

A STUDY ON COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN URBAN SANITATION PROGRAMME IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

The urban poor suffer disproportionately from the lack of adequate sanitation. A sanitation system needs to perform the following: collect and isolate human waste, safely transmit this waste, and then treat this waste before reusing it or letting it out in the environment. Urban settlements offer different challenges regarding planning and the implementation of improved urban services. Urban areas, especially the fast-growing non-tenured informal settlements, differ significantly from poor rural areas. A functional toilet performs only a few of these functions: collection and isolation, temporary storage in the case of on-site systems, and partial treatment. Without concomitant attention to safe waste collection and disposal, “improved toilets” will not necessarily lead to improved health outcomes – given the multiple routes through which faecal exposure takes place. The paper presents the observed details about the urban sanitation in India. The areas of settlements belonging to different communities as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Muslim habitations should not be excluded directly or indirectly. It is important to highlight that the health risks arising due to lack of sanitation facilities.

Keywords: urban sanitation; human waste; improved toilets; health risks; communities

INTRODUCTION

India urban population has to increase from 377 million in 2011 to 600 million in 2031. Increasing peripheral expansion of many cities and towns (HPEC, 2011 and World Bank 2011), where there will be huge demand for urban services. Large proportion of population in slums about 94 million. The rapid rates of urbanisation mean that conventional city planning can no longer keep pace with population growth and urban sprawl. The result is that cities are a patchwork of formal and informal settlements, new and old infrastructure, and a wide variety of cultures and classes. Especially in the informal areas, the slums and peri-urban fringe, the modern city can often be described as a fusion between rural and

urban environments. One of the key challenges to urban service delivery is recognising this complexity and providing adaptive solutions that meet people's needs. By 2030, India's urban population is projected to be 590 million (40 per cent of the total population) and there will be 55 second-tier cities (population of 1–4 million). The growing pressures of urbanization will result in surging demand for basic services in these cities, many of which are suffocated by overburdened infrastructure. Urban local bodies in these cities are unable to improve basic services because they lack, among other things, the capacity to raise the revenues needed for investment compared to larger municipalities. Efforts to meet the SDGs will, to a large extent, depend on improving and extending basic services in these cities. Hutton & Bartram (2008) observed that lack of distinction between rural and urban areas in existing unit cost data is a source of uncertainty for their quantitative model. Hutton (2012) grounds its cost-benefits and cost-effectiveness analyses of urban sanitation options on unit cost data but these are not available in every country. To circumvent this problem, the author filled the gap by replicating unit cost data of neighbouring countries. The lack of data is partly due to the absence of efforts at the national level to report sanitation costs thoroughly, but it also owes to the absence of proper urban sanitation systems in developing countries. Many cities indeed lack integrated FSM systems: on-site facilities such as septic tanks, for instance, are not properly and frequently desludged, or no proper treatment process is applied to faecal sludge (Kyomugisha 2016).

Khosla (2000) discusses problems of large toilet complexes which are often located at some distance from most households within a community versus smaller alternative approaches to design and construction. She builds a case for household toilets and networking poor households/communities to city systems by using examples from some best practices in India at the time of writing. Khosla argues that sanitation policies and programmes require a whole city perspective if they are to reach the urban poor. They must include people's involvement, which is an issue that is still to be addressed effectively by governments and implementation agencies even though often prescribed in sanitation policies, programmes and projects.

Urban Sanitation Programmes in India

Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme(ILCS): The scheme was introduced in 1980, The main objective of the scheme is to convert latrines into low cost pour flush latrines , 911 towns had been declared as scavenger free ,11th Plan Allocation was Rs 200 crore; spending has been low. *Mega City Scheme:* The scheme was introduced in 1993-94 , 676 projects costing Rs 8626 crore , 50% of project cost has to be met from institutional finance/capital market. 75% of the Central and State shares would be recovered & ploughed back into the Revolving Fund ,the scheme was subsumed under JNNURM. *Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns(IDSMT):* The scheme was introduced in 1979-80 , applicable to towns/cities with population up to 5 lakhs , total central assistance was about Rs 1100 crore (another Rs 707 crore by states). *JNNURM:* 4 sub-missions – UIG, UIDSSMT, BSUP and IHSDP, adopted in a reform-liked funding approach, CDP – identifying city's development priorities through stakeholder

participation, progress of both fund utilisation and reforms under the programme has been tardy. *National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP)*: The policy attempts to deal with the sanitation issues such as: poor sanitation awareness, overlapping institutional responsibilities, poor supply-driven approach in provision of sanitation, the urban poor who face economic constraints in accessing safe sanitation. It encourages states to formulate their own State Level Sanitation Strategies, and cities to prepare their own City Sanitation Plans.

OBJECTIVES

It is also essential to work out the skills with concern for quality work. The present study has been undertaken in the context of the following objectives;

- To understand the factors which promote or hinder community participation (CP) in urban sanitation project
- To understand the urban sanitation programmes in India
- To analyse the efforts to improve sanitation facilities

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was based on secondary data. With a view to identify the urban sanitation situation in India, the researcher has made an in-depth review of the previous studies undertaken related to the topic of the present study. The secondary data were collected from the published as well as unpublished reports, handbooks, action plans and pamphlets from the office of the Director of Industries and Commerce, various books, journals, magazines, websites, etc. The collected data were analyzed properly by using simple percentage and average wherever appropriate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- **Inequitable Sanitation Systems:** Around a quarter of the world's urban population lives in slums, where an increasing number of people do not have access to sanitation due to the inability or unwillingness of decision-makers to provide adequate services. Thus, the urban poor, and particularly children, are disproportionately exposed to the impacts of poor sanitation, including high disease burdens, which reinforces existing processes of inequitable urban development
- **Growing Pressure on Urban Environments:** A changing climate exacerbates many of these challenges, and has costly impacts on basic services; infrastructure, housing, and health, cities require efficient management of natural resources in the face of growing demands and changing environmental conditions.
- **Emerging Health Risks:** In urban areas, sanitation-related health risks extend far beyond basic access to household sanitation and include a number of exposure points. Safe collection, transport and disposal of sanitation waste is often a neglected health challenge in cities.
- **Growing Pressure on Urban Environments:** Cities are facing rapid social and environmental changes that must be considered to ensure the future health and wellbeing of urban populations

and surrounding ecosystems. A changing climate exacerbates many of these challenges, and has costly impacts on basic services, infrastructure, housing, and health

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Mainstreaming sanitation in all public activities and re-orienting policies to ensure that urban poor households or residents in informal settlements obtain access to improved sanitation facilities. Amending municipal Acts, framing of bye-laws and regulations to promote sanitation by public and private agencies, prohibit discharge of untreated sewage into open areas wherever necessary. A country-wide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Strategy will be designed and implemented for raising awareness on the public health and environmental importance of sanitation. The socio-cultural biases against sanitation and sanitary work need to be targeted, and dignity and humane approach promoted in the elevation of priority to sanitation in public affairs. Plan for safe collection, conveyance and treatment of sanitary wastes, manpower issues such as adequate remuneration, hazardous nature of work, employment on transparent terms and conditions, use of modern and safe technology, provision of adequate safety equipment such as gloves, boots, masks, regular health checkups, medical and accident insurance cover etc. Plans for other aspects significant locally, further, the public-good nature of urban sanitation necessitating collective action needs to be highlighted in the minds of all stakeholders. Government should help formulate and implement a National level strategy on capacity building and training to support states and cities to build their personnel capacities and organizational systems for delivery of sanitation services. At the city level, it will be advisable to launch the campaign as a time-bound program that all stakeholders need to work towards. Appropriate media like Newspapers, TV and city and ward / neighbourhood level programs (sweeping streets, health camps, tree-planting etc.) may be engaged. NGOs can play an important role in mobilizing slum communities. Further, when community groups themselves take over the O&M of community facilities, then sustainable services become possible. This is also a way of reducing costs (compared to say, pay and use public toilets) and making services affordable to the poorest of families.

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