FSTP Implementation: Challenges & Lessons from Uttar Pradesh

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20.11.2023
In 2019 under AMRUT 1.0., for towns with more than 01 lakh population (AMRUT towns), Department of Urban Development, UP decided to go for management of faecal sludge—FSTPs where sewerage system was not present and Co-treatment where STP were underutilized.

As the concept of FSSM was new in UP, the technology option was kept as open ended (Successful bidders were allowed to implement their choice of technology as long as it was vetted by competent authority i.e. IITs/NITs)
Spread of FSSM projects

59 FSSM Projects in 56 ULBs:
FSTPs - 39 nos.
Co-Treatment - 20 nos.

Total investment: ₹ 220 crores
Challenges

Operational & Institutional

Inadequate septage at the plant

Unregulated private desludging

Technical issues at the plant

Lack of regulatory framework

Approach road
Addressing the Challenges

- Acknowledge the Challenges
- Identify the Priorities
- Set Achievable goals with Milestones
- Communicate Clearly and Regularly
- Monitor the Progress and address nagging issues

Role of State
Absence of proper framework/guidelines

Current status:

• Many ULBs have not notified desludging fees.
• Lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders
• No monitoring of private operators
• Lack of clarity on Operations & Maintenance of Plants and desludging fees

Intervention adopted:

• Issuance of State Model FSSM Bye-Laws for cities to draft their own the Bye-laws
• Hands-on Training of ULBs on preparing Bye laws
• Model contract for engaging Third party for O&M of treatment plant and desludging services
• Advisory on O&M costing of FSSM projects and desludging fees with desludging calculator
Inadequate septage at the treatment plant

Current Status:

• Private operators are discharging the septage in open environment, instead of discharging at the plant; who caters the most desludging request in many cities

• Desludging frequency ranging from 5-10-15 years, resulting in very few desludging request at ULB

• Difficulty in providing desludging services in narrow lanes area (20-30% areas)

Intervention Adopted/proposed:

• Listing of bulk generators: CT/PT, institutional buildings, government housing colonies, colleges and hospitals

• Promoting periodic desludging from the above list

• Awareness generation among citizen for regular emptying of the septic tanks

• Desludging service to urban poor at subsidized rate- Part of model state model byelaws

HHs in narrow lane in Aligarh
Current status:

• Majority of ULBs have private desludging operator to provide septic tank emptying service to households
• They discharge the emptied septage into open lands or water bodies
• They are mostly unregulated

Intervention adopted/Proposed:

• Push ULBs for Identification and registration and licensing of private operators- Forms format available in Model Byelaws document
• Encourage ULBs for fixing desludging fees in consultation with the Private operators and other stakeholders
How to get more sludge - strategy

Private establishments
- All residential buildings
- Demand based desludging
- Desludging requests received at ULB to be transferred to contractor

Government establishments with high footfall
- Scheduled desludging at an interval of 6 months or less
- Includes CT/PTs, toilets in schools/colleges, hospitals

Other government establishments
- Scheduled desludging at an interval of 3-5 years
- Includes government offices/buildings, housing colonies

Commercial establishments
- All commercial properties
- Demand based desludging
- Motivate to take government services
- Desludging requests received at ULB to be transferred to contractor

Slums or low income settlement areas
- Provision for lower desludging fees
- Address request on priority

Schedule desludging
Demand based desludging
Demand based on priority desludging