After rain, diseases crop up

- JANANI SAMPATH

CHENNAI: With rains receding, stagnant pools of water remain, bringing the resultant threat of mosquito breeding. Corporation officials and experts warn the public about the three common types of mosquitoes that breed in this season and the related diseases that could arise.

An official from the Chennai Corporation says that the civic body has been sending messages to the general public to create dengue awareness among people. “During this season, Aedes mosquitoes that cause dengue are the most active. Also known as tiger mosquitoes due to spots on them, these mosquitoes can infect people within a 500-meter radius at once. So, if one house has stagnant water or stored water, the Aedes mosquitoes breed in that water and can infect up to 10 people within the vicinity. They are active three hours after sunrise and three hours before sunset. The rains are on every other day to ensure the water is not drained out, which is ideal for mosquito breeding. Store water must be kept covered, as people should ensure that there are no discarded containers like plastic cups or used pots and vessels where water can collect,” he says.

Involvement at all levels

Dr. S. Elango, chief medical officer, Public Health, Tamil Nadu, says that children and infants are the most prone to vector-borne diseases. “The survey also suggests that mosquito-borne diseases are also common during this season. These do not occur only in floods, but are a huge menace,” he says. Loyola College recently conducted a study while Culex (Japanica) and Aedes (kungunyus) are the two prevalent types in A.

Loyola College reaches out to rain-affected slums

CHENNAI: Loyola College, Chennai joined state government, NGOs and many other voluntary organisations like Chennai Volunteers in lending a helping hand to the slum dwellers in Chennai helping hands. Rev. Fr. Joseph Antony Samy, S.J. Principal, Loyola College formed a task force, Loyola Rain Relief Services (LRRS) consisting of Outreach Department staff. A core group of the management and students to reach the rain victims during the rainy days and fulfill their immediate needs. Contributions from the management and alumni to the tune of Rs 20 lakhs was provided in Amma Nagur and Anju Kudusai Slum in Chintadripet, Namachivayapuram, Saidapet with food packets, bread, biscuit packets, mats, sarapinil, bedsheets, towels, etc. The college also plans to organise medical camps for them.

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As rain floods city, temple tanks keep Mylapore dry

The Kapaleeswarar temple tank which has filled up following heavy showers in the city.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:

The Kapaleeswarar temple tank, which has filled up following heavy showers in the city, has now become the largest in the area after the heavy monsoon rains. The tank, which is about 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, has been filled to the brim with water from the heavy rains. The tank was last filled up in 2015 after heavy rains.

The tank, which is about 800 years old, is a significant landmark in the city and is considered to be one of the oldest tanks in the country. The tank is used for various purposes, including irrigation, drinking water, and for religious activities.

The tank is also an important tourist attraction and is visited by thousands of people every year. The tank is located near the Kapaleeswarar temple, which is one of the most important temples in the city.

The tank is also used for religious purposes, including the annual temple festival, which is one of the biggest events in the city. The festival attracts thousands of people from all over the country.

The tank is also a popular spot for local residents to take a swim in the cool waters, especially during the hot summer months.

The tank is also used for various water sports, including rowing, sailing, and boating.

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Loyola College formed a task force, Loyola Rain Relief Services (LRRS) consisting of Outreach Department staff, officials of the college and students to reach the rain victims during the incessant rainy days and fulfill their immediate needs. Contributions from the management and alumni to the tune of ₹20 lakh were immediately used to provide the people in Amma Nagar and Anju Kudusai Slum in Chintadripet, Namachivayapurmam, Saidapet with food packets, bread, biscuit packets, mats, tarpaulin, bed sheets, towels, etc. The college also plans to organize medical camps for them using the voluntary services of the doctors.

ENS
College offers succour to residents

- Zubeda Hamid
- S. Poorvaja

On the Loyola College campus, about 200 student volunteers and 25 staff have been formed into committees to look after the needs of the 2,000-odd flood-hit residents who have been accommodated there, there is a help desk at the entrance, and relief materials are distributed room-wise to all, said public relations officer K.S. Antony Samy.

“We have no problems with regard to food, water or bed sheets. We do require other materials such as clothes, schoolbags and books,” said B. Latha, who, along with A. Subochana, had been rescued by boats from East Namasivayapuram in Choolaimedu.

S. Chinnamma, who has a wound on her left forehead from slipping and falling while trying to retrieve a few possessions from her home, said she had consulted doctors at the daily medical camp run at the college with volunteers and Chennai Corporation doctors. “We lost everything — fridges, beds, mixers and grinders — all gone,” she said.

P. Gajjalakshmi, who worked as a salesperson at the Poorvika mobile showroom in Kodambakkam, was worried about her school certificates. “I couldn’t see my house — it was completely drowned in the water,” she said.

With schools and colleges possibly re-opening on Monday, the residents are worried as to where they will go and how they will get back to their old lives. “We are already hearing that we may have to leave on Sunday. But what will we do? We have no homes or possessions,” one resident said.

Mr. Antony Samy said the college’s reopening may be delayed by a day or two as they did not want to pressure the residents to leave.

Where relief does not reach them

At Jaigopal Garodiya School in Saidapet that now houses residents who used to live along the Adayar river in huts near the area, they are unsure of what to go back to.

“Everything, including my ration card, clothes and valuables, have been washed away. We were living there for the past 13 years, waiting for our Housing Board apartments which we were allotted more than a decade ago,” said A. Kuppusamy, a 62-year-old resident.

People in the camp, which houses over 200 people from the nearby areas who fled their homes after water levels rose on Monday, say that other than food, they have not got any relief materials. “Since a large number of people have been affected in this area, they line up on the main roads and stop the relief vehicles or even get into the relief trucks and take away things before they can reach here,” said L. Kaniammal. Stating that there were many infants at the camp, she pleaded for relief workers to provide for milk and baby clothes.

Many other persons in the camp said that only on Saturday, after much pleading, had they got access to water. The camp in itself paints a picture of squalor and neglect with stagnant water and slushy grounds which, they fear, will lead to an outbreak of malaria or dengue.
For Chennai slum residents, access to flood relief depends on luck and muscle power

Neighbours in a Chooleimeedu slum have ended up in two very different kinds of relief shelters.

Nayantara Narayanan · Dec 11, 2015 · 08:55 am

Deepa Rajkumar is eight months pregnant. On the night of December 1, when the rains hit Chennai the hardest, she was in her house in the Namachivayapuram slum in Chooleimeedu. "The water came in from the river and was up to chest height. We somehow got out," she said, standing in a big, dry classroom in Loyola College.
The college has accommodated 1,200 people from Namachivayapuram in three floors of the social work department. The rooms are large and plenty and the temporary residents have spread themselves out. They have received mats to sleep on and bedsheets to cover themselves with. Student volunteers ensure that food and water are distributed on time.
At 3pm on Saturday, the second of three daily cleanings was underway in one of the bathrooms. Diaper-wearing toddlers held on to their mothers in the corridors. Older children played in a ground in front of the building where a fire truck and police van were stationed. Student volunteers noted the entry and exit of visitors and materials.

"It's run like it would be prescribed in a manual. Or at least close to it," said Hari Balaji, Tamil Nadu state coordinator with the non-governmental organisation Sphere India.

Not all the residents of Namachivayapuram are in the Loyola college shelter. After escaping the water and after most of their neighbours were taken to Loyola College, 500 people were sent to a primary school just up the road from their settlement. There are fewer than 10 rooms at the school and one toilet.

"They come [from the government] to give us food and water and leave medicines. But we don't get anything else," said S Sandhya, who had been staying there for four days.

The temporary residents of the school have been cleaning the premises themselves but said that the single toilet has become unusable. They have been trying to find basic material, which is proving tough. "It is very cold here and we don't have bedsheets," said 70-year-old R Mary. This, despite many relief-laden cars having been in the vicinity.

"When any material comes here for the shelter, people waiting outside come and grab things and take them back to their houses," said S Sandhya. "Especially, the men. We can't fight them and so we don't get anything." With no municipal representative or volunteers keeping watch at the school, distribution of relief had become a free for all. "There, it's happening again," a woman in the shelter remarked when raised voices at the school's entrance caught everyone's attention. Two girls had walked into the school and had been surrounded by a crowd of men and women. After some shouting and shoving when the crowd cleared, one of the girls was in tears.

After being escorted outside and catching her breath, the girl, who did not want to be named, said "I just came to leave biscuits for the children. But everyone pushed us and tore the packet."

"Some of these people are from our area but are not staying in this shelter," said Sandhya, about those grabbing bedsheets and biscuits.
The road to Namachivayapuram
Everyone in the Namachivayapuram has lost almost everything. Four days after the worst flood this season, the lane into the slum was still slushy and the houses damp. Whether within a shelter or without, it’s obvious that people left to fend for themselves were getting desperate. Asked whether she would come back to help with food, the girl with the biscuits said, "Of course, we have seen how bad it is. We will come again."

We welcome your comments at letters@scroll.in

http://scroll.in/article/774804/for-chennai-slum-residents-access-to-flood-relief-depends-on-luck-and-muscle-power
மன்றத்தில் மீண்டும் பல்வேறு பொருள்கள் பற்றிய தலைப்பிட்டுக்கொண்டது. கல்விக்கு பெரும் கூட்டம் அமைந்தது. உறுப்பினர் உறுப்பினர்கள் மற்றும் பொதுவானர்களுக்கு பல்வேறு பற்றிய பொருள்கள் தலைப்பிட்டுக்கொண்டது. 

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Relief & Restoration

On 2 Dec '15, Fr G. Joseph Antony Samy, S.J., Principal, Loyola College, Chennai, along with Outreach department and other staff volunteers visited the rain-affected areas located around our college. Loyola College soon extended its support to 2500 plus people whose houses were inundated in the flood. "Loyola Rain Relief Service (LRRS) was organized. Initially, the student volunteers distributed food to the people. On observing the condition of the homeless victims, the college opened up its gate to the affected people inside Loyola premises. LRRS had 30 staff, and 250 students, who volunteered themselves towards the relief measures. Food and basic amenities were systematically collected, stored and distributed to the inmates. A medical team consisting of 8 doctors offered medical treatment for nearly 1750 flood victims housed in Loyola premises. A rescue team of Loyola was sent to other affected areas of Chennai Cuddalore, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts. They rescued the flood victims and distributed food, water, clothes and medicines to the affected people. The NCC cadets of Loyola college provided security for people who spent their days and nights in the camp. Loyola took its next step on rehabilitation and reconstruction. The materials worth of Rs. 8,000 in each relief kit containing clothes, candles, mosquito repellents, sanitary napkins, utensils, bed sheets, etc., were distributed to people inside as well as the affected ones in the outer parts of Chennai.

- Dr. K.S. Antonysamy
Loyola College, Chennai

Tapping the youth potential, the Salesian Parish of Chennai responded immediately to the disaster with relief measures co-ordinated by the parish development office. Many young Salesian youths throughout the diocese were opened to assist. Prepared food distribution centers were conducted in the district headquarters, and Kanchipuram and Cuddalore, in Thiruvallur 26 slums, and a conscious effort was made to ensure the youth were provided with a different community experience.

- S.J.