What private desludging operators want?

Insights from surveys of around 200+ towns across India over 7 years
Key insights: Type of desludging operations

Majority of the service is provided by the private desludging truck operators as a cluster-based approach
Key insights: Challenges and overcoming them

Lack of place for disposal

1. Designated disposal and treatment sites are not available in most of the places
2. Difficult process to access disposal facility at STPs.
   - Exorbitant tipping fees in STP
   - Complex paperwork

Providing designated disposal sites

1. Designated trenching sites
2. Designated STPs
3. Designated FSTPs
Key insights: Challenges and overcoming them

Quality of service

1. Lack of trust on authorities
   1. Regular fines
   2. Government payments not on time
2. Undervaluation of their services including payments
   - But households have another perspective- poor quality, dirty, costly

Mainstreaming

1. Building trust with the authorities
2. Increasing awareness about the necessity of desludging services
3. Upgrading the quality of services- promoting use of PPE, maintaining occupational safety and hygiene, customer relations, accounting
The question of scheduled desludging for households would invariably necessitate price fixing and licensing by government.

How would the desludging operators agree given the trust issues?

Why should desludging operator agree given that the prices are fixed at a lower end and they will need to take many more orders to remain profitable i.e. higher operations cost?

Why should the households agree given they spent a fortune in building containment for a generation mainly due to lack of services?
How to ensure that desludging operators and households are not adversely affected while ensuring safe FSM?

Start with schedule desludging of bulk generators who are anyways desludging their containments more frequently

- Bulk generators include: large household complexes, commercial complexes, offices, hospitals, educational institutions, hostels etc. Any building that empties containment every year or less. Scheduling desludging for institutions can help in streamlining the large sludge collection and avoiding shock loads to FSTP.

Licensing without price fixing but with quality enhancement

- Provide PPEs to desludging workers, monitor them for timely and safe service delivery, not price control
Key insights: Addressing the concerns of operators while ensuring safe FSM

- **Setting up of the FSTP/co-treatment site or designated safe disposal site**
- **Scheduled desludging for bulk generators & licensing without price fixing**
- **IEC, improving service delivery through training and continued scheduled desludging for bulk generators & licensing**
- **Don’t infringe on price**
- **Improved quality of service**
- **Get buy-in**
  - Buy-in from general public and scheduled desludging for household with price fixing
  - Work on trust issues
CDD Society is a not-for-profit organization, registered in 2005, that innovates, demonstrates and disseminates decentralized nature-based solutions for the conservation, collection, treatment and reuse of water resources and management of sanitation facilities.

**SECTORS OF WORK**

- Wastewater Treatment & Reuse
- Waterbody Rejuvenation
- Faecal Sludge Management
- Solid Waste Management

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Happy to collaborate on more such ideas!!

For more information log on to:
Debisha Sharma,
Associate Project Manager
debisha.s@cddindia.org
www.cddindia.org