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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.



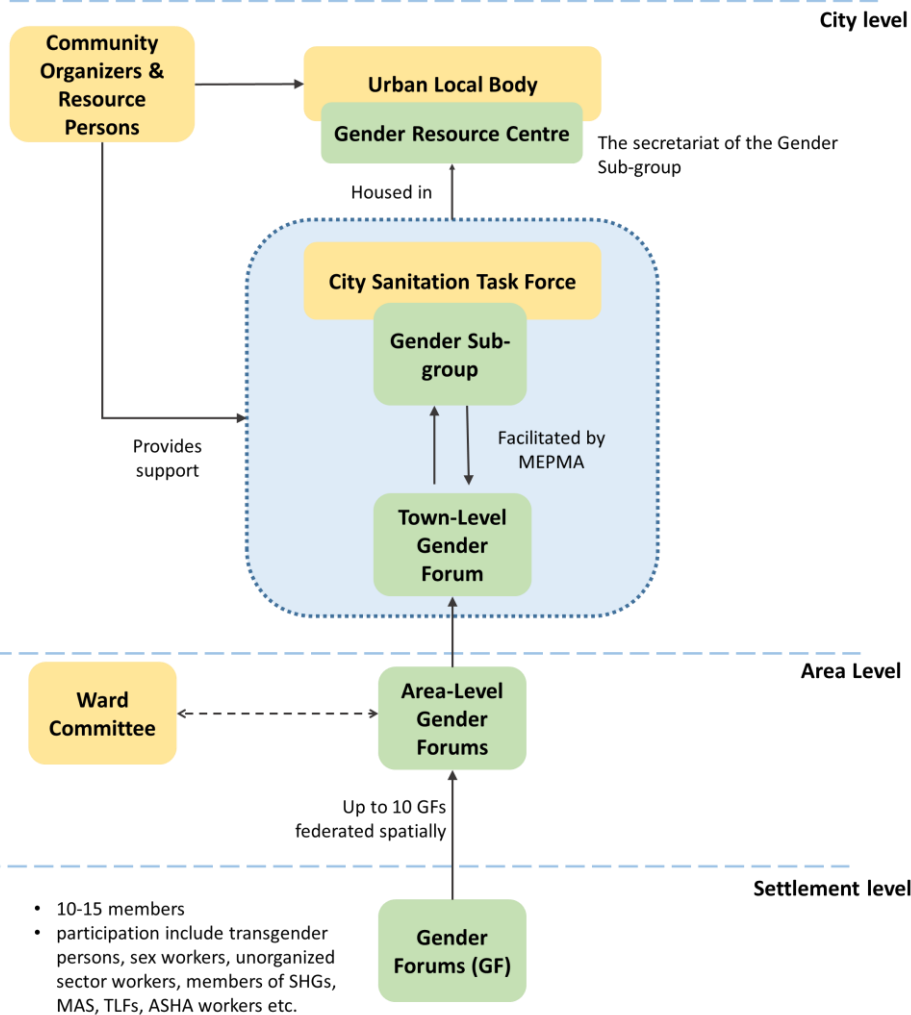
Absence of separate toilets and denial of access of transgender people in public, community toilets



## How can ULB support gender inclusion in sanitation

- 1 Support formation of gender forums (GFs) and their federations
- 2 Form Gender Resource Center (GRC) at the ULLB and appoint a nodal person to oversee gender integration agenda
- 3 Work with City Sanitation Task Force to integrate gender into the City Sanitation Plan
- 4 Co-develop and action plan with the GRC and GFs for integration of gender into sanitation.
- 5 Periodically collect disaggregated data on the access to services, especially by the vulnerable groups.
- 6 Implement stringent monitoring protocols to ensure universal access to adequate sanitation

# How can ULB support gender inclusion in sanitation



## 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.