

Achievements of Gender Forums - Narsapur

From the first level of Listening Exercise we did we classified the 48 Settlements into three broad categories. They were

1. **First Set of Settlements –Very poorly and unevenly serviced**
2. **Second Set of Settlements – With highly vulnerable groups living here with limited access to sanitation services**
3. **Third Set of Settlements – relatively better served settlements**

First set of settlements –Very poorly and unevenly served – 4 Forums with 39 members in 4 slums.

The poorly serviced settlements are Lock Peta, Christian Peta, Arundhathi Peta, Scavengers Colony, Madhavai Palem, Peechupalem, NTR Colony (New) with many vulnerable groups such as fisher folk, minorities, elderly, persons with disability (PwD), women headed families, manual scavengers.

Second Set of Settlements – With highly vulnerable groups living here with limited access to sanitation services – 4 Forums with 52 members in 4 slums

The slums are Ponna Palli, Sri Haripeta, Chalavapeta, Yanadhula Colony, Gantamma Temple, Kondamma Temple, Kothapeta, Chuchpeta, Babullagunta, Ankanivaripalem, Mokavaripalem, Gandhi Nagar - 1Devangulapeta, Gandhi Nagar II, Jona Road, Lankapeta, Singodianpeta, Jangamvari Street, N.T.R. Colony, Palaparthivari Peta, Devunithota Harijana Wada, Kappalapeta, Rustumbada II, Weavers Colony, Kollabathulavari Peta, Manginavari Nagar Colony, Meraka Gudem, Paruvuvaripeta, Rustumbada I, Krishna Babu Colony, Javadhalavaripeta, Stationpeta, Nagamma Cheruvu, Mandavari Garuvu.

The slums have a vulnerable and marginalized communities such as fisher folk, migrants, destitute, PwD, minorities, women headed families and elderly.

Third set of settlements are relatively better serviced settlements

The slums are Indira Nagar Colony, Nandamuri Colony, Bonthuvani Doddi, Park Road, Mruthyumjaya Nagar, Yerukulavari Peta, and Salipeta

All the eight Gender Forums constituted in the eight slums have been working together with the ULB to secure inclusive sanitation services in these slums.

In the first set of Settlements –Very poorly and unevenly serviced

CONCERN:

Open defecation is a common practice in these slums as most of the households have no IHHLs. People who have IHHLs also do practice O.D due to lack of awareness on ill effects of O.D

CHANGE SECURED

Gender Forums with the support of Nodal officer of the GRC been reached out through door to door visit and listed out the HHs with no IHHLs. 72 applications from these slums have been submitted to the Commissioner and Chairperson. 34 applications have been approved and processed. The rest are in pipeline.

Gender Forum members with the support of ULB staff have conducted awareness campaigns (6) on O.D. and reached out to the HHs who practice open defecation. The ULB officials and GF members have worked together to reduce and discourage the practice of open defecation.

CONCERN:

The maintenance of the drains and solid waste collection is very limited and the maintenance is poor one count of provider indifference and user apathy as many put domestic waste into the drains despite the appeals made by PH workers to desist from such unsafe practices.

CHANGE SECURED

Gender Forum members have established the coordination and co-management between the community and the ULB and hold meetings once a month in each slum to review action taken and gaps to be addressed and draft joint resolutions to improve and regularize sanitation services in particular waste collection.

GF members have petitioned to the ULB seeking regular collection of solid waste and maintenance of drains. The Sanitary Inspectors and the masteries are now regularly visiting the slums to monitor the services and this personal interest they are showing has made a difference to the quality of service being provided by PH workers.

CONCERN:

Sanitation facilities in the schools at Madhavaipalem, Peechupalem are neglected and there is lack of awareness on sanitation, open defecation and the impact of poor hygiene on child health.

CHANGE SECURED

Gender Forum members conducted awareness campaigns (2) on ill effects of open defecation lack of hand washing and poor personal hygiene on child health. Thirty-six children in Madhavaipalem and 14 Girl students in Peechupalem been trained as master trainers on these components. These master trainers are now conducting the training in other schools in the town.

GF members through the GRC approached the School Management to improve the facilities at these schools as the children are facing difficulties in using the toilets. The facilities have been renovated in Peechupalem.

In the Second Set of Settlements – With Most Vulnerable & Marginalized Communities

CONCERN:

Community Toilet in Ponnappalli slum, the only toilet being used by fisher folk, elderly, women, and children and destitute in the nearby slums was not maintained at all and in very poor condition.

CHANGE SECURED

The Gender Forum members of these settlements have collectively adopted a resolution to renovate the CT with the support of the local councillors

However their plea was not heard. Soon the GF members and the GRC team along with the Nodal officer approached the Chairperson appealing to him to renovate the community toilet.

The Chairperson and the Commissioner responded and renovated the CT ensuring water supply and storage in tanks, electricity, appointment of a caretaker and regular monitoring with the Municipal funds to the tune of Rs. 72,000. Presently the CT is maintained well and being used by the community of the slums.

With street lights near the CT repaired, safety of girls and women improved.

CONCERN:

The CT in Sri Hari Peta , the only toilet available was in a very poor condition. With no maintenance, electricity, cleaning and lack of water connection and supply, the users were forced to carry water for their use and this was proving difficult for elderly, women and PwD resulted in open defecation becoming rampant

CHANGE SECURED

The Gender Forum members and GRC team repeatedly approached the ULB officials and service providers to address this issue. Written petitions were submitted seeking action. The Chairperson and the ward councillors responded and renovated the facility, ensured water supply and electricity connection and outsourced the maintenance to Sulabh. The CT is presently in a good condition

CONCERN:

Regular collection and recycling of solid waste was completely lacking. There was no coordination between PH workers and the community in Ponnappalli and Chalavapeta. The ULB officials blamed the fisher folk for putting all their waste into the drain and causing blockage. The fisher folk said that they were forced to dump into the drains as the ULB workers were not collecting the waste from them.

CHANGE SECURED

The fisher folks were reached out by the GF members and were sensitized on the damage that they were causing to the drains and the PH workers were persuaded to collect the waste from the fisher folk. The ULB workers are visiting the settlement in the evening when the fisher folk are available to collect the waste. This has been possible through the concerted effort made by GF members who raised awareness and trust among fisher folk

CONCERN:

Lack of knowledge on MHMs has been an issue seen in every settlement. The women and girls do not know how to seek and secure MHM services.

CHANGE SECURED

GF members with the support of MEPMA and Health department and frontline workers such MAS conducted MHM orientation and trainings in schools. They enhanced awareness on MHM among girls and school staff. They also trained the GF members on MHM. Those trained were accredited as master trainers to train others.

In the third set of settlements which are well served settlements:

These slums except Salipeta and Yerikula Vari Peta have adequate availability of infrastructural facilities like the water supply, access to roads, proper waste management including segregation of dry and wet waste.

There are fair number of households with access to toilets and proper drainage system and maintenance

CTs in three of the slums need to be maintained better.

The Gender Forums have not been constituted here. However the capacity building programmes conducted by the IIGMF team and GF members of other settlements helped in bringing awareness on FSM and environmental cleanliness, not to misuse drains and CT/PTs.