

# Factsheet-1

## Sanitation

Like previous years, this year also we celebrated the World Toilet Day on 19th of November. But the celebration does not end there. Each day is a Toilet Day especially for the fact that we have a long mission at hands. There are about 3.6 billion people (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2021) across the world who are still living without access to safely managed sanitation. And there are many more who have toilets but may not be using the same for various problems including lack of access to water supply. One thing is for sure, toilet is a necessity for all of us and it is essential for governments and other development stakeholders to support these people with access to quality and usable toilets with access to water supply

### Toilets in numbers:

There are about 3.6 billion people across the world who are still living without access to safely managed sanitation.

Sanitation is vital to health, child development, and social and economic progress.

Safe sanitation is also a human right – essential for the fulfilment of child rights and the achievement of good physical, mental and social well-being – recognized as a distinct right by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 6.2 commits “By 2030, achieve access to adequate

and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations”

In Odisha, according to the latest National Family Health Survey population living in households that use improved sanitation facilities compose of 72.3 percent for urban areas and 58 percent for rural areas. The same survey puts India coverage at 81.5 percent and 64.9 percent respectively.

### Valuing toilets:

That's the theme for the 2021 Toilet Day as set by the UN-Water, the United Nation's coordination mechanism on water and sanitation. Toilets have many values in our lives. They are not just at the centre of the safe sanitation management cycle, but also help us stay in good health and happy.

### Sanitation, beyond toilets

Toilets are definitely at the centre of the safe sanitation cycle. However, having toilets alone won't assure their use, nor would they ensure safe sanitation. We need a safely managed environment for ensuring that toilets help in achieving their goals. To be able to value toilets, therefore, we need to value the environment.



For health, happiness and more...



## Tackling water crisis is important

According to a 2018 Report by Water Aid Nearly 163.1 million people lack access to clean water close to their homes in India. A recent report by UNICEF says that about 50 million people in 15 cities have no access to safe, affordable drinking water. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted between July and December 2018, only 58.2 percent of rural households in India have drinking water facilities within the premises. In urban areas, the figure was 80.7 percent. This shows the wide gap that still exists in relation to water access and that can affect the use of toilets in many ways.

As women have the traditional responsibility of fetching water for their families, with increased water crisis, both due to climate change and other factors, if piped water supplies are not provided, women will be further burdened. This will discourage them and others in their families from using toilets.

Governments in India have shown their commitment to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households through Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's

priority. If water crisis is tackled and water security is ensured through conservation efforts, this will also have the additional benefit of making India truly open defecation free.

## Promoting sustainable sanitation

As we have already said, toilets alone don't achieve safe sanitation for all. What we need is to promote safe and sustainable solution with several other initiatives such as faecal sludge and other waste management. The Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 rightly emphasises on the need for sustainable sanitation, moving beyond promoting use of toilets, in the following lines:

- Ensuring sustainability of significant progress made on toilet access
- Ensuring continued usage of facilities created
- Providing sufficient water and connections for sanitation systems to work
- Proper collection, containment, treatment, disposal or recycling of fecal waste accumulated in septic tanks and pits

A properly designed and promoted sanitation system can actually bring in many benefits such as the following:

- Minimize health and environmental risks associated with open defecation.
- Reduce health hazards and environmental challenges linked to poorly managed waste disposal systems.
- Help in increasing productivity of people and ensuring livelihoods.
- Can enhance energy and ecosystem services.

## Circular economy for sanitation



## From Odisha: bouquet of initiatives

### Safely managed sanitation to meet SDG 6 –

In response to the national and state-level sanitation imperatives, Dhenkanal district, Odisha, is undertaking the 'Dhenkanal Pilot Project for Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)' in partnership with Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department; Housing and Urban Development Department; UNICEF; and the Centre for Policy Research. The Project aims to enable access to safely managed sanitation in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal 6 through a novel district-wide approach to sanitation planning.

The project aims to mainstream systems, documentation and processes to leverage available nearby urban facilities for collection, conveyance and treatment of faecal sludge from neighbouring rural areas. A detailed bottom up study of the Dhenkanal district showed steady, significant, and measurable gains in enabling access to toilets among its rural households – going from ~18% during Census of India 2011 to 69% at the time of the present survey and 66% of households reported that all members always use a toilet – indicating the overall effectiveness of the programmatic investments under SBM-G over the last five years despite a share of last-mile gaps in access and behaviour change persisting. Building on these detailed assessment of sludge generation and other necessary parameters are decided alongside extent of area to be served. This initiative won the ISC-FICCI award in 2021 and has successfully scaled it up to 7 districts in Odisha.

### Heroes of Change-

A bunch of feisty women in Nuagaon village of Sundergarh district, a remote district in eastern India, are silently leading a revolution. They are #HeroesOfChange as they steadily have been introducing the concept of building and using toilets in their communities. Armed with an unwavering will, these women have come up with innovative practices to tackle and eliminate water, sanitation, and hygiene issues with the support of

WaterAid India and its partner organization JEETA.

The women encouraged the villagers to construct toilets on their own. They hired masons trained by WaterAid to construct two leach pits, an eco-friendly indigenous technology that can be easily constructed by local labour and materials. The toilet revolution in Nuagaon still continues and the women inspire even more people to adopt good hygiene and sanitation practices.

Women empowerment through Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in the City.

### 5th Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation

The urban Wage Employment Initiative (MUKTA) and Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (FSSM)- two key initiatives of Odisha received Global recognition at the 5th Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation 2021 ceremony.

The UWEI was shortlisted for reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience of the urban population in the State. The initiative in Berhampur was chosen for promoting sustainable environment conservation and women empowerment through Faecal Sludge and Septage Management in the City.

#### ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



Water Supply



Hand Hygiene



Drinking Water



Cleanliness



Sanitation



Waste Management



# WHO CARES ABOUT TOILETS ?

**3.6 BILLION PEOPLE DO, BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE ONE\***  
(WHO/UNICEF2021)

**1. TALKING AWAY  
OUR PEE AND POO**

**3. MAINTAINING  
OUR DIGNITY**

**2. KEEPING HUMAN WASTE  
OUT OF OUR WATER AND  
FOOD CHAINS**

**4. PROTECTING  
FROM KILLER  
DISEASES LIKE  
CHOLERA**

**5. HELPING REDUCE  
MALNUTRITION**

**6. HELPS KEEP  
CHILDREN IN SCHOOL**

**7. WHEN THERE ARE TOILETS IN  
SCHOOL, GIRLS DON'T HAVE TO  
STAY HOME WHILE THEY'RE  
MENSTRUATING**

**8. HAVING A DECENT  
TOILET AT WORK AND  
IN ALL OTHER PLEACES**

**9. AND FINALLY, WE CAN THANK TOILETS  
FOR CREATING LOTS OF JOBS.  
SANITATION SYSTEMS NEED PEOPLE  
TO RUN THEM, 24/7,365 FOREVER.**



SCAN TO JOIN



Youth4Water

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