

Achievements of Gender Forums - Kovvur

From the first level of Listening Exercise we did we classified the 23 Settlements into three broad categories. They were

1. **First set of settlements –Very poorly and unevenly serviced.**
2. **Second Set of Settlements – With vulnerable and marginalized communities having limited access to sanitation services.**
3. **Third set of settlements –relatively better serviced areas.**

First set of settlements –very poorly and unevenly serviced – 2 Forums with 11 members

The settlement come under this category is: Bridge Peta (Old and New) with highly vulnerable living conditions such as recurrence to flooding and occupational vulnerabilities which has women headed families, S.C., fisher folk, elderly and migrants.

Second Set of Settlements – With highly vulnerable groups living here with limited access to sanitation services– 4 Gender Forums with 26 members.

Sri Ram Nagar, Yanadi Colony, Atchayamma Taxi drivers and Leprosay colony, Vegri vari chavidi, Old 7th and 8th wards, Vambay Colony, Aurangabad, Uta Lanka, Old 10th Ward, Old 11th ward, Avula Vari Colony, Old 4th Ward with Migrants, destitute, Manual scavengers, Minorities, Women headed families, disabled, elderly, beggars and people living with leprosy.

Third set of settlements- better serviced

Christina Peta, Rajeev Colony, RelliPeta, Harijana Peta, Old 13 and 14 wards, Old 12 and 13 wards, Old 3 and 4 wards, Chakali manyam.

The six Gender Forums, constituted in 5 slums have been able to secure change with the support of ULB

In the first set of settlements which are very poorly and unevenly served

CONCERN:

Half of the population living in this slum practice O.D, and no CT/PT available. The rest of the percentage despite having IHHL still practice O.D as most toilets are not sanitary

CHANGE SECURED

Gender Forums enlisted the households with no IHHLs and coordinated with the administration or the Nodal Officer, Environmental Engineer to enable them to apply for IHHL scheme. Eleven applications have been submitted and the sanction is under progress.

The GF along with the support of ULB staff have approached each and every household through door to door campaigns (2) and FGDs and created awareness on the ill-effects of O.D to be able to bring change in the situation. Also the GF, through the GRC, made a submission for the construction of community septic tank system for the HHs with insanitary toilets. This is under consideration.

The GF in this particular slum have worked along with the GRC and framed a set of demand for services that they need to ensure targeted improvements. The Chairperson and MLA or Councilor? of Kovvur visited the slum on 23 October, 2018 and interacted with the GF members and the community and assured them that all outstanding issues would be addressed at the earliest.

CONCERN:

Basic services like collection of solid waste and its recycling and disposal and maintenance of the drains is weak and service providers are unresponsive.

CHANGE SECURED

GF members have started communicating and coordinating with the PH workers and Sanitary Inspectors on a regular basis and also inviting Commissioner and Chairperson for these meetings. This has proved effective as the Sanitary Inspectors along with GF members are visiting each and every lane in the settlement and ensuring that waste is collected properly and the drainage system is maintained properly.

CONCERN:

Sanitation at the school and ICDS centre was neglected, impacting negatively the health of mother and children.

CHANGE SECURED

After the first key stakeholders meeting conducted on 7 March 2018, GF members with the support of Department of WCD and the CDPO and school management have decided to jointly and collectively improve and monitor the sanitation facilities at the schools and Anganwadis. The GF members of this slum, have started approaching the School Management Committee or SMC,

ASHA workers, anganwadi supervisors, mothers and the school children and been conducting awareness and training programs, three of which has been completed in these areas.

In the Second Set of Settlements – With highly vulnerable groups having limited access to sanitation services- fisher folk, migrants, destitute and women headed families

CONCERN:

O.D is high as the maintenance of the CT/PTs in the three slums is poor. Since most of the households have no IHHL, it is affecting most the elderly, migrants, destitute, women and children.

CHANGE SECURED:

Regular and proper maintenance of CT/PTs in the three slums has been initiated with the proper coordination achieved between GF members, Nodal Officer and PH workers.

The proposal for community septic tank system in VAMBAY colony has been submitted for approval and is under consideration. This will help the community to get their toilets to be connected to the common septic tank system.

IHHL applications collected from the interested HHs after they were approached one by one or door to door has been submitted by the GRC to the ULB.

GF members have done intense door to door awareness –raising programs on ODF (6) and importance of making all toilets sanitary

CONCERN:

Irregular solid waste collection and maintenance of drains were two major concerns. Due to lack of awareness about the cause of diseases and the absence of fogging, the community fell prey to Malaria.

CHANGE SECURED:

The GF members and Nodal Officer are now coordinating with the PH workers to ensure regular collection of waste and maintenance of the drains. This happened after the monthly review meeting held with ULB officials.

Tracking and monitoring of service has been strengthened by the GF members through co-management of community and official service providers. The Sanitary Inspectors and PH workers are responding and solving issues on the spot. Fogging is being done regularly

The school going children along with the staff and management have been trained on personal hygiene, importance of hand washing and the need to prevent outbreak of seasonal diseases. The school sanitation has improved in the three slums.

CONCERN:

Lack of awareness on MHM among the women and adolescent girls

CHANGE SECURED:

Five trainings have been conducted on MHM; one at the settlement and four at school and nearly 60 people benefited from the training. The GF members along with the master trainers have started disseminating the learning and ensuring that the information is reached out to every women and girl.

Third set of settlements which are well served settlements:

All the households have IHHLs with fair amount of access top facilities.

Waste collection is being done regularly. Some households are segregating dry and wet waste and ensuring proper recycling and reuse. Their drainage system is also maintained properly.

Water supply and distribution is satisfactory Schools and anganwadis have good sanitation facilities.

CONCERN:

One alarming issue is the fact that a majority of the community still practice open defecation. This has nothing to do with whether they have a proper toilet. They are afraid that tanks would get filled and they will have to spend money to desludge it

CHANGE SECURED:

The team has recently started educating and sensitizing the community on this issue and the adverse impact that a disrupted or poor sanitation value chain will have on their lives