



Integrating Gender into Sanitation:

Role of SHG Members



Vulnerable communities need to be organised, engaged and empowered to demand sanitation, make claims, and lead local initiatives.

Members of Self Help Groups, Mahila Aarogya Samitis, Town Level Federations, Accredited Social Health Activists can help establish Gender Forums, which will provide vulnerable groups a platform to voice their concerns and channel them to the right authorities.



How can SHG members help make sanitation more inclusive?

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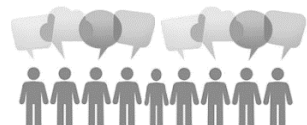
Help ULB and MEPMA members identify the vulnerable communities in your settlement

- SHG members can guide them towards households that have poor (or no) sanitation people
- They can also initiate contact with vulnerable members of the settlement such as with persons with disabilities (PWD), minorities, street vendors, girls, children, elderly, sex workers and transgender.

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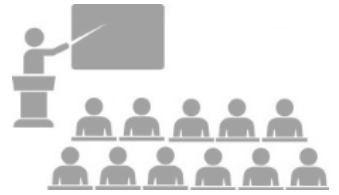
Support formation of Gender Forums

- Gender Forums are based on SHGs but feature greater participation from vulnerable groups. SHG members can encourage people in the community to join Gender Forums
- They can also help finalise the Terms of Reference for the Gender Forums



3 Develop capacity as members of Gender Forums

- SHG members should develop their capacities on:
 - Sanitation-based schemes, subsidies, missions like Swachh Bharat Mission; social and legal entitlements, procedure for accessing and getting IHHLs, CTs etc.
 - Key concepts in sanitation such as Faecal Sludge and Septage Management, Menstrual Hygiene Management and hand washing.



4 Disseminate knowledge through awareness and sensitisation campaigns and provide hand-holding support

- SHG Members, alongside ULB and MEPMA officials can plan and conduct sensitization and awareness generation campaigns, where they can teach the community members about sanitation and hygiene
- They can also provide support to community members in accessing sanitation services from the ULB through their knowledge of sanitation-based schemes and their connection to the municipality



5 Work on resolving sanitation-related issues in the settlement

- Hold meetings to discuss WSH-related challenges the community is facing, especially vulnerable groups are addressed
- Discuss sanitation-issues raised by community members during Gender Forum meetings and try to resolve them by initiating discussion with relevant stakeholders



6 Support city-level initiatives

- SHG members from Gender Forums across the city can work with MEPMA, the ULB and the City Sanitation Task Force to jointly develop sanitation micro-plans
- They can also represent the voices of their community members at a city level through participating in discussions and meetings held at the Gender Resource Centre (GRC). Unresolved settlement-issues can also be presented at the GRC for deliberation

7 Help implement the joint action plan through monitoring and tracking

- Gender Forums can support the implementation of the city-level joint action plan by monitoring and tracking successful resolution of issues, quality of services, day-to-day monitoring of sanitation facilities, etc.



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Gender Forums, with support from other key stakeholders can help monitor the implementation of the action plan by verifying quality and reach of services

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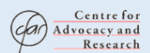
Monitoring and tracking the services through day to day monitoring of the services, actions taken, petitions submitted and addressed.



TEL: +91 (80) 6690-2500
FAX: +91 (80) 2351-4269
EMAIL: cpe@cstep.in



TEL: +91(40) 66533000
FAX: +91(40) 23312954



TEL: 011-26418846
EMAIL: contact@cfar.org.in