Building Capacities on Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Fecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) for ULBs in Rajasthan

by

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Recommendations for making cities ODF

Under the leadership of the Directorate of Local Self Government Rajasthan, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) along with All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai under its sanitation capacity building platform has been supporting the capacity building of ULB officials and elected representatives in ODF, FSSM, waste water management and Swachh Survekshan 2018, through workshops and exposure visits.

Objective

The purpose of these capacity building workshops and exposure visits is to support the work done by ULBs, to provide a learning opportunity to all levels of staff and to the elected representatives, to learn from best practices and experience on how to make cities ODF by this year end.

The workshops are conducted in a participatory manner to provide an opportunity for cross learning and identification of common challenges and possible solutions from peer learning, sharing, discussions and joint planning.

Workshops conducted so far

Two ODF workshops in Jaipur and Kota are conducted so far for engineers/Eos/elected representatives of challenging cities (cities which have very low IHHL construction as against targets) and two more are planned. Two ODF+/ FSSM workshops have also been conducted in Jaipur and Udaipur.

Challenges shared by Rajasthan ULBs during ODF workshops

The two ODF workshops conducted in Jaipur and Kota had participants from 37 ULBs. Through various discussions and interactions with the ULB officials, it was observed that a uni-directional approach towards becoming ODF with current focus only on construction of toilets. Instead an overall comprehensive approach by the cities with appropriate support by the state is essential to become and sustain the status of ODF as well as move towards ODF+/++.

Overall recommendations

1. The state may consider issuing circulars/ GRs to address the challenges stated below and support the cities in expediting the process of becoming open defecation free.







- 2. The state can reward incentive funds on achievement of ODF status, linked to sustainability.
- 3. The state can also announce that the ULBs shall not receive any development grants on failing to achieve the ODF status.
- 4. All district/division level authorities may be actively involved in the process of monitoring progress and may be given a responsibility of achieving ODF cities in their respective districts/divisions.

Further specific support for elaborating more on any of the above suggestions/recommendations may be provided by NIUA-AIILSG team as required.

Some important challenges highlighted through interactions that the ULBs are facing to become ODF and suggestions for the same are stated below:

CN	leanes	Consortions
SN	Issues	Suggestions
1.	IHHL construction	
1.1	Beneficiaries apply for IHHL and avail first installment after which construction does not get completed.	 After transferring the first installment to the account of the beneficiary, the money can be freezed in the account till the construction is started with the support from respective banks.
1.2	Beneficiaries express space constraints as a reason to not applying for IHHL.	 Design options which require minimum space need to be explored. In places where IHHL is not possible, option of group toilets (toilets shared by 2-3 households) can be explored. In places where there is space for IHHL block but no space for septic tanks, group septic tanks (Larger septic tanks connected to multiple toilets as per technical requirement) can be explored.
1.3	Numbers reflected on the SBM portal are not updated with the reality on ground.	 Regularly updating SBM portal by appointing dedicated staff for the same is essential. If there is lack of staff, then the ULB can hire people on contract or approach other stakeholders like NGOs/ College students/ Cyber cafes etc. by using their capacity building funds.
1.4	Beneficiaries express lack of money to be invested over the subsidy as a reason to not applying for IHHL	 The ULBs can increase subsidy from their own revenue sources or develop a mechanism for exploring CSR funds or individual donors. A city level account (shahar swachhata kosh) can be set up for such contributions where any amount can be donated which can be used for SBM activities. Options for household level sanitation loans through banks/ micro-finance institutions can







		also be explored by the beneficiaries and facilitated by the state.
1.5	Quality of construction is hampered when toilets are built at cheaper rates through contractors	 As far as possible, IHHL construction should be beneficiary led encouraging the citizens to build their own toilets. Appropriate designs and norms for toilets and septic tanks need to be shared with beneficiaries/contractors to avoid substandard quality of construction. The use of precast toilets at scale should be discouraged. However, in critical situations, in cities where precast toilets have no other option, the norms and min. specifications that any toilet must meet should be prescribed.
1.6	Perceived issues with permissions of toilets to be built on forest/defense/agricultural lands/slums etc.	 Under SBM urban, tenure issues are to be delinked with permission to toilets as per SBM urban guidelines published by GOI. In addition to this GOI has issued NoC letters by various authorities to construct toilets on such lands without any further NoC to be received from them. The state can share these with the ULBs for expeditious construction of toilets.
2.	Elimination of OD spots	
2.1	There is absence of mechanism to identify and eliminate OD spots.	 It is essential to identify OD spots in the city through rapid assessment for their elimination. Interaction with citizens resorting to OD should also be done to identify reasons for non-construction of toilets. A dedicated team should be appointed to monitor all the identified OD spots at least once in early morning daily through morning pathaks/walks to prevent people from defecating in the open. Unless this is done, mere toilet construction will not help sustain the status of ODF. OD can also be discouraged by placing threat of penal action on public boards at all places. The state can issue circulars stating sections in law against open defecation to ULBs. Unless OD spots are cleaned and developed into useable spaces, it is difficult to prevent people from using them for open defecation. Hence the ULB should make dedicated efforts to clean and develop OD spots for their permanent elimination.







3	Community/ public toilets	
3.1	It was observed in many cities that less efforts are put in community/public toilets (CTs/PTs) network strengthening and its O&M.	 Community toilets should be opted only when IHHL are not possible at all due to space constraints. Based on assessment of gaps in CTs/PTs, refurbishment of CTs/PTs need to be carried out and proper O & M of these facilities either through ULB staff or through appropriate performance based contracts need to be ensured. The surroundings of these toilets also need to be cleaned and developed.
4.	Awareness generation and IEC activities	
4.1	Citizens are not aware of SBM scheme/subsidy allotted by the government for construction of toilets.	Target based dedicated efforts need to be undertaken at HHs/community level to publicize the scheme platforms through engaging CBOs/NGOs, schools, institutions, elected representatives etc. in addition to advertisements, rallies, social media etc.
5.	ODF declaration/ compliance to GoI prot	ocol
5.1	A few cities expressed local interference of many stakeholders in complying with protocol for ODF declaration	The state can take appropriate action to address this issue.
6.	Monitoring of SBM activities	
6.1	There is lack of staff at city level to conduct activities under SBM.	 Capacity building of ULB staff is also essential for taking appropriate actions at the city level. It is observed that while IEC funds are used well, most towns are unable to utilize the capacity building funds of SBM. These funds should be used to hire teams to plan and monitor ODF status of the city. A dedicated cell comprising of Engineers, Sanitary Inspectors and Accountant presided over by the Mayor/ President, M. Commissioner/ Chief Officer needs to be formed for monitoring and implementation of SBM activities.
6.2	The ULBs are not held accountable for their performance.	Regular district/ divisional level workshops need to be conducted for review of ULBs.







Glimpses from the workshops

































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