees. Within a week of this idea's conception, **20 people** donated to this noble cause.

The next step was locating these slums. Most of us are not native to Bangalore. We got to know about an organisation, **Youth for Seva** through a google search. They provided us with the contact a **local NGO worker, Mr Yougesh**, who runs his own **NGO 'Voice of nation'**. He has been working for the benefit of these underprivileged slum children for the past eight years. He took the responsibility of escorting us to these locations and facilitating the distribution process. Kids are hard to control, but **Mr Yogesh is somewhat of a magician in handling kids.**

We purchased six crates of mangoes from the GKVK campus. We booked a carrier to help us carry those crates to different locations in Bangalore. Everything was ready now. We just had to set out on our mission to make these kids smile.

THE DISTRIBUTION

FRIDAY, 17TH JUNE 2022.

We had planned to start distributing these mangoes on the evening of 17th June after all of us get free from our labs. Then, life happened. All of us somehow got busy with unexpected work. The plan was to leave the campus by 4 pm, which got delayed to 5 pm and then 6 pm. And if this wasn't enough, the autorickshaw, which was supposed to ferry us to those locations, didn't show up either. Mr Yogesh had already assimilated all the children from the first slum. We called Mr Yogesh to help the two of us carry at least one crate to the location on the bike itself. **All our frustration disappeared when we saw the eyes of these children shining, waiting for their turn to get a mango.** And that's how we ended Friday by distributing these little objects of happiness to kids from two slums.



SATURDAY, 18TH JUNE 2022

We still had to distribute the mangoes in the remaining five crates. We promised ourselves that we wouldn't let other events jeopardise our plan. We made sure that the carrier reached the GKV campus on time. We loaded the remaining crates and set off to cover as many slums as possible. The first slum that day was in Kodigehalli. All the kids surrounding us, waiting for their turn, just like Friday, but this time in broad daylight, we could see their eyes sparkle even more. An overwhelming sight! While distributing those mangoes, a couple of women from a nearby locality came to us. They told us how they used to feed these kids by making meals from their homes during

the pandemic. We connected her to Mr Yogesh so they could use his resources to plan such events again.

The next slum was in Kodigehalli too, behind a construction site. Then the other two were in Tindlu. It's interesting how these kids were there to prove us wrong every time we thought that we'd seen and felt it all—such joy and happiness at each location. We started our journey in the early evening. We didn't even realise when the sun had set.









18TH JUNE 2022, LATE EVENING

On the 2nd day, we covered four slums. 4 crates of mangoes were distributed. Just the last one was remaining. Unfortunately, by this time, Mr Yogesh had to leave for some urgent work. While leaving, he sent us the landmark location near the last slum. When we reached there, we realised how skilful he was at what he did. We were flocked by so many kids and their family members we could hardly distribute the mangoes systematically. One of the sweeter moments was a little girl coming to us and asking for another mango. “Can I have one more for my elder sister?” Yes, dear, why not? “Can I have one more for my younger sister?” How sweet!

And finally, after two days of distribution and a week of planning, we ran out of mangoes. It’s hard to describe how we felt when we realised we managed to do this. We were happy, yes. But there was this strange feeling of inadequacy. Our initiative was not even a drop in the ocean of philanthropy; that is the scale of problems our fellow humans face.





LOGISTICS

TOTAL COLLECTION

INR 10500

COST PER KG

70 INR/ kg

TOTAL MANGOES


150 kg mangoes in 6 cartons, each containing 26 kg mangoes.

TRANSPORTATION

One chota haathi vehicle.

TRANSPORTATION CHARGES

INR 500 borne by Mr Yogesh.





WHAT'S NEXT

Our initiative is just a start. We can plan a monthly or bi-monthly event not to let the idea die. Each contributor may also start something in their localities to reach as many people as possible. Those who wish to connect with Mr Yougesh's NGO may contact him via 8050814398.

Some things could have been done better. Further evaluation will help us make a more robust plan next time. For any suggestions, please feel free to contact Kishan Kalia. He can be reached via 8264808349.



**Huge thanks
to everyone
who
contributed!**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO
YOUGESH GANESH, HARSH*, AND
TEMPO DRIVERS FOR BEING
PRESENT AND FOR FACILITATING
THE SEAMLESS DISTRIBUTION OF
HAPPINESS.**



**EVERYONE SEE YOU SOON. UNTIL THEN, TAKE
CARE. BYE..**

KISHAN KALIA 😊

***Article written by Harsh, edited by Kishan.**