



The Pothole Crisis In Bengaluru: A Persistent Threat To Public Safety And Infrastructure

Namrata Vinod¹, Dr Karamala Areesh Kumar²

(222JPP011)

² Guide:

Affiliation: Department of Public Policy, International Relations and Peace, (St Joseph's University, Bangalore)

Contact Info: namratavinod2004@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

Bengaluru known as India's tech hub, has a major issue with its roads- potholes. Despite many promises and money spent by the government, potholes keep causing trouble and it also despite being home to major global companies and rapidly growing population the city's road maintenance system have not kept pace with urban development. This paper looks into the reason behind this problem, frequent digging up utility services, and bad drainage system, the accidents and injuries caused by it, and what the city is doing to fix it like by civic agencies like the BBMP to tackle the issue. It also discusses how these efforts have fallen short and what can be done better.

Introduction:

Bengaluru often called the "Silicon Valley" of India is known for its booming tech industry and vibrant city life. Over the years the city has grown vibrantly and rapidly in terms of population, business and infrastructure needs. However, the one area they have failed is to keep up road networks, many parts of city suffer from poor road condition, and potholes have become one of the most common and dangerous problems for commuters.

Potholes are more than just small holes on the road; they can cause major traffic jams and lead to serious accidents especially involving two wheeler riders. The situation often becomes worse during monsoon seasons when waterlogging weakens the roads and surfaces and leads to further damage.

This paper looks at various reasons behind pothole formation and the consequences they have on a daily life. It evaluates the efforts made by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to address the issue such as launching mobile apps and using smart technology. Finally, the paper offers suggestions for how Bengaluru can better manage its roads and ensure safety travel for everyone.

Literature review:

Why potholes happen?

there are a few main reasons why potholes keep appearing in Bengaluru

- Poor quality repairs- the BBMP often uses low quality materials to fill the potholes. These quick fixes don't last during the rainy season.
- Too many road cuts- utility companies like the water and electricity boards often dig up roads for work. After they are done the roads are not repaired properly which leads to potholes.
- Bad drainage- water collects on the road because the drainage problem system is poor. This standing water weakens the road, making potholes worse.

Impact of potholes:

Potholes don't just slow down traffic they cause real harm to the citizens

- Accidents and death- in early 2025 a man died and a 70 year old after losing balance on an uneven stretch in Dr Rajkumar Road after hitting a trench and falling under the bus. Just days earlier a tech worker suffered critical injuries when his scooter hit and exposed pipe left carelessly by roadside



credits: Rajiv Kalkod

Read article at:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/how-bengalurus-dr-rajkumar-road-has-turned-death-trap-with-white-topping-prep-work/articleshow/121810077>.

- Vehicle damage- many commuters report spending thousands of rupees annually on repairs due to pothole related damage
- Health issues- doctors note seriousness in back and neck injuries, particularly among two wheeler riders attributed to sudden jolts from potholes

What is the city doing?

The BBMP has taken certain steps to solve this issue

- Pothole Apps- the BBMP has launched mobile apps like “Fix My Street” and “PACE” that allow people to report potholes by taking photos and uploading it. The idea is to respond quickly and fix reported potholes.
- Cameras and AI- BBMP has installed cameras on 250 vehicles to scan the roads detect potholes and using artificial intelligence. This way they don’t have to wait for any complaints
- Money for repairs- in 2023 each of the cities 2025 wards got 15 lakh just to repair potholes. This was to let local engineers fix problems faster.

Methodology:

Ongoing problems

Slow work- many potholes take weeks or even months to be repaired. Example a stretch in Palace Guthalli was left untouched for over five months causing daily traffic chaos.

Bad material- even when potholes are filled, they often reappear because poor materials are used. The fillings don’t survive heavy rain or traffic

Lack of coordination- often, different government bodies don’t work together. For example if the water board digs up a road and doesn’t inform BBMP, the repair work gets delayed.

Recent incidents :

A couple on a two wheeler was hit by a truck and their baby was killed. The poor condition on the road was blamed for the accident

School bus drivers have said that the potholes and traffic jams are making it harder and more dangerous to transport children.

In tech areas of the cities like Whitefield and Bellandur people have stopped using bikes and are instead using cabs or cars, increasing traffic further.

Conclusion:

This pothole crisis in Bengaluru is not just a civic issue. It is a personal issue. For many of us who live this city, potholes are an apart of everyday life. But not everyone is luck enough to escape unhurt. Many of us have seen our friends families and even strangers too due to sudden jolts on the road. In some heartbreaking cases people have lost their lives in accidents that could have been prevented with proper road maintenance.

Despite BBMP’s efforts to launch apps install cameras and assign funds the results are patchy and often too late. The reality on the ground continues to be dangerous. It is frustrating to see how a city with such talent and resources can continue to ignore something so basic as safe roads.

REFERENCES :

1. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/as-bengalurus-palace-guttahalli-road-turns-commuters-nightmare-residents-slam-civic-inaction/articleshow/121892969.cms>
2. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/bad-roads-traffic-leading-to-increase-in-accidents-says-school-bus-drivers-in-bengaluru/articleshow/121916015.cms>
3. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/bbmp-launches-fix-pothole-app-in-bengaluru/articleshow/112091200.cms>
4. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/th-impact-bbmp-finally-launches-fix-my-street-app-to-report-potholes-on-bengaluru-roads/article66356326.ece>
5. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/truck-driver-flees-after-killing-baby-injuring-couple-on-bike-in-bengaluru-nabbed-from-andhra-pradesh/articleshow/121853353.cms>