State Level Consultation
on
Contribution of Academia towards Swachh Bharat

Organized By
PRIA

Participatory Research in Asia
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What is the plan of action to handle infection caused due to unhygienic practices during Menstrual Cycle?

What is done to prevent water borne diseases?

*Dr Reeta Venugopal (Dir. Centre for women studies)*

What about the Drainage system in Rural Areas?

*Dr Mitashree Mitra, (Professor, Anthropology, Ravishankar Utd)*

Many Women suffering with Polycystic Ovarian Disease, is it somehow linked to sanitation practices?

*Dr Renu Venugopal (Dir. Centre for women studies)*

Has the programme been analysed with woman’s perspective?

*Dr Priyamvada Shrivastava (Prof. Psychology, Ravishankar Utd)*

Are we running after the targets or are we supposed to focus on the service to be provided?

*Dr P.R. Kathuria (Principal, Atharv. I.T, Durg.)*

What is the concept of Sanitation for the Tribals?

*Dr Sarla Sharma (Prof. Geog. Ravishankar Utd)*

Are we incorporating exemplary work of Solid Liquid Waste Management and trying to make people adapt it and become entreprenuers?

*Mr. Akshay Agrawal, (B.E. Student, Ambikapur)*

When we are talking about missions, are we educating the children about it?

Is our curriculum complete?

*M. Azaruddin (M-Tech Scholar, Water Res.Dept)*

Should the policy be laid through the perspective of the top or it should come from the down?

*Mr. Shreeyansh Kumar Sharma (Prof. Psychology, Ravishankar Utd)*
State level consultation workshop on “Contribution of Academia towards Swachh Bharat Mission” was organized in Chhattisgarh Academy of Administration, Raipur on 28th January 2016, by PRIA in collaboration with Water Aid. The workshop offered a good blend of expertise from Academic Institutions, Government, NGOs and students in particular.

Swachh Bharat Mission in Chhattisgarh

Swachh Bharat Mission in Chhattisgarh is progressing very rapidly. To date there are about 1100 ODF villages in the 27 districts. Rajnandgaon is a district which is way ahead of many districts, there are already 431 villages which have been declared ODF. Recently a block of Rajnandgaon, Ambagadchowki has been declared ODF, which is a milestone. Dhamtari, Raigarh and Sarguja districts are fast catching up with approximately 80 each. But still there are a few districts like Bastar, Durg, and Kondagaon. Narayanpur and Sukma are yet to catch up.

RALU (Rapid Action Learning Unit) incorporated by PRIA and WATER AID

As per SBM guidelines section 4.10, one of the most important provisions incorporated was to agree upon setting up of the Rapid Action Learning Units (RALUs) at various levels- District, State and National. As per the guidelines of the SBM the RALUs are tasked with studying and analysing action taken across the country in the rural sanitation programme, evaluating their impact, identifying good practices for scaling up, finding out problematic area and alerting people on that and also suggesting innovations and a range of options for improved implementation.

WATER AID and PRIA with SBM, supporting RALU

WaterAid has been working in India since 1986 and has played a significant role in the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector nationally and in the states. Its mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to WASH services.

Action Learning has been the core of PRIA’s programmatic efforts to strengthen Adult Learning, Citizens Voice, Capacities of Local Governments and also the capacities of other governmental and non-governmental institutions on the issues of rights and responsibilities in relation to public services such as education, health, water and sanitation.

PRIA and WATER AID is facilitating state level RALU in Chhattisgarh in collaboration with the Water-Aid and with support from SBM Directorate in Raipur, Nodal Department of Government of Chhattisgarh and the State Planning Commission, Chhattisgarh.

Issues with explanation

Menstrual Hygiene and Sanitation

In tribal district, especially in Chhattisgarh, the health hazards due to scarcity of menstruation hygiene in women is much, since the awareness level is very low, due to several cultural beliefs, myths and taboos, along with various social norms, unwritten rules and practices by which they go through many unhygienic conditions, i.e. use of dirty
water and home made pads, which is the basic cause behind the degradable health status of women. A systematic research need to be done to on Role of Sanitation in Menstrual Hygiene Management”.

**Water Sanitation and Gender**

The statement ‘TOILETS FOR ALL should also be supported by WATER FOR ALL’. This was supported by an example of Pahari Korba, where there is scarcity of water. Women are suffering of various diseases due to scarcity of water.

Matters relating to Gender Issues should be wisely dealt. It has been found that women are disappointed with toilet construction, because as it is they were loaded with much work, now they also have to fill the toilet's tank. Thus a women has to spend 5 hours/day in water collection, thus how much time do they spend in a month on a single task. Even the adolescents’ girls do not go to school during their menses thus 440 billion school days are missed by girl students of India. 97 billion hours are spent just spent by ladies searching for safe hours. Similarly such data related to diarrhoea stricken children should be evaluated. Thus focus should be on value for money and this would definitely attract the attention of Govt.

A systematic research needs to be done on ways to make community more compatible for women. And its impacts on the overall growth.
IEC (Information, Education & Communication)

Focus has shifted towards BCC (Behaviour Change communication). Now all the government programmes especially SBM (Swachh Bharat mission) focussing on mass awareness generation, disseminating information & collective behaviour change to bridge the gap between construction of toilets and their proper use.

A research study must be done on what are the kinds of tools/methods which can be used for behaviour change.

Solid Liquid Waste Management

It has been estimated that around 88% of the total diseases burden is due to lack of clean water, sanitation & improper Solid and Liquid waste management. Through proper management of SLWM, entrepreneurship can also be developed. It has also been realized that unless and until we do not involve educational institute + NGO + Municipalities + Community, this issues cannot be solved. Hence a rigorous study need to be initiated in Different parts of the state looking at the geographical location to understand its related issues for proper Solid liquid waste management in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Education and Sanitation

Participants felt that to bring behavioural change, most perceiving age is childhood. Thus Water Sanitation and Hygiene level in the community and ways to improve, should be included in the curriculum of the community.

Women constitute almost 50% of the total population, but the status of literacy of women is only 54% in comparison to that of man is 76%. There are various reason behind the low participation of women in the education sector,
influencing the school enrolment, thus increasing the dropout rate & overall the quality of education. It was discussed that women’s education can play a pivotal role in realizing the dream of Swachh Bharat Mission. A research can be initiated to increase their participation not only to increase the decisions at household level but also at highest level.

Conclusions

The meet was a clear indication, as to how the academicians are interested to work for Water and Sanitation and their interest can be properly, if guided properly. There were various issues which need to be worked on to make the mission sustainable.

Way Forward

- Sending a report to those who were not interested to come in the meet
- Formation of What’s app group
- Linking of the institutional research with planning commission
- Be in contact with the participant and those interested to go further can be given topics of research
- Orientation of the candidates about Swachh Bharat Mission Guideline, for better understanding and delivery in research
- Certification of participation in the coming capacity building programme
- Sending material related to development in Swachh Bharat Mission
- Uploading the research on website of PRIA

Press report