



Webinar

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UNDERSTANDING WASH CHALLENGES AT THE URBAN FRINGE

Based on a Case Study of Bijnor City in Uttar Pradesh



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Governance Shifts in Peri-Urban Areas: Implications for WASH Service Delivery

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Transformation of the Peri-urban Areas

- Urban fringes are growing rapidly & in an unplanned manner
- Migrants settle informally and many sites are unfit for habitation, constraining future infrastructure development
- The social fabric changes that constraints organized engagement with the local authority
- Living condition is poor and affordability is low leading to lower demand for WASH services & their quality and a low-level equilibrium of WASH services prevails
- The local govts. are not used to provide WASH services as prescribed under SBM-2. They are too weak and there is a huge gap between desired and existing capacity

Lack of Planned Development & Related Policy

- Low priority, little investment, weak infrastructure, low demand & feeble voice of the people leads to service quality to stay at the bottom of the WASH ladder
- There is little priority for planned development with inadequate data on WASH services for assessing services and planning to meet the growing needs
- Investments are driven by scheme implementation using a blue-print approach – no result framework to check compliance to service delivery benchmarks
- There is little monitoring to understand the gap and prepare plan with adequate funds and technical knowledge

Institutional Weakness & Capacity Gap

- Local authorities are weak institutions & have poor governance. They are not so aware of their responsibility as a duty-bearer for providing WASH services under the Rule
- Lack of qualified human resources, inadequate revenue mobilization & poor collection of service charge, little adoption of technology and lack of vision are common
- Fragmented solutions replaces holistic planning
- Engagement with the residents, especially the marginalized/ migrants is minimal and they get little chance of expressing their needs and the process of GPDP is weak

Poor Infrastructure, O&M & Funding

- WASH infrastructure & its' O&M are poor; service delivery not even match rural standards – poor WASH leads to more public health failure affecting the poor disproportionately
- The assets are not owned by the community & they are not associated with planning & protection of the assets
- Poor infrastructure & barrier to access leads to competition among the users leading to more inequity
- Low OSR and inadequate govt. devolution makes funding of large projects/ maintenance of assets difficult
- Recovering service charges often faces political hurdle

Socioeconomic & Other Issues

- Demographic transition leads to increasing heterogeneity
- Community remains fragmented, unorganized to be engaged with the authority to become a partner of development & a client-patron relationship prevails
- There is little communication on behaviour change and knowledge of service standards that suppresses demand
- Growing population increases demand of WASH services leading to more service failure & inequity
- The consumers fail to check compliance with service delivery norms – low expectation and low capacity of the authority leads to a low level of service delivery equilibrium

What Can Facilitate a Smooth Transition

- Adopting specific policy for development of the fringes – visioning/ more funding & mentoring are critical needs
- Conduct baseline of WASH services including land ownership & related data to prepare perspective plan
- Prepare LULC plan & guide/ regulate habitat development – convergence in planning of the fringes with the city/town
- **Capacitate the local authority** to manage the transition well in advance before the problem grows to become unmanageable – need monitoring by state govt.
- **Organize & empower the community** - develop partnership with the service provider to work together.

Thank You

