

In This Issue

Status of M/East ward and a comparison with Mumbai city



PRAJA

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DIALOGUE

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Big Story

A chronicle of trash, mostly within

Most of the M-East ward may seem to be situated on the outskirts of human dignity.

Mumbai has a total of 11,35,514 slums with a total population of 52,06,473 (Census 2011). This is 41.84% of total population of Mumbai. 77.5% of the people of M-East ward live cramped in slums. Since the 1960s, this ward has given shelter to migrants from different parts of India, as well as those who have been 'resettled' from slums in the inner recesses of the city.

M-East ward sits at the bottom of the 24 wards of Mumbai, as far as human development indices are concerned (Mumbai Human Development Report, 2009). It has Asia's second largest and oldest open land-fill that still receives around 4500 metric tons of garbage every day. The infant mortality rate is 66 (out of 1000 live births) while the national average is 41. The air and ground water are contaminated. Basic amenities are conspicuous by their absence. Every second male and six out of seven females are unemployed. The average family income in its slum clusters is Rs. 7,802 per month. The average age at death sums up the state of affair in the ward: it is 39 years. Nationally, it was 32 when India became Independent. [All the data is from Arun Kumar & Annabel Mehta (eds.), *Life on the Margin: Charting Realities*, Apnalaya Studies Series – I, 2017]

What do we associate with slums? Poverty, dirt, disease, crime...? When I see the sub-human conditions in M-East ward slums, I see the debris of dying villages... from somewhere, some corner of the country. It is mostly rural people, failed by the system that we have erected, who have come here to this part of the city and are prepared to rough it out. That living in stench and squalor is preferred to what they have left behind, shows how bleak the situation is. It also shows that there people who don't give up hope.

At the same time, I marvel at the callousness of a city that does not have a thought to spare for the people who work to keep the city clean and contribute to 39% of

Mumbai's physical labour force. Where does your garbage go? Who collects it? Who segregates the waste and recycles? That we assume that there is some place where our garbage could be dumped and that there are people to pick it up every morning and live with it is evidence that the trash we first need to deal with is in our minds.

However, as long as there are people, there are rights; and as long as there are rights there is reason to resist denial of dignity. Through its Citizenship program, Apnalaya has been able to equip the citizens of the ward on how to make themselves counted and the government authorities accountable. Autonomous citizen-led initiatives have led to families getting legal water connections, electricity connections, cooking gas and ration cards. The people have begun to know how to work with the local government authorities, write applications and file RTIs and motivate their neighbours and initiate civic improvements like lane reconstruction, street cleaning and toilet construction in their communities.

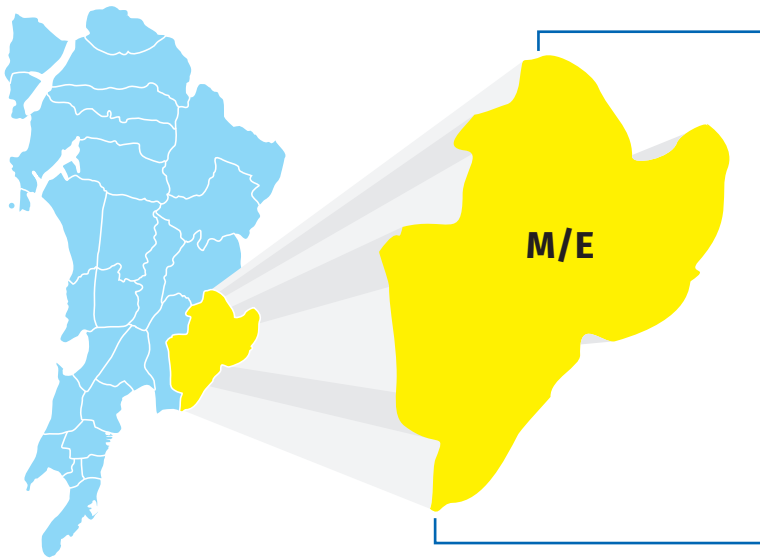
The local ward office, the Assistant Commissioner, and the Municipal Commissioner of the city have been receptive to the concerns of the citizens. Apnalaya has launched a campaign called *Mission 24* - a civic initiative, aimed at constructing basic amenities in M-East ward without which a life with dignity and self-respect is unthinkable.

Working closely with the MCGM as the principal stakeholder, *Mission 24* will strive to be a best-practice model of better living through active participation from civil society, the private sector, non-government organisations and local stakeholders to boost the government's efforts.

This city has failed the people of M-East ward too many times in the past. This once, we hope, history shall not repeat itself.

Arun Kumar
CEO, Apnalaya

Graph 1 Overview

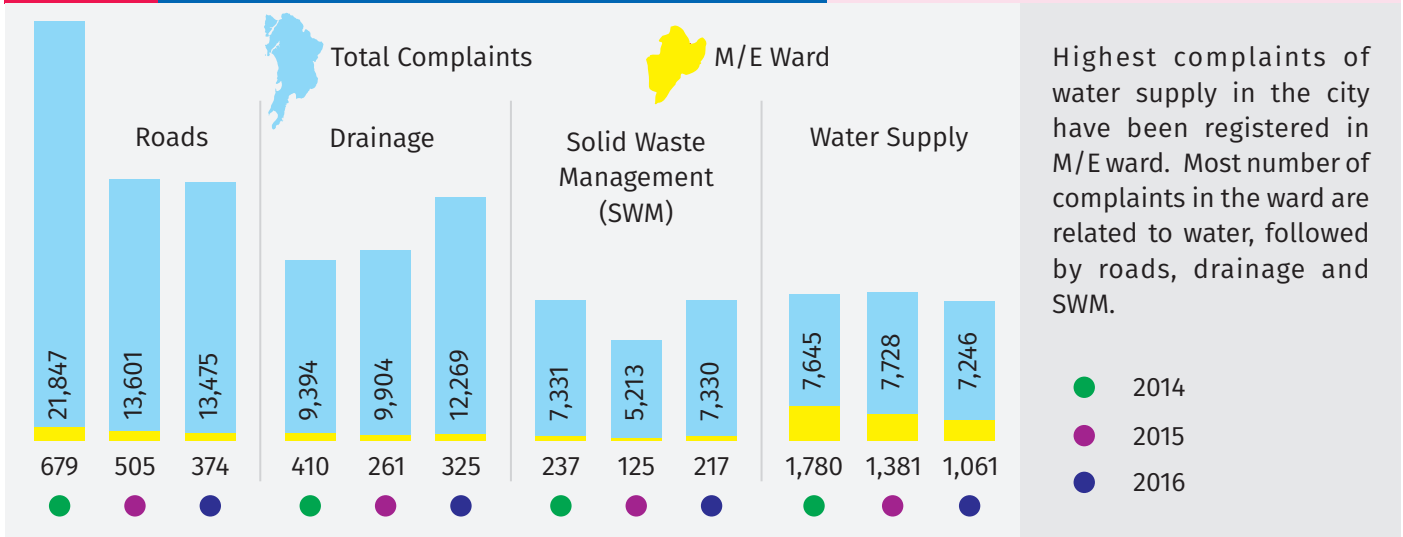


- Population (2011): **807720**
- Population living in slums (2011): **30%**
- Number of Councillors (2017): **15**
- Number of MLAs (2017): **1**
- Number of civic complaints (2016): **3468**
- Number of schools: **77**
- Number of hospitals and dispensaries: **10**
- Dumping Ground: **1**

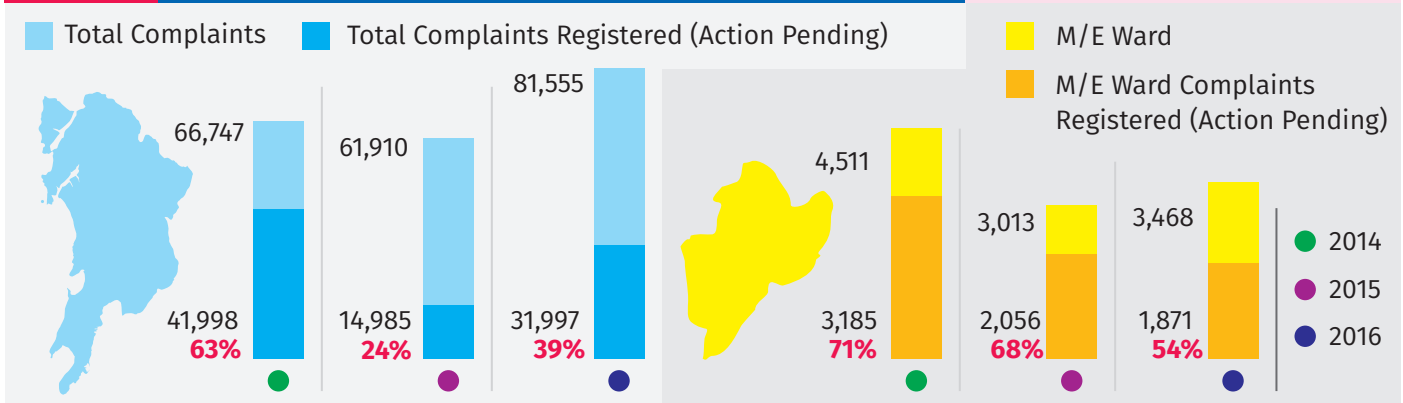
Issue-Wise Performance of M/E Ward

CIVIC: A Comparison of M/E Ward with Total City Complaints

Graph 2 Top four civic complaints from 2014 to 2016



Graph 3 Percentage of Pending Complaints from 2014 to 2016

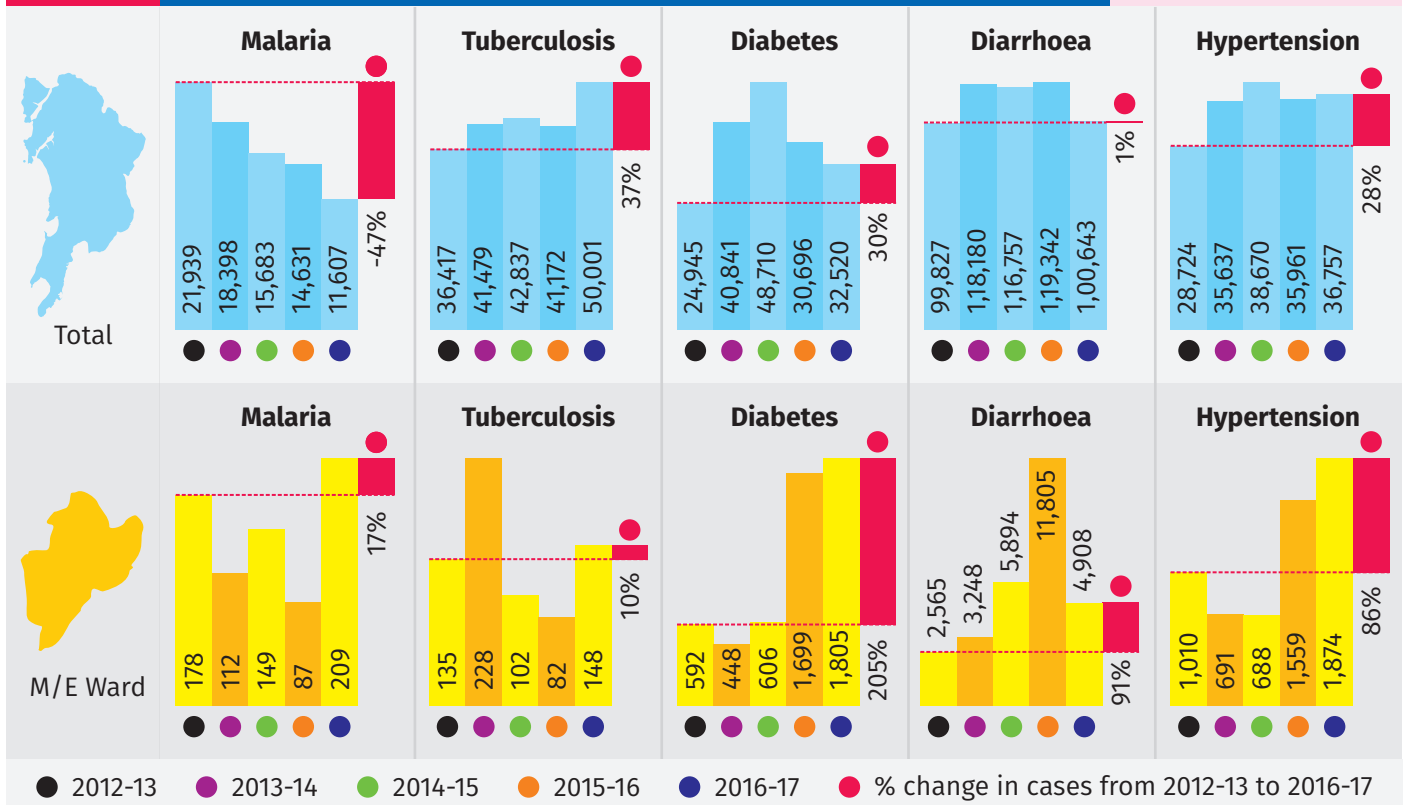


A total of 3,468 complaints were registered in M/E in 2016. The percentage of unsolved complaints in M/E ward is relatively much higher than the city average for the years 2014 to 2016 showing high pendency and poor solving rate of complaints in M/E.

Note: Total complaints includes only Central Complaint Registration System (CCRS) data.

HEALTH: A Comparison of M/E Ward with Total City

Graph 4 Number of Cases of Diseases/Ailments from 2012-13 to 2016-17

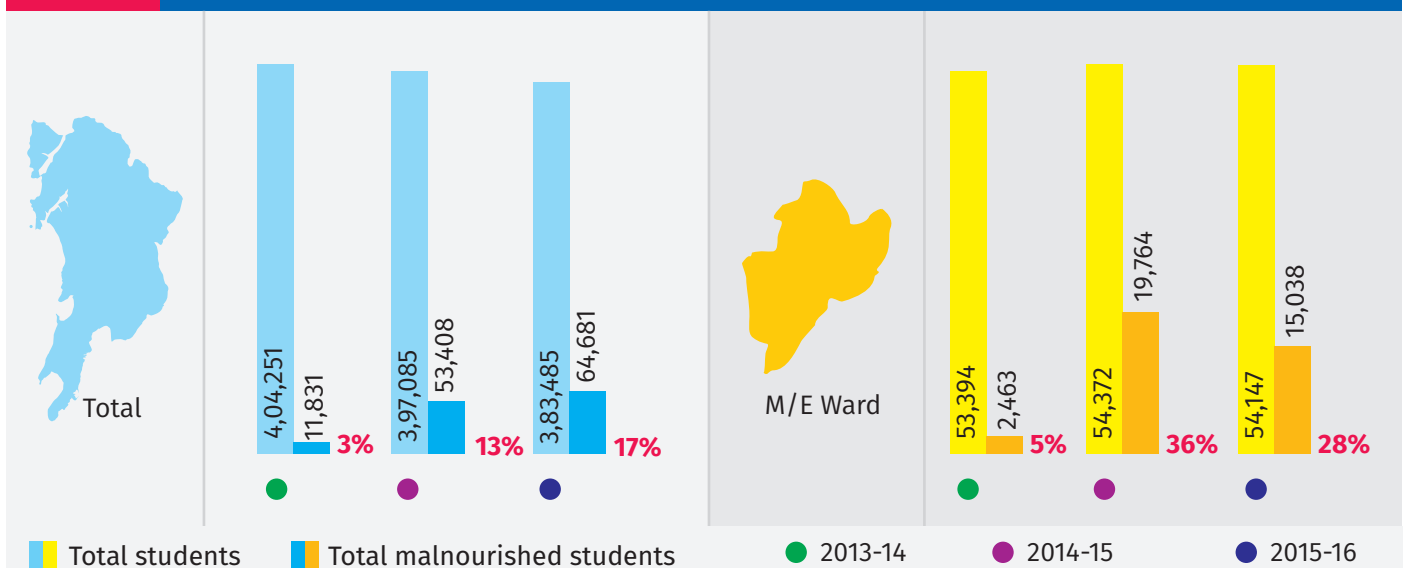


A study of sensitive diseases shows that M/E features among the top three wards in terms of highest number of cases registered for malaria and diabetes in 2016-17.

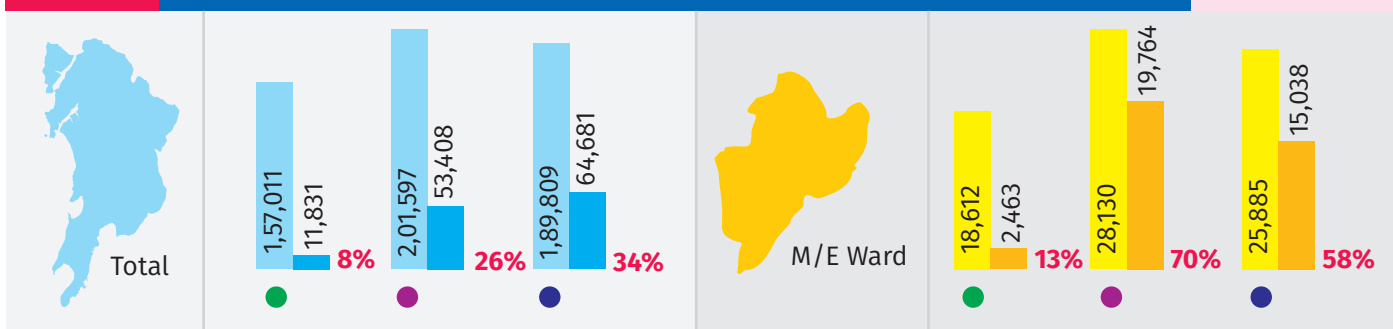
A percentage change in the last five years in terms of number of sensitive diseases reported shows a considerably high rise in M/E as compared to the city average. For example, total malaria cases have fallen 47% whereas in M/E this has risen by 17%. Diarrhoea cases in M/E have increased by 91% in the past five years while the overall increase is only 1%. This points to the deteriorating health conditions of the ward in the past five years.

MALNUTRITION: A Comparison of M/E Ward with Total City

Graph 5 Comparison of Total malnourished students to total students from 2013-14 to 2015-16



Graph 6 Actual malnutrition number and percentage from 2013-14 to 2015-16



■ Total students screened
 ■ No. of Malnourished students
 ● 2013-14
 ● 2014-15
 ● 2015-16

In terms of child health and nutrition, M/E ward ranks the highest in number of malnourished children at 51% average for the years 2013-14 to 2015-16. Percentage of malnourished to total students screened in M/E ward is higher than the city average.

EDUCATION: A Comparison of M/E ward with Total City

Table 1 Performance of MCGM schools from 2012-13 to 2016-17

Total Students	Total				Total Students	M/E Ward		
	Teachers	Dropouts (%)	Pass outs (%)			Teachers	Dropouts (%)	Pass outs (%)
4,34,523	11,997	9.2	60	2012-13	53,510	1,147	8.7	38
4,04,251	11,350	11.7	67	2013-14	53,394	1,137	21.6	16
3,97,085	10,853	13	72	2014-15	54,372	1,194	21.6	68
3,83,485	10,637	15.1	77	2015-16	54,147	1,161	23.6	54
3,43,621	10,432	8.5	69	2016-17	49,021	1,207	18.6	54

M/E has the highest number of teachers and schools, with a considerable number of students which shows efficient ward wise resource allocation, however M/E still has a higher Pupil Teacher Ratio as compared to the city average, for example 33 PTR for city compared to 41 for M/E ward. In spite of this M/E ward has the highest dropout percentage, and a relatively poor pass out rate among other wards of the city.

Next Issue

Watch out for our April 2018 newsletter to know more about status of Crime in Mumbai

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