

INDIA: A CASE STUDY – RELATED BEST PRACTICE OR LESSONS LEARNED IN WATER & SANITATION

Towards Total Sanitation

The Total Sanitation Campaign is changing the sanitation scenario across the country. While the programme is currently being implemented in 350 districts of the country, it plans to cover all 594 districts by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan (2007).

Evolution of TSC: Lack of infrastructure to reach all rural households, inclination to promote a single model i.e. twin-pit pour flush toilets (which are costly and therefore out of reach of many rural households), heavy reliance on subsidy, lack of motivation among implementers, technology support inconsistent with needs, inadequate use of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) tools and insufficient involvement of NGOs and the private sector, and more importantly, the scarcity of water, are some of the challengers in the sanitation sector in India.

The first programme which exclusively focused solely on sanitation- Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), 1986 had many programmes. This programme mainly relied on subsidy as a means of “creating demand” for household toilets. Only one model—the pour-flush model was promoted; which could be another reason for the limited success.

Keeping in mind the limitations of the CRSP, Sector Reforms were initiated in 1999 by the Government of India. This involved a paradigm shift in that effort was to make a ‘demand responsive system’ rather than ‘supply’ one. The reforms stressed on the empowerment of local communities and ensuring their participation in the implementation and operation of drinking water supply and sanitation schemes. The Total Sanitation Campaign was launched in 1999 as a step towards realizing the suggested reforms in the sanitation sector.

The Campaign Objectives: The Campaign views the sanitation problem holistically and looks at important tools and approaches that create demand for sanitation. The Major objectives of TSC are to:

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas.
- Accelerate sanitation coverage.
- Use awareness and health education to generate demand.
- Cover all schools and anganwadis (child care centers) in rural areas with sanitation facilities
- Technology development and application to be cost effective.
- Undertake efforts to prevent water borne diseases.

Implementation of TSC: The scheme is implemented through support from Government of India and the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. The States/UTs draw up a TSC project for select districts for Government of India assistance. At the district level the Zilla Panchayats implement the projects. At the Block and Panchayat level, the Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat implement it. Such TSC project implementation in the Project Districts is expected to take about 3-5 years of implementation. TSC is being implemented currently in 350 districts of the country. The coverage is to be progressively increased to cover the entire country.

TSC PRINCIPLES

- Demand driven
- Community driven and people centered
- Campaign mode approach
- Focus on IEC
- Alternative delivery mechanisms
- Strong focus on schools sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Involvement of cooperatives, women groups, self-help groups, youth clubs, NGOs, etc.
- Cost-sharing in construction of sanitation facilities and operation and maintenance.

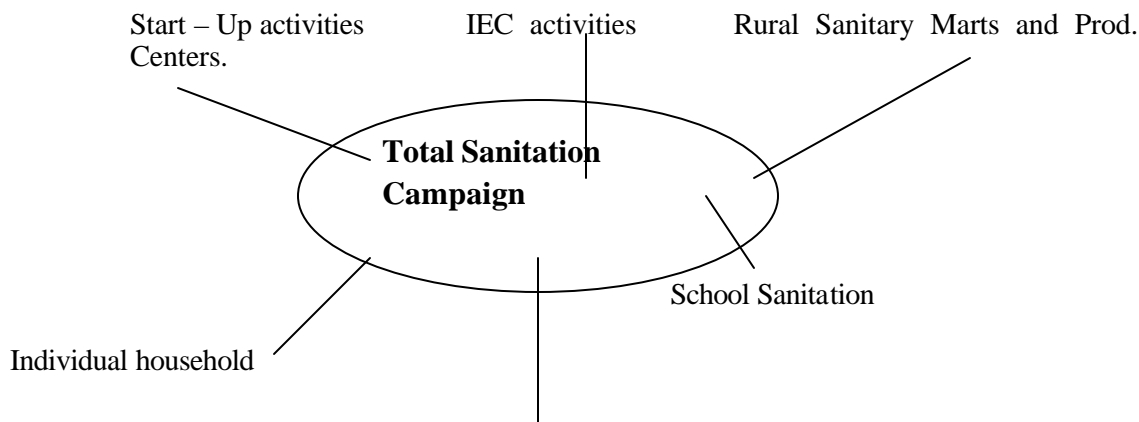
and aanganwadi activities for sanitation are started thereafter.

In the last phase, the physical construction of toilets begins in households, schools, anganwadis and community complexes is taken up.

Marketing 'Sanitation' : Some innovative approaches and tools that help in delivering the targets of TSC include setting up of Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) and Production Centers (PCs). The Mart is an outlet where both the materials required for the construction of sanitary facilities as well as guidance for the most technologically and financially suitable options for the area are provided. Long handled ladles for drinking water pots, brooms and brushes and other items related to sanitation and personal hygiene is sold. In areas where arsenic or fluoride contamination is a problem, some enterprising RSMs also sell drinking water purification filters for domestic use in varying price ranges. One RSM typically covers about 25,000 families. The sales from these marts are increasing; with successful marts selling about 1500 pan annually. Panchayats or NGOs with suitable experience run these marts and centers. The PCs are involved in the manufacture of pans and traps, pit lining rings etc. are locally manufactured in PCs.

Gender and Equity Concerns: Recognizing that women have a particularly important role to play in sanitary sector since they are often the primary collectors, transporters of domestic water and promoters of domestic sanitary activities, gender is a particular focus in the TSC. One of the components of TSC is construction of Women Sanitary Complexes. These complexes may be set up in a place in the village acceptable to women and accessible to them. School sanitation is also an important component, wherein special emphasis is laid on toilets for girls in schools.

For equitable distribution of sanitary facilities among different sections of the society, a minimum of 25 percent of funds under the programme are marked for socially marginalized sections and 3 per cent for disabled persons.



latrines

Women Sanitary Complex

Fig: Components of TSC

Achievements

Of the 138.2 million rural households in India (2001) nearly 3.3 million have constructed household toilets with supports from the TSC. Over 1, 000 women sanitary complexes and 41,000 school toilets have been built. Apart from this support facilities such as Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) and PCs have been set up. All this has been achieved at a total cost of just over Rs.2.92 billion (approximately US \$ 62 million)

Lessons Learnt and Challenges Ahead

It has been about 4 years since the Sector Reforms and the TSC was launched in the country. The campaign has certainly accelerated the pace of change. Most significantly, it has led to many important lessons, which would be useful for scaling up the programme to cover the entire country. Some of these are:

1. Technological options that take into account the water scarce conditions: while in TSC, special attention has been paid to provide and locate specific technological choices for the type of latrines and other infrastructure, more thrust is needed for technologies that especially address the issue of water scarcity.
2. Determining appropriate levels of service: The delivery of rural sanitation services may range from pour-flush toilets to simple pit latrines located at some distance from the house. In many parts of the country like tribal areas, household toilets are not the best option. The future emphasis needs to be on the development and targeting of appropriate levels of service, taking into account issues of affordability, willingness to pay, social and environmental conditions etc.
3. Developing inter-sectoral linkages: One of the important components of TSC has been the school sanitation component, which has met a fair degree of success. This has largely been possible due to well-coordinated efforts of the Departments of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, and of Education. These synergistic policies and efforts towards sanitation led to greater availability of resources as well as avoiding duplication of efforts. Greater synergy needs also to be developed with the Ministry of Health and family Welfare where coordinated efforts could lead to greater success of the programme.
4. Gender equity: one of the reasons for the success of TSC has been the focus on women.
5. Facilities beyond homes: One of the key learning has been even where 100m percent target of home toilets has been achieved; many people are still forced to resort to open defecation, as it becomes impractical for them to return from work places such as agricultural fields to use toilets. Thus suitable public toilets need to be created at locations where they are needed.
6. Towards a national Sanitation and Hygiene Policy: In the arena of policy, sanitation still tends to be clubbed with water supply. The scale and scope of the TSC has demonstrated the need for a separate national policy related to sanitation and hygiene. This would create more enabling conditions and regulatory framework to help fulfill the sanitation targets.
