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RCUES, Mumbai Enabling better cities...

Urban Environ Vision

An Information Bulletin





Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental-Studies All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai

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Urban Environ Vision aims to take its readers through the web based training programmes of RCUES, Mumbai while providing encouragement and knowledge to its participants and displays the efforts undertaken by RCUES, Mumbai.

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Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FRONT LINE WORKERS / SANITATION WORKERS

07th and 08th October, 2021

Key Highlight

The key highlight of this training programme was that the participants were made acquainted and updated about various safety measures to be taken at city administration level to ensure safety of the front line workers.

BACKGROUND

Sanitation workers have a key role in the Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) system. COVID-19 has highlighted the crucial role that sanitation workers play in maintaining overall hygiene in the community— collection, handling and disposal of solid and liquid waste (including faecal waste), cleaning of streets and drains. They are at the frontline of providing essential services, yet their contribution goes unrecognized which makes it necessary that more attention is paid for their protection and wellbeing. They face high occupational risks and hazards and financial insecurity as well as being subjected to social discrimination and stigma. They are among the most vulnerable workers facing the highest risk of contamination.

Government advisories have been issued by the central and state governments particularly by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare etc., to address the challenges of urban water and sanitation, particularly with focus on health and safety of sanitary workers. Enhancing capacities of key stakeholders will assist them in taking appropriate precautions in effectively addressing the pandemic challenges. It is imperative to acknowledge key role of sanitation workers of ULBs. The public health sector would be weaker without sanitation workers engaged in solid waste or faecal waste management. It is a prerequisite of ULBs to develop the framework of safety measures and its effective implementation to ensure the safety sanitation workers.

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Health and Safety of Front Line Workers / Sanitation Workers' on 7th & 8th October 2021 between 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme is supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

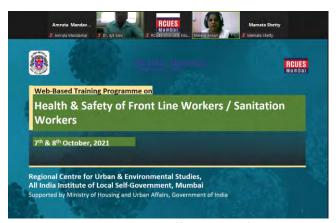
KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the programme was to understand the framework of safety measures and its effective implementation to ensure the safety of front line /sanitation workers at city level.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 35 participants comprising Mayors, Elected Representatives, City Coordinators, Medical Officers, Health Coordinators, Junior Overseers, Surveillance Inspectors, Sr. Sanitary Inspectors from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat attended this training programme.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants

The training programme was started by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai. She welcomed the distinguished trainers and the participants and explained the objective of the training programme. She highlighted the significance of health safety of Front Line Workers (FLWs)/ sanitation workers as they are highly exposed to hazardous

environment because of nature of their work. Consequently, FLW's safety is of utmost importance. It is imperative for ULBs to develop the framework of safety measures. This training programme will be useful to understand implementation of safety measures to be adopted by FLWs/ sanitation workers. She requested the trainers to initiate the technical session.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



Dr. Sunil Kuyare, Lab Director, Apoorva Diagnostic and Healthcare, Mira Road, Thane addressing the participants

The first session on 'Public Health Aspects of COVID -19 - Post Pandemic Status' was conducted by Dr. Sunil Kuyare, Lab Director, Apoorva Diagnostic and Healthcare, Mira Road, Thane. He spoke on explaining the scientific approach and practical solution designed to prevent harm caused by infection among patients and health care workers. He explained the role of Infection Prevention Control (IPC) in which, protecting oneself, preventing spread of infection to other Health Care Workers (HCWs) and preventing spread to community are the required parts of the approach. He further explained that it is essential to follow hygiene practices like wearing a mask, hand washing,

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and other measures prescribed as precautions against COVID-19. Discussing further about hand hygiene he elaborated on spaces frequently missed during hand washing and steps of effective hand washing. He also explained about donning (wearing) and doffing (removing) steps while using PPE. He stated that the guidelines of MoHFW, GoI illustrate DO's and DON'T's for appropriate respiratory hygiene, appropriate use of mask and hand hygiene which are crucial to contain spreading of the virus. He emphasized that FLWs have to take additional precautions after reaching home. Since these FLWs are at high risk because of working directly with COVID patients, these measures need to be strictly followed to safeguard them and their families. He also explained the stigma attached to this earlier unknown pandemic situation. FLWs can play a significant role by helping them understand the severity of the Coronavirus. He concluded his session by explaining the city level strategic plan comprising free vaccination to all, PPE guidelines, capping of RTPCR test cost, updating policies for treatment.

The next session on 'Issues & Challenges related to Health, Safety, Working Conditions and Livelihoods of Sanitation Workers' was conducted by Dr Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai. He commenced his session by explaining that, sanitation workers' safety needs special attention by way of safe management which includes collection, handling, transportation, processing and disposal of the waste streams. He further explained the peculiar scenario of sanitation workers by stating that their occupation is of high risk, they have health issues, and they lack occupational safety. He added that, sanitation workers have low standard of living, less education and they also suffer



Dr Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants

psychological and social problems. He also explained working conditions of sanitation workers in which, they are exposed to various fumes, hazardous gases, excreta, limited work space and repeated handling of solid waste without protective gears. He emphasized on occurrence of accidents occurred while working resulting into head or leg injury, cuts, burns etc. and safety measures needed. He also added that due to hazardous occupational atmosphere, they suffer several diseases like respiratory disorders, cardiovascular problems, skin disease etc. He emphatically spoke about the challenges faced by sanitation workers during lockdown such as payment of school fees of kids, repayment of loans, finding new job opportunities etc. He then explained the safe management of water supply and sanitation services relating to cleaning devices to be used during cleaning of sewer and septic tanks. He summarised his session by stating that ensuring safety of these workers during COVID-19 is an immediate priority, which is to be taken into consideration and acted upon in order to ensure decent and healthy life of sanitation workers.

He also conducted the session on 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) - Precautions & Preventive Measures'. At the outset, Dr Salvi deliberated on cleanliness of surfaces and precautions to be taken in community sanitation. While elaborating on precautionary measures at community level, he mentioned the precautions and interventions by community members as well as caretakers which if executed properly, can help in containing the spread of the infection. He further explained that common surfaces at shared hand wash facilities like handles, knobs, doors etc. are major source of spread of infection in a community. He suggested the use of foot-operated pedalled hand washing stations at shared community spaces to enable the residents to wash their hands frequently without touching the tap, which helps in controlling the spread of the infection. He further stated that community toilets may lead to spread of the infection if they lack hygiene and poor maintenance. Dr Salvi further emphasized that the caretakers of community toilets should ensure that soaps or hand sanitizers are available at the toilet premises and its usage by the toilet users should be insisted upon. Caretakers should also clean the toilet premises frequently with disinfectant. While doing all this caretakers themselves must strictly adhere to the use of safety gears. He then mentioned the Government of India's guidelines on precautions and preventive measures for sanitation workers to be followed by state governments as well as contractors employing sanitation workers. He continued saying that ULBs are advised to put Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place to ensure health and safety of sanitation workers which includes lists of DO's and DON'T's to be practiced while performing their duties on field every day. Sanitation workers are required to be provided with appropriate safety gear like masks, gloves, boots, aprons and the usage of these must be ensured by ULBs and contractors in order to minimize their risk to the virus. He mentioned that the WHO released an interim guidance document on 19th March, 2020, which supplements the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) documents by summarizing WHO guidance on water, sanitation and health care waste relevant to viruses, including corona viruses. He further said that based on this document, the MoHUA, Gol has published an Advisory on 'Safe Management of Water Supply and Sanitation Services during COVID-19 Crisis' in April 2020. He shared some practices followed by ULBs to avoid transmission of virus in dense communities in the urban areas, which may be replicated suitably at other places. He concluded his session by explaining about the safety gears and equipment to be used by sanitation workers while performing their duties.



Dr Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants

On the second day, the session on 'Occupational Health and Safety of Front Line / Sanitation Workers' was conducted by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai. He PAGE 10 URBAN ENVIRON VISION

commenced his session by explaining that safety of front line workers need special attention during the safe management (comprising collection, handling, transportation, processing and disposal) of waste streams. While elaborating on safety measures, he elucidated the scenario of urban growth and increasing demand of sewerage and waste management services. He added that, generally it has been observed that at many places septic tanks are not designed properly. The tanks need manually cleaning on account of technical difficulties. He explained that millions of septic tanks are built in rural part of India under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). He further explicated that many cities do not have sewerage system covering the whole city. Sometimes, sewer lines are connected to storm water drains which get clogged and need human intervention. He further explained that many ULBs are not equipped with latest sewer cleaning machinery. Hence, many sanitation workers suffer from diseases and die before retirement falling prey to multiple health issues. They are compelled to work in hazardous atmosphere as they do not have any alternate employment opportunities. He further explained occupational risks and hazards by saying that sanitation workers come into direct/close contact with faecal matter as they work in confined and often hazardous spaces. He added that risks of getting musculoskeletal disorders due to manual labour, catching infections and respiratory disorders due to exposure to harmful microbes, risk of chemical hazards due to harmful gases are extremely high.

He then explained areas of action to be taken to save them from these hazards by stating that this requires policy reform, legislation and regulation which professionalizes the sanitation workforce along the sanitation service chain and provides them

with safety. He further encouraged developing and adopting operational guidelines to assess and mitigate the occupational risks of all types of sanitation work, including national standard operating procedures, municipal-level oversight of sanitation service providers (both public and private), training, technology, and personal protective equipment for all aspects of sanitation work. He explained the need of building the database to address the issues of facing the sanitation workforce and documentation of challenges that workers face and good practices in improving working conditions. He added that there is an imperative requisite for developing dedicated scheme for safety, equity and dignity in sanitation work, comprising IEC and capacity building of all stakeholders for ensuring creation of skilled sanitation work force. He concluded his session by suggesting a few preventive measures such as use of safety equipment, periodic health check-ups, job rotation policy, enforcement of the safety measures etc. to be adopted by sanitation workers to ensure their occupational health and safety.

The last session on 'Best Practices in Response to COVID-19 - Bhilwara Model' was conducted by Dr. Ghanshyam Chawla, Dy. Chief Medical Health Officer, Bhilwara Municipal Corporation. He started his session by explaining how the city brought COIVD -19 under control. He gave brief status of COVID -19 and vaccination done till date. He also described the criteria decided for cleaning indoor spaces, isolation wards and ICUs during COVID time at Bhilwara city in order to contain the spread of the virus to front line workers. He emphasized that Bhilwara city has developed a strategy that made it the first district in the country to stop new infections within a span of less than two weeks. He further explained how front line workers as well as



Dr. Ghanshyam Chawla, Dy. Chief Medical Health Officer, Bhilwara Municipal Corporation addressing the participants

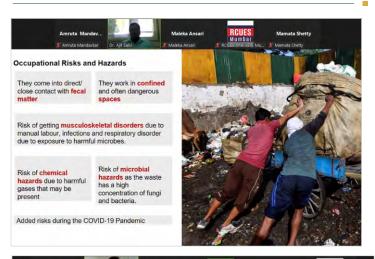
doctors, nurses, and sanitation workers worked effectively etc., to contain the spread of COVID-19. He also explained how Bhilwara district has taken steps in segregation of biomedical waste from COVID ward, disposing of used PPE kits, toilet cleaning etc. in response to COVID-19. He concluded his session by saying that as a result of effective measures taken by the city administration and public messages given by it, citizens of Bhilwara city have adopted several good hygiene practices, essentially the frontline/ sanitation workers to contain from further spread of Coronavirus.

SUMMING UP

After the technical sessions, the feedback and Question-Answer session was taken. The queries raised by the participants were addressed by the distinguished trainers. The training programme was concluded by Ms. Maleka Ansari Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai by prosing a Vote of Thanks to the expert trainers and the participants.

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GLIMPSES OF THE WEB BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME











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Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on

ROLE OF ULBS IN PROHIBITION OF MANUAL SCAVENGING

13th and 14th October, 2021

Key Highlight

The key highlight of this training programme was that the participants were explained and updated about legal provisions in eliminating manual scavenging. The participants learnt how to make a plan of action to gradually break this dehumanizing practice and replace it with mechanized system.

BACKGROUND

The Government of India enacted the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act in 1993, which inter alia, prohibits employment of manual scavengers for manually cleaning dry latrines and construction of dry toilets, i.e. the toilets that do not operate with a flush. Despite the manifold efforts made to eliminate the dehumanizing practice of manual scavenging, the practice still persists in various parts of the country. Elimination of dry latrines and manual scavenging and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers in alternate occupations has been an area of high priority for the Government.

Recently, the Government has announced two major initiatives for ending the hazardous practice of manual cleaning of septic tanks and sewer lines and making the mechanised cleaning mandatory under the amended law, namely, Introduction of 'The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2020' as a part of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's National Action Plan.

Since the existing measures have not succeeded in elimination of hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, more serious efforts are needed. In the circumstances, ULBs need to develop a stringent and focused strategy framework and an implementing action plan for prohibition of manual scavenging

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Role of ULBs in Prohibition of Manual Scavenging' on 13th & 14th October 2021 between 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme is supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

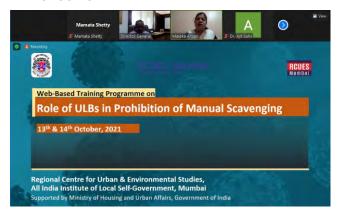
KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the training programme was to understand the challenges in prohibition of manual scavenging and develop a plan of action to amend manual scavenging law and their rehabilitation at ULB level.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 33 participants comprising Mayors, Municipal Engineers, District Managers, Executive Managers, Sanitary Inspectors, Community organizers, Health Staff and Representatives of NGOs, from the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan attended this training programme.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants

This training programme began with a welcome introductory speech by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. She welcomed Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd), Director-General, AIILSG, the distinguished trainers and the participants. She said elimination of dehumanizing practice of manual scavenging being a national policy of social justice, among others, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have to play a more proactive role to put an end this scourge. She said that as the initial efforts in this direction were not proved very effective, the Government had to introduce The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill 2020. This training programme will help ULBs in developing action plan for prohibiting manual scavenging and developing

alternate occupation to them and their rehabilitation on humanitarian ground. After mentioning the background of the training programme, she requested Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General AIILSG to inaugurate the training programme and address the participants.



Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG addressing the participants

Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, in his inaugural address, welcomed the distinguished trainers and the participants. He said that comprehensive statutory rules are in place for waste management including sewage disposal in urban areas which have to be fully implemented. He said that bigger cities have an underground interconnected system for sewage disposal, in small cities and towns septic tanks are not connected to a sewer system. Consequently, appropriate septage management practices are needed in small towns. Manual cleaning arises in case of dry latrines. He further said that it is a goal of national policy to put an end to this dehumanized practice it has to be eliminated by adopting mechanized process. In implementation of the law made for this purpose, ULBs should play a significant role in developing plan of action for eliminating manual cleaning of human waste. He expressed his pleasure that the RCUES is providing training

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to ULBs on a range of topics relating to urban management and protection of environment. He concluded his inaugural address by wishing success to the training programme.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



Dr. Milind Kulkarni, former Professor, IIT & Environmental Expert, Mumbai addressing the participants

The first technical session on 'Legal Provisions of Manual Scavenging and its Effective implementation' was conducted by Dr. Milind Kulkarni, former Professor, IIT & Environmental Expert, Mumbai. He commenced his session by explaining the legal provisions of manual scavenging. He stated that, Government of India enacted the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act in 1993 which prohibited employment of scavengers manually cleaning dry latrines and also prohibits the construction of dry toilets i.e. the toilets that do not operate on flush system. He gave emphasis on eliminating the dehumanizing practice of manual scavenging and the rehabilitation of manual scavengers in alternate occupations. He further explained that the new law -The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation (Amendment) Bill 2020 was aims at ending hazardous practice of manual cleaning of

septic tanks and sewer lines and making the mechanized cleaning mandatory. In spite of this amended law, ULBs did not achieve success in eliminating the hazardous practice. Hence ULBs need to develop stringent and focused strategy and plan of action for its implementation. He then explained the provisions under The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act in 1993. He mentioned that Executive authority, appointed by State Government, should as far as possible try to rehabilitate and promote the welfare of the persons who were engaged in or employed as manual scavengers in any area in respect of which a notification under sub-section (1) of section 3 has been issued, by securing and protecting their economic interests. He added that the State Government may, by notification, make one or more schemes for regulating conversion of dry latrines into, or construction and maintenance of, water-seal latrines and for rehabilitation of the persons who were engaged in or employed for as manual scavengers. He further said that State Government should formulate schemes for the ULBS to seek loans and financial assistance from HUDCO after consulting with them. He added that, there should be time-bound phased programme for the conversion of dry latrines into water-seal latrines. He further spoke about other provisions of the government policy, such as provision of technical or financial assistance for new or alternate low cost sanitation to local bodies or other agencies, construction and maintenance of community latrines and regulation of their use on pay and use basis, construction and maintenance of shared latrines in slum areas or for the benefit of socially and economically backward classes of citizens; registration of manual scavengers and their rehabilitation and licensing for collection of fees in respect of community latrines or shared latrines. He also highlighted the provisions under National Commission of Safai Karmachari Act 1993 by explaining its functions and powers. He concluded his session by elucidating issues of issues in implementation of manual scavenging schemes and penalties for violation of legal provisions.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants

The next session on 'Health & Occupational Hazards in Manual Scavenging' was conducted by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai. He started his session by explaining the types of manual scavenging such as cleaning of dry latrines, manual cleaning of pits, cleaning of drains into which human excreta is flushed from insanitary latrines and cleaning of railway tracks etc. He said that manual scavenging is not yet totally eliminated. It is an imperative to address this grave issue with serious concern and thoughts on various aspects viz. heath issues, safety measures, mechanization, legal provisions and rehabilitation. He elucidated various health issues associated with hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks involving cleaning, carrying and disposing. He said that such hazardous practices may lead to partial blindness, skin diseases and deformed spine. He added that sometimes, prolonged hazardous cleaning may lead to death of sanitation workers. He further explained that manual scavenging is extremely high risk occupation, which lacks occupational safety measures. Sanitation workers accept this occupation due to lack of educational and poverty. They suffer psychological, social and health problems on account of prolonged hazardous cleaning and confined work space after

coming into this occupation. He further stated that manual scavengers should be provided and made to use cleaning devices air compressor blower, airline breathing, breathing apparatus, barrier cone, blower, face masks, chlorine masks, hand gloves etc. ULBs have to provide these apparatus to the manual scavengers for their safety and security, he emphasized. He concluded his session by saying that, sanitation workers also should insist on and use safety measures to safeguard their life from hazardous cleaning.



Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, MCGM, Sanitation Expert, Mumbai addressing the participants

The next session on 'Current Scenario of Manual Scavenging' was conducted by Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, MCGM, Sanitation Expert, Mumbai. He started his session by explaining that sanitation workers undertake nine types of work under its value chain. He depicted the numbers and types of latrine facilities which includes such facilities within the premises, households (HHs) without latrine facility and others using other facilities across Maharashtra state. He added that, after viewing the type of facilities, it is evident that human beings are involved in cleaning these latrines. He also explained that, desludging and systematic cleaning of septic tanks also need human intervention as it does not de-sludge by

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only municipal cesspool vehicle. He then explained the significant role of ULBs for safety of sanitation workers. He added that, ULBs should empanel private service providers and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs). The sanitation staff should be provided training and protective gears, as also social security benefits to them and their family. He concluded his session by mentioning that ULBs have to establish grievance redressal system for sanitation workers and give recognition to sanitation workers as enablers.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants

On the second day, the session on 'Rehabilitation and Welfare of Manual Scavengers' was conducted by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai. He started his session by saying that Government of Maharashtra has appointed Mahatma Phule Backward Class Development Corporation Ltd. as channelizing agency for financing the proposals for loans under the National Safai karmachari Finance and Development Corporation, (NSKFDC) New Delhi. He further explained eligibility criteria to avail of the loan by the beneficiaries. He added that, beneficiaries are identified through survey under National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of

Scavengers (NSLRS). The beneficiary should be above 18 years of age and should be domicile of Maharashtra. He then explained the documents required to for loan application such as safai karmachari certificate, proof of residence (ration card, voter's identity card, Aadhaar card, PAN card, electricity bill etc.), gumasta license, permit, batch number etc., bonafide certificate etc. He then talked about self-employment schemes for rehabilitation of manual scavengers to take up the alternate occupation for their livelihood. He added that manual scavengers avail one time cash assistance of Rs.40000/- for enabling change in their livelihood. They are being provided stipend of Rs.300/- per month for skill development training for 2 years. They also get concessional loan for self-employment project up to Rs.15 lakh with the capital subsidy up to Rs.3.25 lakh. Voluntary organizations facilitate formation of SHGs of manual scavengers. He also highlighted on several solutions to shortage of funds for purchase of sanitation related machines/equipment. He elaborated that majority of ULBs do not have funds to purchase costly machines for mechanized cleaning. NSKFDC provides loan to purchase these machinery. He concluded his session by citing examples of ULBs as a model which have availed loan facility to purchase machinery.

The next session on 'Safai Karmachari Andolan - Case Study Presentation' was conducted by Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National Convener, Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), New Delhi. He has started his session by emphasizing on what are the mechanisms that can be adopted to avoid manual scavenging in urban areas. He spoke on the inhuman practice of manual scavenging and his resolute fight for its complete eradication. He further added that despite a 1993 Act to eradicate manual scavenging, its widespread practice across the country continues which amounts to failure of the government to implement its own laws. He explained the objectives of Safai Karmahcari Andolan (SKA) movement which aims to



Mr. Bezwada Wilson, National Convener, Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA), New Delhi addressing the participants

completely eradicate manual scavenging across the country. He added that, this movement functions by organizing protests at the District Magistrate offices and submitting petitions to the District Magistrate/Collector. Such protests are carried out all over the country to persuade the government to implement its own laws to end the practice of manual scavenging.

He also shared his adolescent life experience. He said that while growing up, he realized that not just caste inequalities but also patriarchy is a problem that needs to be destroyed. He further extended his statement that due to patriarchy, Dalit women face multiple marginalization of being a woman, being financially poor, and of being from a lower caste forced to follow such an inhumane practice. He concluded his session by stating that his movement continues to expand both in its geographical reach and its initiatives. SKA also works towards building awareness on the equality and dignity of every human being, through mobilizing local leadership from the community and directly confronting issues related to caste and patriarchy.

The last session on 'Good Initiatives taken in Implementing Sanitation' was conducted by Dr. Neeta Mane, President,



Dr. Neeta Mane, President, Jaisingpur Municipal Council, Maharashtra addressing the participants

Jaisingpur Municipal Council, Maharashtra. She started her session by giving emphasis on equality, which is being failed at work places. She explained that sanitation workers provide an essential public service at the cost of their dignity, safety, health, and living conditions. She then stated the ratio of population at Jaisingpur to the number of sanitation workers available on permanent and contractual basis. She spoke about the significance of health and safety of sanitation workers as they are exposed to serious occupational and environmental health hazards risking illness, injury and sometimes to death. She discussed the key challenges pertaining to manual scavengers such as multiple occupational and environmental hazards, weak legal protection, being unorganized workforce, financial insecurity and social stigma and discrimination. While elaborating on health issues of sanitation workers, she emphasized on their neglected diet and their hard work at work place. She further explained that, Jaisingpur Municipal Council has passed a resolution regarding health insurance of sanitation workers. She mentioned that considering their health, safety and security, health insurance to the sanitation workers and their family members and term insurance of 25

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lakh was provided by Jaisingpur Municipal Council. This practice was started from May 2017 in Jaisingpur. She further explained that, sanitation workers are assigned multiple tasks, which they do not refuse. She recommended that ULBs need to be equipped with sanitation machineries and safety gears. In Jaisingpur, most of the area comes under Industrial zone, which does not have appropriate drainage system and adequate septic tanks. She added that funds can be raised for purchasing these machineries under SBM. She concluded her session by focusing on social stigma attached with this in-human

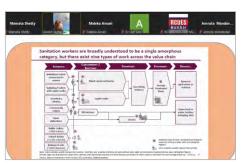
occupation of manual scavenging and reiterating that Central/ State Government should enforce strict measures for its eradication.

SUMMING UP

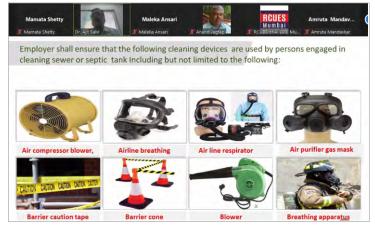
The training programme was concluded by proposing a Vote of Thanks to the trainers and the participants after taking the feedback and Question and Answer session by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.

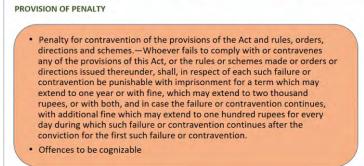
GLIMPSES OF THE WEB BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME

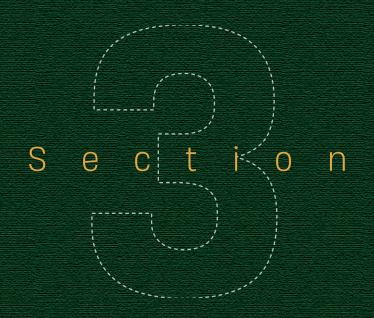












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Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on

CONVERGENCE OF NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NULM) WITH SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (SBM) – U

26th and 27th October, 2021

Key Highlight

The key highlight of this training programme was that the participants were acquainted and updated on the needed measures to address the challenges in implementation of NULM Mission and its convergence with SMB-U mission to generate livelihood opportunities and its sustainability through understanding the success stories shared by the distinguished trainers. The participants can replicate the practices of the success stories in their cities for income generation to urban poor.

BACKGROUND

National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), Government of India (GoI). The mission is focused on organizing urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment. The Mission is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless and also addresses livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors. The COVID-19 outbreak affected all the segments of the population and has been particularly detrimental to members of social groups in the most vulnerable situations. It continues to affect vulnerable communities including street venders, homeless population, etc.

There is a need for convergence between the SBM-U and DAY-NULM to improve the quality of life of the marginalised section of the society. Convergence between SBM and DAY-NULM, which will help in realising the synergies between the two Missions and will also be instrumental in empowering Self-Help

Groups (SHGs) by providing them employment/self-employment opportunities in the growing sanitation and solid waste management sector. A number of livelihood opportunities can be created through convergence models identified by the SBM-Urban and NULM missions.

During the post pandemic scenario, it is imperative to take a more holistic approach through convergence of the two missions with a view to build long-term livelihood sustainability of the urban poor, integrating objectives of employment generation and skill building along hygiene and sanitation sector.

Considering this, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialised Web Based Training Programme on 'Convergence of National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) with Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) – U' on 26th & 27th October 2021 at 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training programme was to develop holistic approach through convergence of missions and plan of action for creating sustainable livelihoods.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 30 participants comprising, Mayors, Chief Officer, Municipal Engineers, City Missions Managers (SM & ID), Community organizers, City Coordinators, Assistant Project Officers, Sanitation Officers, Representatives of NGOs, from the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Union Territories of Dadra Nagar Haveli attended this training programme.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants

This web based training programme was started by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. She welcomed the distinguished trainers and the participants. She explained the implications of promoting a universal approach through convergence of the two missions for their effective implementation. She encouraged the participants to share noteworthy practices in respect of converging SBM –U and NULM missions in their respective city if any, for its successful replication in other cities.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



Dr. Shail Singh Solanki, District Project Officer, NULM, Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants

The first session on 'Overview of NULM - Issues and Challenges' was conducted by Dr. Shail Singh Solanki, District Project Officer, NULM, Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan. He commenced his session by stating the challenges faced in implementation, such as some issues in identification of beneficiaries, lack of sufficient human resources for effective implementation of the scheme at the State, district, city and community level, lack of capacity building system across all levels, lack of an integrated approach to skill development. He said that there is a need for counselling beneficiaries, synchronization with job opportunities and establishing linkages with industry, provision for independent certification recognized by the industry etc., He further advocated a proper flow of credit to the urban poor for self-employment and sufficient financial allocation for this scheme in implementation of SJSRY. He then gave emphasis on NULM mission and its components by explaining the role of City Level Federation (CLF), Area Level Federation (ALF) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). He explained in detail, all the five

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components of NULM mission. While elaborating on Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SM&ID), he highlighted on establishment of City Livelihoods Centres (1 CLC per 1-3 lakh population, 2 CLCs for 3-5 lakh population, 3 CLCs for 5-10 lakh population and 8 CLCs for more than 10 lakh population). He added that, CLC would bridge the gap between demand and supply of the goods and services produced by the urban poor. He also discussed the component of Universal Financial Inclusion under NULM in which beneficiaries acquire financial literacy, they open saving account in a bank and get an opportunity of taking affordable life and health insurance. While explaining the component of Employment through Skill Training & Placement under NULM, he said that training needs to be provided as per market requirements by assessing the training needs through skill gap analysis at state/city level. He also added that training course curriculum and modules need to be designed by taking into account market requirements. Further, as regards Self Employment Programme, he stated that the there is a provision of interest subsidy on loans for individual enterprises (Rs.2 lacs maximum) and group enterprises (Rs10 lacs maximum). He also mentioned that under this component SHGs are linked with banks for loans (subsidized loans @ 7% subject to timely repayment with provision of additional 3%interest subvention for Women SHGs). He also briefly explained the benefits of carrying out biometric surveys of street venders and the scheme of shelter for homeless population under NULM. He cited several good initiatives and success stories that emerged across Rajasthan State under each of the components of NULM mission. He concluded that urban poor have ample of livelihood opportunities for their survival and betterment of life under the components of NULM Mission.

The next session on 'NULM and SBM - U Convergence for Livelihoods Opportunities & Sustainability' was conducted by



Dr. Hemalata Gandhi, SM & ID Manager, NULM, Brand Ambassador SBM & BBBP Kota, Rajasthan addressing the participants

Dr. Hemalata Gandhi, SM & ID Manager, NULM, Brand Ambassador SBM & BBBP Kota, Rajasthan. She commenced her session by saying that under the aegis of the NULM mission and the Kota Municipal Corporation (KMC), 39 women SHG members have earned over Rs.5 lakh by supplying 51,200 masks. She added that, this is a good example of reducing poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities. She further said that those SHG members, who were deprived of earning money from daily labour due to the lockdown, are now getting Rs.300-400 per day by making masks. She stated that the current demand of masks is high and they have been receiving orders from other districts also, but unavailability of transportation during the lockdown has been a hurdle in delivering the masks. She also stated that the special emphasis is being laid on social distancing while making the masks and each member of the SHG is making masks individually at their individual homes and which are later collected from their homes. She highlighted that the SHGs are now gearing up to stitch personal protective equipment (PPE) and uniforms for frontline medical staff. She concluded her

session by stating that, women have been involved in multiple activities to generate livelihood opportunities by converging SBM-U and NULM missions.



Dr. Gayatri Jariwala, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat addressing the participants

The next session on 'Good Practices in Convergence of NULM and SBM - U to Generate Livelihood Opportunities - Case of Surat' was conducted by Dr. Gayatri Jariwala, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat. Dr. Jariwala commenced her session by laying emphasis on empowering marginalized groups through convergence between SBM - U and NULM. She emphasized that convergence is essential to strengthen and sustain community engagement platforms for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India in order to deliver sanitation services, and to enhance opportunities for employment and enterprises development in sanitation sector. She added that Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has provided livelihood through SHGs in segregation awareness, engaging rag pickers in segregation, cotton mask project, craft project, housekeeping project etc. She also explained how SHGs were involved in implementation of these projects effectively across Surat city for successful convergence of SBM - U and NULM through generating livelihood opportunities. She then explained Samvedana project, which aims to help underprivileged slum children in enjoying Diwali along with other citizens of Surat city. The aim of the project is to reuse clothes and other items which helps in protecting the environment. Under this project, SMC has set up 115 collection centres at various places across the city to collect clothes, toys, crackers, sweets and other items from citizens. SMC also established call centre and arranged vehicles to collect items from donors' places. Finally she added that more than 3.5 lakh items were collected from citizens and distributed to needy persons. She concluded her session by saying that convergence of SBM-U and NULM has proved to be useful for generating livelihood opportunities for urban poor.



Mr. Yakhtyar Pathan, SMID Manager, NULM, Parbhani Municipal Corporation addressing the participants

On the second day, the session on 'Implementation of NULM During & Post COVID -19 Pandemic' was conducted by Mr. Yakhtyar Pathan, SMID Manager, NULM, Parbhani Municipal Corporation. Initially, he gave a brief background of NULM mission and overview of implementation status across Maharashtra State. He mentioned the number of SHGs, ALF, CLF formed through ULBs in Maharashtra State. He also mentioned the information of a number of active City Livelihood

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Centres and the Revolving Funds (RF) across the State. Later, he spoke on implementation of NULM components during and post COVID – 19, and demonstrated how COVID had adversely affected livelihood opportunities of urban poor, as they lost their jobs and migrated to their native places during the pandemic. He also spoke about how NULM functionaries helped NULM beneficiaries to avail the benefit of loan through PM's Street Vendor's Atmnirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANihi) for their survival. At the end, he quoted several good initiatives undertaken across the State for livelihood generation through Self – Help Groups (SHGs) with support from ULBs and other multiple stakeholders during the pandemic.



Mr. Kisholay Das, State Mission Manager, NULM, Urban Department, Government of Assam addressing the participants

The last session on 'Good Practices in Convergence of NULM and SBM – U to Generate Livelihood Opportunities - Case of Assam' was conducted by Mr. Kisholay Das, State Mission Manager, NULM, Urban Department, Government of Assam. He began his session by mentioning that NULM mission aims at alleviating poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households, which is in coherence with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1.1. He presented an overview of NULM implementation by saying that NULM was implemented

in the State of Assam in the year 2015-16 covering 25 District HQ Towns, and eventually it was expanded to 72 additional towns in the 2017-18, making a total coverage of 97 towns including Guwahati city. He cited several best practices under NULM components. He further explained that, a simplified version of Books of record for SHGs was developed and translated in three local languages i.e. Assamese, Bengali & Bodo and shared with SHG members. He added that the strategy of Community Resource Person (CRP) was developed. In all. 258 CRPs have been identified from active SHG members and trained them in collaboration with MEPMA, Andhra Pradesh for regular handholding support to SHGs. He further said that Area Level Federations (ALFs) of Assam State under NULM were awarded Swachhata Excellency Award by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (Gol) in 2016-17 & 2018-19. He further explained key initiatives undertaken by Assam Government under NULM components. The first initiative was on-boarding of SHG product on Ecommerce portal. The products made by SHGs were available on Amazon, Flipkart for wider outreach. He also added that, MoHUA, GoI has developed a brand name 'SonChiraya' and its logo to increase the market outreach of SHG products on ecommerce portals - Flipkart & Amazon. Secretary, MoHUA, Gol officially launched the brand name & logo on 13th August 2021 via video conferencing. He explained further initiatives in which he stated that MoHUA, GoI has decided to converge NULM with PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME), a scheme for benefiting SHG members involved in food processing activities. In this regard, a joint letter has been signed by the Secretary, MoHUA and Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) to develop this venture. The SHG members, who are engaged in micro food processing and having at least one year of experience, are eligible to apply for the Scheme in order to avail of the seed capital assistance of Rs.40,000/- per member of SHG. He then emphasized the focus

on activities conducted during pandemic by explaining mask making project. In all, 772113 masks were made and sold to ULBs, local shops, pharmacy, NGOs, police stations, ONGC etc. and availed the benefit in crores by SHGs. Besides, 492 SHGs distributed essential commodities among 28255 most vulnerable families in different towns and 10,000 face shield has been produced and sold by SHGs across Assam State. He concluded his session by explaining the status of PM's Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) across Assam State by depicting the numbers of total applications received, number

of applications sanctioned and the number of applications disbursed under the component of Support to Street Vendor of NULM.

SUMMING UP

The technical sessions were followed by the feedback and Vote of Thanks to the trainers and the participants given by Ms. Maleka Ansari Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. She concluded the programme after Vote of Thanks.

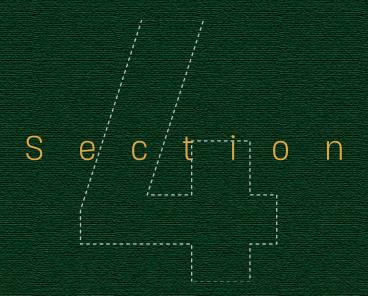
GLIMPSES OF THE WEB BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME











Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WASH (WATER - SANITATION - HYGIENE) IN URBAN AREAS

29th and 30th October, 2021

Key Highlight

The key highlight of this training programme was that the participants acquired the knowledge of formulation of strategies to effectively implement the sustainable WASH services for healthy cities.

BACKGROUND

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a new agenda that envisions universal, sustainable, and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as the elimination of open defecation by 2030. Universal, affordable and sustainable access to WASH is a key public health issue in international development and is the focus of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).

Rapid urbanization is placing immense strain on urban local bodies inter alia, to provide clean water and sanitation services to the over 300 million people residing in urban areas. The consequences of rapid urbanization relating to public health are exhibited by the high rates of stunting, malnutrition, and death from water-borne disease evident across India. The impact of universal access to WASH on global health would go a long way in improving the situation. It is imperative for ULBs to

strengthen WASH services by increasing WASH infrastructure services to meet the existing gap at city level to ensure healthy and liveable cities.

Considering this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Public Health and WASH (Water - Sanitation - Hygiene) in Urban Areas' on 29th & 30th October 2021 between 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme is supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training programme was to encourage ULBs and other stakeholders to strengthen WASH services in urban areas to ensure healthy and livable cities.

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PARTICIPATION

In all, 30 participants comprising, Mayors, Chief Officer, Municipal Engineers, City Missions Managers (SM & ID), Community organizers, City Coordinators, Assistant Project Officers, Sanitation Officers, Representatives of NGOs, from the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Union Territories of Dadra Nagar Haveli attended this training programme.

INTRODUCTION

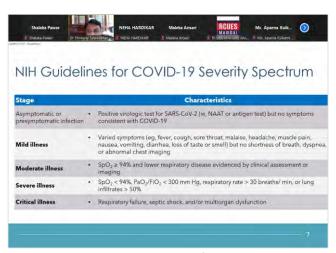


Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants

This web based training programme commenced by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. She welcomed the distinguished trainers and the participants. She explained the objective of the training programme and advised the participants to keenly note the strategies to strengthen the WASH service across cities, as would be explained in the programme, which would help them to work for ensuring implementation of the right practices in their cities. She requested the trainers to start the technical session.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The first session on 'Overview of Public Health Aspects' was taken by Dr. Shreeraj Talwadekar, Assistant Professor,



Dr. Shreeraj Talwadekar, Assistant Professor, Microbiology, KEM Hospital, Mumbai addressing the participants

Microbiology, KEM Hospital, Mumbai. He started his session by explaining primary symptoms of COVID -19, which may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. He explained the routes of SARS - CoV-2 transmission. To avoid the transmission, social distancing is essential. He explained the NIH guidelines for COVID -19 severity spectrum through its stages and characteristics. He added that, 2 to 4 percent people show severe symptoms. He further explained aims of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and its strategies. He added that controlling the transmission of associated infections enhances safety of patients, staff, visitors, community and the environment. He said that it is a necessity to augment and build the ability of the public health facilities to respond to an outbreak epidemic through early detection of COVID cases. He spoke on general measures to be taken during the pandemic. where screening of patients and visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness, before entering the healthcare facility is essential. It is also prerequisite to ensure cleaning of the surface of the items/equipment before they reach the end user. He also explained process of maintaining hand hygiene, while explaining principles of wearing PPE. He also added that physical distancing and respiratory hygiene has to be

maintained, routine OPD work should be kept to a minimum in order to ensure less transmission of virus. Social distancing must be practiced within clinics and hospitals, with waitingroom chairs placed one meter apart spaces. He also added that health care workers / doctors must wear a surgical mask during the examination, scrub hands with soap and water after the examination. He elaborated upon safety measures to be taken to contain the infection in which he insisted to avoid sharing of medical equipment or clean them with disinfectants after every use. He also highlighted safety practices which include physical distancing, restricting the number of visitors to the health center, enforcing minimum of one meter distance between staff, avoiding group activities etc. He concluded his session by saying that, COVID -19 pandemic has shown that nobody is immune, but HCW doctors and paramedic staff are at the forefront in this pandemic, and it is very necessary to protect them by following IPC protocols.

The next session on 'WASH & Sustainable Development Goal' was taken by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai. He started his session by speaking on practices of personal hygiene, which are essential for good health. He spoke about Goal 6 of SDG's which enjoins ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. He further added that target 6.1 of SDG 6 aims to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030. He further mentioned that the target 6.2 of SDG 6 is related to achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations, by 2030. Thereafter, he explained sanitation management chain including sanitary facilities management and safe management of water supply and sanitation services. Explaining community sanitation he focused on ensuring safe physical distancing at all public places and more so near toilets. Users should be asked to avoid touching surfaces as much as possible and put soap, water on the surfaces, if touched. He also suggested use of leak-proof and easily removable bags in waste bins and emptying them on



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants

daily basis. The collected bin bags must be closed tightly and disposed of as per ULB. He elaborated on safe management of sanitation services, which requires strictly following 0&M protocols in all STPs, and performance to be monitored. He said that a final disinfection step may be considered if existing wastewater treatment plants are not optimized to remove viruses. It is highly recommended that workers are provided with personal protective equipment and motivated to use these equipment at all times. He concluded his session by recommending that households need to be encouraged to use their toilets and keep them clean, as majority of Indian sanitary installations in urban as well as rural areas do not have centralized sewer system.

The next session on 'Convergence & Partnerships to Strengthen Public Health & WASH Services in Urban Areas' was conducted by Dr. Dnyaneshee Kotwal, Communication, Documentation & Partnership Expert, AIILSG, Mumbai. She started her session by explaining how convergence and partnership with multiple stakeholders in consonance with the government initiatives and priorities, is significant in effective implementation of WASH services. This has to be ensured in cities through ongoing efforts by various stakeholders at various levels by

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Dr. Dnyaneshee Kotwal, Communication, Documentation & Partnership Expert, AILLSG, Mumbai addressing the participants

facilitating engagements, knowledge sharing, partnerships and joint action, etc. She later explained stages of behavior change by stating pre-contemplation stage, contemplation stage, preparation stage, action stage and maintenance to sustain the change. She further explained how to develop effective Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) strategy by setting a programme and involving multiple stakeholders, evaluating and analyzing it thoroughly. She concluded her session by encouraging the participants to explore the innovations for effective implementation of WASH services, by citing the example of Global Hand Washing (GHW).

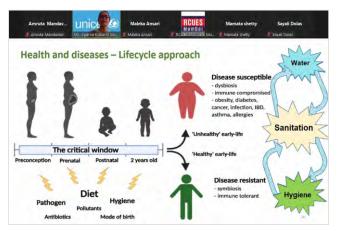
On the second day, the technical session on 'Holistic Approach to Improving WASH to Ensure Healthy Cities' was conducted by Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, MCGM & Sanitation Expert, Mumbai. He started his session by depicting latest global mortality numbers due to COVID -19, published by World Health Organization on 27th October 2021. He explained WASH as an approach of improved sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. These issues are all highly interconnected, and are combined together within this targeted 'WASH' approach in order to represent it as a growing sector. The benefits of having access to an improved drinking water source can only be fully realized when there is also access to improved sanitation and



Mr. Anand Jagtap, former OSD, MCGM & Sanitation Expert, Mumbai addressing the participants

good hygiene practices. He portrayed some key facts which inter alia show that worldwide, 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water. He also added that, as quoted by UNICEF, more than half of the global population does not have access to safe sanitation. He then described the consequences of unsafe water, lack of sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on children proves to be hazardous. Over 700 children under age 5 die every day of diarrheal diseases due to lack of appropriate WASH services. He then highlighted how access to WASH services the poorest and most marginalized children and their families proves to be a boon. He further said that as of 2018, an estimated 4.2 billion people, or 55 per cent of the global population, were living in urban areas. Around 300 million children were living in slums - the worst form of informal settlement. The need for an increased focus on urban WASH is driven by the increasing number of vulnerable children and their families living in poor urban environments across the world. He provided the status of WASH in India by stating that only 35.8% households in India wash hands with soap before a meal, according to an NSS report and that about 26 per cent people in India don't wash their hands with soap or detergent after defecation. He also mentioned that 13.4 per cent households (15.2 per cent rural and 9.8 per cent urban) wash hands only with water after defecation. Two-third toilets in India have water

and soap/detergent available in or around the toilets. He concluded his session by stating that keeping holistic approach to improving WASH services ensures healthy cities.



Ms. Aparna Kulkarni Gowande, State Communication Consultant for Water, Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene, UNICEF addressing the participants

The last session on 'Water, Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene of Adolescent' was conducted by Ms. Aparna Kulkarni Gowande, State Communication Consultant for Water, Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene, UNICEF. She started her session by giving stating implications of WASH on health issues and covered the topics of the need of safe and secure water supply, overall sanitation, SWM, infrastructure (availability, access) and use, operation and maintenance, personal hygiene practices, safe menstrual hygiene practices etc. She explained life cycle approach where she spoke about diarrhea among children, which hampers their mental health. WASH is a prime important to develop healthy generation. She explained practices of menstrual hygiene, where she spoke on health, nutrition which should include fruits, vegetables, and pulses along with staple grains. Focus of her talk was on areas of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). She further added that menstruation is a biological process experienced by all adolescent girls and women. It is estimated that on an average a woman spends

approximately 2100 days menstruating which is equivalent to almost six years of her life. She further added that because of long standing stigma it is not spoken about openly in India. The cultural norms and the religious taboo surrounding menstruation in society prevent girls and women from articulating their needs. Lack of knowledge about menstruation among young girls before the onset of menarche leads to unnecessary indignity, embarrassment, trauma and shame. She further said that knowledge and awareness of menstrual hygiene management is essential to ensure that women and girls can manage their periods safely. Management of menstruation and sexual health enables women and girls to fully participate in school, at work, and in other activities. She spoke about menstrual waste in which she explained stages of menstrual waste management. She concluded her session by stating that menstrual hygiene is a part of WASH services.

SUMMING UP

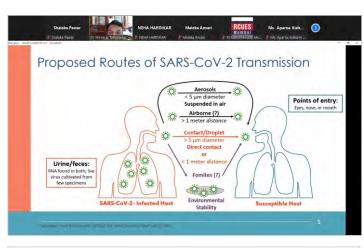
The training programme was concluded by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai by proposing a Vote of Thanks to the distinguished trainers and the participants after the feedback and Question and Answer session.

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GLIMPSES OF THE WEB BASED TRAINING PROGRAMME











COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR PROMOTION OF IPC THROUGH WASH SUPPLIES AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN VULNERABLE GROUPS OF URBAN MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra is one of the worst hit states of India in first and second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. Dense settings and sharing of WASH facilities among communities in urban areas has increased the risk of transmission of COVID-19 virus. In order to break the chain of transmission and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19, the Maharashtra Urban WASH and Environmental Sanitation Coalition (MAHA-UWES-C) - a joint initiative of UNICEF Maharashtra and Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai undertook the project named "Community outreach for promotion of IPC through WASH supplies and service delivery in vulnerable groups of urban Maharashtra".

The Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition is a platform established by UNICEF Maharashtra and Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies of All India Institute of Local Self Government (RCUES-AIILSG), Mumbai.

It aims to promote collaborations, colocation and co-creation of work in urban water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and environmental sanitation sector in Maharashtra. It is an effort to strengthen the ongoing efforts by various stakeholders at various levels by facilitating engagements, knowledge sharing, partnerships and joint action; in alignment with the government initiatives and priorities. Coalition also focuses on risk informed and climate sensitive actions for moving towards achievement of SDG 6, 11, 13, 17.

Providing technical, documentation and communication support to the stakeholders, under the four key pillars viz. policy support, action-research & innovations, capacity building and

financing- through the secretariat of Maha UWES-C established at RCUES-AIILSG. Mumbai.

The project elevates the role of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) through encouraging behavioral change, ensuring safety through facilitating access to PPE / hygiene kits & WASH supplies and disseminating information on infection, prevention and control.

The project covers 14 slums and other vulnerable communities in 9 cities of Maharashtra representing 6 administrative divisions and geographical settings of Maharashtra. The project has been designed as a 'Hub and Spoke Model' in order to ensure decentralization of efforts with cohesion of best practices.

The activities are coordinated by the Secretariat, Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition (Hub) at the RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai and implemented by the selected partner organizations (Spokes) in selected cities in Maharashtra. Further, for effective implementation and impact, local stakeholders, including local governments, SHGs, youth groups etc., have been involved in the process of community outreach for promotion of IPC through WASH supplies and service delivery in vulnerable groups.

Rapid Need Assessment survey was carried out to understand the current situation of WASH and COVID-19 in the selected slum pockets. This involved HH surveys for a sample of 100 households in each slum and direct observation of WASH and CAB conditions in the slum.

Based on this Micro plans were prepared for each 14 slum pockets mapping out strategies for awareness and distribution of essential and WASH supplies. As part of awareness PAGE 36 URBAN ENVIRON VISION

activities, interaction with the community members, orientation of grassroots organizations active in the project, engagement of ULB officials and other key stakeholders etc. is being carried out.

A total of 2.7 lakh people were reached with awareness messages on CAB and WASH over 3 months. 3 lakh units of soaps and 1.5 lakh N-95 masks were distributed that helped around 1.5 lakh people to follow CAB. Sanitary workers and FLWs were provided with around 6 thousand PPE kits and 400

gloves across Maharashtra. More than 650 Personal Hygiene kits were distributed in healthcare centers for COVID-19 patients. Around 94 thousand people were benefited by 90 handwashing stations installed at public places and community toilets. The project witnessed large scale participation of local stakeholders, community volunteers, youth groups and SHGs in the selected slum pockets.



WASH conditions in urban slums of Bibwewadi, Pune



WASH conditions in urban slums of Sathe nagar, Kalyan

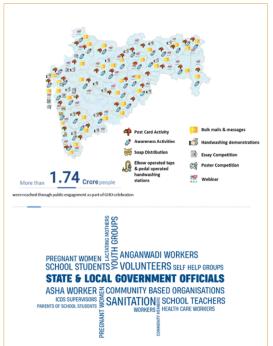


Household survey carried out in Nashik



Condition of community water source in Nagpur

GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2021



Global Handwashing Day (GHD) is an international handwashing promotion campaign to motivate people around the world to improve their handwashing habits. Washing hands at critical points during the day with soap is crucial.

This was initiated by the Global Handwashing Partnership (GHP) in August 2008 at the annual World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. The first Global Handwashing Day took place on 15 October 2008. The date was appointed by the UN General Assembly. The year 2008 was also the International Year of Sanitation. The global campaign is dedicated to raising awareness of handwashing with soap as a key factor in disease prevention.

Handwashing with soap is very effective and the least expensive way to prevent diarrhea and acute respiratory infections, and also reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Handwashing with soap is estimated to reduce cases of diarrhea by 30% and respiratory infections by 21% in children under the age of five. Pneumonia, a major ARI (Acute Respiratory Infection), is the number one cause of mortality among children under five years, killing an estimated 1.8 million children per year. Diarrhea and pneumonia together account for almost 3.5 million child deaths annually. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends washing hands for at least 20 seconds before and after certain activities.

UNICEF Maharashtra along with partner organizations carried out a week-long activities reaching out to diverse population, highlighting their role in achieving effective hand hygiene action at the point of care. These included awareness cum outreach through street plays, writing and sharing 'post card' messages about hand hygiene, among others. With hand hygiene, as the first line of defense against COVID-19, installation of elbow operated taps too was undertaken as a distinguished activity during the GHD celebration 2021. Various handwashing demonstrations and training sessions were carried out for school children with a focus on safe reopening of schools. Sanitary workers, anganwadi workers, pregnant and lactating mothers were also oriented about hand hygiene knowledge and practices. Other unique sessions including making of home-made hand wash liquid were received with great interest by the people.

The Secretariat, Maha-UWES-C and Centre for Youth Development Activities, Nashik (CYDA) collaborated with the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Maharashtra State to provide an orientation to Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), pregnant women, and lactating mothers on GHD. The webinar was carried out in the presence of Hon. Smt. Rubal Agarwal, Commissioner ICDS and Mr. Anand Khandagale, Deputy Commissioner, ICDS along with the ICDS staff and beneficiaries. More than 2000 ICDS personnel across Maharashtra were oriented in this webinar.

A total of 1.74 crore people were reached over the week-long celebration through soap rallies, school programmes, webinars, radio, print media and social media engagements.

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OPPORTUNITY FOR DISSEMINATING YOUR WORK

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION 31st DEC 2021

Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition

Invitation for Good Practices

The Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition invites entries from all the ULBs in Maharashtra to share the good practices of their city under the urban water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Environmental Sanitation (ES) for efforts implemented under various urban missions within the past five years. To facilitate knowledge sharing about the innovative, impactful and result-oriented initiatives by the ULBs, Maha-UWES coalition shall document good practices across Maharashtra for dissemination to various stakeholders and a wider audience. Practices under Urban Water, Sanitation, Faecal Sludge & Septage Management, Solid & Liquid Waste management, Environment etc are applicable

Categories for Good Practices



Systems Strengthening

Practices / Reforms / Initiatives for strengthening existing WASH-ES systems to improve their performance effectiveness



Innovations

Any innovative technology/ funding / implementation methods introduced in the WASH-ES sector including CSR, PPP etc



Institutional Stakeholders

Initiatives introduced for institutional stakeholders or for WASH-ES sector workforce/frontline workers that have created an impact.



Community Engagement

Participatory methods or initiatives engaging local communities within the systems or projects related to WASH-ES



Social Change & Gender Perspective

Practices to ensure social / behavioural changes and Interventions with focus on gender perspectives in the WASH-ES sector. Eg – SHG Participation, Role of women sanitation workers etc

Good Practices Documentation

- √ A platform for acknowledgement and recognition
- √ Attain visibility on all social media handles of Chalition
- Dissemination and recognition among WASH-ES stakeholders of Maharashtra and various States.

Any practices under SBM, AMRUT, Jal Jeevan mission, Majhi Vasundhara etc. to achieve mission goals like universal piped water supply, universal, safe and sustainable coverage of sewage and septage management, recycle/reuse of treated water, rejuvenation of water bodies, plastic waste management, e-waste management etc. or practices under WASH-ES sector in general shall be applicable

Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition

The Maharashtra Urban WASH-ES Coalition is a platform for collaborations, colocation, and co-creation of work in urban water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and environmental sanitation (ES) sector in Maharashtra established by UNICEF Maharashtra and RCUES-AIILSG, Mumbai.

Submit a **one-page document with brief description of the practice and relevant photographs.** Selected cities shall be contacted by team for further documentation.

Email -

mahawashcoalition@aiilsg.org / aiilsgmumbai1926@gmail.com.

Contact - 8657622550/51/52/54 (Ext - 651 / 675).







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