

Achievements of Gender Forums - Anantapur

From the first level of Listening Exercise we did we classified the 43 Settlements into three broad categories. They were

First set of settlements –Very poorly and unevenly serviced -5 Forums with 58 Members

Rani Nagar, Rajamma Colony, Ferrer Colony, Bhavani Nagar, C.D. Hospital side, Rani Nagar S.C Colony which has a majority population of vulnerable communities such as Elderly, S.C, S.T, Minorities, Unorganized Sector workers and PWD, Manual Scavengers-

Second Set of Settlements – With highly excluded communities-women-headed families, S.C/S.T. Shikaris, Yerukulas, transgender, elderly, sex workers and persons with disability-3 Forums with 34 Members

Navodaya Colony, Buddappa Nagar, Azad Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Taraka Rama Nagar, Krupananda Nagar, Ammavari Cheruvu Kottalu, Tharimela Nagireddy Colony, Nallpureddy Colony, Obuladeva Nagar, Sunitha Nagar, Rajaka Nagar, Roshana Nagar, Indira Nagar, Maruvakomma Colony, Maruthi Nagar, NTR Colony, Mangalawari Colony –

Third set of settlements with vulnerable groups such as PH workers (many of whom are contractual), destitute, manual scavengers, migrants and minorities apart from sex workers, transgender, persons with disability and elderly-with 6 Forums with 52 Members

Ambedkar Nagar, Naik Nagar, Jansakthi Nagar, Hamali Colony, Munna Nagar, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Lakshmi nagar, Rangaswami Nagar, Erukulavari Colony, Neeruganti street -1, Neeruganti street -2, Maruthi Nagar Railway track, Ashok Nagar, Rehmath nagar, Krishna Devaraya Nagar, Nehru Poor man Colony, Srinivas Nagar, Khaja Nagar, Yuvajana Colony –

In the fourth set of Settlements-Relatively better serviced settlements

Ganga Nagar, Taraka Rama Nagar, Krupananda Nagar, Ammavari Cheruvu Kottalu, Tharimela Nagireddy Colony, Nallpureddy Colony, Obuladeva Nagar, Sunitha Nagar, Rajaka Nagar, Roshana Nagar, Indira Nagar, Maruvakomma Colony, Maruthi Nagar, NTR Colony, Mangalawari Colony- better serviced settlements

Response

The formation of Gender Forums in 7 settlements and later across 14 settlements catalyzed significant changes. In collaboration with MEPMA and supported by ULB, the Gender Forum made sanitation gender responsive in the following manner

In the first set of settlements which are poorly and unevenly serviced- with 5 Gender Forums and 58 members

Concern-One CTC in Rajamma Colony for 5 slums was poorly maintained

Change secured- The CTC is well managed now by the Community Management Committee of the GFs with the support of the ULB and water supply has been revived.

GFs of five slums passed resolution on this matter and submitted to the local councilor and to the ULB and followed up with the officials till the facility was improved.

Concern-People used take recourse to open defecation in the open grounds of a hospital

Change secured- GFs have started working with the SHGs, SLFs, TLFs along with the ULB and MEPMA to create awareness on the ill effects of O.D. Slum level programs are conducted once in a month in each slum. This has discouraged the practice

Households with IHHLs been reached out and conducted awareness campaigns. HHs without IHHLs been listed out and helped to apply for toilet construction

The CTC of Rajamma Colony is now working and maintained properly. So most people from these slums have started using the CTC

The GF member also trained community members to communicate their grievances through the Pura Seva, app to ensure timely response and take collective ownership for monitoring the services and responding to it.

The hospital management along with the ULB have constructed a wall around the hospital so that people do not trespass and defecate.

Concern- School Sanitation was totally neglected in the Municipal School in Ferror Colony, Rani Nagar Market area.

Change secured – The GFs of Ferror Colony led by ORW approached the school management of Ferror Colony. The drains and drinking water facility was improved and toilets are now being

cleaned regularly for children to use. The SMC, GFs together monitor the maintenance of the school sanitation.

The mechanism of Child Cabinet mandated under Right to Education, Act, has been set up with 15 children from Ferror Colony becoming cabinet members to orient their peers on sanitation as well as monitor the existing facilities in the school.

Concern - Irregular waste collection

Change secured – GFs have been coordinating with the ground level PH workers, Mastries, Sanitary Inspectors on regular basis, and involving them in their meetings, and drafting resolutions to improve and regularize waste collection. Two written petitions were submitted to the Councilor and ULB officials

If anyone refuses to collect the waste, they are approaching the Sanitary Inspectors who had committed during the stakeholders meeting in October 2017 to ensure proper coordination and so now this being established by the GF.

Five door to door campaigns and meetings been conducted on waste management, dry day and seasonal diseases.

In Rani Nagar, the GF members have regulated the process of waste collection in many ways. The PH worker is collecting the waste directly from the households and the community is ensuring that sanitary napkins is properly wrapped and disposed of and preventing people from throwing waste into the drains

Concern - Poor drainage system and poor drinking water facility especially in the schools

Change secured - GFs have been coordinating with the ground level PH workers, Mastries, Sanitary Inspectors on regular basis, involving them in their meetings and together passing resolutions on bettering the service.

GFs have established the monthly coordination meeting with the SMC and School Management in the Municipal Schools to track and discuss the sanitation and water faculties in the school. This was initiated recently and thus far two meetings have been conducted

Concern - Lack of knowledge on MHM

Change secured – GFs with the support of department of Health and MAS and MEPMA conducted 5 trainings in 5 slums and one city level training with the women and adolescent girls on MHM and established a team of ToTs.

These master trainers are now creating awareness on MHM in the ground level.

Concern - Seasonal diseases, health problems due to water contamination are widely seen in all the slums.

Change secured- GFs and department of Health along with MAS started working together since Nov 2017. Since then 10 door to door campaigns, one training at the city level and FGDs conducted to ensure compliance that every Friday will be observed dry day to avoid water contamination and spreading of diseases.

Second set of Settlements with 3 Gender Forums and 34 members

Navodaya Colony, Buddappa Nagar, Azad Nagar which has majority of women headed families, disabled, elderly, sex workers, S.C/S.T, Shikaris, Yerukulas and Transgender.

Concern - Shikaris and Yerukulas have been neglected and excluded from all sanitation service and social entitlements. With no access to IHHLs and no CTC available in Navodaya and Buddappa Nagar, Shikaris and Yerukulas found they were denied all services

Change secured – Reached the Shikaris and Yerukulas through the door to door campaigns on IHHL and ill effects of O.D in Navodaya Colony and Buddappa Nagar

Held two Public Hearings in the presence of ULB officials and thereafter 25 IHHL applications were submitted and sanctioned by the ULB.

GFs and ORWs able to secure Aadhar number and ration cards to these 25 households. The GFs are enabling these communities to apply for other social entitlements

Concern - Practice of O.D is high

Change secured – Awareness campaigns mounted along with the ULB staff and MAS in three slums on benefits of ODF and succeeded in reducing the practice

Shikaris and Yerukulas who secured IHHL still need to reach other community members.

Meanwhile there is regular monitoring and tracking of services by the ORW and the GF members

Concern - No IHHL constructed; school and angawadis sanitation neglected.

Change secured – GFs invited the Deputy Commissioner, Sanitary Supervisor to the slums during the GFs regular meeting and Public Hearing in August 2018. Facilitated them to visit the school and anganwadi center and also used the occasion to submit petition seeking better services

Toilets have been constructed in the anganwadi. The Asst. Engineer has speeded up the process of sanctioning IHHLs to the Shikaris.

Till date four Nagara Darshinis or Public Hearings have been conducted by the ULB to understand the existing concerns from the people. The GF members in these slums have started making use

of these public hearings to talk about their efforts in improving the services and then also demanding greater responsiveness and accountability of ULB.

Third Set of Settlement with PH workers (many of whom are contractual), destitute, manual scavengers, migrants and minorities apart from sex workers, transgender, persons with disability and elderly with 6 Gender Forums and 52 members

Ambedkar Nagar, Naik Nagar, Jansakthi Nagar, Hamali Colony, Munna Nagar, Indira Gandhi Nagar, Lakshmi nagar, Rangaswami Nagar, Erukulavari Colony, Neeruganti street -1, Neeruganti street -2, Maruthi Nagar Railway track, Ashok Nagar, Rehmath nagar, Krishna Devaraya Nagar, Nehru Poor man Colony, Srinivas Nagar, Khaja Nagar, Yuvajana Colony –

GFs started working in these slums from September 2018. In October, 2018, the GF members have been capacitated and trained on various aspects like gender, sanitation value chain, MHM, FSSM. The GF members have been able to secure small but significant changes in the slums on the following issues:

Concern - Sanitation at the night shelter was poor

Change secured – This has been brought to the notice of MEPMA and ULB and subsequently the men and women’s toilets been renovated and ensured supply of water and electricity

Concern - PH workers are more vulnerable as they do not protective gears and proper tools to clean the drains.

Change secured – GF members started working with PH workers in Ambedkar Nagar and are in the process of educating and motivating them

Every Friday meetings are going to be held with the PH workers and ULB officials to discuss and address their issues properly

Concern - Maintenance of drains is limited.

Change secured – GF has petitioned to the ULB and the latter has assured that they will maintain the drains properly. Some action has begun

Concern - CTC at Indira Nagar is not maintained

Change secured – GF has petitioned to the ULB and awaiting response

With 25% of the slums having no IHHLs and access to CTC, except in one slum, O.D is a common practice

Maruthi Nagar Rly track settlement is most excluded from sanitation and social entitlements

Today, the members from GF and GRC and officials from ULB have made 954 submissions pertaining to IHHL, CT/PT, open discharge, septic tank, sewerage health and social entitlements and of this 933 submissions have been responded to and addressed.

In the fourth set of Settlements-

Ganga Nagar, Taraka Rama Nagar, Krupananda Nagar, Ammavari Cheruvu Kottalu, Tharimela Nagireddy Colony, Nallpureddy Colony, Obuladeva Nagar, Sunitha Nagar, Rajaka Nagar, Roshana Nagar, Indira Nagar, Maruvakomma Colony, Maruthi Nagar, NTR Colony, Mangalawari Colony- better serviced settlements

- Fair availability of IHHLs, availability of drains, availability of CT/PTs (wherever existed) with fair maintenance
- No Open defecation seen in these areas.
- M.G.Colony, Ganga Nagar, Tharimela Nagireddy colony, Obuldeva Nagar, Sunitha Nagar, Rajaka Nagar, and Roshana Nagar have issues like irregular solid waste collection from the households, non-availability of IHHLs.