

40th WEDC International Conference, Loughborough, UK, 2017

LOCAL ACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SERVICES

Key challenges of marginalised communities on sanitation and hygiene and recommendations to clean India

Vinod K Mishra

National Coordinator, WSSCC,
India



“We cope because we have been doing this for years and have no choice, but we do not want our children to do the same.”

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

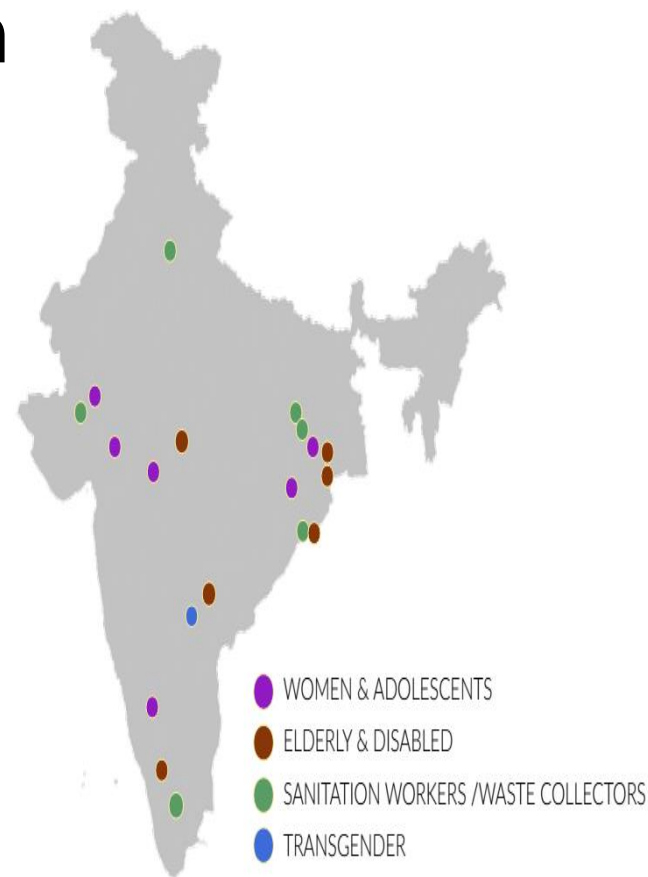


Voices of Women, Adolescent Girls, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and Sanitation Workforce



Consultative Process in India

- 18 consultation meetings with women and adolescents girls, elderly and persons with disability, sanitation workers, waste pickers and transgenders
- Geographically spread in different parts of India (TN, Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat, MP, Jharkhand, Orissa and Delhi)
- Inclusion of diverse sub-population groups



Women and Adolescent Girls



“Earlier, we didn’t have a toilet or a bathroom, so I faced many difficulties during my pregnancies. We used to go out in groups after dark to relieve ourselves. If we could not find an escort, we would go to sleep without relieving ourselves. It used to be so painful, holding on for so long.”



“Managing my sanitation and hygiene during my periods is a challenge every single month. There is no privacy, no place to change, not enough water and nowhere to throw my used cloth or pad.”

Neelaben, Palanpur, Gujarat



Elderly, Persons with Disabilities



“Once I fell on my back while going to the toilet behind my house and dislocated my back bone. I have had pain ever since. Now, I tie a cloth around me and pass urine standing like a man does. What else can I do?”-

-Yellemma ,Warangal, Telengana, India.

Sanitation Workers and Waste Pickers



“The moment we come close to a group of people, e.g. at shops, the people immediately shift or tell us to move away as if we will transmit some disease to them. Not only we, our children also meet with the same treatment and it is very hurtful”.

Transgender people...



- “My brother refuses to use the toilet after me since he thinks that he too might get transformed into a transgender” .
- “While out on the road, I went to a petrol pump to use the toilet but the owner had the toilet locked and refused to allow me in.”
- “We do not know which washroom to go to – ladies’ or gents’ ? The moment we visit the ladies’ toilets, women are either scared or make fun of us.”

Recommendations for Government:

- Ensure the inclusion of adolescents, women, elderly and disabled people, the sanitation workforce and transgenders in the planning, design and maintenance of WASH facilities.
- Allocate dedicated funds for operation and maintenance of community toilets at the time of planning the facilities.
- Ensure that the guidelines for Menstrual Hygiene Management are disseminated and capacities built for implementation of these guidelines.
- Ensure that WASH facilities in public places meet the needs of persons with disabilities, elderly people and other groups with specific sanitation needs.
- Capacity building of masons so that they can offer persons with disabilities and other groups with specific sanitation needs, appropriate, cost-effective toilet designs that meet their specific needs.
- Ensure implementation of The Solid Waste Management and enforce the segregation and safe disposal of waste.
- Pass and enforce legislation to ensure the personal safety and financial security of sanitation workers and waste collectors.
- Ban manual cleaning of drains and replace it with the use of technology.
- Ensure the Bill on Rights of Transgender Persons' passed and disseminated, and, sanitation facilities are made available for transgender people.



Recommendations for CSOs:

- Create platforms for marginalized individuals and communities to raise their concerns with policy makers and WASH service providers.
- Build capacities of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and School Management Committee (SMC) on WASH issues.
- Build awareness on hygiene and sanitation issues to ensure adoption of safe practices by individuals and communities.
- Support public campaigns on safe waste disposal and sensitize people to reduce stigma and discrimination against sanitation workers and waste collectors.
- Advocate with the government to ensure that the dignity of sanitation work is recognized and the jobs of the sanitation workforce are regularized through legislation.
- Conduct sensitization campaigns on the rights of transgender people.



Let US decide...

Do not act without us...



- Consultation process and participation of marginalised groups should be institutionalised
- Collective behaviour change needed so that people begin to adopt hygienic practices
- Address stigma and discrimination to break barriers from accessing and using safe sanitation facilities
- Put the last mile first and listen, to ensure that no one is left behind



Thanks

