



About the Project

Launch Date of the Project

18th February, 2016

Project Duration

48 Months

Project Location

Nagpur

Stakeholders

Local Government Officials, State Government, Citizens, Urban Poor, Elected Representatives, Civil Society Organisation (CSOs)

Beneficiaries

Citizens and officials working in Local Authority and organisations

City Development Forum commences meeting with the Core Members

The first core group meeting of City Development Forum (CDF) was held on 28th February 2017. It was chaired by CDF Convener Dr. Girish Gandhi, Nagpur Municipal Commissioner Shri Shravan Hardikar and the core members of City Development Forum. The core members of the group and NMC officials assessed the current scenario of the service delivery in Nagpur city, which in turn resulted in formulating a structure for improving the existing situation of services through various suggestions and recommendations.

The objective of the meeting was to provide details of Equi-city project activities, updates about the progress of the project and objectives, scope and outcomes of the CDF to the core group members.

The meeting started with an introduction about the activities of the Equi-city Project and welcome address for the convener done by Shri Jayanth Pathak- Regional Director, AILSG Nagpur. After that, the team Equi-city moved the headlights on the past year activities including findings of the workshop, diversity and SLB report through presentation. The session was taken ahead through the discussions by commissioner with the team of core members.

The meeting progressed further with the speech of the convener, who suggested selecting a particular region/area/slum and initiate activities by choosing sectors like waste utilization, slum up-gradation etc.



Further, he applauded AILSG and NMC for choosing Nagpur as the first city in India for Equi-City Project. Suggestions from all the CDF members were also recorded. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Honorable Commissioner. According to the suggestion and recommendations provided in the meeting, the Municipal commissioner has suggested the combination of two work plan for the project.

Way Forward for Equi-City Project

- ◆ Identification of loop holes/problems in the system of municipal service delivery, in order to come up with the better redressal mechanism. identification of city pockets at ward level in Nagpur which are deprived of municipal services and service level benchmarking will provide more clarity.

- ◆ Effective participation and communication of the citizens in the project is must to fill the gaps in service delivery. This will also encourage citizen's participation in the project which is of vital importance to the society.
- ◆ Formation of a strong data base clearly stating the availability, accessibility and issues related to the particular municipal service like water, sewerage and sanitation etc. There should be equal distribution of services throughout the city.
- ◆ Segmentation of the city into smaller sections, for effective implementation and monitoring of policies formulated in future.
- ◆ Strengthening of the participatory governance and gender budgeting is important for the uplifting of the society.



Towards ODF City

Maintaining clean and hygienic environment is first and foremost requirement of a healthy and happy community. Clean environment prevents diseases and ensures development of the individuals of the society. The term 'cleanliness' refers to, the overall sanitation and hygiene of the area (including disposal of solid waste and sewerage).

Creating awareness about proper sanitation and cleanliness is the aim of SBM campaign, which involves the construction of toilets, promotion of sanitation programmes in rural as well as in urban areas. Urban local Bodies of many cities have organised events and cleanliness drives under this campaign to make people aware of the importance of safe and clean environment, at the same time encouraging them to keep their surroundings hygienic. Elimination of open defecation by constructing toilets for households or communities, eradication of manual scavenging, practice of modern and scientific ways of solid waste management, enabling private sector participation in sanitation sector and changing people's attitudes to sanitation and creating awareness is achieved through these campaign.

Nagpur is also, going through sanitation drive after launch of the Equi-city project. Various sanitation workshops and awareness events were held in the remote areas of the city, in order to achieve aimed results. People of different wards were explained the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene through these workshops, competitions etc. Citizens discussed their problems and boundaries of maintaining proper hygiene with the officials of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. Problems related to sanitation and hygiene were identified through these events. Identification of area specific issues has helped not only NMC in improvement of existing situation but also individuals to identify their own action plan to attain improved level of sanitation and hygiene in their area. Other activities such as cleanliness drive for the cleaning of Sakkardara lake, a popular tourist attraction, cleanliness drive at Vayusena Nagar, cleanliness drive at Futula Lake etc are initiatives taken by localities of Nagpur city.

Nagpur Municipal Corporation is working towards ending open defecation, manual scavenging and processing solid waste with latest technology in all the areas of the city. Open defecation exposes women to the danger of physical attacks and encounters such as snake bites. It poses serious threat to health causing diseases such as diarrhea and

pneumonia. Open defecation also puts at risk the dignity of women. They feel constrained to relieve themselves only under the cover of dark for reasons of privacy to protect their dignity. Children practicing open defecation are prone to malnutrition, stunting, and opportunistic infections such as pneumonia. Poor sanitation also cripples national development: workers produce less, live shorter lives, save and invest

less, and are less able to send their children to school. In our country, open defecation is a well-established traditional practice deeply ingrained from early childhood. As sanitation is not a socially acceptable topic, people do not discuss it. Additionally, the practice still exists due to poverty; many of the poorest people will not priorities toilets and besides, many are living in rented homes without





1. Cleanliness drive at Chandigarh
2. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
3. Ahmedabad, Gujarat
4. Haridwar, Uttarkhand
5. Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
6. Gurugram, Haryana
7. Mumbai, Maharashtra



toilets. Many in the society does not view the lack of a toilet as unacceptable. Construction of toilets is still seen as the government's responsibility, rather than a priority that individual households should take responsibility for. The challenge is to motivate people to see a toilet as fundamental to their social standing, status and well-being.

A significant gap also exists between knowledge and practice. Even when people are aware of the health risks related to poor sanitation (specifically of not using a toilet and practicing good hygiene), they continue with unhealthy practices.

But now, progress has been made in creating awareness about sanitation in urban areas. In Nagpur, people of most of the areas were aware of demerits of open defecation and their required sanitation standards. Later, the gaps will be filled by NMC during the further stages of Equi-city.

Cleanliness begins from home...

While going through the process of Equi-city project it was observed that people were unaware of the fact that the garbage is supposed to be segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Segregation of waste is important step for proper disposal of the vast amount of garbage, which is generated in contemporary Indian society. As different components of waste have very different properties, and grouping them by type allows for proper processing and disposal of the same. The main categories of segregation should be biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes, but there should be subcategories in each that should be further separated as well.

Biodegradable wastes are those substances which quickly break down by microorganisms into simpler substances in normal environmental conditions. This category is mainly food scraps. It is further split into animal-derived and plant-derived waste. Animal waste must be handled separately from plant waste, especially if the food waste is intended for animal feed. In addition, the organisms that help break down biodegradable waste are different for animals and plants, with animal-derived waste posing a greater health risk.

Non-biodegradable waste is the source of much of humanity's waste disposal problem i.e. waste that does not decompose but can be recycled if disposed in a proper manner. Paper, metals, glass, plastic and textiles are all classified as non-biodegradable, due to the long or indefinite time it takes for them to break down naturally. Many of these wastes such as metals, paper, glass etc can be recycled. But others, such as plastic, are unable to recycle. Plastic waste is only recyclable and disposed in a proper way that too till an extent. Thus, much of the plastic waste placed in recycling bins winds up in a landfill anyway.

Upcoming Events

Launch of
City Development Forum



Working from Macro Level to Micro Level..

One of the major issues of emphasis for the government has been the call for cleanliness and better hygiene. It is needless to say how bad the state of cleanliness and hygiene is in India—be it at individual level or as a nation. It is not only a matter of shame, but also sorrow, because cleanliness and hygiene are directly linked with the health of the nation. So, when the new government made campaign for cleanliness as one of its priority projects the problem got its due attention. It became a part of the national discourse and featured among the issues of national importance. Equi-City also has a handholding on this issue and is concerned for proper awareness.

An Integrative Approach to Clean India under Equi-City Project

For a programme like Equi-City, engagement of the people is very significant. Mere bureaucratic implementation and routine practice will not result in any substantial change. An integrative approach is more beneficial rather than only a management's effort.

For example, Indira Awas Yojana, a rural housing programme of government, could be complemented with functional toilet under Swachh Bharat Mission. Though there are provisions for this in Swachh Bharat Mission, it is not properly exploited and realized. Similarly, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme could make special provisions for better sanitation in terms of fund, physical infrastructure and resource generation. Again with Right to Education, the school sanitation can have a special emphasis. Though the modalities of the integration could be different and specific, yet all would be serving a common end and above all, this integrative approach would help individual, family and the community to recognize the lack of sanitation as a serious problem and channelize their concerted effort in a more productive manner.

Similarly Equi-City Project, has involved community on the same platform to create awareness for sanitation and create a drive in Nagpur City for people to get involved.

Society and cleanliness

To involve community in the process, it is not enough to address the problem from outside overlooking the social reality of India. The idea of cleanliness, is deeply embedded in the caste sanctioned social hierarchy based on purity pollution binary.

The task of dealing with dirt and filth is assigned to a particular caste. It is generally the lower castes who work as manual scavenger, toilet cleaner and sweeper, while the uppercastes are absolved due to their caste superiority. This identification of the responsibility of cleanliness with a particular caste is one of the biggest impediments to the vision of clean India.

Similarly, culture and traditional practice becomes another barrier. Open defecation is not only about lack of functional toilet at home, it is part of the traditional practice, which considers it is more healthy to relieve oneself in open than to defecate just next to the place one is living.

So, building toilet is not always the only effective way to fight the practice of open defecation. It demands meaningful and inclusive participation of people overcoming their cultural inhibition and social prejudices.

Conclusion

It is true that, of late, India has shown urgency to address the problem of sanitation and hygiene, which was due for a long time. But to deal with this issue, the government would have to be more inclusive and integrative in its approach. Even the budgetary allocation for this purpose needs to be utilised in more inventive manner. Equi-City is the way forward in the same direction.

At the same time, it should also be noted that the problem cannot be dealt only by building toilets. The larger issues, which may not have direct connection with the problem, should also be focused on. And it is not the responsibility of the government alone, all stakeholders need to come forward and take part at various levels to make it a reality.

PARTNERS



CITYNET
THE REGIONAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF URBAN WASTE EVENTS



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