

Monthly Newsletter – November 2020

❖ EVENTS & OBSERVANCES

World Toilet Day 2020: Sustainable Sanitation and Climate change

World Toilet Day was observed on November 19 on the theme '*Sustainable Sanitation and Climate change*'. Globally, the day celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely managed sanitation. This year the theme highlighted the need for sustainable sanitation, alongside clean water and handwashing facilities for every individual, to help protect and maintain health security and stop the spread of deadly infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

To inspire people to take steps to address the sanitation crisis, Water For People India celebrated World Toilet Day in Anganwadi centres, community and schools across four states – West Bengal



(Rajnagar, Khoyrasol), Bihar (Sheohar), Maharashtra (Amravati), and Odisha (Ganjam, Khordha). In Amravati, the event was observed in two villages - Vastapur and Jaitadehi in Chikhaldara block. Creative activities to spread the importance of toilet usage were organized through small rallies with slogans, rangoli art drawing to generate mass awareness, and handwashing steps among students for personal

hygiene and cleanliness. Total 155 people were reached through the activities which generated a positive environment to motivate people to build toilets for better health and future and to use them regularly.

In Sheohar, the event was observed on November 18 and 19 in all five blocks covering 53 GPs to increase awareness on sustainable sanitation. Due to COVID-19 and restrictions for large social gatherings, an awareness video was created and disseminated among the stakeholders and communities to promote safe WASH practices and how a 'toilet' is dignity for every home. It was aimed that through video dissemination more beneficiaries will be reached. As part of field level activities, life-saving messages were disseminated through auto miking on the critical importance of good sanitation and hygiene. Leveraging the power of social art, Water For People India tapped mural artists especially women harnessing their potential for behaviour change activities and sustained toilet usage in village Surgahi located in Tariyani block.





In West Bengal and Odisha, World Toilet Day was observed in five districts with awareness generation activities among students and communities using online platforms and field level activities. An online painting competition was organized for students to participate and submit their entries with creative ideas for a Clean India. Leaflets with

hygiene messages in Bengali, Hindi and Odia were distributed among the community with a WASH tableau disseminating key hygiene messages.

To help cut down the cost of procuring cleaning materials for schools and community toilets, cleaning disinfectants were distributed among 100 schools and 42 Mohalla Committees in Kolkata, Howrah and Hooghly districts. Similar awareness drives were organized in Odisha and widely covered in the local dailies.



In Khoyrasol, a fair was organised and attended by ANM, ASHA workers, Health and ICDS supervisors, school teachers and panchayat officials. An exhibition was organised on school sanitation depicting school models with separate toilet enclosures for boys and girls, change room with incinerators, drinking and handwashing stations with soap and toilet cleaners, shade and soak pits, rainwater harvesting with kitchen garden, and twin pit toilets.

Newly renovated water and toilet facilities were inaugurated in five primary schools from four panchayats in Rajnagar, Chandrapur, Bhabanipur and Gangmuri Joypur. Total 337 students have been benefitted. Post inauguration, Swachhta Matdan (voting) to check the level of cleanliness was conducted involving 149 students from these schools. Home visits were conducted in 25 households by the students to survey and collect sanitation related data and generate awareness on the ill effects of open defecation. Later, a community triggering program (CLTS) was done within the community surrounding these school to sensitize them towards sustained toilet usage and maintaining open defecation free status.



❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

FSM Study and Piloting in Sheohar



A consultative meeting was held on November 26 with District Magistrate (DM) and Deputy Development Commissioner to discuss the need and feasibility of Technical Support Unit in Sheohar district, Bihar to provide technical assistance in the implementation of WASH services. The District administration agreed to provide support for the study of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and its piloting in Sheohar. The meeting discussed the role of Water For People India

as one of the key members in the District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC), chaired by the DM.

Inauguration of Renovated Community Toilet

Water For People India in collaboration with ITC Limited flagship initiative *Mission Sunehra Kal* renovated a community toilet in Alifnagar slum in Kolkata city, West Bengal under its community sanitation program. The toilet with bare minimum facilities has now been provided with separate enclosures for both male and female including bathing space, urinals and change rooms. Running water has been provided in every enclosure with colourful tiles and wash basins. Hygiene messages have been scribbled on walls to encourage lasting behaviour change among the community members. A committee has been formed for regular operation and maintenance of the renovated toilet.



❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Street Play Auditions



Water For People India Trust in collaboration with Reckitt Benckiser India Private Limited (RB) is implementing a pilot initiative as part of Mission Paani campaign with a twin goal to “conserve and respect” water in two blocks - Achalpur and Chandurbazar - in Amravati district, Maharashtra. The flagship initiative aims to generate consciousness, action, and behaviour change to protect and conserve water resources while instilling a sense of respect and conservation habits within communities. Social Art is being used as a

tool for behaviour change on water and sanitation in these blocks in Maharashtra. A street play

audition was organized on October 31 to identify social art groups to deliver the messages emphatically and in an impactful manner for mass awareness. Total 33 artists with their groups participated in the audition process and used the famous folk art form 'Tamasha' and various presentation styles including 'Batavani' and 'Gavalan' with traditional songs.



Formation of VHNSC in Rajnagar block

Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) is a significant grassroots level mechanism to ensure community participation at all levels, which include participation as beneficiaries, in supporting health activities, in implementing and in monitoring action-based planning towards promotion of health, sanitation and nutrition programmes. Water For People India team under Project 'Swaccho Nirapad Parivesh' (Clean and Safe Environment) supported by NSE Foundation facilitated meetings with nine VHSNCs across five GPs involving 129 participants (Male - 28; Female - 101) in Rajnagar block, Birbhum district, West Bengal.

The meeting was organized with the following objectives to:

- Inform members about the role and objectives of VHSNC.
 - Motivate them to take part in the planning and implementation of program and take collective action on social determinants.
 - Act and form a crucial interface between community and public institutions.
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