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Urban Environ Vision

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RCUES
Mumbai

**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 off-line training programs of RCUES, Mumbai while providing encouragement and knowledge to its participants and displays the efforts undertaken by RCUES, Mumbai.



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01

Regional Specialized Training Program on Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY - NULM)

25th - 26th July 2024
Nagpur, Maharashtra.

Key Highlights

The key highlights of the training program were its focus on technical sessions and group exercises covering the topic of urban livelihoods and inclusive growth with an emphasis on employable skills, entrepreneurship and marketing for the urban poor through collaborative interactive learning and teamwork approach.

BACKGROUND

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), started by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) is aimed at alleviation of poverty and vulnerability among urban poor households in India. Launched in September 2013 and later renamed, DAY-NULM, it focuses on sustainable livelihood opportunities and social security for vulnerable communities. Empowering marginalized groups to improve their livelihoods, and it contributes significantly to vibrant, self-reliant urban communities and fosters equitable and prosperous urban development across India.

DAY-NULM's core initiatives encompass skill training and employment placement, social mobilization, institution building,

support for urban street vendors, and provision of shelters for the homeless. Through these efforts, DAY-NULM plays a crucial role in urban neighborhoods by delivering targeted assistance and empowering marginalized communities. These endeavors contribute significantly to creating an equitable and prosperous urban landscape throughout India.

Furthermore, recognizing the indispensable role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in effectively implementing DAY-NULM and providing training to their functionaries becomes essential. Such training ensures that the program achieves significant milestones and positively impacts the lives of the urban poor.

Against this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai, with the support of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI), organized a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)' on 25th - 26th July 2024 at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the training programme was to empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with essential knowledge and expertise, enabling them to prioritize and facilitate the successful implementation of DAY-NULM initiatives effectively.

PARTICIPATION

In all, 48 participants comprising Elected Representatives, City Mission Managers (CMMs), Project Officers (POs), Community Organizers (COs), Presidents and Secretaries of the City Level Federation (CLFs) & Area Level Federations (ALFs) and concerned DAY-NULM Officials attended training program from various ULBs of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Gujarat state.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer (SRO), RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries on the dais and the participants. She introduced Dr. Jairaj

Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, and other distinguished experts were invited to discuss the various components of DAY-NULM and innovative strategies to promote women's entrepreneurship on a large scale. Ms. Ansari also provided an overview of the training program, emphasizing its comprehensive scope and key objectives.



Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.) in the presence of Mr. Jayant Pathak, Regional Director, AIILSG, Nagpur, and Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. In his inaugural speech, Dr. Phatak spoke about the AIILSG's crucial role in advancing urban development across India through comprehensive initiatives. He highlighted the institute's extensive training programs for ULB professionals, innovative research to tackle urban challenges, and consultancy services to optimize ULB operations. Additionally, he said that the institute's regional branches provide continuous support and

technical assistance, fostering sustainable urban growth and enhancing the quality of city life. He also commended the DAY-NULM program, highlighting its key components and recent updates in Maharashtra, particularly the importance of grassroots involvement and increasing women's participation to achieve the mission's targets. Dr. Phatak wished great success to the two-day training program, highlighting the critical role such training sessions play in empowering ULBs and driving inclusive growth.



Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director-General, AIILSG inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Mr. Deepak Bhati and Mr. Narendra Kumar Mali, both Municipal Councillor of Sumerpur Municipal Council, Rajasthan, Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, Mr. Narendra Kumawat, Municipal Councillor, Sumerpur Municipal Council, Rajasthan, Mr. Jayant Pathak, Regional Director, AIILSG, Nagpur, Mr. Sunil Ullal, HRD Expert, Mumbai, Maharashtra, and Mr. Prakash Bante, City Mission Manager, DAY-NULM, Bhandara Municipal Council, Maharashtra.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.) conducted the first insightful session on 'Need for Convergence in Planning and Implementation of

Missions and Programs launched by the Government of India'. He began his session with a brief overview of the ongoing missions and programs in the cities nationwide. Further, Dr. Phatak focused on convergence in the planning and implementation of government missions and programs by stating that it is essential for addressing the complex and interrelated challenges faced by the cities of our country. He said that government initiatives are launched with specific goals, but the interconnected nature of social, economic, and environmental issues requires a more integrated approach. He said that by coordinating these efforts, the government can ensure that resources are utilized more efficiently, and the benefits of one program can complement and amplify the impacts of others. This holistic approach reduces redundancy and waste and ensures that the diverse needs of the population are met more effectively.



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

He further elaborated that when government bodies work together, they can enhance service delivery and achieve program

goals more effectively. By sharing data, expertise, and resources, they make better decisions and target interventions more accurately. This collaboration is crucial in a diverse country like India, where regional differences and local challenges need specific solutions.

While concluding the session, Dr. Phatak emphasized the importance of coordinated planning and implementation of missions and programs. This approach is key to achieving the desired impact of the Government of India's initiatives. It ensures efficiency, effectiveness, and inclusivity in development efforts, contributing to national progress and citizen well-being.

The next session on the 'Current Status of DAY-NULM in States' was conducted by Mr. Prakash Bante, City Mission Manager, DAY-NULM, Bhandara Municipal Council, Maharashtra. He explained that the DAY-NULM has significantly reduced poverty and vulnerability among the urban poor across various states in India, by providing opportunities for self-employment and skilled wage employment. The mission has successfully mobilized urban poor households into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), enhancing their access to credit, financial services, and market linkages. Its focus on skill development has enabled many individuals to secure better employment opportunities, improving their quality of life. He said that states like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala have been particularly successful, with robust SHG networks and active participation in livelihood activities, showcasing the mission's potential to drive socio-economic transformation in urban areas.

He emphasized that the implementation of DAY-NULM varies significantly across states, with challenges such as

inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources, and administrative bottlenecks hindering progress in certain regions. He drew attention to the weaker institutional frameworks or lower levels of urbanization, particularly in the northeastern region, which have struggled to fully leverage the mission's benefits. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the implementation process, disrupted livelihood activities, and limited the reach of skill development programs. Despite these challenges, efforts are ongoing to address the gaps and strengthen the mission's impact.



Mr. Prakash Bante, City Mission Manager, DAY-NULM, Bhandara Municipal Council, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

While concluding the session, Mr. Bante acknowledged the ongoing efforts to address the gaps and strengthen the mission's impact despite numerous challenges. He highlighted the current focus on enhancing inter-state collaboration, improving governance mechanisms, and ensuring that the benefits of DAY-NULM reach the most marginalized urban populations across the country.

Ms. Leena Budhe, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, Nagpur, Maharashtra discussed the 'Convergence of DAY-NULM & Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)'. At the beginning of the session, she said that the convergence of the DAY-NULM and SBM represents a strategic integration aimed at addressing urban poverty and sanitation challenges holistically. By aligning the objectives of both missions, the government seeks to enhance the livelihoods of the urban poor while simultaneously improving urban sanitation and hygiene. Further, she mentioned that this convergence enables the formation of SHGs under DAY-NULM to actively participate in sanitation-related activities promoted by SBM, such as waste management, toilet construction, cleanliness drives, etc. She explained these activities briefly by stating that the collaboration not only creates new livelihood opportunities within the sanitation sector but also empowers urban communities to take ownership of their resources. Through this integrated approach, the missions complement each other, ensuring that economic empowerment and improved living conditions go hand in hand, ultimately contributing to the broader goals of sustainable urban development and public health.

Further, she elaborated on achieving effective convergence between DAY-NULM and SBM through several strategic approaches. A collaborative framework has been established at policy and operational levels to align the goals and resources of both missions, facilitating joint planning and implementation. She said that SHGs formed under DAY-NULM are actively involved in SBM activities, such as solid waste management, sanitation infrastructure maintenance, and public awareness campaigns. Capacity-building initiatives are key, with SHG members receiving training in sanitation-related services, creating livelihood opportunities within the SBM framework.

Additionally, financial incentives and technical support are provided to SHGs for engaging in micro-enterprises related to waste recycling, composting, and other eco-friendly ventures. Regular monitoring and evaluation ensure that these convergence efforts are sustainable and impactful, driving both economic empowerment and enhanced urban cleanliness. This integrated approach maximizes resource utilization and fosters community ownership and accountability, ensuring the success of both DAY-NULM and SBM in transforming urban landscapes.



Ms. Leena Budhe, Director, Centre for Sustainable Development, Nagpur, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

Further, she pointed out that developing livelihood opportunities through plastic waste management has emerged as a promising initiative that combines environmental sustainability with economic empowerment. By integrating waste management into urban livelihood programs, particularly under missions like DAY-NULM, communities are being mobilized to engage in plastic waste collection, segregation, and recycling activities. She mentioned that integrating waste management initiatives

empowers SHGs and other local entrepreneurs to establish micro-enterprises focused on recycling plastic waste into useful products such as eco-bricks, pellets, and handicrafts. She added that training programs are provided to equip the participants with the necessary skills in waste processing, recycling, and business management, thereby creating sustainable income sources while addressing the growing issue of plastic pollution. In her concluding remark, she stated that partnerships with local governments, private sector companies, and non-governmental organizations further enhance the initiative by providing technical support, market linkages, and financial assistance. These efforts not only reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste but also foster community involvement and ownership, leading to a more resilient and economically vibrant urban landscape.

In the next session, Ms. Baby Ramteke, President of the CLF in Nagpur, Maharashtra made presentation on the implementation of DAY-NULM in the city. She outlined the strategies used in integrating SHGs in the targeted areas, emphasizing the mobilization of women from poor and vulnerable households into SHGs at the grassroots level. These SHGs are then brought together into ALFs and CLFs to ensure a structured approach. She highlighted the importance of training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of SHG members, enabling them to manage their groups effectively and engage in income-generating activities. Further, she mentioned that SHGs are provided with access to financial services, including bank accounts, financial literacy programs, and affordable insurance schemes. Revolving funds and interest subsidies on loans are also offered to support the establishment of micro-enterprises by SHGs.



Ms. Baby Ramteke, President of the CLF, Nagpur, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

In her concluding remarks, she appreciated the efforts of DAY-NULM officials, noting that state and city-level task forces have been established to oversee the implementation of DAY-NULM and ensure effective coordination between various stakeholders. She also mentioned that policies are formulated to encourage convergence-led activities and support SHG enterprises. Furthermore, SHGs are engaged in operating and maintaining urban sanitation and solid waste management infrastructure, providing them with sustainable livelihood opportunities. These strategies aim to empower SHGs, enhance their participation in urban development, and improve the livelihoods of urban poor households in Nagpur City.

Ms. Sushma Bhovate, Secretary of the CLF, Nagpur, Maharashtra detailed the ongoing activities of the CLF, which integrates all the ALFs in the city. These activities include operating saving schemes, sanitation programs, adult education, and skill training, and self-employment programs for the needy and unemployed. The aim is to provide comprehensive support and development opportunities for the urban poor.



Ms. Sushma Bhovate, Secretary of the CLF, Nagpur, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

She also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the CLF for social and mental development. These include activities such as Yoga, Meditation, and Jhumbha dance, which are channeled through the CLF to promote overall well-being and community engagement.

In the session titled 'Prioritizing Soft Skills for Effective Implementation of Urban Development Missions', Mr. Sunil Ullal, HRD Expert, Mumbai, Maharashtra emphasized the crucial role of soft skills in urban planning. He began the session by underscoring the importance of communication, describing it as the backbone of any successful urban development project. Effective communication, he noted, ensures that all stakeholders, from government officials to community members have uniformity of approach, facilitating the smooth execution of plans. Clear and transparent communication builds trust and reduces conflicts, which is essential for the successful implementation of urban development missions. Mr. Ullal also highlighted the significance of leadership and teamwork, stressing that strong

leadership is essential for navigating the complexities of urban planning, making decisive choices, and inspiring others toward common goals. In this multidisciplinary field, effective teamwork is vital to harnessing the diverse expertise required to address the multifaceted challenges of urban development. Mr. Ullal further emphasized the importance of problem-solving and adaptability in urban planning. He explained that these skills are critical for managing the unpredictable nature of urban development, where unforeseen challenges and changing circumstances are common. Problem-solving enables planners to quickly identify and address issues, while adaptability allows them to modify strategies in response to new information or evolving conditions. Through examples of successful urban development projects, Mr. Ullal illustrated how these soft skills contribute to more resilient and sustainable outcomes.



Mr. Sunil Ullal, HRD Expert, Mumbai, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

While concluding the session, he offered practical insights into cultivating these skills, advocating for training programs, workshops, and real-world experiences as essential tools for

development. Mr. Ullal emphasized that while technical skills are important, it is often the soft skills that determine the success or failure of urban development missions, driving innovation, enhancing collaboration, and ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

In the session titled 'Tools for Developing Essential Skills and Fostering Teamwork and Leadership', Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai adopted a motivational and interactive approach by incorporating games and activities to engage the participants. She emphasized the importance of essential skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership within the context of project planning and mission implementation. By integrating these skills into enjoyable and practical exercises, Ms. Ansari demonstrated how they can be effectively cultivated in real-world scenarios. The selected games simulated the challenges that participants might face, providing a supportive environment to practice and refine these skills. Through these activities, participants experienced how teamwork and leadership contribute to the success of various projects and learned how these skills can be developed and strengthened over time.

Ms. Ansari provided comprehensive explanations of how each game and activity was linked to the core competencies essential for effectively implementing challenging tasks under DAY-NULM. Activities were designed to build trust, enhance communication, and develop strategic thinking and decision-making under pressure. She guided the participants through these exercises, offering valuable insights and feedback on applying the lessons to their professional roles. By the end of the session, participants not only understood the crucial skills

for successful project implementation but also experienced how these skills could be cultivated through engaging, practical methods.

In her concluding remark, Ms. Ansari highlighted that developing teamwork, and leadership goes beyond theoretical knowledge, emphasizing the importance of practicing and applying these skills to real-life challenges, ultimately fostering more cohesive teams and effective mission-related outcomes.



Participants engaged in games and activities.

GROUP EXERCISE

The group exercise session was an interactive and collaborative exercise designed to equip participants with practical skills for effectively implementing urban development missions. It brought together a diverse group, including elected representatives, CMMs, POs, COs, CLF & ALF officials, and other key stakeholders involved in city development and management. The primary goal was to encourage participants

to think critically and creatively about applying the knowledge and skills gained in the sessions to real-world urban development challenges. By working in groups, participants were able to exchange ideas, share experiences, and develop a collective understanding of the issues at hand.



Participants engaged in group exercise.

Throughout the session, participants were divided into groups to create practical action plans aimed at advancing urban development missions. The focus was on two key objectives: promoting effective teamwork and leadership within their respective cities, and enhancing planning and management processes at the ULBs level. Each group engaged in discussions to outline concrete steps that would involve key functionaries and stakeholders, ensuring the strategies were well-rounded, feasible, and sustainable. The session culminated in group presentations, where participants shared their proposed strategies and received feedback. The group with the most comprehensive and impactful action plan was awarded a token of appreciation, reinforcing the importance of thorough planning and effective communication in achieving

urban development goals. Ultimately, the session provided participants with valuable tools and strategies to tackle urban development challenges, fostering the creation of more sustainable and resilient cities.



Participants felicitated for best group work and presentation.

SUMMING UP

After the feedback and Question & Answer session, the training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai. She extended her gratitude to both the trainers and participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the program.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

02

Regional Specialized Training Program on National Health Mission - Challenges to Healthcare Services

06th - 07th August 2024
Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Highlight

The key highlight of the program was that the participants were able to explore the integration of digital health strategies with comprehensive healthcare services to enhance service delivery. They were also updated on the role of community engagement and quality monitoring in improving urban health outcomes.

BACKGROUND

The Government of India launched the National Health Mission (NHM) in 2013 with the goal of enhancing healthcare availability throughout the nation. The Mission is a comprehensive project designed to improve the availability of and access to quality health care by people, especially for those residing in rural areas, the poor as also to solve the different healthcare issues that the country faces. These include lowering the death rate for expectant mothers and newborns, managing infectious and non-communicable diseases, and guaranteeing that all sections of society have access to high-quality healthcare services. Even if they are close to cutting-edge medical facilities, urban areas frequently have difficulties in delivering quality healthcare to all. The

urban health environment has its complexities due to factors such as socioeconomic disparities, congested housing, poor civic amenities in slums and population density. In order to enhance the provision of healthcare in cities and towns, the NHM has consequently increased its emphasis on health care services in urban areas as part of the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).

In urban areas, the challenges to healthcare services are multifaceted. Issues such as the spread of communicable diseases in densely populated slums, the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and the need for comprehensive maternal and child health services are critical.

Additionally, environmental factors like air pollution and poor waste management further complicate the health scenario in urban settings. As emphasized in the NHM framework, "Health is a fundamental human right and the attainment of the highest possible level of health is the most important worldwide social goal." By focusing on both preventive and curative aspects of healthcare, the NHM seeks to achieve universal health coverage. As stated in the NHM guidelines, "Ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services without any financial hardship is central to the mission."

In line with these objectives, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'National Health Mission – Challenges to Healthcare Services' on 06th – 07th August 2024 at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, which is supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of the training program was to identify and address urban healthcare challenges under the NUHM and empower healthcare professionals with modern technologies, skills and knowledge.

PARTICIPATION

The training was attended by a total of 34 participants including Medical Officers, Public Health Managers, Executive

Medical Officers, City Mission Managers, Sr. Staff Nurses, Community Coordinators, and ASHA workers.

INTRODUCTION



Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, warmly welcomed the dignitaries on the dais, as well as all the participants. In her address, she spoke about the well-structured training programs of RCUES, Mumbai, highlighting their positive impact on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across India. Ms. Rane then provided a comprehensive overview of the training program, detailing its primary objectives.

Thereafter, Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, shared valuable insights into RCUES, Mumbai and elaborated on the core goals of the regional training programs.



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

INAUGURATION



Inauguration of the training program (L to R) Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Prashant Javade, Medical Officer of Health, NMMC, Dr. Sunil Pawar, Additional Municipal Commissioner, NMMC, Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, Mr. Sidhartha Choure, Regional Director, AIILSG, Navi Mumbai, Ms. Neha Hardikar and Ms. Maleka Ansari, both Senior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. Sunil Pawar, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), along with Dr. Prashant Javade, Medical Officer of Health, NMMC, and Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, in the presence of Mr. Sidhartha Choure, Regional Director, AIILSG, Navi Mumbai, Ms. Neha Hardikar and Ms. Maleka Ansari, both Senior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai and Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.



Dr. Sunil Pawar, Additional Municipal Commissioner, NMMC, Maharashtra addressing the participants.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Sunil Pawar emphasized the significance of the training program and commended the efforts of RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai in organizing it. During a special address, Dr. Prashant Javade highlighted how the NMMC is actively implementing the NHM and discussed the various initiatives undertaken by NMMC to improve healthcare services.



Dr. Prashant Javade, Medical Officer of Health, NMMC addressing the participants.



Dr. Vijay Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College, Mumbai addressing the participants.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The session on 'An Overview of the National Health Mission (NHM)' was delivered by Dr. Vijay Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College, Mumbai. He provided a comprehensive overview of NHM, highlighting its critical role in improving healthcare delivery across India, especially for underserved populations. Dr. Singh outlined the mission's objectives, which include strengthening health infrastructure, enhancing human resources, and ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare for all. He also discussed the integration of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) under the NHM, highlighting the importance of community participation and decentralized planning in achieving these goals. This session set the stage for the subsequent discussions on specific health programs and interventions under the NHM.

The session on 'Strategies for Comprehensive Primary Healthcare (CPHC)' was delivered by Dr. Managala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, Public Health Department, Lead NHUM, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai. She spoke about the foundational concepts of Primary Health Care (PHC), Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the "Health for All" initiative, highlighting their critical roles in ensuring that health services are both equitable and affordable. Dr. Gomare outlined the planning and structuring of Urban Health Services under the NUHM, detailing the setup and effective management of Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs). She also discussed the integration of digital health initiatives, such as electronic health records and telemedicine, to improve service delivery and patient outcomes. The session provided a roadmap for strengthening primary healthcare by aligning it with sustainable development goals and focusing on vulnerable populations.



Dr. Managala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, Public Health Department, Lead NHUM, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Further, Dr. Gomare's presentation stressed the importance of community engagement and the strategic deployment of health workers, including ASHAs and Mahila Arogya Samitis, to ensure widespread and effective healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. The session highlighted the necessity of continuous quality improvement through the monitoring of key performance indicators and patient satisfaction surveys, ensuring that healthcare services remain responsive to the needs of the urban population.

The session on 'Strengthening Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child PLUS Adolescent Health Program (RMNCH+A) - Integrated Approaches for Improving Health Outcomes' was also delivered by Dr. Managala Gomare. In the session, she focused on the importance of Primary Health Care (PHC) in ensuring universal healthcare and achieving health equity. She highlighted the essential strategies under the NUHM, emphasizing the planning and management of Urban Primary

Health Centres (UPHCs). Dr. Gomare discussed the need for community outreach services, effective utilization of healthcare resources, and the importance of digitalization in health. She also underscored the significance of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the universalization of health services and improving health outcomes by integrating these services across different levels of health care.

Further, she detailed the National Health Programs, including the Revised National Tuberculosis Elimination Program and the National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke. Dr. Gomare also discussed the role of quality measurement systems like the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare services. The session highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making and patient satisfaction surveys to ensure continuous improvement in disease control efforts at the district level.

The session on 'Disease Control Programs' was delivered by Dr. Yash Prasade, District Program Coordinator (NP-NCD), NHM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of Maharashtra, Ratnagiri. He emphasized the significance of both communicable and non-communicable disease control initiatives within the NHM framework. The discussion covered a wide range of national programs such as the National Vector Borne Disease Control Program (NVBDP) and the National Program for Prevention & Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke (NPCDCS), highlighting their goals, strategies, and the challenges faced in their implementation at the grassroots level. Dr. Prasade also underscored the importance of early intervention, accurate diagnosis, and consistent follow-up in disease control efforts.



Dr. Yash Prasade, District Program Coordinator (NP-NCD), NHM, MoH&FW, Government of Maharashtra, Ratnagiri addressing the participants.

On the next day, the first session on 'Community Engagement and Health Education in Urban Areas' delivered by Dr. Priyanka Dixit, Assistant Professor, Centre for Health and Social Sciences, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai focused on community engagement and health education in urban settings.



Dr. Priyanka Dixit, Assistant Professor, Centre for Health and Social Sciences, TISS, Mumbai addressing the participants.

She discussed the complexities of healthcare delivery in rapidly urbanizing areas, where diverse and often fragmented communities face unique health challenges. Dr. Dixit highlighted the role of urban Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and other community-based initiatives like Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS) in bridging the gap between healthcare services among urban populations. Through case studies and examples, she illustrated how targeted health education and proactive community involvement are crucial in addressing health disparities in urban areas.

GROUP EXERCISE



Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The team of RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai, led by Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer, and Ms. Yashashree D. Rane, Junior Research Officer, organized a group exercise aimed at addressing urban healthcare challenges through collaborative discussions.



Participants engaged in group exercise.

The participants were split into six groups, with each group assigned the task of analyzing case studies on crucial issues such as communicable disease outbreaks in urban slums, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in urban populations, the health impacts of air pollution, and vaccine hesitancy in urban communities.



Presentation of group exercise by participants.

Following this, each group presented its findings and engaged in a detailed discussion to encourage the sharing of insights and propose innovative, actionable solutions to the urgent healthcare challenges.

SUMMING UP

The training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Yashashree D Rane, Jr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, followed by a feedback and Q&A session. She acknowledged the teamwork to make the program effective and thanked the trainers for their insightful sessions, as well as the participants for their enthusiastic participation.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

03

Regional Specialized Training Program on National Health Mission - Challenges to Healthcare Services

22nd - 23rd August 2024
Kota, Rajasthan.

Key Highlights

The key highlights of the training program were that the focus of the sessions was on updating the participants about the National Health Mission, as also the sessions aimed to enhance healthcare professionals' skills and knowledge through innovative group activities.

BACKGROUND

The National Health Mission (NHM) is a key initiative by the Indian government to meet the healthcare needs of underserved communities. One of its components - the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), is focused on addressing the specific health challenges faced by the urban poor. As cities grow rapidly, urban healthcare systems come under increasing strain, creating gaps in access and quality of care. The NUHM seeks to bridge these gaps by enhancing healthcare infrastructure and ensuring fair access to services, while also tackling health disparities within urban populations.

The NUHM faces significant challenges in its implementation. Rapid urbanization has resulted in many cities having inadequate

healthcare facilities, often lacking essential types of equipment and space to meet the growing demand. A shortage of skilled healthcare professionals in urban centers compounds this issue. Further, efficient logistics management, including the distribution of medicines and vaccines, is crucial to ensure that healthcare services are delivered smoothly and reach those in need.

To address these challenges, it is vital to implement targeted policies, educational initiatives, and empowerment programs. These efforts will also empower women, who constitute approximately 50% of India's population, to actively engage in and benefit from healthcare services. This active participation

of women will ultimately contribute to the overall improvement of society. Against this background, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'National Health Mission – Challenges to Healthcare Services' on 22nd – 23rd August 2024 at Kota, Rajasthan which is supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to identify and address urban healthcare challenges under the National Urban Health Mission and update healthcare professionals about modern technologies, skills, and knowledge.

PARTICIPATION

Total 71 participants comprising Chief Executive Officers, Municipal Engineers, Chief Medical Health Officers, Health Officers, Town Planners, Sanitary Inspectors, DAY-NULM Mission Functionaries like District Managers, City Mission Managers, Community Organizers, Program Coordinators, Presidents and secretaries of the City Level Federation (CLF), Members of Area Level Federations(ALFs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) Coordinators, Executive Members, and NGOs / CBOs Representatives from various Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Rajasthan State attended the training program.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Maleka Ansari, Senior Research Officer (SRO), RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries on the dais, subject experts, and all the participants. In her speech, she highlighted the well-structured training programs organized by the RCUES and the AIILSG, Mumbai, which have significantly benefited ULBs across India. She then provided a comprehensive introduction to the training program, detailing its main objectives and the expected outcomes.



Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

The training program was inaugurated by Ms. Anupama Tailor, RAS, Deputy Director Municipal Administration, Government of Rajasthan, Kota, in the presence of Dr. Jagdish Soni, Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO), Kota Municipal Corporation (KMC), Dr. Richa Gautam, Health Officer, KMC, Mr. Anuj Asthana,

Centre Manager, AIILSG, Kota, Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, City Mission Manager (CMM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG Mumbai.



Ms. Anupama Tailor, RAS, Deputy Director, Municipal Administration, Government of Rajasthan, Kota inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, Public Health Department Lead, NUHM, BMC, Mumbai, Mr. Anuj Asthana, Centre Manager, AIILSG, Kota, Dr. Jagdish Soni, CMHO, KMC, Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, CMM, DAY-NULM, KMC, Ms. Rachna Sharma, Public Relation Officer, KMC, Rajasthan.

In the inaugural session, Ms. Anupama Tailor made an insightful presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She emphasized the importance of these global objectives in fostering sustainable growth and development. Ms. Tailor particularly focused on maternal and child health, underscoring the critical role of initiatives like the Nutrition Mission and Rashtriya Poshan Abhiyan. She elaborated on how these programs aim to combat malnutrition and improve health outcomes for mothers and children across India. By providing essential nutritional support and education, these

initiatives strive to ensure that every child has a healthy start in life and that mothers receive the care they need. She highlighted the collaborative efforts required from various stakeholders, including government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the community, to achieve these goals. Her address underscored the significance of integrating SDGs into local and national policies to create a healthier and more equitable society.



Ms. Anupama Tailor, RAS, Deputy Director, Municipal Administration, Government of Rajasthan, Kota addressing the participants.

On the second day of the training program, Mr. Vivek Rajvanshi, Leader of the Opposition Party, Kota Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan delivered the keynote address in which he emphasized that the NUHM exemplifies our collective dedication to improving urban health infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens. He underscored the significance of integrating advanced technology, innovative healthcare solutions, and community-driven approaches. According to him, the implementation of NUHM can transform our urban landscapes into healthier and more resilient environments.



Mr. Vivek Rajvanshi, Leader of the Opposition Party, Kota Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

Mr. Rajvanshi also highlighted that NUHM is not only tackling immediate health challenges but is also laying the groundwork for a sustainable and inclusive future. In his concluding remarks, he urged the participants to collaborate, leveraging their expertise and dedication, to realize the vision of a healthier nation.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The session on 'Overview of National Health Mission (NHM)' was delivered by Dr. Jagdish Soni, Chief Medical Health Officer, Kota Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan. Dr. Soni highlighted the NHM as a pivotal initiative by the Government of India, launched in 2013, which merged the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) to form a unified strategy for healthcare enhancement. He emphasized that the NHM aims to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality healthcare to all citizens, particularly focusing on

underserved rural and urban populations. The mission prioritizes maternal, child, and adolescent health, and targets the control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, striving to ensure equitable healthcare and elevate overall health standards across the country.



Dr. Jagdish Soni, Chief Medical Health Officer, Kota Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

While concluding the session, Dr. Soni elaborated on the strategies implemented in his city to control communicable diseases during the early rainy season. He detailed measures such as intensified surveillance to quickly identify and respond to outbreaks of illnesses enhanced sanitation efforts to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases, and conducting widespread public health campaigns to educate citizens on preventive practices. Further, he mentioned the distribution of essential medical supplies and the establishment of rapid response teams to manage any emerging health threats promptly. These comprehensive strategies aim to mitigate the impact of communicable diseases and safeguard public health during this vulnerable period.

In the next session, Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, Public Health Department Lead, NUHM, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai discussed 'Strategies for Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC)'. In the initial session, Dr. Gomare elaborated on the decentralized planning approach of the NUHM. She explained that NUHM aims to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to urban populations, with a particular focus on slum and vulnerable sections. The mission establishes Urban Primary Health Centres (U-PHCs) and Urban Community Health Centres (U-CHCs) as key facilities, supported by robust outreach services and accessible frontline health workers. Emphasizing decentralized planning, the mission involves ULBs and state health departments to address the unique health challenges of urban areas, ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare. Dr. Gomare also detailed the various levels of urban health services and discussed government schemes such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), and Rastriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK).

While concluding the session, she highlighted the integration of digital technologies into healthcare systems to enhance the delivery of care and the management of health services. She emphasized that these advancements aim to achieve universal health coverage, create integrated health systems, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs. The integration of digital tools is seen as a crucial step towards modernizing healthcare and making it more efficient and accessible to all urban residents.



Dr. Mangala Gomare, former Executive Health Officer, Public Health Department Lead, NUHM, BMC, Mumbai addressing the participants.

In her Next session, Dr. Gomare discussed 'Strengthening Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child PLUS Adolescent Health Program (RMNCH+A) - Integrated Approaches for Improving Health Outcomes'. She highlighted the RMNCH+A program, which uses integrated approaches to improve health outcomes across these critical life stages. She explained that by combining efforts in reproductive health, maternal care, newborn and child health, and adolescent well-being, the program ensures a continuum of care. This holistic approach includes preventive, promotive, curative, and rehabilitative services, aiming to reduce mortality and morbidity rates, improve nutritional status, and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare services. In her concluding remarks, she praised the integration of various health initiatives under RMNCH+A noting that it fosters a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to address the diverse health needs of women, children, and adolescents.

In the post-lunch session Dr. Richa Gautam, Health Officer, KMC discussed 'Disease Control Programs' which were implemented by KMC. She explained the different types of diseases, such as airborne diseases, infections from contaminated water and food, and vector-borne diseases. She also highlighted the objectives of KMC's operations, which include reducing new infections, disease transmission, and the effects of diseases. Furthermore, she discussed the factors influencing health and well-being. She detailed the strategy that integrates health promotion and monitoring within the community, prevention of infectious and non-communicable diseases and injuries, as well as the implementation of public health programs with a special focus on child health promotion, supported by social partners and health assessments through the public health bureau. In her concluding remarks, Dr. Richa Gautam, appreciated the participation of the people in making the disease control program more successful, especially for the vulnerable sections of the city.



Dr. Richa Gautam, Health Officer, Kota Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

In the next session, Dr. Monika Soni, District Manager, DAY-NULM, Bundi, Rajasthan discussed 'IEC and BCC Interventions in Implementing NHM at ULB Level'. She emphasized the crucial role of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) interventions in the successful implementation of the NHM at the ULB level. IEC interventions aim to spread awareness and educate the community about health issues and the services available under NHM through various channels, such as mass media campaigns, community outreach programs, distribution of printed materials, and school programs. These efforts ensure that the right and relevant health information reaches a broad audience, empowering individuals with the knowledge they need to make informed health decisions. By leveraging various communication channels, IEC interventions help create a well-informed community that is aware of preventive measures, available healthcare services, and the importance of maintaining good health.



Dr. Monika Soni, District Manager, DAY-NULM, Bundi, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

Dr. Monika Soni also highlighted the importance of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) interventions, which focus on changing health-related behaviors through targeted communication strategies. These strategies include interpersonal communication, peer education, role models, and support groups. Direct engagement with individuals and communities is crucial, as BCC interventions encourage the adoption of healthier behaviors, such as improved hygiene practices, better nutrition, and increased use of healthcare services. At the ULB level, these interventions are tailored to address the specific health needs of urban populations, ensuring that they are culturally appropriate and effective.

While concluding the session, she highlighted the combined impact of IEC and BCC interventions, which lead to increased awareness, behavioral changes, improved health outcomes, and community empowerment. This combined approach ultimately contributes to the overall success of the NHM in urban areas.

Dr. Himani Tiwari, Training Coordinator, City Managers' Association, Rajasthan (CMAR), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur conducted her session on 'NHM with special reference to Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS), Community Engagement and Health Education in Urban Areas'. She began the session by emphasizing the significance of the NHM, particularly its urban-focused branch, the NUHM which prioritizes community engagement and health education in city areas. A key element of this initiative is the MAS, a community-based group consisting predominantly of women from urban slums. These groups play a key role in raising health awareness, improving access to healthcare services, and advocating for the health rights of the urban poor. She elaborated on how MAS members

are trained to educate their communities on preventive healthcare, maternal and child health, and sanitation. Further, they serve as vital intermediaries between the community and healthcare providers, ensuring that the healthcare needs of the urban poor are met.



Dr. Himani Tiwari, Training Coordinator, CMAR, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur addressing the participants.

She highlighted the significant impact of MAS initiatives on improving health outcomes in urban settings by fostering community ownership and responsibility. Engaging local women in these roles helps build trust and promotes active participation in health-related activities. This grassroots approach not only strengthens primary healthcare delivery but also empowers women by encouraging them to take on leadership roles within their communities. In her concluding remarks, she noted that through continuous education and community-driven efforts, MAS is instrumental in creating healthier urban environments and addressing the unique health challenges faced by the urban poor.

GROUP EXERCISE

As a part of the training program, a group exercise was conducted by the RCUES, Mumbai team, focusing on a collaborative discussion to generate innovative solutions for urban healthcare challenges. Participants were divided into seven groups, each tasked with identifying key healthcare issues affecting urban populations, particularly in underserved areas. Drawing from their diverse backgrounds and experiences, the participants engaged in a lively exchange of ideas. The exercise centered on collaboration, encouraging participants to brainstorm ways to enhance healthcare delivery systems, bridge gaps in medical service access, and implement preventive healthcare measures in densely populated urban environments. Through this discussion, the participants explored creative solutions to common challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare personnel, and financial barriers faced by the urban poor.



Presentation of group exercise by participants.

The exercise concluded with each group presenting its suggested solutions, which ranged from strengthening community-based healthcare initiatives to utilizing technology for telemedicine and mobile health units. Some groups highlighted the need to foster stronger partnerships between government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and local communities to ensure sustainable, long-term improvements. The collaborative nature of the exercise not only refined participants' problem-solving skills but also underscored the importance of collective action in addressing the multifaceted challenges of urban healthcare. The exercise provided valuable insights into how teamwork and innovation can drive progress in the sector. A token of appreciation was awarded to the group with the most comprehensive and impactful action plan presentation.

SUMMING UP

After the feedback and Question & Answer session, the participants were felicitated by giving them a Certificate of Attendance. The training program concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Maleka Ansari, SRO, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai. She extended her gratitude to both the trainers and participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the program.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

04

Regional Specialized Training Program on Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) - 2.0

29th - 30th August 2024
Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Key Highlights

The session on strengthening infrastructure through pooled municipal bonds equipped the participants with insights into collaborative financing strategies that can lower costs and expand funding opportunities for local projects. Moreover, the group exercise on municipal bonds allowed the participants to collaboratively devise and evaluate financing strategies. This practical approach will enable the participants to apply these learned concepts in executing projects.

BACKGROUND

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 is an ambitious initiative launched by the Government of India to enhance the quality of life in urban areas by ensuring robust infrastructure development and efficient service delivery. Building on the success of the first phase, AMRUT 2.0 aims to provide universal coverage of water supply and sewage management across cities, promoting a healthy and sustainable environment, and encouraging adoption of smart technology solutions.

AMRUT 2.0 emphasizes the establishment of a circular water economy, promoting initiatives such as City Water Balance Plans (CWBP) to encourage sewage recycling, water body

rejuvenation, and conservation practices. The scheme facilitates identification and implementation of projects geared towards achieving universal water tap connections, water sources preservation, water recycling, rainwater harvesting, and the restoration of water bodies and wells in urban areas. Furthermore, it encompasses a reform agenda aimed at improving citizens' quality of life, including measures to reduce non-revenue water, promote sewage recycling, rejuvenate water bodies, implement urban planning strategies, and strengthen urban financial systems.

AMRUT 2.0 introduces complementary initiatives such as the Pey Jal Survekshan to ensure equitable water distribution,

wastewater reuse, and mapping of water resources, fostering healthy competition among cities. Moreover, a Technology Sub-Mission for Water is established to leverage cutting-edge global technologies in water management, complemented by an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign to raise public awareness about water conservation practices.

To provide training and capacity building for municipal officials, staff and stakeholders in order to strengthen institutions and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for better service delivery and governance, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a Regional Specialized Training Program on 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) - 2.0' on 29th- 30th August 2024 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This training program was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this training program was to equip the participants with the required knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively manage wastewater, by achieving the overall goals of AMRUT 2.0 in creating cleaner, healthier and more sustainable urban environment.

PARTICIPATION

A total of 32 participants comprising Chief Officers, Municipal Engineers, Electromechanical Experts, Project Coordinators,

Sanitary Inspectors, SWM Managers, and Finance Experts from the state of Gujarat were present for the training program.

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai initiated the training program by welcoming the dignitaries on the dais and the participants. She explained the activities of RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai and discussed the strategic approaches under AMRUT 2.0. The training program is designed to enhance understanding and skills related to AMRUT 2.0 and aims to empower the participants with the expertise needed to drive successful urban transformation projects. She encouraged the participants to acquire upgrade their understanding as needed to effectively contribute to sustainable urban development and improved municipal services under AMRUT 2.0.



Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

INAUGURATION

Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai inaugurated the training program with ceremonial lamp lighting in the presence of Dr. Vijay Anadkat, Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute (WRI) & Advisor, Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM) for AMRUT & Smart City Missions, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Mr. Ajay Saxena, PPP Expert & Ex - ADB Advisor & Sr. Advisor, National Investment & Infrastructure Funds (NIIF), Mumbai, Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions, LLP, Thane and Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions, LLP, Thane, Mr. Ajay Saxena, PPP Expert & Ex - ADB Advisor & Sr. Advisor, NIIF, Mumbai, Dr. Vijay Anadkat, Senior Fellow, WRI & Advisor, GUDM for AMRUT & Smart City Missions, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, and Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai.

Dr. Salvi in his inaugural address emphasized the critical role of effective sewage management under AMRUT 2.0, highlighting

its importance in improving urban sanitation and public health. He outlined the initiative's focus on integrating advanced technologies and sustainable practices to address the challenges of wastewater treatment. In conclusion, he highlighted that AMRUT 2.0 represents a transformative step towards creating resilient and sustainable urban environments with a renewed focus on enhancing infrastructure, improving public health, and promoting community well-being.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The technical sessions were initiated following the inauguration. The first technical session on 'Comprehensive Overview on AMRUT 2.0' was delivered by Dr. Vijay Anadkat, Senior Fellow, WRI & Advisor, GUDM for AMRUT & Smart City Missions, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. Dr. Anadkat provided comprehensive overview of phase I & II of AMRUT. He highlighted that multifaceted approach is essential for enhancing water security in cities, focusing more on water supply, underground drainage, green spaces, and the rejuvenation of water bodies. Moreover, ensuring 100% household water connections across all urban areas is crucial for equitable access and effective management. This can be complemented by achieving complete underground drainage (UGD) connectivity in cities covered under AMRUT initiative. He added that efficient UGD systems help prevent flooding, manage wastewater, and protect urban waterways from contamination. Additionally, expanding green spaces and revitalizing water bodies can significantly improve urban resilience by enhancing natural water absorption, reducing

runoff, and promoting ecological balance. These measures create a comprehensive strategy for achieving long-term water security and sustainable urban living.

He emphasized the significant impact of the AMRUT initiative by detailing the number of cities covered under both phase I & II of AMRUT. These phases represent a collaborative effort between central and state governments, with substantial assistance allocated to enhance urban infrastructure. The central and state assistance is pivotal in financing key projects and ensuring their successful implementation. He further said that the Systematic Water Allocation and Planning (SWAP) framework plays a crucial role in optimizing water resource management across these cities. He discussed impacts of the Mission and stated that AMRUT 1.0 has notably enhanced urban infrastructure, resulting in significant improvements in water treatment capacity, increased sewage treatment capacity and the expansion of green spaces across the participating cities.



Dr. Vijay Anadkat, Senior Fellow, WRI & Advisor, GUDM for AMRUT & Smart City Missions, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar addressing the participants.

He further discussed salient features of AMRUT 2.0 and stated that providing universal piped water supply with household water tap connections is a cornerstone of improving urban living standards and ensuring equitable access to clean water. To complement this, achieving universal coverage of sewage and septage management across 500 AMRUT cities is critical for effective sanitation and public health. This initiative also emphasizes promotion of a circular economy of water, which focuses on recycling and reusing water resources to enhance sustainability. Additionally, the rejuvenation of water bodies plays a vital role in augmenting water availability in urban areas.

He also explained the timeline for project implementation, outlining each phase's start and end dates, key milestones, and deadlines to ensure structured and timely progress throughout the initiative. He discussed the reforms and institutional mechanism under AMRUT 2.0. He spoke on Pey Jal Survekshan which is a crucial initiative aimed at assessing and improving the quality of urban water services through comprehensive surveys. It evaluates cities on the parameters of water availability, efficiency, and customer satisfaction, driving transparency and accountability in water management. He also disclosed the templates for data collection for water supply, rejuvenation of water, rainwater harvesting and wastewater under City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) to streamline the process by providing standardized formats for recording and analyzing urban infrastructure data. This approach ensures consistency, accuracy and efficiency, facilitating better decision-making and monitoring of project outcomes. He concluded the session by explaining the ongoing projects under SWAP framework of AMRUT designed to optimize water resource management. By employing SWAP, cities can ensure efficient use of water, reduce wastage, and improve overall sustainability in urban water systems.

The session on 'Strengthening Urban Infrastructure through Pooled Municipal Bonds under AMRUT 2.0' was delivered by Mr. Ajay Saxena, PPP Expert & Ex - ADB Advisor & Sr. Advisor, NIIF, Mumbai. He commenced the session by stating that the growing emphasis on urban infrastructure development is driving a significant increase in capital expenditure (capex) across various sectors, reflecting the need to modernize and expand city facilities to meet the demands of urbanization. As cities experience rapid population growth and technological advancements, substantial investments are required to upgrade and expand infrastructure such as transportation networks, water supply systems, waste management facilities, and energy grids. This surge in capex is crucial for improving the quality of urban life, reducing congestion, enhancing sustainability and supporting economic growth.

He said that as municipalities in India face increasing capital expenditure (Capex) demands, anticipated to double to Rs. 1.7 trillion annually over the next decade, they are under significant financial pressure to explore alternative funding sources. With state and central governments facing budget constraints, municipalities are compelled to seek out innovative financing mechanisms. Currently, 35 municipalities have achieved a credit rating, demonstrating their financial viability. Additionally, since 2017, eight municipalities have successfully raised approximately INR 40 billion through municipal bond issuances, reflecting an evolving landscape where capital markets play a critical role in urban infrastructure development, he added.

He further said that the opportunity for capital market issuances to address municipalities' financing needs is substantial, though the demand for municipal bonds remains relatively limited. This is partly due to a limited understanding

among investors about the creditworthiness and potential of these issuers. There is, however, a growing interest among institutional investors in engaging with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and providing both financial and technical support. Enhancing investor confidence through better education on municipal bonds and showcasing successful case studies can stimulate greater market participation and support municipalities in meeting their capital needs.



Mr. Ajay Saxena, PPP Expert & Ex - ADB Advisor & Sr. Advisor, NIIF, Mumbai addressing the participants.

He explained that traditionally municipal bonds have proven effective in financing capital intensive infrastructure projects, as exemplified by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's pioneering bond issuance in 1998. This issuance was notable for being the first municipal bond in India without a state guarantee, marking a significant shift towards a market-based financing system. The success of such bonds often hinges on the issuing municipality's creditworthiness and financial reforms, such as improved revenue collection and financial management.

He further explained that municipal corporations and governments are allocating larger budgets to infrastructure projects, often supported by municipal bonds and public-private partnerships. They provide municipalities with a cost-effective way to raise capital for long-term investments without immediately impacting their budgets. These investments aim not only to address current deficiencies but also safeguard cities against emerging challenges, such as impacts of climate change and resource scarcity. Additionally, these bonds offer investors a stable, tax-advantaged income stream, making them a crucial component of a well-rounded investment portfolio while supporting public sector development. He also explained that taxable bonds offer investors regular income subject to taxes but typically provide higher interest rates compared to tax-free bonds. Tax-free bonds, on the other hand, offer interest income that is exempt from federal income tax, making them attractive to investors in higher tax brackets.

Further, he highlighted the initiatives like pooled bond issuance mechanisms. It involves aggregating resources from multiple municipalities or entities to issue bonds collectively, which can enhance creditworthiness and reduce financing costs by leveraging shared risk and resources. Only large, financially robust municipal corporations can directly access capital markets due to their strong financial position, while many small and medium ULBs face barriers such as high transaction costs and limited financial strength. He added that to overcome this issue, smaller ULBs often pool their resources, enabling collective access to capital markets. The Financial Independence and Resource Efficiency - Development (FIRE-D) project exemplifies this approach by allowing ULBs in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to issue bonds

jointly, with a similar pooled financing model demonstrated by the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund (TNUDF) initiative in 2003, which created the Water and Sanitation Pooled Fund (WSPF) to facilitate bond issuance for infrastructure projects with enhanced credit mechanisms and government backing. He concluded the session through examples of pooled financing, by demonstrating how aggregating resources from multiple municipalities can enhance access to capital markets and reduce individual financial risks.

The session on 'Water Conservation through Wastewater Management' was delivered by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AIIILSG, Mumbai. He commenced the session by providing insights on effects of urbanisation. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Report of 2021 highlights the critical challenges posed by increased urbanization, notably the rising demand for water to satisfy growing domestic needs. As urban areas expand, the strain on water resources increases. Concurrently, the discharge of wastewater into existing water bodies has significantly worsened, contributing to the deterioration of water quality. This dual impact highlights the urgent need for integrated water management solutions to address both the escalating demand for clean water and the persistent issues of wastewater management. He further elucidated that over the past 50 years, per capita availability of fresh water in India has dramatically declined from 5,177 cubic meters to 1,486 cubic meters by 2021, well below the United Nations' threshold of 1,700 cubic meters. This significant drop shows up India's transition to a 'water-stressed' nation, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable water management.

He explained that the installed capacity for wastewater treatment has strained to keep pace with the rapid increase in

wastewater generation, often falling short of effectively handling the volume of effluent produced. Many facilities are operating at or near full capacity, yet there is insufficient treatment leading to potential environmental contamination. This gap emphasizes the urgent need for expanding infrastructure and developing more efficient treatment technologies to address the growing challenge of wastewater management.



Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

He also discussed implication of poor sanitation and inadequate health practices, which can lead to severe water contamination, affecting public health and safety. Contaminated water sources contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases, while dirty surroundings create environments conducive to the breeding of flies, mosquitoes, and other vectors. This not only aggravates health risks but also undermines overall community well-being and quality of life. Elucidating the issue, he said that about 33 million Indians suffer from waterborne diseases, and tragically, 1.5 million children lose their lives due to diarrhoea. This public

health issue leads to the loss of 73 million working days each year, resulting in an economic impact of approximately Rs. 36,500 million. (Source: India Water Portal, September 2019)

He explained that transitioning from sewage treatment to sewage reuse and recycling exemplifies a paradigm shift where wastewater is recognized as a valuable resource for water, nutrients, and energy, crucial for future water security. Adopting decentralized wastewater treatment and moving from linear to circular economy emphasizes the importance of efficient resource recovery and sustainable management practices. He further stated that implementing recycling and reuse policies necessitate further line of activities including the maintenance of tertiary treatment facilities, establishing and maintaining distribution networks, and prescribing tariffs for both fresh and recycled water. He also highlighted that public awareness and trust in the quality of recycled water, along with restrictions on its reuse in sensitive applications, are crucial for successful policy adoption and long-term sustainability.

He concluded the session by citing wastewater treatment as an example, demonstrating its potential to produce potable water, which will make cities water secure.

On the second day, the session on 'Innovative Wastewater Solutions - AMRUT 2.0's Path to a Circular Economy' was delivered by Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions, LLP, Thane. She initiated the session stating that by 2050, the urban population is projected to double, significantly increasing water demand, which is expected to rise from 15-20% to 30% of global consumption. This surge in urban water use will lead to more wastewater generation and increased water pollution. Additionally, climate

change is impacting the urban water cycle by altering water availability, distribution, and quality, aggravating the challenge for countries like India, which houses 17% of the world's population but has only 4% of global water resources. She further asserted that according to the Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, per capita water availability of less than 1,700 cubic meters indicates water stress, while availability below 1,000 cubic meters signifies water scarcity. Currently, India is classified as water-stressed under this indicator. (Reference: https://dmeo.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-08/9a_Sector_Report_Water_Resources.pdf)



Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, CIPHER Environmental Solutions, LLP, Thane addressing the participants.

She explained that under AMRUT 2.0, the linear approach focuses on traditional waste disposal methods, whereas the circular approach emphasizes resource recovery and reuse, aiming to close the loop on wastewater by transforming it into valuable resources like treated water and nutrients. She further said that water utilities are adopting circular approaches by implementing advanced treatment technologies for resource

recovery and integrating decentralized systems to enhance resilience. She cited example of Chennai where these strategies include reclaiming wastewater for non-potable uses and utilizing by-products for energy generation, reducing reliance on linear waste disposal methods.

She said that the comparison of the costs of different water sources reveal that while conventional sources like surface water may be less expensive initially whereas alternative sources such as recycled water or desalinated water often involve higher upfront costs but offer long-term sustainability and reliability benefits. She then stated that the Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan (2018) in Gujarat exemplifies policy-led interventions aimed at enhancing water conservation through comprehensive watershed management and infrastructure development.

She explained the trends in Industrial Wastewater Treatment by stating that innovative, sustainable wastewater treatment solutions not only play a pivotal role in safeguarding public health by ensuring access to clean water, but also contribute significantly to the preservation of ecosystems and the overall resilience of our planet. She explained new technologies for wastewater treatment. Epic Cleantec, Evove, and Rainstick represent cutting-edge water reuse technologies, each offering unique solutions for sustainable water management. In conclusion she cited national and international examples of water and wastewater treatment focusing on NEWater. It is Singapore's pioneering water recycling program that treats and purifies wastewater to produce high-quality, potable water. This innovative approach has become a model for integrating recycled water into national water resources, addressing both scarcity and environmental sustainability.

The session on 'Water Cycle & Management for Urban Water Infrastructure' was delivered by Mr. Harshal Parikh, Team Leader, Project Management Unit, AMRUT 2.0, Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd., Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He initiated the session by emphasizing that urban water infrastructure is essential for providing clean water and managing wastewater, ensuring public health and environmental protection. It encompasses water supply, sewage, stormwater, and recycled water. Water supply involves the collection, treatment, and distribution of potable water to residents and industries. Sewage and wastewater collection systems transport used water to treatment facilities to prevent contamination and environmental damage. Storm water collection systems manage runoff from rain and storms to reduce flooding and erosion. Finally, treated water or recycled water supply involves repurposing and treating wastewater for reuse in non-potable applications, contributing to maintain a resilient and sustainable water cycle, he added.



Mr. Harshal Parikh, Team Leader, Project Management Unit, AMRUT 2.0, Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd., Gandhinagar, Gujarat addressing the participants.

He explained that the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) under MoHUA, GoI provides comprehensive guidelines and standards for urban water management. Their Manual on Water Supply and Treatment details best practices for delivering clean water, while the Manual on O&M Water Supply System focuses on operational efficiency and maintenance. The Manual on Sewage and Sewage Treatment offers protocols for effective wastewater management, and the Manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management provides strategies for handling waste. Additionally, the Manual on Storm Water Drainage System addresses the management of rainwater runoff to prevent flooding and ensure sustainable drainage. He discussed Project Life Cycle under urban water management. He further described that the Project Life Cycle consists of distinct phases: initiation, planning, execution, and closure. During initiation, project goals and feasibility are defined; planning involves detailing tasks, resources, and schedules. Execution implements the plan while monitoring progress, and closure wraps up the project, evaluating outcomes and completing final documentation.

He further elucidated that a water supply source typically includes natural sources like rivers, lakes, or underground aquifers, from which water is extracted. The supply schematic outlines the system from source to treatment facilities and then to distribution networks, ensuring that water reaches consumers. Moreover, drinking water quality is monitored to meet safety standards, involving regular testing and treatment to remove contaminants and ensure that it is safe to drink. He also spoke on water treatment process and described that the purpose of water treatment is to remove contaminants and ensure that water is safe to drink. This process is adopted

through a series of physical, chemical and biological treatments, tailored to address specific water quality issues and meet regulatory standards. He further explained that Service Level Benchmarking (SLB) in water supply evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of water services, comparing performance metrics with reference to its standards. The water distribution network involves the infrastructure and processes used for delivering treated water from treatment plants to end-users, ensuring reliable and equitable access.

He also spoke on smart water audit, which uses advanced technologies and data analytics to assess water usage, detect inefficiencies, and optimize resource management in real-time. SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems integrate with smart water audits to provide automated monitoring, control, and analysis of water infrastructure, enhancing operational efficiency and responsiveness. He emphasized on energy-saving measures in water supply, which involve optimizing pump operations, improving system efficiencies, and employing energy-efficient technologies to reduce consumption and making them cost effective. Mapping underground water supply networks using advanced technologies like GIS and sonar helps in identifying infrastructure conditions, planning maintenance, and preventing leaks. When combined, these strategies enhance sustainability and operational efficiency in water management systems. Later, he talked about Operation and Maintenance (O&M), which focuses on the efficient management and upkeep of water infrastructure to ensure reliable service delivery. A complaint management system tracks, addresses, and resolves customer issues efficiently, improving service quality and user satisfaction.

In conclusion, he stated that effective sewage treatment is crucial for protecting public health and the environment by properly managing and recycling wastewater. Conservation of fresh water complements this by ensuring sustainable use and reducing strain on natural water sources, promoting overall environmental sustainability.

GROUP EXERCISE

Following the sessions, a group exercise was conducted where participants were divided into four groups, each group was assigned a specific topic for discussion and developing a plan. Following topics were given to them.

Group 1: Plan for reuse and recycling of the treated wastewater and ways to generate revenue

Group 2: Plan for increasing the score for Pay Jal Survekshan

Group 3: Planning for Municipal Bonds

Group 4: Plan for the recovery of resources (Circular Economy)



Participants engaged in group exercise.

Each group discussed within the members and presented a comprehensive plan. The following is the explanation for all groups.

The Group 1 explained the plan stating that reuse and recycling treated wastewater involve applications in agriculture and gardening, where it serves as a valuable resource for irrigation. Generating revenue can be achieved by charging for recycled water services by executing MoU with concerned stakeholders. The group illustrated the calculation of revenue generation by selling treated wastewater. Moreover, they highlighted on promoting public awareness of its benefits and leveraging it to reduce the costs of freshwater procurement.

The Group 2 explained that to enhance the Pay Jal Survekshan score, focus should be on upgrading the stormwater drainage network, advancing sewerage treatment with tertiary treatment technologies, and integrating innovative solutions for water management such as percolating wells in water logging areas. The group emphasized that these improvements would demonstrate a commitment to comprehensive and sustainable water infrastructure development.

The Group 3 explained the process of identifying a water supply project in collaboration with textile industries. The group members discussed among themselves and identified 10 years water supply project with a total project cost (TPC) of Rs.600 crore for capital expenditure (CAPEX) and Rs.200 crore allocated for operational expenditure (OPEX). The project will focus on sustainable water management, including the tertiary treatment of wastewater to ensure long-term water availability. The group focused on formalizing the partnership by signing an MoU with textile Industries ensuring the industries' commitment to sustainable water usage.

The Group 4 explained that resource recovery in a circular economy should focus on developing strategies for efficient recycling and reuse of materials, integrating waste management systems that minimize resource loss. They said that collaborative efforts can drive innovation in sustainable practices and optimize resource recovery across wastewater sector.



Presentation of group exercise by participants.

The Group 3 was selected as a winner as they have detailed out identifying project with its implementation process, project cost & collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

SUMMING UP

After the feedback session, certificates were given by Dr. Ajit Salvi & Mr. Harshal Parikh. Ms. Neha Hardikar concluded the training program by proposing a Vote of Thanks.

GLIMPSES OF THE SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM



Section

05

Accreditation Certificate to RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai in the Convention Event by Capacity Building Commission

12th August 2024
New Delhi.

Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AILSG), Mumbai received Accreditation Certificate in the Civil Servants Training Institutes (CSTIs) Convention Event organized by Capacity Building Commission (CBC), New Delhi on 12th August 2024 by hands of Dr. Alka Mittal, Member Administration, CBC, New Delhi. Mr. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Dy. Director, AILSG & Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai received the certificate on behalf of RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai.



Section

06

Convocation Ceremony (2024) All India Institute of Local Self-Government, Mumbai

31st August 2024
Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The Convocation Ceremony of AIILSG was held on 31st August 2024 at its Andheri office to award diplomas and certificates on successful completion of the Local Government Services (LGS) diploma course, Advanced Diploma in Medical Laboratory Techniques (ADMLT), Diploma in Local Government Financial Management (DLGFM) and Sanitary Inspectors' Diploma. (S.I.) course.

The convocation ceremony was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the Chief Guest, Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra. Shri. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG & Co-President United Cities and Local Government, Asia Pacific Region, (UCLG-ASPAC), Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, Shri. Raj Kishor Modi, Vice-President, Governing Council, AIILSG, Shri. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Dy. Director General, AIILSG, Dr. (Prof.) Sneha Palnitkar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Waste Management and Research Centre (WMRC), AIILSG, Mumbai, Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi, Sr. Executive Director, AIILSG, Mumbai and Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai also graced the function by their valuable presence.



Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra inaugurated the training programme by lighting the lamp. (L to R) Dr. Ajit Salvi, Director, RCUES of AIILSG, Mumbai, Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi, Sr. Executive Director, AIILSG, Mumbai, Shri. Ranjit Chavan, President, AIILSG & Co-President United Cities and Local Government, Asia Pacific Region, (UCLG-ASPAC), Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG, Shri. Raj Kishor Modi, Vice-President, Governing Council, AIILSG, Shri. Ravi Ranjan Guru, Dy. Director General, AIILSG, Dr. (Prof.) Sneha Palnitkar, CEO, WMRC, AIILSG, Mumbai.

Shri. Ranjit Chavan welcomed Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation,

Government of Maharashtra by offering a memento. Shri Ranjit Chavan, in his welcome speech, expressed thanks to the Hon'ble Minister for accepting the invitation of the Institute and gave an account of the progress of the Institute and diversification of its activities over the years. He elaborated pioneering efforts of the Institute by starting its flagship courses, running currently in the Institute.



Shri. Ranjit Chavan welcomed Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra by offering a memento. Also seen, Shri. Raj Kishor Modi, Vice-President, Governing Council, AIILSG, and Dr. Jairaj Phatak, IAS (Retd.), Director General, AIILSG.

Dr. Jairaj Phatak, Director General, AIILSG, said that it is an honour for the Institute for valuable presence of Shri Lodha at Convocation Ceremony.

The Chief Guest Shri Lodha in his inaugural address, appraised efforts of Shri Chavan in nurturing the Institute over the decades. He concluded his address by mentioning to execute MoU between Government of Maharashtra (Ministry of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation) and AIILSG for skills development initiatives.

The speeches of dignitaries in the inaugural session followed with awarding diplomas in hands of Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha to the students who have successfully completed diplomas in Local Government Service (LGS), Advanced Diploma in Medical Laboratory Techniques (ADMLT), Diploma in Local Government Financial Management (DLGFM), and Sanitary Inspectors' Diploma (S.I.).

In the concluding session, Shri. Raj Kishor Modi proposed a vote of thanks to the dignitaries, diploma holders and AIILSG's officials and staff.



Shri. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra awarded diplomas to the students.

GLIMPSES OF THE CONVOCAATION CEREMONY



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Disclaimer

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