

# TALK ABOUT

**PROOF**  
Public Record of  
Operations & Finance

*Mailed from:  
PROOF Community  
Communications Hub at  
VOICES.*

**Different Voices. One Chorus.**

**Issue 17, Jan 17-23, 2003**

## **In this issue**

- The campaign update – p.1
- The Community Communications update- p.1
- Proof Energy Centre Speak – p.2
- Proof Puttanna – p. 3
- Your Voice – p.3
- Web links- p. 3



PEC members discussing the college workshop.

## **PROOF update...**

### **At the Campaign level:**

- 1. Q3 data in! BMP** has released the financial data for the third quarter. This was within a fortnight of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ended December, 2003.
- 2. Citizens' Analysis of Q3:** Just as it was done for Q2, the data for **Q3 will be analysed by the citizens.** This has been scheduled for Saturday, January 18 between 2-5 p m at the Urban Health Research Institute (IPP centre). Their analysis will be presented at the Q3 public debate.

### **Update –At the Community Communications level:**

**1 College workshop:** The college students' workshop on Jan 11 at the Urban Health Research Institute (IPP centre) in Malleshwaram was a great success. 15 Colleges and about 44 students took part in the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -hr programme. The theme was "Sensitive Citizenry." The thought provoking presentation was well received and a lot of interaction followed after each session. The workshop opened with a skit, then a session on awareness building on civic matters, PROOF presentation, idea generation and the group working session. The four activities selected by the participants, to create/increase awareness about the importance of citizens to participate in Governance were: Group Discussions, Street Plays, Seminars and Inter-collegiate competitions. The group working sessions were led by a PEC member. Each group then made a presentation on the steps it would take to take that particular activity forward in their respective colleges.

**2. At IIM-B:** Mr Ashish Sen, director, Voices, made a PROOF presentation at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore to a keen group of about 100 students. Two groups of students will be studying PROOF as their project.

**3. Budget training:** The next training session on 'How to Read Govt. Financial Statements' will be held at the Public Affairs Centre on January 25 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please confirm your participation with Danit Mathew at Voices.

**PEC Task Force:**

**Mini-discussion series:**

**Srikanta**

**Building Bridges:**

**Doraiswami**

**Proof Puttanna:**

**Ananda Rao**

**Talk About Proof:**

**Rajeev Yeshwanth**

**College Activities:**

**Shiv Shankar**

**Budget Training:**

**Mohan Rao**

**Namma Budget:**

**P J Thomas**

## **THE PROOF ENERGY CENTRE SPEAK**

**People's will must prevail in BMP**

**By Mohan Rao**

(Mr Mohan Rao is a retired civil servant and a PEC member)

For long India has followed a two-tier system of administration which she had inherited from the British colonial regime. It ran counter to the spirit of democracy in that it provided for little participation for the people in governance. Hence, the introduction of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution to remedy this shortcoming in the system of governance. While the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment provided for local self-government in the rural areas, the 74<sup>th</sup> amendment provided for the same in urban areas.

With the passing of the 74<sup>th</sup> amendment the character of city corporations like the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) has changed. It is now virtually a city government with wide administrative powers. As a result, it is the BMP which is expected to take all measures to improve the quality of life in the city. Can citizens present their demands on what they perceive to be important for the city and their neighbourhoods?

Absolutely. The BMP has to respond adequately to the needs of the people in respect of services provided by it under its charter and should reflect citizens' aspirations in its policy decisions and allocation of funds. The least we can expect is efficient and least cost implementation, ensuring high quality. It is equally important that transparency, accountability and efficiency should inform all matters of policy, implementation of decisions and general management of the affairs of the corporation.

Most people would agree that the BMP's way of functioning so far has not been satisfactory. There is little sync between the people, their representatives and the bureaucracy. There is hardly any mechanism to ensure that the corporators adequately represent the need and wishes of the people while formulating policies. Allocation of funds is not need based. The tendency is for corporators to pander to the demands of their supporters. What is the way out? Citizens participation in budgeting is one way out. Because budgeting involves collection of tax and non-tax resources and allocation of funds among competing demands. In a way these allocations represent the policies and

priorities and the decisions of the BMP. It would be tackling the root of the matter in ensuring greater citizens participation in governance.

Several efforts, including PROOF, are on to reform the working of the BMP. All these initiatives mean that a large number of people have to be involved to sustain the momentum. Fortunately, the latest methods of information dissemination make it possible to reach out to a large number of people to mobilise public opinion. It is finally pressure from the people alone that will prevail upon the BMP to improve its administration of the city.

### **Your Voice**

*(Mail in and let us voice your view)*

*“PROOF is a campaign of the people, by the people and for the people. It is ideal to create awareness and sensitise citizens about the general administration and financial administration of governing bodies like the BMP.”*

**Kumar Vikas Arvind, IIIrd year LLB, BMS College of Law**

## **Meet PROOF PUTTANNA**

**On AIR FM 101.3,  
Between 8 & 8.15 p.m. every Wednesday**

***On January 22, 2003: A conversation on student participation in PROOF. Taking part will be a college student and lecturer.***



### **Contact Us:**

- Want to know more about PROOF?
- Want a copy of the First/Second Quarter report with PROOF analysis?
- Want to be part of the PEC and make a difference to the city through PROOF?
- Want to know the latest development in the campaign?
- Want to know more about the Partners and how you can get involved in some of their other activities?

### **Proof's new face every week...**

**Find out the latest at the following links!!**

- **Training sessions on Financial Statements:**  
<http://www.indiatogether.org/campaigns/proofblr/>
- **On the campaign:**  
<http://indiatogether.org/campaigns/>
- **Campaign update page is at**  
<http://indiatogether.org/campaigns/proofblr/>
- **PROOF link at-**  
[www.voicesforall.org](http://www.voicesforall.org)

**All you need to do is call or mail:** Danit Mathew at VOICES-521 3902/03.

**Email:** [proof\\_voices@vsnl.net](mailto:proof_voices@vsnl.net)

**Want to understand Governmental financial statement?**

Attend the training seminars being conducted every Saturday between 10 am and 1 pm by PROOF – rotationally at each of the partners' office

**Next one is at PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE, Koramangala**

**Date: 25/1/03**