

Report on Dissemination & Sensitization Workshop conducted on 23rd March 2019, Narsapur

Venue: MEPMA Hall, Narsapur

Date: 23rd March 2019

Participants:

Municipal Corporation

- Sri. S. Venkata Ranama. Commissioner
- Smt. P. Rathanamala, Chairperson (Voice Record)
- Mr. N. V. Srimanarayana. Sanitary Insperctor
- Mr. Y. Naresh. Sanitary Masson
- Mr. E. Sai Baba Sanitary Massion
- Mr. Srinivas Commissioner Staff

MEPMA

-  Smt. CH. Maha Lakshmi. DMC(H&N)
-  Mr. D.V.J. Kennedy Town Mission Coordinator.(TMC)

Department of Health:

- Mr. J. Satyanarayana. Health Assistant

Community resource persons:

- Smt. M. V.V. Satya narayanamma
- Smt. K. Divya Sree

Gender Forum/Gender Sub Group representatives:

20 representatives from different settlements of Anantapur

Introduction:

Since September 2017, the Inter-sectionality-Informed Gender Mainstreaming Framework (IIGMF) and the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) and Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) team have been working with the Urban Local Body (ULB) and the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) on gender mainstreaming in sanitation projects that aim to implement a gender inclusive sanitation framework, through the Gender Forum derived from the Self Help Groups (SHGs) under MEPMA. ASCI, CFAR & CSTEP has facilitated the process of capacity building of the community and service providers on issues relating to gender inclusive sanitation, the management and operation of sanitation services and the promotion of behaviour change within the settlements through the Gender Forums.

- ASCI, CFAR & CSTEP under IIGMF has been working in Six (6) settlements in Narsapur and was following up with the ULB and the MEPMA to organize a dissemination & Sensitization workshop to present the key experiences and findings of the entire pilot project and seek the support of key stakeholders in order to further strengthen implementation and ensure sustainability. The team held a series of meetings with the Municipal Chairperson, and the Municipal Commissioner of the ULB, as well as the Project Director, DMC (H&N) and Town Mission Coordinator. (TMC) of MEPMA regarding this workshop. Following the suggestion made by the Commissioner of ULB and the DMC (Health & Nutrition, MEPMA, the dissemination and sensitization workshop was organized on 23rd March 2019, at the (Old council Hall) MEPMA office.

MUNICIPALCOMMISSIONER:

Sri.VenkataRamana,

Understanding the efforts on the ground:

Sri. Venkata Ramana, the Commissioner addressed the workshop on how, “Sanitation was a serious issue as far as ULB is concerned and it has been making efforts to ensure access to sanitation to all. Urban poverty is mainly due to migration and it is indeed a challenge to the municipal corporation to improve sanitation in the slums without the support of the community in a particular settlement. He explained what step we should follow to implement the sanitation more effectively in the city



level with support of ULB and MEPMA, Gender Inclusion Sanitation, through Gender Forums.

Presently we are working in 6 settlement's and we have Gender Resource Center for taking up the issues and which can be solved the problem through the GRC by submitting the petitions to ULB to concern department and the problems will be solved with support of the ULB concern department. Likewise so many day to day issues has been solved by the ULB with support of GRC. In the context the he suggest the more number of Gender Forums should be formed in the vulnerable target group Differently abled person, Sex workers and Manual scavengers etc., each and every one should be involved in the Gender Forums for getting better sanitation in the community. The lack of infrastructure for the usage of the toilets for the differently able person. The construction or the structure should disable friendly. Presently Gender forum is playing role of bridge in between Community and ULB. There is provision of toll-free number which the community can call and inform regarding Desludging. At Narsapur we have Faecal Sludge Treatment plant. Through that the sludge is treat and the waste is used.

This Gender forums has succeeded in reaching out to people and negotiating, discussing, planning and co-implementing these initiatives with the ULB. There is no doubt, that the ULB and MEPMA have worked together and taken forward this initiative with a great sense of responsibility



Gender Sub Group Member :

Smt Peddi Lakshmi,



She explained the roles of the Gender Forums and Gender Sub Group and how front line leaders from the Gender Forums were capacitated on various issues relating to sanitation. Smt. Peddi Lakshmi had succeeded in partnering with the ULB, MEPMA and other key stakeholders in promoting services, as well as behaviour change within the settlements through continuous engagement on key issues. These include menstrual hygiene, School Sanitation, solid waste management (SWM). She also share about the Gender Resource Centre, managed by the Gender Forum with support Nodal person at the MEPMA office and said that the issue will be taken up by the Gender forum member to Gender resource centre and issue will sorted out the and send to concern ULB department and day to day problems are solved.

Smt. Maha Lakshmi , DMC (Health and Nutritionist)MEPMA:



Smt. Maha Lakshmi, MEPMA expressed her the fact that, “while there are different sub committees in the SHGs to monitor bank linkages, mirco-finance, livelihoods etc. sanitation had never been put in the forefront. And that this project has shown the possibilities for thinking and implementing sanitation through a whole new concept called “Gender Inclusive Sanitation, because it is important for a MEPMA to understand how gender plays a key role in every sector.

“Moreover, the Gender Sub Group and Gender Forums, which have been constituted by the SHGs and other vulnerable groups and sections, are not parallel groups of MEPMA but an integral part of the entire structure that has worked closely with the SHGs, vulnerable groups and ULB, MEPMA.

“The GFs, Mahila Arogya Samitis have also worked at the slum level and as community management encouraged solid waste management, created awareness on Menstrual Health Management (MHM) and the monitoring school sanitation and more importantly on capacitating and sensitizing key stakeholders on sanitation needs and necessities. Since members of these groups and forums are from the community. “What is also important is that both ULB and MEPMA use the availability of community resources across the settlements

and link them to the Mahila Arogya Samitis, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers so that they can help in reaching out the slums and support them not just on sanitation aspects but also on health, which are inter-related to each other. Similarly these Gender forums members can support the Mobile Malaria Dengue Clinic under the Department of Health to improve and make their efforts more successful.

Smt. Sataynarayamma, Gender Forum Member:

During her sharing, Smt. Sataya Narayanamma explained how, “ the women from the SHGs, and adolescent girls had followed the process in approaching people, ULB, MEPMA, and other stakeholders and brought all of them together on one common platform called, “Gender Resource Centre””.



Smt. Sataya Narayanamma went on to explain how their, "focus has always been on the solution rather than the problem. Ponapally Colony there is a community toilet some issues which was effecting the health of community like cleaning of the community toilet which was not maintained because there was no proper water connection and other require resource like light and proper door and all the problem was solves with help Gender Resource Center by giving a petition to ULB. So they are either forced to use the existing community toilet which is not properly maintained or opt for open defecation. Some even brought water from their own homes to use in the community toilet provided. Today, the women in the settlement are using the community toilet without any fear.”

Involved the Gender forum member to reaching out to other children and educating them about sanitation and personal hygiene. These children reach out to their peers, educate them on proper hand washing techniques and also motivate their parents on proper disposal of waste. And the hand washing techniques and MHM is share with different the SHGs in different field levels.

“The support from the ULB has been enormous with quick responses to all the complaints registered through the Pura Seva app. The masteries, PH workers and sanitation supervisor, have also been very supportive also helped us in addressing water and Sanitation issues when we approached them when the issues arise.

“Moreover, it is important to segregate waste at the source or convert waste into compost so that the waste is reduced and also re-cycled. Once we are able to do it on a larger scale, efforts can also be made to convert the compost into an income generation option.

Conclusion:

However, now it is important for MEPMA and the ULB to understand that these efforts by community structures need to be sustained and strengthened. This will require these structures, and their work, efforts and mechanism to be incorporated under the direct implementation of the Municipal Corporation to ensure further sustainability