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RCUES, Mumbai
Enabling better cities...

Urban Environ Vision

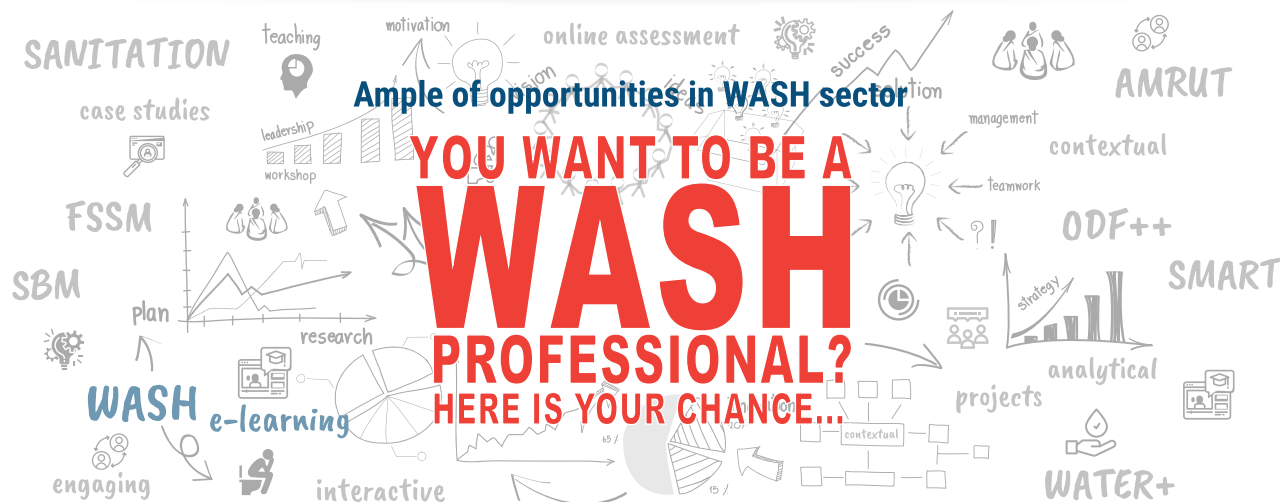
An Information Bulletin



RCUES
Mumbai

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

Established in the year 1968, is fully supported by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India



Graduate Professional Diploma Program at
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Course content



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SANITATION TECHNOLOGY: Assess human health hazards related to waste generated in communities.



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BEHAVIOR CHANGE AND ADVOCACY: Understand behavioral aspects, its determinants and develop analytical skills for understanding WASH.



EMERGENCY SANITATION: Understand history, key elements of humanitarian aid, sanitation needs and technical options during emergencies.

Eligibility



Having a University Bachelor's Degree in any graduate field. Preference will be given to students from Science, Engineering (Civil, Environmental), Environmental Sciences, Planning and such relevant backgrounds.

GSGS

The GSGS is a platform for dissemination of knowledge on sanitation through various courses so that sanitation challenges can be embraced with advanced knowledge. The Graduate Professional Diploma Program was established in 2015 by IHE, Delft now disseminated through GSGS, supported by IHE. AIILSG, Mumbai will be disseminating the course as **Post Graduate Diploma in WASH Management (PGDWM)**.



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The Content

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6th & 7th January 2021**

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**Section 04 : Regional Specialised Web-Based Training Programme on
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27th & 28th January 2021.**

President, AIILSG, India
Mr. Ranjit Chavan

Director General, AIILSG, &
Editor in-Chief
Mr. Rajiv Agarwal, IAS (Retd.)

Director, RCUES, AIILSG, &
Editor
Ms. Utkarsha Kavadi

Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Urban Transportation and Road Safety: Awareness and Infrastructure'

6th - 7th January 2021

The key highlights of this web-based training programme were that the participants were acquainted with the updates on street designs as good practices across India. These street designs have been formulated as a result of experience gained over a period of time can be replicated in other cities. The Trainers also emphasized upon the participants to promote non-motorized transport so as to ensure sustainable urban transportation and reduce road accidents.

Background

Rapid urbanization in developing countries presents tremendous challenges to the transport systems of growing cities if they are to meet the access and mobility needs of their communities and provide them with a sustainable, safe and healthy environment. The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transportation (AMRUT) scheme, launched on 25th June 2015, is aimed at providing basic services focuses on ensuring safe and secure urban transport facility. Recognizing the obstacle that road traffic injuries present to development efforts, a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) was added to the 2030 Agenda. The goal calls for a 50% reduction in road traffic deaths by 2020. The SDGs also identify solutions to the road safety challenge in urban areas (SDG 11). SDG 11.2 recognizes the importance of having access to a safe and sustainable urban transport system for all, making specific reference to improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport. The absence of adequate infrastructure in our cities, together with continual rise in vehicle population makes the exponential rise in the number of road accidents. The expedient public transport facility aims to reduce dependence on the private car by encouraging use of public transport. This can potentially improve safety by reducing the populations' exposure to unsafe travel. The role of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in reducing road casualties is crucial. However, despite the need to improve the situation, a comprehensive road safety strategy is a prerequisite at ULB level.

Considering this, Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai had organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Urban Transportation and Road Safety: Awareness and Infrastructure' on 6th & 7th January 2021 (11.30 to 13.00 hrs.). This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

Key Objective

The key objective of this web-based training programme was to develop the strategies to reduce the road accidents and ensure road safety and promote urban transportation at city level.

Participation

In all 29 participants comprising Elected Representatives, Municipal Engineers, City Level Technical Cell (CLTC) Engineers, State Mission Managers, City Project Officers, Community Organizers, Health Workers, City Coordinators, Management Information System (MIS) / IT Experts, Revenue Inspectors, Sanitary Inspectors, Social Workers of ULBs from Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Assam were present for this web-based training programme.

Introduction

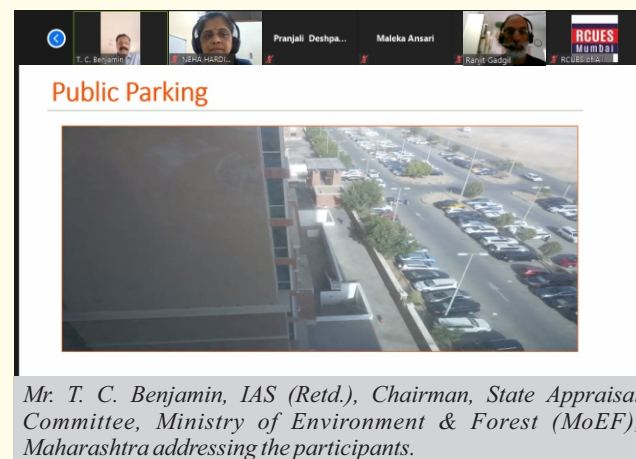
Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai gave a brief background about the RCUES and its activities relating to research and training. She welcomed distinguished trainers and the participants and explained the objective of the web-based training programme. She said that Urban Transportation is one of the important thrust areas under AMRUT mission. The Government of India launched this Mission to improve the urban service delivery and infrastructure to make the cities sustainable and livable. The training programme was divided in to two parts. On the first day, the focus was given on urban transportation, non – motorized transportation and good practices across India in urban transport and street designs. On the next day, the focus was on Road safety. She gave introduction of the trainers and requested them to commence the sessions.



Technical Sessions

The technical session on 'Overview of AMRUT Mission with reference to Urban Transportation' was conducted by Mr. T. C. Benjamin, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, State Appraisal Committee, Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Maharashtra. Mr. Benjamin commenced his session by saying that urban transportation is an important component

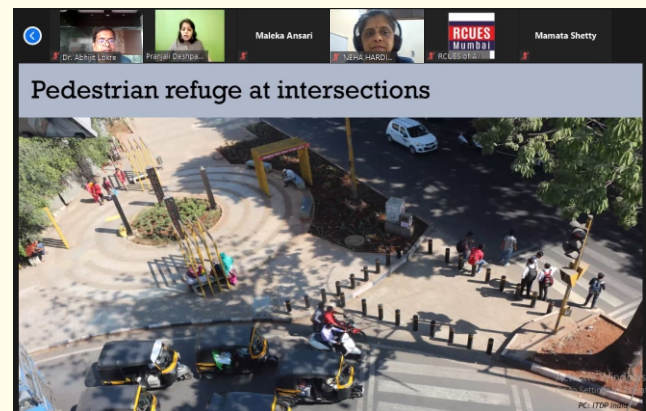
in improving quality of life in cities. He explained contents of the 'National Urban Transport Policy 2006', and emphasized on promoting public transport. He talked on problems of pollution and congestion in which he said that homogeneous traffic increases speed and decreases congestion. Cities across India have heterogeneous traffic that increases the congestion. The solution for heterogeneous traffic can be facilitated under AMRUT mission. Later he talked on segregation of traffic by three ways: segregation in relation to destination where he mentioned about bypass roads and elevated roads, segregation by type of traffic where he focused on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), cycle tracks, pedestrian ways and elevated footways and expressways and lastly segregation of moving vehicles from parked vehicles. He gave examples of provision of off street parking-basement parking and provision of off-street parking –no-shop-frontage streets. He said that parking should not hinder the traffic. He concluded his session by encouraging the participants to develop the sustainable projects to be implemented under the AMRUT mission with a view to reduce urban transport problems.



The next technical session on 'Raising Public Awareness about Sustainable Urban Transport' was conducted by Mr. Ranjit Gadgil, Programme Director, Parisar, Pune. He

started his session by focusing on sustainable urban transport for “People-Friendly” city. He talked on scenario of cities' mobility crisis comprising severe congestion, conflict between multiple modes and average speed being less than 10 km/hr. in many areas of cities. He pointed out the health crisis due to traffic congestion which leads to 4.2 million premature deaths occurring every year due to the adverse effects of the air pollution. (Ref: World Health Organization, 2016). He then spoke about the safety crisis of cities where 1000 accidents and more than 200 deaths occurred in which most of the victims are pedestrians, cyclists, or two-wheeler riders. He added that recently cities have become unattractive to live in due to decreasing open spaces and green cover that impedes the quality of life of people. He talked on thought of administrators, which are obvious as they suggest increasing road spaces, making more parking spaces available and ensuring adequate fuel supply for increased number of vehicles in cities. He said that solution to traffic congestion is not limited to the number of vehicles, but on various factors. The urban designers look at traffic and transportation in a comprehensive way of urban life in a new emerging perspective. He quoted the mantra that a city should design for people not for vehicles. Later he talked on non-motorized transport (NMT). He elaborated that urban transport policy envisages restrictions on personal motorized vehicles and improvement of public and non-motorized transport.

He showed several pictures of national and international cities which are having 'people friendly' urban transport. The urban designer focuses on a number of things - utilities on footpaths, location of streetlights, signage, traffic signals etc., location of street vendors, bus stops, crossings (locations, zebra, and pedestrian refuge), and auto-rickshaw stands while designing the roads in cities. He concluded his session by saying that people should be encouraged to use public transport and non-motorized transport (NMT) to reduce the pollution through awareness campaigns and that has to address safety concerns of pedestrians and cyclists.



Ms. Pranjali Deshpande, Independent Cosultant, World Bank & French Development Agency, Pune addressing the participants.



Mr. Ranjit Gadgil, Programme Director, Parisar, Pune addressing the participants.

The next session on 'Best Practices in Urban Transport / Street Designs' was taken by Ms. Pranjali Deshpande, Independent Cosultant, World Bank & French Development Agency, Pune. She started her session by showing graphical presentation of Indian cities' mode of transport in which the percentage of those using public transports is relatively less than other modes of transports. Through pictures she showed how the situation changes for good -comparing the situations before and after the implementation of good practices. Thereafter, she talked on the Urban Street Design Guidelines which aim at ensuring that appropriate street types and design elements are implemented with a view to create better streets for people. She further gave an overview of various elements that go into designing streets for making them

universally accessible and also to provide standard templates for different sizes and uses of streets. She said that street design guidelines provide a mandate for city engineers and planners for designing and making streets to meet local needs, instead of the conventional approach. She later explained various requirements for designing streets with the objectives that all people should be able to move safely, smoothly and conveniently while using street elements such as walkways, cycle tracks, bus stops etc. She later talked about the safety element of street designs such as pedestrians crossing, speed breakers, traffic signals, street lights and street furniture which make streets safe, clean, attractive and comfortable. She continued elucidating upon multi-utility zones which includes plantation, utility and services, storm water management, garbage containers and public toilets which are essential items for inclusion in designing the streets. She presented some selected cases of street designs as good practices across India. She said that multi-utility concept is successfully implemented in Nanded and Pune in Maharashtra State and in Chennai. She then explained the street design process which requires study of land use and transportation and takes into consideration NMT network plan and street design guidelines. Sufficient allocation of funds and effective implementation of the entire street design process are crucial for this purpose, she emphasized.

On the next day, the technical session on 'Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' was taken by Dr. Abhijit Lokre, Founder & Partner, The Urban Lab, Ahmedabad. He said that as a part of India's commitment, road safety is an important sustainable development goal included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming at the reduction of global road traffic deaths and injuries by 50 percent by 2020; and by 2030, to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding capacity of the public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

India's Commitment to Road Safety

By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

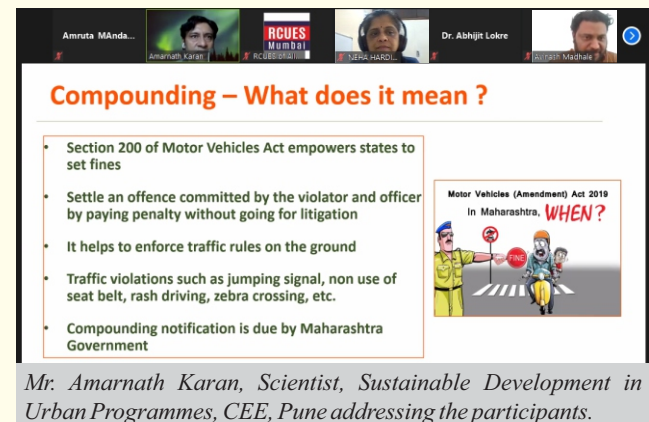
Dr. Abhijit Lokre, Founder & Partner, The Urban Lab, Ahmedabad addressing the participants.

Thereafter he explained various initiatives taken in India. The National Road Safety Policy was launched in 2010, where focus is given on strengthening legal institutional and financial framework for road safety with a view to ensure safety aspect in road designs. In 2015, India signed the Brasilia Declaration on road safety. Financial assistance for administering Road Safety Advocacy was initiated in 2017. Further, India took an initiative by setting up Driving Training Centre (DTC). Along with this, guidelines were issued for promoting setting up of the Inspection and Certification (I&C) Centres to inspect and issue fitness certificate as per the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) 1989 and doing safety and emission inspection for all vehicles. Further in 2019, the Motor Vehicles Act was amended for including mandatory safety measures viz., helmet, seat belt, speed limits etc. In 2020, India participated in the 3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for achieving global goals 2030. In 2021, various activities will be conducted nation-wide in coordination with State Governments/UT administrations, and other stakeholders. He later talked on infrastructure planning in road safety by explaining its key approaches. While elaborating on the key approaches in road safety, he explained that the safe system approach is aimed at facilitating the exchange of ideas and experiences for improving road safety and to promote a shared vision towards zero road accident deaths in the country. Safe vehicles play a

crucial role in reducing road accidents and the associated traumas. Along with this, appropriately designed vehicles will go a long way to prevent crashes and reduce or absorb some of the causes of the crashes. He also spoke about Road Safety Audit (RSA), which is the second key approach of road safety. He mentioned that majority of the accidents occur due to over speeding, and that audit system is a prerequisite to restrict it. He also mentioned that audited projects are five times more effective at reducing crashes than the unaudited projects. He later talked on introducing deterrent measures and adding, two more key approaches of road safety in sustainable modes. He concluded his session by saying that the key to achieving SDG targets lies in reducing the rate of motorization which leads to increase in travel demand stresses, necessitating investment in sustainable modes, especially in public transport.

The next session on 'Legal Frameworks and Institutional Mandates of Road Safety in Urban Transport' was conducted by Mr. Amarnath Karan, Scientist, Sustainable Development in Urban Programmes, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Pune. He commenced his session by explaining safe systems approach to road safety through road safety network. He added that road safety is a requirement public health which needs to be pursued by and advocating for appropriate legislation based on safe systems approach, transparent and accountable implementation of road safety action plans, periodic review of action plans for proper implementation through active participation of people. He presented the figures showing the rate of accidents allied to mortality. He talked on mortalities due to non-use of safety devices by adding that about 30% of total deaths can be attributed to non-use of helmets and 14% of total deaths can be attributed to non-use of seat belts. He said that Maharashtra State is reported as the 6th highest State in the number of accidents and 2nd highest State in mortalities due to accidents. He emphasized that road safety is a part of the SDGs in which the key objective is to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems

for all and improving road safety especially to vulnerable section. He said that the Government is fully committed to safety of our citizens by reducing mortalities by 50% by 2030. He focused on 4Es of Road Safety and emphasized that only a 'safe system approach' will show positive results in the long run. The approach of alignment of SDGs with road safety adopted by the United Nations is particularly relevant for countries like India, where the problem of safety is also linked to social equity.



Compounding – What does it mean ?

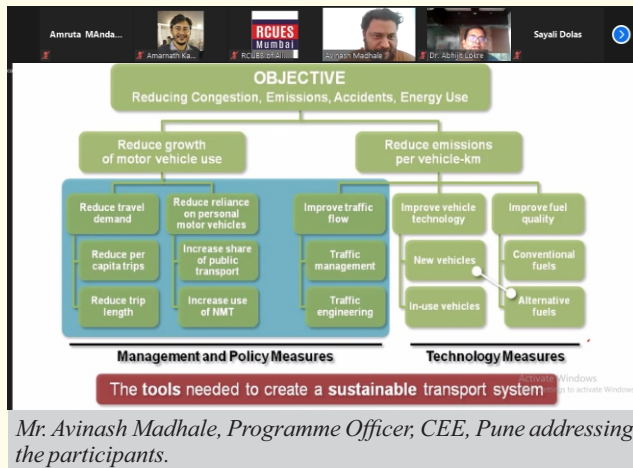
- Section 200 of Motor Vehicles Act empowers states to set fines
- Settle an offence committed by the violator and officer by paying penalty without going for litigation
- It helps to enforce traffic rules on the ground
- Traffic violations such as jumping signal, non use of seat belt, rash driving, zebra crossing, etc.
- Compounding notification is due by Maharashtra Government

Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019
In Maharashtra, **WHEN?**

Mr. Amarnath Karan, Scientist, Sustainable Development in Urban Programmes, CEE, Pune addressing the participants.

He added that a large number of pedestrians, cyclists and motorized two-wheelers compete for space on roads, therefore, the road safety requirements of these vulnerable sections need to be kept in mind while designing and developing transport strategies. He explained legal mandates by saying that in Indian cities, safety standards are specified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. He further added that section 200 of Motor Vehicles Act empowers State authorities to set fines, compounding the offences committed by the violator by the officer on the spot in the form of receiving penalty from the violator. This substantially reduces litigation. It is also an effective measure to enforce traffic rules on the ground. He concluded his session by mentioning that deaths due to road accidents can be prevented speed through regulation, enforcement of helmet and seat belts and enforcement of distracted and drunk driving.

The last technical session on 'Development of Urban Public Transport Infrastructure Services' was taken by Mr. Avinash Madhale, Programme Officer, Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Pune.



He commenced his session by explaining how daily transportation experience is unhealthy, unsafe and congestive. He emphasized that growth of motorized traffic is a problem, and cited example of six largest cities in India like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, where the growth of vehicles is eight times more than the population growth. Thereafter he focused on the tools needed for sustainable transportation for reducing congestion, emission, accidents etc. He explained that according to the National Urban Transport Policy (2006), people should be able to move safely. For this purpose, emphasis should be on public transport along with non motorized transport and comprehensive mobility plan. He further explained the components of comprehensive mobility plan which includes road designs, traffic management, public transport, walkways and cycle tracks, travel demand management, road management and maintenance and commercial terminals etc. He further elaborated upon the importance of cities' investment in public transport with a view to reduce congestion, improve

air quality, control sprawl and mobility choices. He concluded his session by making mention of the financing options like National Bus System Fund, State Road Safety Fund which can be utilised to implement comprehensive mobility plan for sustainable urban transport.

The sessions were followed by Question and Answer session (Q and A session) where the participants were allowed to ask questions to the trainers for clarifying their doubts, if any and to elicit any particular information they desire. In Q and A session, the trainers' emphasized the participants to implement street design process in their respective cities and the good practices implemented in Indian cities, as presented in the sessions.

Summing-up

The feedback was taken at the conclusion of the training programme. Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai, concluded the training programme by giving a Vote of Thanks to the trainers and the participants.

Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Women's Health, Safety and Livelihood After COVID-19'

13th - 14th January 2021

The key highlight of this web-based training programme was that the participants learned and updated themselves about several initiatives implemented in various cities to tackle women's health, social and economic issues. They were also informed of the efforts undertaken to make vulnerable communities self-reliant through newly livelihood generating opportunities for women during the ongoing pandemic. Exchange of experience was also a valuable take-away for the participants.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a deep impact on the whole gamut of life activities. Some sections of society particularly the staff of local authorities, doctors, paramedic staff, health workers, marginalized sections, especially women among them had to bear the burden to a greater degree. The past experiences of epidemic outbreaks had shown evidence of increased maternal mortality and other health and economic issues because during epidemics, resources and priorities are re-allocated to the containment of the virus/epidemic which affects the regular delivery of services. In addition to inadequacy of access to proper health care facilities, women also suffered from social and economic impact of COVID-19 including an increase in domestic violence in families, neglect of own care and unequal share in domestic resources, going through financial difficulties and lack of awareness. A gender-inclusive policy planning and implementation is the need of the hour to manage the corona virus pandemic by improving health services and social security measures.

Considering this scenario, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai had organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Women's Health, Safety & Livelihoods After COVID-19, on 13th & 14th January 2021 between 11.30 to

13.00 hrs. This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

Key Objective

The key objective of the training programme was to discuss gender-inclusive policies and actions in addressing challenges faced during the Pandemic and ensuring health and safety.

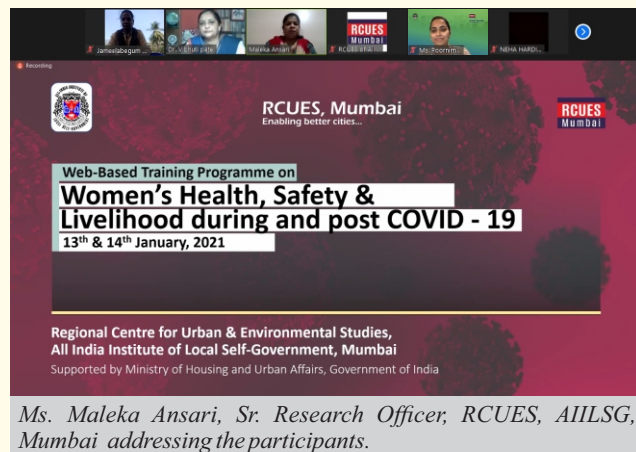
Participation

In all 40 participants, comprising former Mayors, Presidents, municipal corporators / councillors, social workers, community organizers, sanitary inspectors, assistant project officers, MIS experts, global advisor, city project officers, city coordinators, project coordinators of urban local bodies (ULBs) of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Assam participated in this online training programme.

Introduction

At the outset Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai gave an introduction of the web-based training programme and welcomed the trainers and

the participants. She explained the objective of the training programme. She gave introduction of the trainers and requested them to commence the sessions.

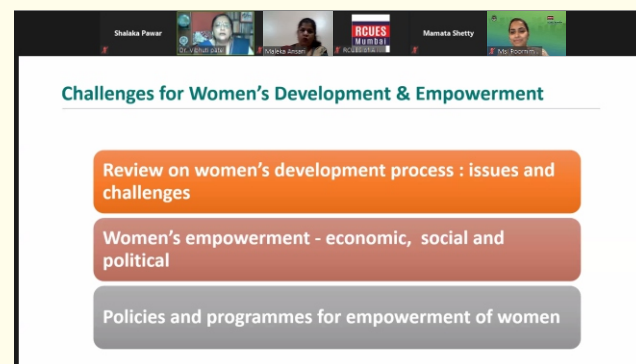


Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Technical Sessions

The first technical session on 'Women's Development and Empowerment' was taken by Dr. Vibhuti Patel Professor (Retd.), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. She began the session by briefly explaining women's development process including the issues and challenges she faces in traditional society, notwithstanding the changing trend of modernization in India, which aim at bringing about betterment in her life. She also discussed the policies and programmes introduced for women's socio, economic and political empowerment. She explained how women tackled health emergencies throughout the lockdown and extended lockdown periods, which started from March 2020 and continued with extensions and partial relaxations. She emphasized that, COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health issue but impacts the lives adversely. It is a profound shock to our society and economy where women are at the heart of providing family care and they respond to the newly emerged situations with all the limitations. Like the front-line health workers, municipal personnel, health professionals, community volunteers, transport and logistics managers, scientists, who are making crucial contributions to deal with the outbreak of COVID-19, women come in this line of responders. She further said that, women workers

have been disproportionately affected by loss of jobs/works, reduced working hours with curtailment of income and financial crisis. She added that it is a fact of life that women spend about ten times more time on unpaid care work than men. This unequal distribution of care-giving responsibilities is linked to stereotypes of gender roles and deeply rooted in the traditions of our society, which need to change, albeit changing slowly. She also said that women as health care providers, form almost 70% among the frontline health care workforce as doctors, nurses, sanitary workers, Anganwadi workers (ICDS) and ASHA workers (NRHM), school teachers, etc. and are equally susceptible to high risk of infection. Moreover, women are facing increased domestic care burdens in the wake of children and earning members being confined to home during the lockdown. Middle and upper-class educated employed women were working from home as they had information technology-enabled communication channels. She further said that the pandemic had appalling implications for the vulnerable sections of the population like women-headed households, people with disability, pregnant women, homeless people, street children, lonely elderly, socially stigmatized transgender community and sex workers.



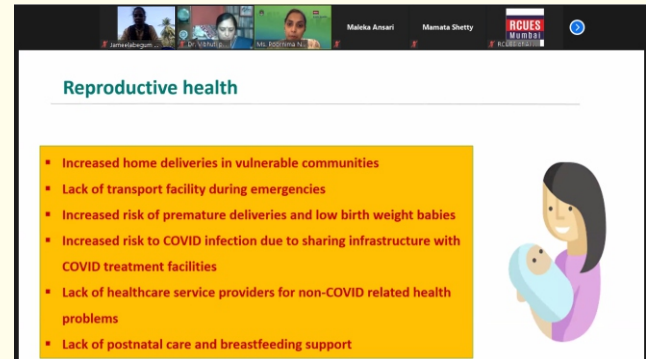
Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Professor (Retd.), TISS, Mumbai addressing the participants.

She further explained the consequences of reverse migration without in the absence of most of the normal travelling modes which were accentuated on account of barriers in inter-state cross-over resulting in dangerous routes used by the migrant families, which resulted into the most unfortunate instances of getting mowed down by bus, truck, train, etc. Violence against women was escalated due to

social isolation under the lockdown. She elaborated upon the Government COVID-19 Relief Package offered during the COVID times. At the end of the session, she explained that there was a need for reduction of socioeconomic inequalities through innovative public economics policies and gender responsive participatory budgeting. She highlighted need for economic and social development for women, more so during the pandemic.

The next session on 'Impact of COVID-19 on Women's Health & Health Practices' was taken by Ms. Poornima Nair, Director (Health & Disability), Apnalaya, Mumbai. She discussed the impacts of the pandemic on women health from top to bottom staratum of the society. She stated that the maximum impact of COVID-19 was borne by women, children and adolescents. Further she said that women are more likely to bear the impact of social and economic consequence of the pandemic due to increased workload of domestic chores like childcare, cooking, cleaning, laundry, looking after sick or elderly family members, etc. Generally, women lack access to sufficient health care facilities. Besides this, there was an increased incidence of physical and emotional abuse against women. Pregnant and lactating mothers and children were susceptible to contracting COVID infections. She also explained that, women are economically impacted more due to the deepening of pre-existing gender inequalities. Further she explained the impact on the reproductive health of a woman during epidemics and this pandemic. She elaborated upon the impact on reproductive health occurred due to reduced access and utilization of essential maternal health services, food insecurity leading to poor food intake during pregnancies, unavailability of Iron Folic Acid (IFA) and calcium supplements, mothers missing out on essential immunizations during pregnancy, increased financial burden for the families availing services of private practitioners, high-risk pregnancy cases going unidentified, disruption of Take Home Ration (THR) distribution through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and inability to access services for termination of unwanted pregnancies. In her presentation, she also focused on the impact on the reproductive health of women from vulnerable communities which occurred due to increased number of home deliveries in vulnerable communities, lack of transport facility during emergencies, increased risk of premature deliveries and low birth-weight babies, increased risk to COVID infection due to sharing facilities with COVID treatment facilities and lack of healthcare service providers for non-COVID related health problems. During the pandemic, due to several reasons including fear of COVID, unpaid work at home, financial

crisis, unavailability of health care facilities, women went through mental stress, and showed symptoms like stress, anxiety, anger, insomnia, ability to focus, etc. After explaining the impact on women's health, she talked about opportunities to address the issues of women's health. She explained that the healthcare system needs to be strengthened by focusing on primary health and nutritional programmes. She concluded the session by emphasizing to safeguard the health system and focusing on gender-sensitive response and addressing stigma towards mental health.



Ms. Poornima Nair, Director, Health & Disability, Apnalaya, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Mrs. E. Jameela Begum Pathan, Founder Member, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan (GBGB), Mumbai took the next session on the topic of 'COVID-19 Pandemic and Safety of Women and Girl Child'. She started the session by pointing out the scenario of the slums in Mumbai city where most of the migrants live to pursue their livelihoods and were forcibly compelled to stay in the small space of the slums with their families in unhygienic conditions and having poor access to primary services. A few NGOs dedicatedly provided relief during pandemic including the total lockdown. At the outset of pandemic lockdown, GBGB had started running a community kitchen to provide food to the migrants and jobless people as a social solidarity measure in slums. GBGB arranged and served more than 1 million meals to the needy, during the lockdown. She also informed about the relief camps which were provided for 300 migrants & homeless in the western parts of Mumbai city. GBGB, Mumbai also supported these people by taking care of their cooking, cleaning, and other daily chores. Special measures for women were taken like separate toilets in the camp to maintain the health and hygiene of women workers. She further added that representatives of GBGB helped these migrants to return to their home towns safely during the pandemic.

Social Solidarity under COVID19 pandemic induced lockdown

- **Community kitchens**
 1. Five community kitchens run by GBGBA volunteers
 2. Run by an army of individuals from the community purely on voluntarily basis
 3. Community Control
 4. Control over the choice
 5. Cheaper
 6. Larger outreach

(Served more than 1 million meals)



Ms. E. Jameela Begum Pathan, Founder Member, Ghar Bachao Ghar Banao Andolan, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Concluding the session, she said that GBGB had implemented emergency relief activities in the majority of the communities by providing cooked meals through community kitchens, dry ration, sanitary napkins, PPE kits, masks, gloves, and sanitizers to hospitals, nurses training during the pandemic. At the end of the session, she appealed for constitution of area wise relief committees, by government to effectively tackle the pandemic crisis.

On the second day, the technical session on 'Preparedness and Response Mechanism at ULB Level: Recovering from COVID-19' was taken by Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), former Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. He discussed the role of ULBs in urban administration especially in emergency management and the manner of empowering ULBs for prevention and control of calamity like COVID-19. He emphasized upon the empowerment of ULBs by citing reference of the article 243W of the Constitution inserted by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (74th CAA). He said that, if ULBs which are adequately empowered to act as vibrant Local Self Government units which was the goal of the 74th CAA, they can perform a far more effective role through the devolution of powers and responsibilities to them.

He further discussed the 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India inserted by the 74th CAA through which ULBs as local government are enjoined to formulate economic development and social justice plans. He mentioned that the Government (Central as well as State) spends only 1.25 to 1.5% of its GDP on Public health. {Ref: Report by the World Health Organization (WHO)}. He further stated that the

Women & Child Development Committees (WCDC) of local bodies can play a far more effective role in women and child development activities by making sufficient budget provisions. The budget provisions will allow WCDC to formulate promotive and curative health programmes, to tackle the morbidity like COVID at the city level. He added that most of the ULBs are unaware of gender budget provisions and their appropriate usage for women and child development activities. He further said that ULBs need to strengthen their infrastructure instead of resorting to privatization or engage in Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Thereafter he discussed the role of the Disaster Management Department and by adopting an integrated urban and regional planning approach. In an integrated planning approach, ULBs have to include peri-urban areas while planning for the development of infrastructure. He concluded his session by stating the importance of social engagement in preventive measures of COVID.

The Constitution of India (Part IXA): The Municipalities

243W. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow—

- (a) the Municipalities with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Municipalities, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, with respect to—
 - (i) the preparation of plans for **economic development and social justice**;
 - (ii) the performance of functions and the implementation of schemes as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Twelfth Schedule;
- (b) the **Committees with such powers and authority** as may be necessary to enable them to carry out the responsibilities conferred upon them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Twelfth Schedule

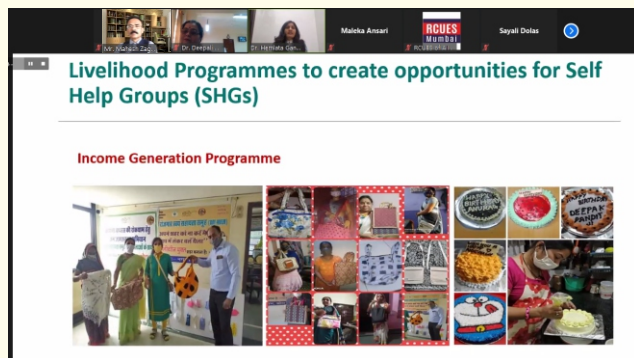
Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), former Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra addressing the participants.

ULBs' Presentations

After the technical sessions, ULBs made presentations related to the post-pandemic challenges for women and efforts taken at the city level to tackle them and ensure health and safety for women.

The first ULB presentation on 'Efforts are taken in Cities during Pandemic' was made by Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, SM&ID Manager, NULM, Brand Ambassador SBM & BBBP Kota, Rajasthan. At the beginning of her session, she spoke about the impact of the pandemic crisis in Kota city by

highlighting on the situation as prevailed during first phase of COVID- 19. She drew attention of the participants on the present scenario relating to the good habits developed in the context of compulsorily uses of face mask, keeping social distances, hand hygiene, etc.

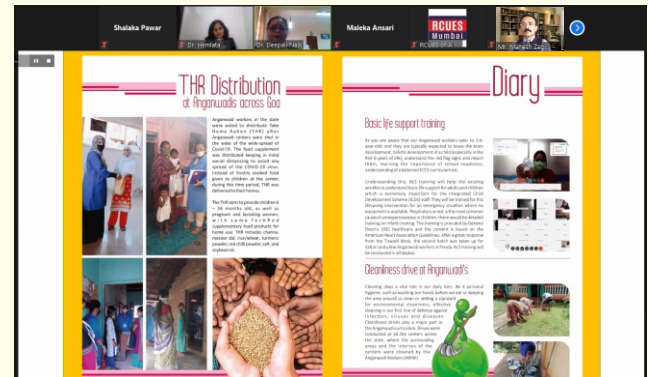


Dr. Hemlata Gandhi, SM&ID Manager, NULM, Brand Ambassador SBM & BBBP Kota, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

For achieving successful COVID control programme, various drives were launched and successfully implemented through Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the NULM mission and SHGs played a dynamic role in tackling pandemic. KMC took efforts to generate livelihood opportunities through SHGs as most of the people in informal sector lost their jobs during the pandemic in Kota city. She mentioned that 39 women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Kota have provided more than 51,000 masks to frontline workers. She further said that SHGs also made face shield, PPE kits, gowns, lab coats for front line workers and staff, and generated income sources for their livelihoods. SHGs also made food products to be provided to needy people and implemented an income-generating initiative with financial support from KMC.

The second ULB presentation on 'Efforts are taken in Cities during Pandemic' was delivered by Ms. Deepali Naik, Director and Ex-Officio Joint Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development, Panaji, Goa. She said that spreading awareness of this Corona virus is a crucial need of the hour. Anganwadi workers organized awareness programmes by keeping social distancing and observing precautions. The awareness programmes were conducted in which people were explained the importance of social distancing, hand hygiene, health issues, etc. Later, she said that Anganwadi workers were asked to distribute Take Home Ration (THR) after Anganwadi centers were shut in the wake of widespread

COVID-19 and that Anganwadi centers conducted cleanliness drives, which played a significant role in maintaining cleanliness. She emphasized upon time management during the pandemic to tackle the crisis. She concluded that SHGs in the state contributed to tackling the crisis during the pandemic by stitching more than 1 lakh masks which were distributed at very reasonable prices among the people of the lower-income group and front-line workers.



Ms. Deepali Naik, Director & Ex-Officio Joint Director, Directorate of Women & Child Development, Panaji, Goa addressing the participants.

In Question & Answer session, participants took part with interest by raising questions relating to safeguarding and providing livelihood activities among vulnerable women, health security of women sanitation worker etc. After this session, the feedback was taken from the participants. The participants discussed with the trainers in order to resolve their queries in respect of their respective cities as regards livelihood opportunities and safety.

Summing-up

At the end, Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai proposed a Vote of Thanks to the distinguished trainers and the participants and concluded the training programme.

Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Biomedical and Municipal Waste Management in Urban Areas'

21st - 22nd January 2021

The key highlights of this web-based training programme were that the participants learned how to tackle SWM challenges during the COVID time through technical sessions and how to make the city clean through various approaches and initiatives taken by ULBs, which were presented as success stories of waste management.

Background

Safe and scientific management and disposal of municipal solid waste is a major concern worldwide and particularly in developing countries like India. Following the SWM Rules 2016, it is a mandate for the urban local bodies (ULBs) in India to achieve 100% segregation of waste at source, composting or recycling at local place and further series of actions for safe disposal. Likewise, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued guidelines for biomedical waste management. Sudden outbreak and spread of COVID-19 has thrown many challenges for the waste management services, particularly because of large scale generation of hazardous medical and bio-medical wastes through testing and treatments in hospitals. In this situation, when there is no respite from the spread of the pandemic it has become all the more necessary for the ULBs to ensure greater safety and stringent measures under the MSW Rules, and the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Considering this, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai had organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Biomedical & Municipal Waste Management in Urban Areas' on 21st & 22nd January 2021 between 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

Key Objective

The key objective of the training programme was to discuss the challenges in safe municipal and biomedical waste management at the local level and suggest probable solutions, especially in response to the given COVID times.

Participation

In all 59 participants comprising Dy. Commissioner, Asst. Commissioner, Chief Officer, Executive Officer, Nodal Officer, Consultant, City Coordinator, Community Organizer, Sanitary Inspector, Multi-Purpose Health Worker, MIS/IT Expert, Computer Operator, Librarian and Social Worker of ULBs from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura attended this online training programme.

Introduction

At the outset, Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, welcomed the trainers and the participants and gave introduction of the expert trainers. She explained the challenges faced by ULBs during this pandemic and gave outline of the contents of the training programme. She said that as is the practice of the RCUES, the training programme and every technical session will conclude with interaction with the participants.

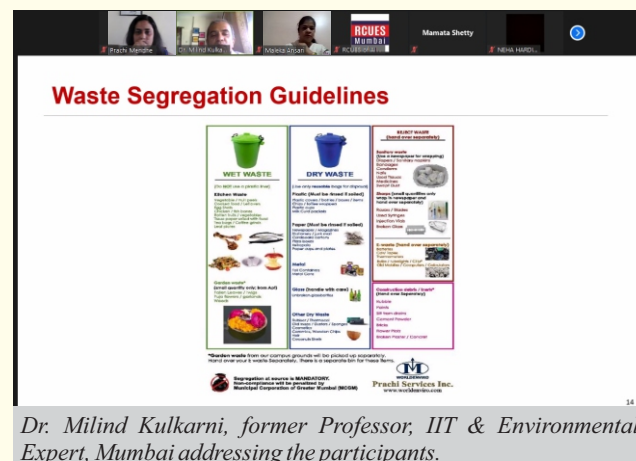


Technical Sessions

The first technical session on 'Municipal Solid Waste Management in Urban Areas' was taken by Dr. Milind Kulkarni, former Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) & Environmental Expert, Mumbai. He discussed the importance of solid waste management (SWM) and the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016. He spoke about the present scenario of waste management by pointing that cities are generating more and more waste, which is increasing by the day. In such a scenario, cities need to re-invent waste management practices in the country. Further, he focused on scientific land filling. In majority of the cities, landfills are not planned scientifically, he said. Unscientific landfills create harmful impacts on the environment due to the emission of air pollutants, greenhouse gases, foul smells, contamination of groundwater due to leachate, flies, etc., which are causative factors for spreading the diseases.

He briefly mentioned SWM aspects in the context of COVID-19. He said that the CPCB has issued guidelines for handling, treatment and disposal of waste generated during treatment, diagnosis and quarantine of COVID-19 patients which should be strictly followed by the health institutions, isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, ULBs, and Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBWTFs). At the end of the session, he explained the Standard Operating

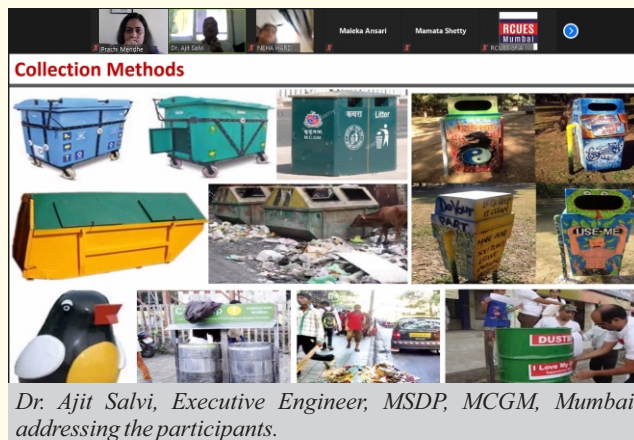
Procedures (SOPs) on segregation of waste at source. These SOPs give emphasized segregation at the source which should be collected, transported, and are disposed of in a segregated manner and cast responsibility on all the stakeholders to ensure the segregation of waste during the entire SWM chain.



The next session on 'Challenges Faced by ULBs in Handling Solid Waste during Pandemic' was taken by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project (MSDP), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Mumbai. He began his session by mentioning the scenario of solid waste management. He said that if waste is not lifted, it forms a heap of waste which is detrimental to environment and generates diseases. He further added that, due to the pandemic of COVID, the ratio of waste generated has become high which poses an extra burden to ULBs in handling solid waste. While elaborating on challenges faced by ULBs, he explained that, due to COVID-19, the additional burden has come on municipal staff and field staff in respect of collection of waste from quarantine centers, sanitizing the infected homes, sanitization of buildings and streets, supply of food packets to containment zones and quarantine centers, etc.

He further discussed about various extra measures added to the sanitation works including maintaining the safety equipment's like masks, hand gloves, sanitizers etc., organization of medical checkup of all workers, provision of

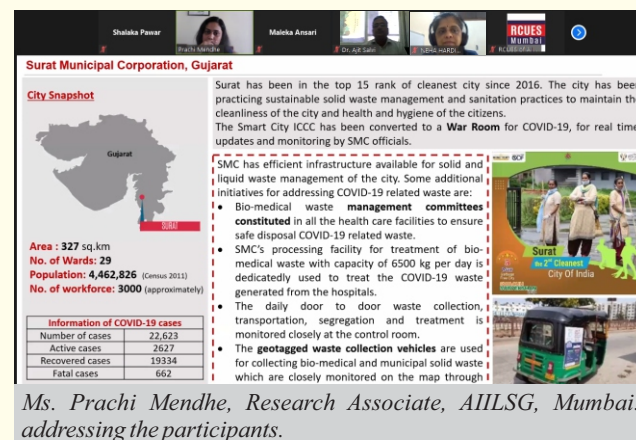
PPE kits, temperature scanning facility at the workplace, the supply of homeopathic medicine as suggested by AYUSH. NGOs, CBOs, and other stakeholders are also engaged in the process of handling the pandemic situation. He also suggested that creating awareness among the people is a primary need of the hour while tackling with COVID-19. In his concluding remarks he highlighted on Do's and Don'ts for sanitation workers before and after work, and precaution and safety measures to them.



The session on 'Solid Waste Management Practices in Indian Cities during Pandemic' was taken by Ms. Prachi Mendhe, Research Associate, AILSG, Mumbai. In the beginning, she gave a brief background of what has changed in SWM under COVID-19 as COVID-19 response initiatives and efforts of several Indian cities which were tracked during the entire lockdown period of three months; i.e. April-June, 2020. She presented research-based evaluation conducted as 'Response of Indian Cities towards Tackling COVID-19 in Sanitation Perspectives'.

She then discussed the common challenges faced by the ULBs since the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic. The ULBs adopted new measures like the formation of a separate mechanism for waste collection and disposal relating to the wastes of bio-medical hazards generated in the procedures of COVID-19, monitoring of the SWM system, formation of a dedicated team for SWM activities at the administrative level. She explained that dedicated mechanism for SWM

collection and transportation was required due to increased quantities of domestic hazardous waste such as gloves, masks, etc. Separate vehicles for collection and transportation of Bio-Medical Waste (BMW) and daily MSW, proper disposal of infected waste, monitoring of the process from collection to disposal of waste were the substantial additions of activities in many cities. She further added that many of the field staff also faced problems like attending duty in lockdown due to the unavailability of public transport facilities.



After explaining the challenges faced at various levels, she explained the initiatives undertaken by city administration to overcome the challenges. She explained the efforts taken by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC). PCMC had established a separate waste collection mechanism for quarantined households. The route mapping of the houses was done based on GIS database analysis. All the waste generated from the quarantined households was collected by the Bio-Medical Waste Team and not through regular waste collection mechanism. This was to avoid any spread of infection while handling the waste. Bio-medical waste management committees are constituted in all the health care facilities to ensure safe disposal of COVID-19 related waste. The geo-tagged waste collection vehicles are used for collecting bio-medical and municipal solid waste which are closely monitored on the map through geo-location. At the end, she concluded by depicting the snapshots of several cities' efforts like route mapping, capacity building, etc. to tackle the challenges of MSWM in cities during COVID time.

On the second day, the first technical was delivered by Dr. Shilpa Narayanan, Director, Training, Appa Patwardhan Tantraniketan, Dehu Village, Pune on 'Biomedical Waste Management (BMWM) in Urban Areas'.

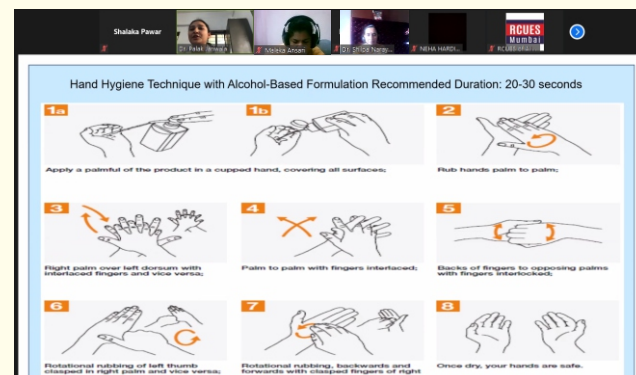
This session began with a brief discussion of the BMW Rules, 2016 and guidelines issued by the MoHUA, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), and CPCB, by covering detailed explanation of different types of waste generated and collected from the hospitals, health care centers, quarantined households, and the proper procedure required to handle each category of waste, and type of disposal. Further she mentioned about the roles and responsibilities of authorities in managing COVID-19 facilities while dealing with the waste generated, safety precautions, and SOPs that are to be followed by healthcare workers, categories of waste generated from different sources, and their disposal methods.

Colour	Disposal Options
Blue	Disinfection or Auto/Micro/Hydro and sent to recycling
White	Auto/Dry heat sterilization followed by shredding/mutilation/encapsulation
Red	Auto/Micro/Hydro and sent to recycling
Yellow	Incineration (Deep Burial only in rural or remote areas)

Dr. Shilpa Narayanan, Director, Training, Appa Patwardhan Safai / Paryawaran Tantraniketan, Pune addressing the participants.

She also stated that ULBs are required to ensure the facilities as needed for treatment and disposal of BMW are kept available. While elaborating on SOPs for BMW management, she stated that, for proper and safe handling of waste the handler must ensure the use the recommended PPE and follow the hand hygiene practices. On this account she explained that in addition to the use of PPE, it is essential to ensure disinfection and safe handling of all the items as are used in the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 patients.

She emphasized upon the participants that as per the BMW Rules, 2016, biomedical waste is to be segregated in four colour-coded bags/ containers. Waste generated needs to be segregated, collected, transported, and disposed of as per the relevant procedure of each of the categories of biomedical waste i.e. masks and hand gloves from these areas (both patient/non-patients) must be collected in a yellow bag as a biomedical waste and should be handed over to an authorized BMW Common Treatment Facility (CTF) collection vehicle. In her concluding remark re-iterated and stressed on the collection and treatment of COVID-19 biomedical waste by following BMW norms and that it must be disposed of through BMW CTF operators only.



Dr. Palak Jariwala, M. S. in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Community Health Centre, Pal, Surat addressing the participants.

Dr. Palak Jariwala, M. S. in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Community Health Centre, Pal, Surat took the next session on 'BMWM – Current Practices in Urban Areas'. She started her session by comparative analysis of Municipal Solid waste & Bio Medical Waste management. She also drew the attention of the participants to the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules 2016 (BMWM), in which she discussed the color coding of bags and the types of biomedical waste to be collected as per the nature of waste in the prescribed manner. She also stressed on the importance of periodic trainings which are needed to be organized for the concerned staff who handle biomedical waste at various stages up to final stage of disposal. She referred to the BMWM process which is required to be implemented through regular follow-ups and monitoring mechanism channelized for collection,

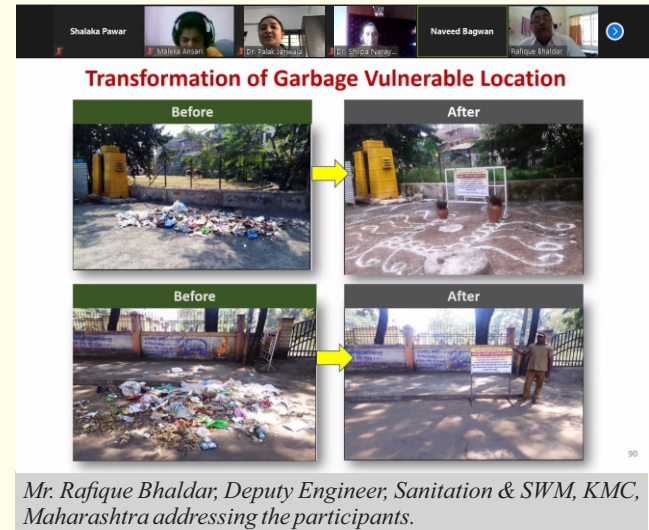
segregation and transportation of biomedical waste. Thereafter she spoke about the preventive measures to be taken by front line workers, who handle biomedical waste frequently. She explained the steps of wearing and removing the entire PPE kit. Concluding her session she suggested necessity of keenly following the existing system of waste management by strict implementation of BMW Rules 2016, and guidelines.

ULBs' Presentations

After the technical sessions, ULBs made presentations to the participants on the initiatives undertaken by them in waste management for tackling the pandemic crisis.

ULB presentation was made by Mr. Rafiq Bhaldar, Deputy Engineer, Sanitation & SWM, Karad Municipal Council (KMC), Maharashtra. Karad city is the recipient of the award as Cleanest City in Swachh Survekshan (SS) 2020 under the category of less than 1 lakh population. Mr. Bhaldar explained the strategy adopted and efforts taken in waste management during SS- 2020 by mentioning the entire chain of activities. He also informed the participants about waste management channelized on the principle of Reuse, Reduce and Recycle (3 R's). Karad City had achieved 100 % segregation of municipal waste at source. Municipal officials in collaboration with NGOs, CBOs, and other stakeholders created awareness among citizens about the segregation of municipal waste. Citizens were enjoined to segregate waste at source through demonstrations, door-to-door awareness campaigns, and monitoring of the whole chain of activities. He further explained the process of 100 % collection of segregated solid waste through Ghantagadis and monitoring it through a GPS tracking system. Mr. Bhaldar then explained the SOPs developed by KMC for wet waste processing and types of wet waste processing like Windrow Composting and making biogas from it. He further added that KMC had established the Material Recovery Faculty (MRF) Centre for dry waste and plastic processing unit. KMC also had taken the green initiative by developing value-added products from waste. He concluded his session by mentioning that, during this entire journey consisting of various initiatives, KMC had bagged many awards like

Swachh City Award, Star Rating Certificate and Vasundhara Puraskar by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) etc. and thus wrote a success story in cleanliness and SWM.



In the Question & Answer session, Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai encouraged the participants to discuss their queries with the trainers. After this session, the feedback was taken from the participants. The participants discussed with the trainers and obtained clarification and guidance to resolve their queries of their respective cities relating to livelihood opportunities and safety.

Summing-up

In the end, Ms. Maleka Ansari Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai proposed Vote of Thanks to the distinguished trainers and the participants and announced conclusion of the training programme.

Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Role of ULBs in Tackling Challenges; During and Post Pandemic'

27th - 28th January 2021

The key highlights of this web-based training programme were that the participants learned strategic planning to be implemented at the ULB level with a view to augment the health delivery services during the crisis generated by COVID-19, and adopting new strategies to tackle the challenges including those measures for raising revenues by ULBs during the pandemic of COVID-19.

Background

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted lives of people and cities around the world and raised fundamental questions about urban development. The multi-dimensional impact of the pandemic, for example, resulted in lockdown measures, the closure of offices and workplaces, businesses, schools and other places of learning public spaces, and cultural institutions, and the rise of unemployment, as well as collapse of tourism and related incomes in cities notably. It is a prodigious challenge for local governance on the frontline. The measures taken to contain the spread of the virus are having massive implications on Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) due to their economic structure, their preparedness for such an emergency, especially public health and service delivery systems. These challenges made us rethink in various dimensions like social, cultural, economic, and environmental. ULBs were amongst the first to respond to this unprecedented calamity and in rethinking and reinventing their strategies to be more sustainable through strategic planning. To discuss the strategies in enhancing ULBs' capacities during and post-pandemic challenges, it is important to find new innovative ways to raise the resources and pool in finances at the local level. This is also the time to push for decentralized governance and strengthen local administration to make successful planning and their implementation during and post-pandemic.

Considering this, the Regional Centre for Urban & Environmental Studies (RCUES) of All India Institute of Local Self Government (AIILSG), Mumbai had organized a Regional Specialized Web-Based Training Programme on 'Role of ULBs in Tackling Challenges: During and Post Pandemic' on 27th & 28th January 2021 between 11.30 to 13.00 hrs. This training programme was supported by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India (GoI).

Key Objective

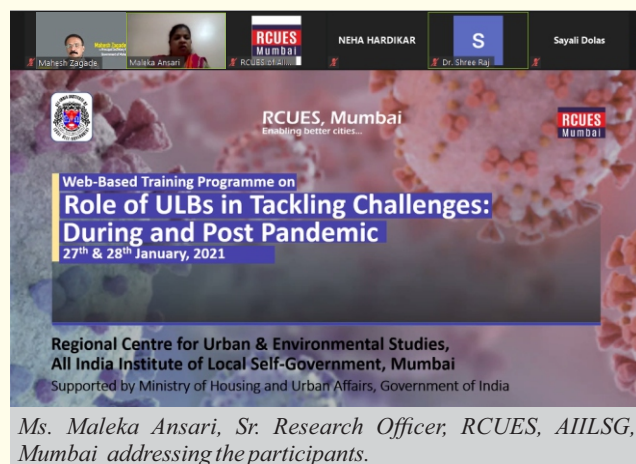
The key objective of this training programme was to discuss the strategies for enhancing ULBs' capacities in tackling post-pandemic challenges and ensuring self-reliant governance.

Participation

Total 36 participants comprising Elected Representatives, Deputy and Assistant Municipal Commissioners, City Project Officers, City Coordinators, Sanitary Inspectors, MIS/IT Experts and Social Workers from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Assam participated in this online training programme.

Introduction

At the outset, Ms. Maleka Ansari, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AIILSG, welcomed the trainers and the participants and gave introduction of the expert trainers. She explained the challenges faced by ULBs during this pandemic and gave outline of the contents of the training programme. She said that as is the practice of the RCUES, the training programme and every technical session will conclude with interaction with the participants.



Technical Sessions

The first technical session on 'Urbanization: Past, Present and Future' was taken by Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), former Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. In his session, he mentioned about the growth rate of urban population by depicting figures in percentages and estimated urban population expected to rise by 2030, as urbanization in India is taking place at a faster pace than ever before. According to the Global Cities report estimates, 17 of the 20 fastest growing cities in the world between 2019 and 2035 will be from India. The urbanization of India is taking place at a faster rate than in the rest of the world. By 2030, 40.76 percent of India's population will be living in urban areas compared to about 28.4 percent in the present situation. He briefly discussed on rapid urbanization by highlighting how the cities are facing scarcity of resources like water. He added

that the country's urban population is likely to reach 600 million by 2030. Cities are growth hubs for India, and the country's progress depends directly on their governance and sustainable urbanization. He further explained that according to Niti Aayog, India requires an INR 40-trillion investment until 2030 to overhaul its infrastructure whereas the revenue of all the municipal corporations put together is not more than INR 1.2 trillion, i.e. approximately one percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). He concluded his session by highlighting amendments of 74th CAA and its related provisions with special reference to mahila balkalyan samiti.



Mr. Mahesh Zagade, IAS (Retd.), former Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra addressing the participants.

The next session on 'Role of ULBs in Tackling Challenges and Preparedness in the Effective Service Delivery – Water and Sanitation' was taken by Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project (MSDP), Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Mumbai. He discussed about community sanitation by referring to the cleanliness of surfaces and precautions needed to be taken. He elucidated the responsibilities of ULBs in respect of water supply and sanitation by discussing water supply management, centralized and decentralized system of wastewater management and sanitation management of public and community toilets. He further

stated that community toilets and their maintenance is very crucial in maintaining hygienic conditions in order to avoid spread of multiple diseases. Sanitation necessarily implies regular monitoring of cleanliness arrangements, availability of adequate water, status of electric power points, status of minor repairs, major repairs, waste disposal system, behaviour of staff with users of toilets, level of maintenance of building, etc. Monthly monitoring should be conducted by the local authority which provides land and financial support for the toilet facility. He further emphasized that the caretakers of community toilets should ensure that soaps or hand sanitizers are available at the toilet premises and encourage its use to the toilet users. While elaborating on precautionary measures at the community level, he mentioned the precautions and interventions by community members as well as caretakers, if executed properly, will go a long way to control spread of the disease. He further explained that common surfaces at shared hand wash facilities like handles, knobs, doors, etc. are a major source of spread of diseases in a community. He recommended the use of foot-operated pedaled hand washing stations at shared community spaces to enable the residents to wash their hands frequently without touching the tap as an effective measure to control spread of diseases. He mentioned that these were globally adopted measures during epidemics for controlling the spread of diseases. Caretakers should also keep themselves sanitized by using disinfectants in a regular manner. While doing all these, caretakers must strictly adhere to the use of safety gear.

He then referred to the Government of India's guidelines on precautions and preventive measures for sanitation workers to be followed by state governments as well as contractors employing sanitation workers. He stated that, ULBs are enjoined to put in place Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in order to ensure health and safety of sanitation workers including lists of DO's and DON'T's to be practised while performing their duties on the field every day. Sanitation workers are to be provided with appropriate safety gear like masks, gloves, boots, aprons, and the usage of these items must be ensured by ULBs and contractors with a view to minimize their risk to the virus. He said that the WHO has released an interim guidance document on 19th March 2020, which supplements the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) documents by summarizing WHO guidelines on water, sanitation, and health care relevant to viruses, including coronaviruses. He further said that based on this document, the MoHUA, GoI has published an Advisory on 'Safe Management of Water Supply and Sanitation Services during COVID-19 Crisis in April 2020. He concluded his session by sharing some practices followed by ULBs to avoid transmission of the virus in densely populated communities in the urban areas, which need to be suitably replicated at other places.

Last session was delivered by Ms. Neha Singh, Research Officer, SWM & SBM, Jodhpur Municipal Corporation (JMC), Rajasthan on Efforts taken in Tackling Pandemic at the ULB level in the City of Jodhpur in order to present an example of good practice. She explained the efforts taken by JMC in SWM during the pandemic. She said that till last year the door-to-door waste collection mechanism was not started in the city. This year, this mechanism was implemented and is in operation in all the 65 municipal wards of Jodhpur city. She further explained that JMC has focused on IEC activities and behavior change awareness programs including a range of activities like wall paintings on the importance of segregation, municipal ward level Rangoli competition on SS 2020, beautification of old slums, banners and hoardings on cleanliness, plastic ban, waste segregation, distribution of blue and green dustbins use of dustbins, rallies, campaigns, etc. on various parameters of Swachh Survekshan (SS) - 2020. These activities helped JMC to score better rank in SS 2020. She then stated that JMC had allotted separate vehicles for the collection of C&D waste, installed separate dustbins

The screenshot shows a video conference interface with five participants at the top: Mamata Shetty, Dr. Ajit Salvi, NEHA HARDIKAR, Dr. Anshu Anand, and PC. Below the participants, the title 'Quick Response Vehicle (QRV)' is displayed. The main content area features two images of a white QRV van. To the right of the images is a text box titled 'QVR (Quick Response Vehicle)' with the following details:

- > Very useful in emergency situation with GPS tracking facility
- > Excellent for reducing response time to address complaints
- > The Q.R.V. is equipped with
 - Jetting System
 - Dewatering Pump
 - Rodding Machine
 - Winch Machine
 - Camera & PC
 - Gas detector (CO, CH₄, H₂, CO)
 - Respirator system

Below the images, there is a caption: 'Sighted Nozzle for inspection of sewer lines'.

At the bottom of the screenshot, a caption reads: 'Dr. Ajit Salvi, Executive Engineer, MSDP, MCGM, Mumbai addressing the participants.'

on all D2D vehicles for the collection of domestic hazardous waste, installation of smart dustbins, and litter bins in all market areas. Besides these activities, strict enforcement on the use of plastic bags was done and biodegradable plastic bags were distributed to vendors. She concluded her session by mentioning that, JMC had concentrated on documenting their efforts in waste management as a case study.

Sanitization of Surrounding Area

- Nigam has purchased more than 22,000 liters of Sodium Hypochlorite for disinfecting all the 65 wards of the city, institutes such as hospitals, Govt offices, banks, ATM machines, petrol pumps and the houses of positive and suspected citizens.
- The sanitization is being done using 12 emergency firefighting machines and spraying machines.
- Considering the areas with positive cases, the following areas have been sanitized using sodium hypochlorite:
 - 6 quarantine wellness centers are sanitized 24*7 basis by 57 health workers.
 - Nagar Nigam has distributed more than 200 Sanitizing spray machines to each ward and more than 1lac houses are sanitized as of 6th March 2020.
 - 7 check post across borders of Jodhpur equipped with sanitization machines and disinfectants

Ms. Neha Singh, Research Officer, SWM & SBM, Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, Rajasthan addressing the participants.

On the second day, the technical session on 'Role of ULBs in Social Development during Pandemic and Decentralized Strategies for Sustainable Health Infrastructure' was taken by Dr. Shreeraj Talwadekar, Asst. Professor, Microbiology, KEM Hospital, Mumbai. He mainly focused on Awareness campaign on health and hygiene. Further he explained the common symptoms of COVID-19 like cough, cold, fever, difficulty in the breathing and its pattern of progression, which are considered a serious public health concern. He portrayed the graphics relating to the number of COVID-19 cases across the country in order to understand the severity of the disease, its route of infection, mode of transfer. He further explained the norms for physical distancing, hand hygiene, consistent use of masks and PPE, safe waste management, and surface cleanliness to prevent the infection. The infection can be controlled by educating the people at large about preventive measures, immediate isolation of the patients, early diagnosis, and treatment. He elaborated upon the role of ULBs and the Government of Maharashtra in tackling during and post-pandemic situations. ULBs have

played a vital role in controlling the disease by developing and providing infrastructure facilities to COVID patients. ULB officials made a provision of quarantine centers, provided food and sanitation facilities through linkages with other stakeholders. ULBs also encouraged Self Help Groups (SHGs) to provide masks, PPE kits to front line workers and other medical staff. He concluded that need to develop and implement strategies for sustainable health infrastructure at ULB level.

• COUGH ETIQUETTE

• HAND HYGIENE

• FACIAL HYGIENE: Avoid touching face (mouth, nose and eyes unnecessarily)

• Avoid sharing personal articles like towels, utensils

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

The next technical session on 'Financial Reforms for ULBs to Provide Sustainable Solutions to the Pandemic' was delivered by Dr. Kishor Kadam, Head of the Department of Economics, SNDT College, Mumbai. He began his speech by speaking on the status of ULBs and stated that ULBs are broadly concerned with public health, welfare, regulatory functions, public safety, public infrastructure functions, and development activities. He further stated that the main sources of revenue of ULBs are collection from taxes and non-tax sources under the Municipal Acts, devolution of shared taxes and duties as recommended by the State Finance Commission (SFC). In addition to this, grants are received from the Government of India under centrally sponsored schemes. He added that some of these reforms were done with limited success under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in 2005-2013. Further, these reforms were carried forward in the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) of

2015-2022. He then explained the reasons for the changes in the financial condition of ULBs such as limitation of public investment in basic services, absence of ULBs own revenue book, limited availability of state and central schemes, steps for state and central tax reforms, etc. He then emphasized ULBs and COVID-19 Pandemic. He concluded his session by explaining the changes needed in the financial status of ULBs while tackling pandemic challenges and the need for revised financial reforms at the ULB level.

Financial Reforms for ULBs after Covid-19

Stimulus 3.0:
With a significant focus on the agricultural sector and allied economic activities, 12 measures announced under third installment

Stimulus 4.0:
For Urban employment scheme

Farm Infrastructure Fund Rs.1 Lakh Cr	Micro Food Enterprises (MFEs) Rs.20,000 Cr	For Fishermen Rs.10,000 Cr	Amendment of Essential Commodities Act
Promotion of Herbal Cultivation Rs.4,000 Cr	Infrastructure & Capacity Building Related	Governance & Administrative Reforms	Law for Agriculture Marketing Reforms
Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	National Animal Disease Control Programme	'From TOP to TOTAL' Scheme Rs.500 Cr	Creating a Facilitative Legal Framework for Farmers

Dr. Kishor Kadam, Head of the Department of Economics, SNDT College, Mumbai addressing the participants.

The next session on 'Role of ULBs in Tackling Challenges and Preparedness in the Effective Service Delivery' was conducted by Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions LLP, Climate Reality Leader, Mumbai. At the beginning, she explained 'Ro value Prediction and Assessment of Corona Infections and Transmission in India' updated on 24 January 2021 by highlighting the current status of COVID patients and their recovery rate across the country. She then explained the life span of the Coronavirus on various surfaces like paper, copper, wood, surgical mask, etc. She emphasized seven-step approaches for developing a municipal solid waste management plan. She elaborated upon the main requirements in SWM such as source segregation, collection, transportation, treatment, disposal, data management, and update and financial assistance during and post-pandemic. She expressed concern about biomedical waste being mixed with other wastes. During COVID times, the average biomedical waste generated from hospitals and

COVID centers has increased in a huge quantity. She mentioned that the CPCB has issued guidelines on the disposal of COVID waste. These guidelines must be followed by all stakeholders including isolation wards, quarantine centers, sample collection centers, laboratories, ULBs, and Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities (CBWTFs), she explained the SOPs on segregation of waste at source. These SOPs emphasize segregation at source which should be collected, transported, and are disposed of in a segregated manner and casts responsibility on all the stakeholders to ensure the segregation of waste during the entire SWM chain. At the end of the session, she discussed about the seven step approach for developing municipal solid waste management plan by ULBs.

Sanitization of Public Places

Bandlagudajagir Corporation Disinfectant spraying by machines

Disinfectant spraying machine of Covid19 in Zaheerabad Municipality

a "disinfectant tunnel" by Khammam Municipal Corporation

The authorities have scaled up preventive measures to ward off coronavirus by installing a "disinfectant tunnel" at the makeshift vegetable market abutting the Sardar Patel Stadium. The small arch-like enclosure resembling door-frame metal detector has been installed at the entrance of the temporary vegetable market to spray disinfectant solution on vegetable vendors, including farmers, and the consumers as part of public health safety measures.

Dr. Ketna Matkar, Founder and Managing Director, Cipher Environmental Solutions LLP, Climate Reality Leader, Mumbai addressing the participants.

Feedback on the online training programme was taken by Ms. Neha Hardikar, Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai which was designed on the basis of technical sessions delivered during the programme.

Summing-up

At the end, Ms. Maleka Ansari Sr. Research Officer, RCUES, AILSG, Mumbai proposed a Vote of Thanks to the distinguished trainers and the participants and announced conclusion of the training programme.

Snapshot of Appreciations

From: Jameela Begum <jameela1581983@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 5:14 PM

Subject: Appreciate Letter

To: <rcustraining@ailsg.org>

आयोजक सभी मान्यवर साथियों को प्रणाम,

मैं, जामिलाबेगम पठान इताकुला, घर बचाओ घर बनाओ आंदोलन, मुम्बई से जुड़ी हूँ।

मैंने आप के सारे कार्यक्रम को सुना है और काफी विषयों पे मैंने खुद भी बात कि है। मुझे लिखते हुये अच्छा लग रहा है।


जैसे कि सभी जानते हैं कि कोविड-19 जैसे बीमारी से पुरा विश्व बेहाल है, एक गंभीर समस्या बनकर सभी को डरा रहा है। बीमारी के डर के साथे मैं और एक खतरनाक विचार हमे विचलित कर रहा है। अस्पताल से निकलनेवाले जैव चिकित्सा कूड़ाकचरे का निपटान कैसे हो रहा है। सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि सरकारी अस्पताल में जानेवाले गरीब लोगो में इसकी जागरूकता है या नहीं? इसका निपटान सरकारी दिशानिर्देश के तहत हो रहा है, या नहीं? ऐसे बहुत से मन को बेचैन करनेवाले प्रश्न हमारे सामने थे। ऐसे स्थिति में RCUES, Mumbai द्वारा आयोजित 'Biomedical Waste Management in Urban Areas' on 21-22 January, 2021 इस ऑनलाइन प्रशिक्षण में भाग लेने का अवसर मिला।

इन दो दिनों में विषय विशेषज्ञों ने जो माहिती और अस्पताल से निकलने वाले जैव चिकित्सा कूड़ाकचरे का निपटान का पुरा चित्र सामने रख दिया। हम सभी का मन पूर्वक आभार व्यक्त करते हैं।


काफी बातें खिलकर चर्चा में आइ। जानकारी महत्वपूर्ण थी। हमारी सब की राय है कि ऐसे कार्यक्रम लगातार होते रहे, जिससे लोगों के मन की शंकाये और डर दूर होते रहे।

सभी मैनेजमेंट का आभार व्यक्त करते हैं और हम इस तरह के अलग अलग मुद्दों से जुड़ी जानकारी प्राप्त करके आगे काम करना चाहते हैं।


जामिलाबेगम पठान
सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता



Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India



Malegaon Municipal Corporation, MALEGAON
Dist.Nashik ,Email ID:-migmcc@gmail.com




Date:-01/02/2021


To
Ms.Utkarsha Kavadi
Director RCUES of AILSG
Mumbai


Subject: Appreciation Letter

Dear Madam,

This is reference to express our appreciation for the support that your centre has provided through web based training program on " Role of ULBs in Tackling Challenges : During & Post "Pandemic" on dated 27th & 28th January, 2021 for the municipal officials & elected representatives by creating a learning platform & organising valuable discussion. This training program definitely help to make our knowledge more precise in our work related to various development missions implemented in our city.




 Dy.Municipal Commissioner Malegaon (TAX)
 Malegaon Municipal Corporation,dist Nashik



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Disclaimer

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