

# Caught in a virtuous cycle and loving it



A programme run by cycling enthusiasts in the city, CycleReCycle, aims at repairing used and abandoned cycles and donating them to needy beneficiaries, reports Visy Valsan

**D**efying Bangalore's congested traffic and high fuel prices, Pradeep BV, founder of the CycleReCycle programme, pedals across town in a Hero Hawks. That too, in style, wearing his biking gear. A cycling enthusiast who shuttles between Banashankari and Electronics City everyday, Pradeep's idea of providing a ready solution to all the cycle-needy citizens of Bangalore has many takers. His theory — donate your cycle if it's lying unused in your backyard.

There are many organisations in the city that promote cycling. But the uniqueness about CycleReCycle is that it reaches out beyond the cycling community to popularise and bring more cycles to the streets. Pradeep, a techie, is a member of the RideACycle Foundation (RAC-F), a non-profit organisation that promotes cycling. He says that CycleReCycle was born out of RAC-F's earlier initiatives, in which they supplied donated cycles to beneficiaries.

"We get disused, abandoned and broken cycles and get it repaired. When students, chowkidars, office boys and other end users approach us, we provide them with these cycles," says Pradeep. CycleReCycle has also tied up



Nishant Ratnakar

**PEDAL PUSHERS:** Santhosh BP, 12-year-old sixth grader at Dream School Foundation poses with his new cycle. Also seen are members of CycleReCycle

with India Literacy Project, RR Cycles and Dream School Foundation to locate students who are in need of cycles but don't have the necessary capital.

A recent beneficiary is Santhosh BP, a 12-year-old sixth grader from Dream

School Foundation. From his home in Nagasandra, near HAL, Santhosh walks a kilometre everyday to reach his school, which is in Chalaghatta. The frequency of buses plying from Nagasandra to Chalaghatta being less,

"In the last one-and-a-half years, we have **given away 50 cycles**. We have a **number of volunteers** who fund minor repairs and transportation charges that the **cycles may need**"

most students from this area walk to school. "Moreover, the road condition is bad and Nagasandra is located in an interior lane, a distance from the HAL Road," says Roselin VJ, Santhosh's class teacher. With the cycle provided to Santhosh from CycleReCycle, his journey to school is set to become easier.

RR Cycles, the store with branches in Madiwala, Yeshwanthpur and Ulsoor, acts as an intermediary for CycleReCycle. It helps collect and repair cycles before they are given away. "Most people who come to buy new cycles also donate their old ones here. Sometimes, we go and pick up these old cycles if they are close to our shop," says Ramesh G, owner, RR Cycles.

Like Pradeep, his team mates Mayank Rungta, Lavanya K and Murali HR have been active spreading the word around. They even have a website for CycleReCycle, which they are in the process of updating. "The website will have a list of donors and a list of bene-

ficiaries which will make the entire process easier. People who are in need of cycles should state their height and build so that we can help them get a cycle for their size," says Rungta.

As a next step, CycleReCycle is also planning on gathering the many cycles gathering dust in police stations across the city. "We have this idea in mind. We have not spoken to the police department yet. We are a small group, we intend to strengthen our force before we do that," says Lavanya.

"In the one-and-a-half years since we set up the programme, we have been able to give away 50 cycles to beneficiaries from different places and backgrounds. Since the project depends on capital as well, we have a good number of volunteers who fund minor repairs and transportation charges that the cycles may need," explains Pradeep.

To know more, visit [www.cyclerecycle.in](http://www.cyclerecycle.in) or call RR Cycles on 080-23470533/25548102/25501193.

The typical beneficiary for this project is Santhosh. He's 12, very good at academics. He lives a kilometre away from school and that route is not well-connected by bus. This is where we come in. We have given him a cycle that will make his trip to school easier and faster. There are many such beneficiaries of CycleReCycle

**Pradeep BV**  
Founder, CycleReCycle