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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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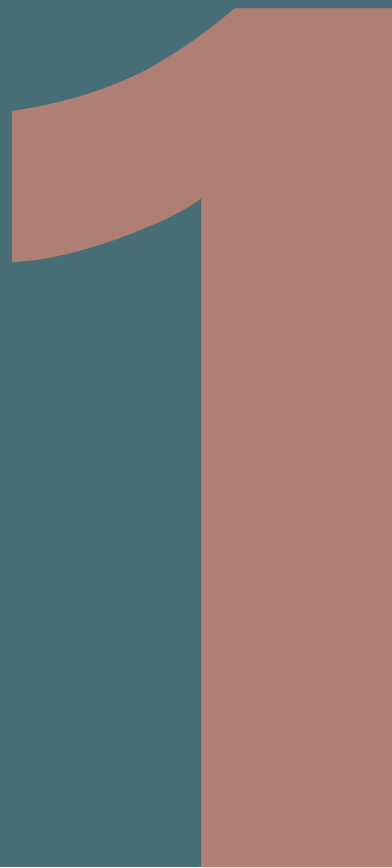
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Webinar on
**COVID-19 AND MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM) FOR ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF GREATER MUMBAI
(MCGM), MUMBAI**

28th May, 2021

Key Objectives

The key objective of the webinar was to create awareness among ERs on their potential contributions and establishing dialogue between ERs to spread the message on MHM.

BACKGROUND

Menstruation is a natural, normal 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. However, due to 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. Indifference and insensitivity of society to this subject makes it more complex. 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, work, and other activities.

In order to end period poverty and stigma by the year 2030, Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) was initiated by the German

non-profit organization 'WASH United' in the year 2013. 28th May is celebrated as MH day as a typical menstrual cycle among women is 28 days long on average with 5 days of menses. Every year, 28th May i.e. Menstrual Hygiene Day, brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to break the silence, raise awareness and change negative social norms around menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) for all women and girls across the world. The MH Day engages decision-makers to increase the political priority and catalyze action for MHH, at global, national and local levels.

Considering this background, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) at All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted a webinar on 'COVID-19 and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for Elected Representatives of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Mumbai' on 28th May 2021 as a part of Maharashtra Urban WASH & Environmental Sanitation

Coalition – a joint initiative of UNICEF Maharashtra and RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai.

PARTICIPATION

The webinar was attended by 44 Elected Representatives of MCGM comprising Hon'ble Mayor of Mumbai and other elected representatives.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

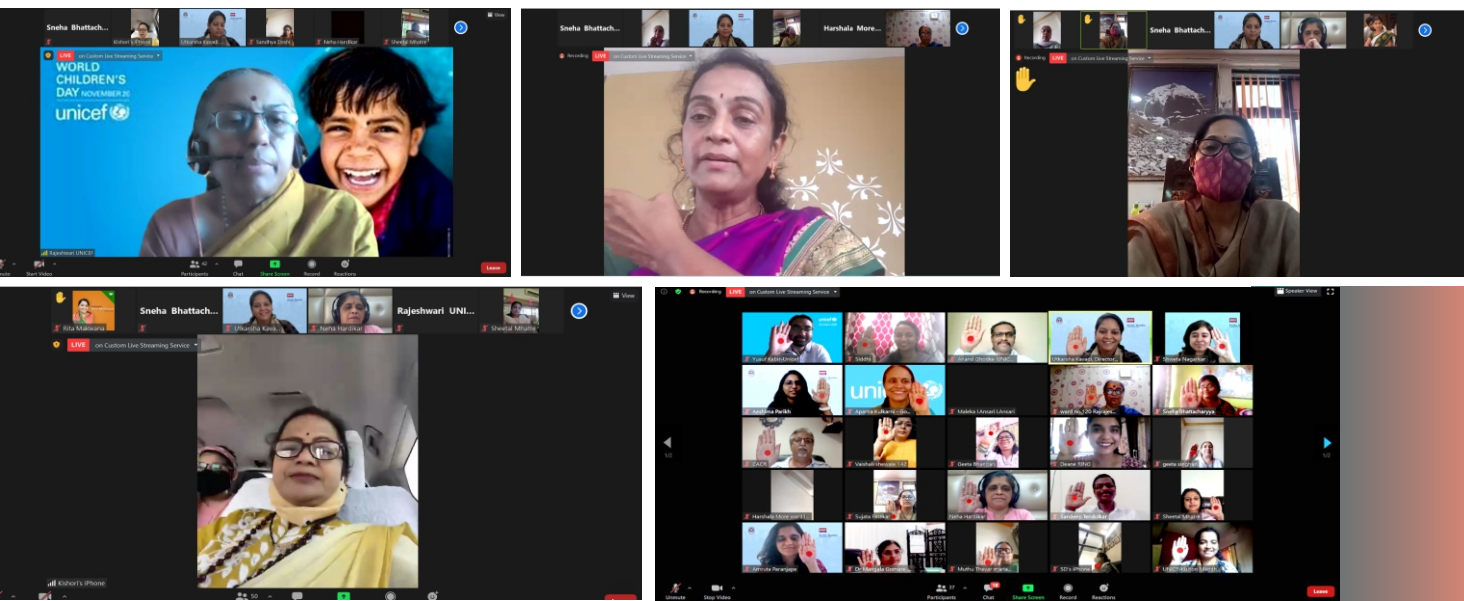
This Webinar for Elected Representatives given their indispensable role in bringing change at the local level in cities through ward level initiatives. The webinar was initiated with an introduction by Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi, Director of RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai. Ms. Rajeshwari Chandrasekar, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Maharashtra gave the welcome speech. The webinar was focused on generating ideas for MHM Friendly Wards and eventually MHM Friendly Mumbai. Keynote speech was given by the Smt. Kishori Pednekar, Hon'ble Mayor of

Mumbai, who stressed on the need of MHM implementation at local level and encouraged the Elected Representatives to participate in the discussions.

A presentation on MHM practices and initiatives was made by Ms. Aparna Kulkarni Gowande from UNICEF, Maharashtra, Ms. Deane De Menzes from RING and Mr. Nitin Wadhwani from CACR culminating in a #RedDotChallenge among the attendees.

At the end, session also witnessed an enthusiastic discussion among the Elected Representatives where several ideas for MHM implementation were exchanged.

GLIMPSES OF THE WEBINAR



S e c t i o n

2

Webinar on

COVID -19 AND MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM) FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF NASHIK AND NAGPUR

04th June, 2021

Key Objectives

The key objective of the webinar was to create awareness among ERs on their potential contributions and establishing dialogue between ERs to spread the message on MHM in their respective cities.

BACKGROUND

Menstruation is a natural, normal 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. However, due to 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. Indifference and insensitivity of society to this subject makes it more complex. 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, work, and other activities.

In order to end period poverty and stigma by the year 2030, Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) was initiated by the German

non- profit organization 'WASH United' in the year 2013. 28th May is celebrated as MH day as a typical menstrual cycle among women is 28 days long on average with 5 days of menses. Every year, 28th May i.e. Menstrual Hygiene Day, brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to break the silence, raise awareness and change negative social norms around menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) for all women and girls across the world. The MH Day engages decision-makers to increase the political priority and catalyze action for MHH, at global, national and local levels.

Considering this background, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) at All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai conducted webinar on 'COVID-19 and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for Elected Representatives of Nashik and Nagpur Municipal Corporations' on 4th June 2021 as a part of Maharashtra Urban WASH & Environmental Sanitation Coalition – a joint initiative of UNICEF Maharashtra and RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai.

PARTICIPATION

The webinar was attended by 33 Elected Representatives comprising Hon'ble Mayors and other elected representatives of Nashik and Nagpur Municipal Corporations from state of Maharashtra.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The webinar was commenced with an introduction by Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi, Director of RCUES of AILSG, Mumbai highlighting the importance of MHM facilities in a city. Mr. Yusuf Kabir, UNICEF, Maharashtra gave the welcome speech stressing on preventing disruption of MHM services during pandemic.

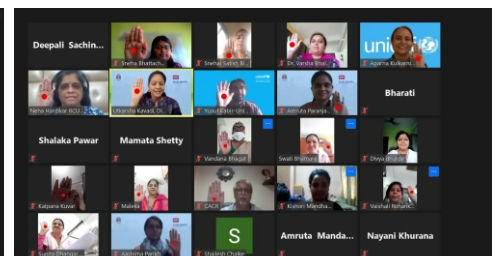
Shri Satish Kulkarni, Hon'ble Mayor of Nashik in his speech agreed to extend his support to the implementation of MHM at

local level and encouraged the attending Elected Representatives to become proactive in implementing MHM in their respective municipal wards.

After inaugural address, a presentation on MHM practices and initiatives was made by Ms. Aparna Kulkarni Gowande from UNICEF, Maharashtra, Ms. Deane De Menzes from RING and Mr. Nitin Wadhvani from CACR culminating in a #RedDotChallenge among the attendees.

At the conclusion, session also witnessed an enthusiastic discussion among the Elected Representatives where several ideas for MHM implementation were exchanged. Elected Representatives given their indispensable role in bringing change at the local level in cities through ward level initiatives.

GLIMPSES OF THE WEBINAR



S e c t i o n

3

FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS) AND KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS) WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN EXPLORING URBAN GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE LIGHT OF COVID -19 IN MUMBAI

April – July 2021

BACKGROUND

The pandemic has exposed the fragility of our urban systems like never before. It has very clearly demonstrated that while national and state governments play a crucial role towards a systematic and unified approach to response and mobilizing resources, it is the cities and urban systems where the battle is being fought. This was possible by greater devolution of powers and greater investment in public health by cities. Situation is worsened due to the lack of capacity of the urban local bodies to deliver basic social services including health, nutrition, education, child protection and social protection services and to mitigate impact on children, especially for most marginalized children, adolescents and women. There is a need to assess the basic building blocks for enhancement of urban local governance structures and institutional arrangements for basic social services for vulnerable children and families in urban space, which include fiscal space and planning capacity of urban local bodies.

Considering the background, All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai has undertaken this study, which is supported by UNICEF, Maharashtra.

The study explores the urban social protection schemes to understand its coverage in the city, identify the gaps and develop a brief on the content and design of urban social protection schemes. The study has helped locate the gaps and how they be further filled through policy recommendations. This engagement will also has also located noteworthy

practices in managing COVID-19 in Mumbai and delivering social protection in Mumbai during the pandemic. It could help policy makers to translate lessons learned from this pandemic into urban governance frameworks to reduce urban inequalities and vulnerabilities.

The key objective of the study is to understand the role of MCGM administration and elected representatives in delivering services to vulnerable communities during the Pandemic and critically review the existing coverage of urban social protection schemes within a life cycle approach, in two selected municipal wards – G North and M East of MCGM, Mumbai and identify gaps.

The emphasis was given on conducting FGDs/ Stakeholder consultation, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) while studying urban social protection schemes to capture primary data through respective government officials from government departments at state and city level and understand roles of Elected Representatives (ERs) and government officials in the implementation of these schemes during COVID times to assess the COVID response in Mumbai city. In all, 53 KIIs of state officials from 8 departments, 24 KIIs of MCGM officials and 1 KII of ER were conducted through field visits.

Concurrently, understanding the ground reality/challenges in implementation of urban social protection schemes under health, education, nutrition, security, livelihood and WASH sectors during pandemic was an imperative to assess the gaps in implementation of the USP schemes. In all, 2 FGDs and 3 KIIs

of SHGs and beneficiaries were conducted. The FGDs and KIIs were valuable in understanding perspective of different stakeholders in COVID response.

GLIMPSES OF ON-SITE FGDS AND KIIS



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Disclaimer

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