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Integrating Gender into Sanitation

Why is gender integration important in WSH?



Absence of adequate sanitation can have negative effects on human health and the environment.



Certain groups face more challenges in accessing adequate sanitation than others



Limited access to sanitation programs and subsidies, despite encouraging policies.



**Adequate sanitation is a basic human right .
It is thus important to ensure that sanitation is available to all, at all times .**

Who are excluded here



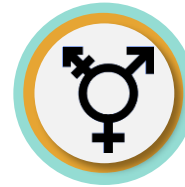
Women headed HHs



People with Disability



Elderly



Transgender



Unorganised sector



Construction workers



Caste based groups (SC/ST/OBC)



Rag pickers/ Beggars/ Destitute/ Migrants



Fishermen



Manual scavengers, PH workers



Sex workers



Religious minorities



Impact of exclusion

Safety and security



Safety Risk due to open defecation at night, use of shared toilets, public or community toilets

Health Impact



Modification of Diet & consumption of less water to avoid use of toilets leads to severe health issues such as dehydration etc.



Unavailability of menstrual hygiene products leading to infections



Impact of exclusion



Loss of economic opportunities



Income generation opportunities for men are more compared to women in sanitation programmes



Women have to travel long distances for clean water & proper sanitation, adjust to unreliability in water supply, thus they have to give up jobs



Impact on education



Increased dropout rates of girls in schools due to lack of toilets and MHM facilities



Impact of exclusion

Other marginalised groups



- Inadequate design of built infrastructure (toilets) such as steps or inappropriate pump handles, difficulty to squat, absence of ramps, inadequate signs etc.
- Difficulty to carry water for both anal cleansing and handwashing

Pregnant women are exposed to the risk of falling and having a miscarriage.



Absence of separate toilets and denial of access of transgender people in public, community toilets



How can MEPMA support gender inclusion in sanitation



Objective of the mission

To promote, strengthen and nurture self-sustainable institutions of the poor and through them, address all poverty issues like access to credit, financial freedom, health, disability and vulnerability



Stakeholders Involved



Project Director



Town Project Officer - TPRO



District Assistant Mission Coordinator



Community Organizers



Resource persons

How can MEPMA support gender inclusion in sanitation



State Level Actions

- 1 Develop Sanitation as a discrete vertical due to its importance to the health and livelihoods sectors
- 2 MEPMA representatives work with Non-Sewered Sanitation Cell/FSM Cell of Swachha Andhra Corporation (SAC) in implementing a gender-responsive sanitation agenda across state



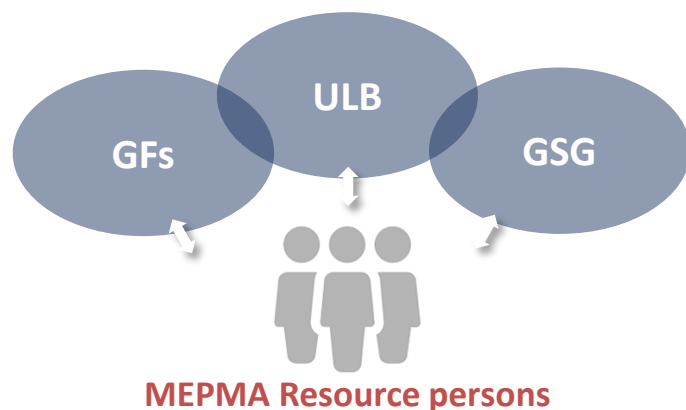
City Level Actions

- 1 Nodal person at ULB to oversee operations of GRC and liaison with the CSTF Gender Sub-group on preparation of CSP and monitoring implementation of gender-empowerment agenda
- 2 Community Organisers work with ULB and existing SHGs to identify priority settlements to establish Gender Forums (GFs)
- 3 Provide support to ULB in implementing sanitation projects especially those directed towards increasing access
- 4 MEPMA resource persons work with ULB, Gender Forums and Gender Sub-group (GSG) to facilitate empowerment of marginalised groups through:



City Level Actions

- ❑ Increased access to adequate sanitation services for all
- ❑ Formation and training of Gender Forum for increased participation, representation and ownership by marginalised groups in sanitation
- ❑ Development of capacity building and entrepreneurial projects for implementation
- ❑ Knowledge dissemination and awareness building on crucial topics related to gender & sanitation (such as MHM, handwashing, availing sanitation subsidies, etc.)
- ❑ Encouraging and creating opportunities for marginalised groups to earn livelihood through sanitation services



Specific Actions for Resource Persons

- 1 Conduct SHG level meetings every month on a fixed date and ensure that SHG members to enhance and sensitize the SHGs on good repayment behavior
- 2 Facilitate interface between the Community Organizers and SHGs
- 3 Train the allotted SHGs, SLFs on book keeping and track and monitor the SHGs on the same
- 4 Motivate the SHGs to utilize the loans for income generating activities
- 5 Train, motivate, discuss with the SHG members on health savings, sanitation, social entitlements and ensure they follow the same process every month in their meetings.



Specific Actions for Resource Persons

- 6 Ensure that the committees such as book-keeping committee, livelihood committee, sanitation committee etc. meet every month during the SHG meetings, discuss the issues, take resolutions and follow up.
- 7 Support the “Bima Mitras”, who work exclusively on the insurance scheme from Government of A.P to the families belong to SHG and to reach the SHGs and disseminate the information, create awareness amongst the SHGs.
- 8 Support the Bima Mitras in reaching the claimants, settle the pension/ claim amount under the “Chandra Bima “
- 9 Support the “ Sadhikara Mitras”, who work in the urban areas to reach the households on social entitlements. Helping the Sadhikara Mitras in identification of the family members data and identification of the beneficiaries through SLFs.



Experience from the ground



Experience from the ground

Ms. Savithri, Project Director, MEPMA, Anantapur Stakeholder Consultation in October 2018

MEPMA, ULB and IIGMF team have been working together in the city for almost 14 months on Gender based sanitation. We have been reaching the most vulnerable sections to ensure meaningful sanitation to one and all with the support of GFs, GRCs. We have also strengthened the support to SHGs, Livelihood Committees, Convergence Committees, MAS, so that these structures along with the GFs would create an enabling environment for sustainable sanitation.

Mr. Sreenivasulu, Community Organiser, Representative of ULB on Sanitation

The GFs have been involved in co-management of services along with the ULB. They have been addressing different issues such as ODF, construction of IHHL, educating the people in the settlement on MHM, etc. The ULB and GFs are successful in bringing a change in the slum, community and the administration in a short period of time.

Process

Agency & Participation

Voice

Shameela, Gender Forum Member, Rani Nagar, Anantapur:

We initiated this Gender Forum with 18 members and started holding small group meetings and talked about the importance of menstrual hygiene, waste collection, hand washing and toilets. We have succeeded in get the community toilet in Rajamma Colony renovated with the support of the councilor and ULB.

Durga Bhavani, Outreach Worker, Kovvur:

We have been supporting the ULB in reducing the practice of open defecation and raising awareness on its ill-effects.

Narsamma , (S.C Community), Rani Nagar, Anantapur:

Many of the homes in our streets have no toilets; so men used the hospital ground and women went to dirty community toilets or practiced open defecation. None of the officials visit the slum; we complained multiple times but no action was taken.

Satyanarayanamma, PWD group member, Fisher Folk Community, Ponnappalli, Narsapur:

We live here for the past 15 years and most of us are fisher folk. It was a huge challenge to deal with all the waste being dumped in the drain and with poorly maintained community toilet as the only facility, many people here practice open defecation.