# Use of SFDs in India: Overview and an Example

Paresh Chhajed-Picha

Senior Research Scholar, IIT Bombay Moderator, SuSanA Forum

Shit Flow Diagram: Potential and Opportunities for Achieving Sustainable Citywide

### To be discussed

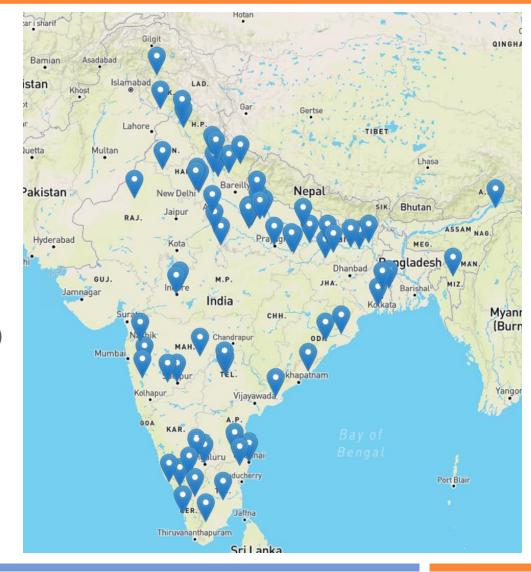
- Use of SFDs in India
- Findings from a cumulative SFD in India
- Example of Alappuzha
- Other opportunities
- Conclusion



# Use of SFDs in India

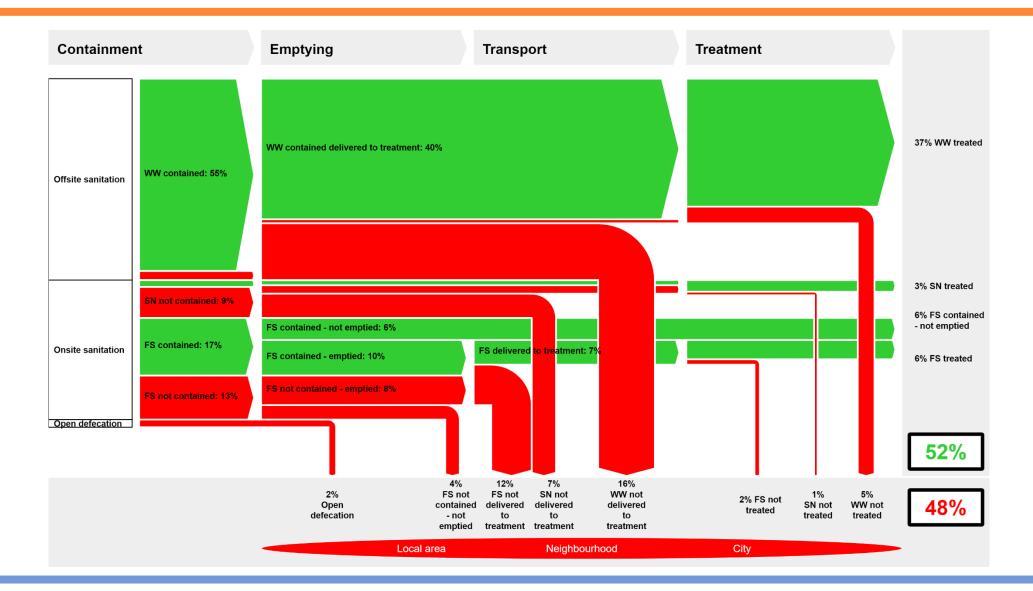
#### Use of SFD in India

- 80 SFD reports available at the repository, 72 unique cities
  - City size varies from 12 k to 16 million
  - 14 million plus cities, 58 small cities (< 1 million)
  - Four sub-city reports, Four revised versions
- Spread not uniform
  - 24 from UP
  - 1 each from 4 states (Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan)
  - Only two from NE states
- Use mostly through donor support by established organisations





#### Cumulative SFD of all 72 cities





### Findings: Cumulative SFD of Indian cities

- More than 97% have access to toilets, less than 2% practice OD
  - OD reported in SFDs prepared after 2019 when the country was declared
    ODF
- 57% have toilets connected to sewers, 40% connected to OSS
  - No city with 100% dependence on sewers
  - Dependence on OSS varies from 100% (in 12 cities) to 2%
- A little over half of wastewater and faecal sludge is safely managed



### FSM Infrastructure and practices

- 62% OSS produce SN, its management needs urgent attention
- Cities report use of OSS that do not safely contain FS
- Emptying cycle far from desired frequency, reports assume OSS emptied in as many as 10 years to safely contain FS
- Both public and private sectors provide emptying service.
  - Service quality and charges vary
- Manual emptying reported in numerous cities
- Where treated, reuse of FS is not reported. On the contrary, some cities report reuse of untreated waste
  - In Bikaner, farmers sometimes tipped emptiers to dispose FS in their fields



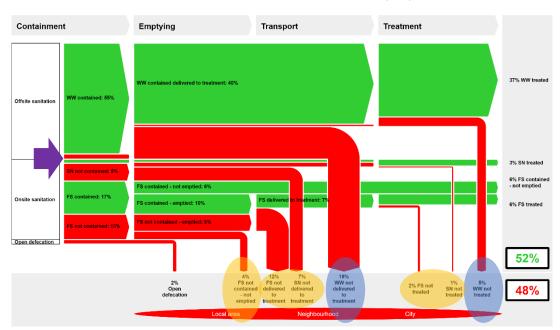
#### FSM – Sources of information

- Census only source of information for type of OSS
  - SFD reports note discrepancy between census information and on-ground reality, but many forced to rely on census information
  - LGs have information for each plot, not collated
- Information related to management of SN generally not available
  - Most SFDs rely on estimates or assumptions
- Where PSPs are involved, emptying related information is not fool-proof
- Information regarding number of OSS emptied manually is not available
- Treatment related information is generally available
- Information related to reuse of (untreated) FS is not available.



#### Failures that need attention

- All the 5 failures identified by an earlier review (Peal et al. 2020)
  observed in Indian cities
  - 1. wastewater from off-site systems not delivered to treatment (16%)
  - 2. wastewater delivered for treatment, not treated (5%)
  - 3. FS not contained and not emptied from OSS (4%)
  - 4. FS and SN emptied, not delivered to treatment and (19%)
  - 5. FS and SN delivered for treatment, not treated (2%)

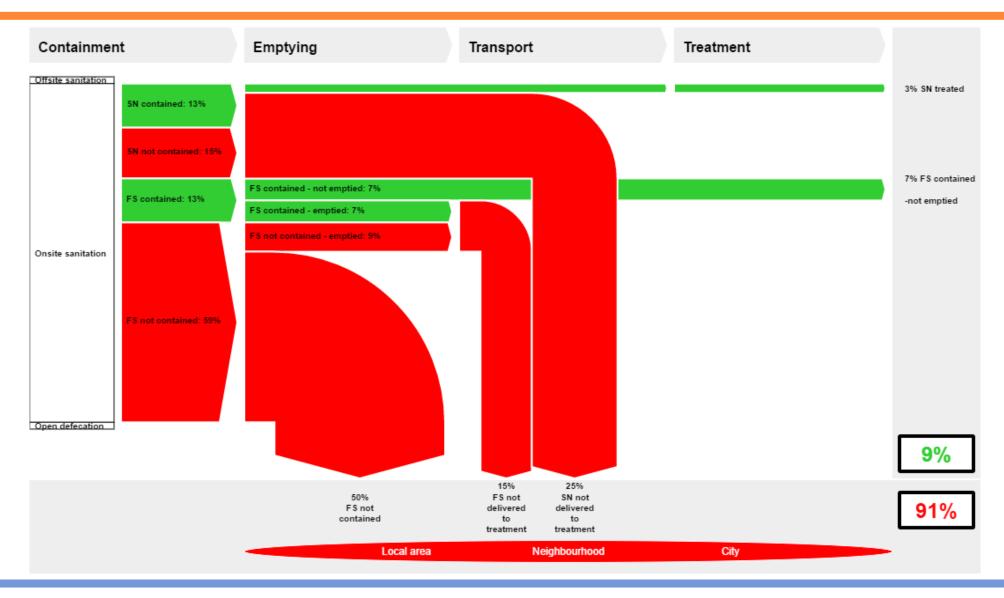


- Other failure: Wastewater not contained disposed directly into storm water drains, water bodies, open grounds, etc.
  - Cumulatively, 2% population relies on such toilets
  - As high as 23% toilets in Bikaner belong to this category
- Lack of emphasis on reuse of treated products and reuse of untreated waste
  - · Reuse of treated products necessary for circular economy
  - Use of untreated FS in agriculture can be hazardous
- Lack of emphasis on safety of workers

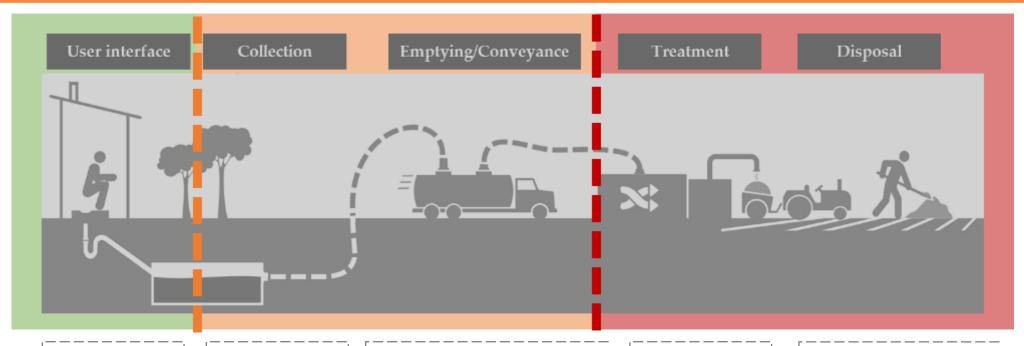


# Example of Alappuzha

# Context adapted SFD of Alappuzha







- All households have access to toilets
- Majority (2 in 3) of OSS are pits, inappropriate for the town
- Census information wrt OSS is inaccurate

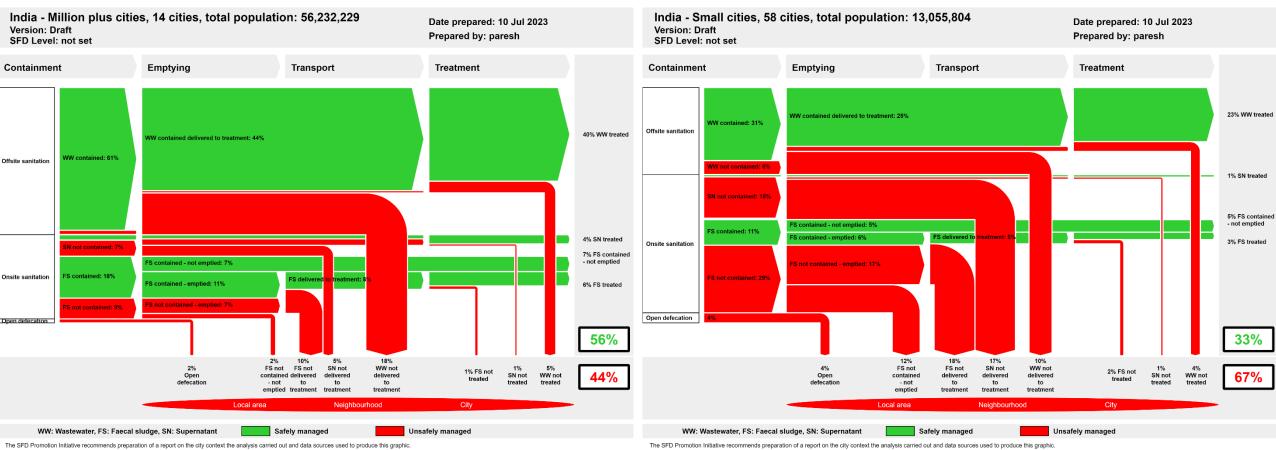
- Manual emptying is reported
- Unregulated emptying by private service providers only
- 43% OSS never emptied, >30%10 years or older
- Avg. emptying cycle of 3.5 years for emptied OSS

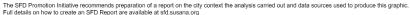
- No treatment facility
- 3 plants in vicinity, arrangement to treat FS did not last
- Dumping of untreated FS
- Reuse possibilities not assessed



# Other Opportunities

## Big cities v/s small cities





Full details on how to create an SFD Report are available at sfd.susana.org



### Inequity within a city





# Conclusion

### SFD - Potential and Opportunities

- Potential for regional and global monitoring (reiterating Peal et al. 2020)
  - Opportunity to contribute to national and state-level policy
- Potential to highlight inequities between cities and within cities
- Opportunity to innovate
  - Example of Alappuzha A powerful combination of youth, penetration of smart phones,
    and open-source mobile applications to conduct household surveys
- Opportunity to plug into policies
  - New education policy and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
- Opportunity to further refine the tool itself



### Questions, suggestions, and comments are welcome

Thank you

