CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE

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# Sustainable Sanitation: Sustaining Lives

Outline

WHY: - Why sanitation? Why is it important?

WHAT: - How do the villages become ODF? Particularly, what is the approach towards IEC and construction?

HOW : - What are the type of toilets being constructed and what is the construction and usage narrative?

WHERE : - Where are we today? Where next: role of stakeholders, government, media, all of us ?

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Understanding the WHY Sanitation: Facts and Evidence
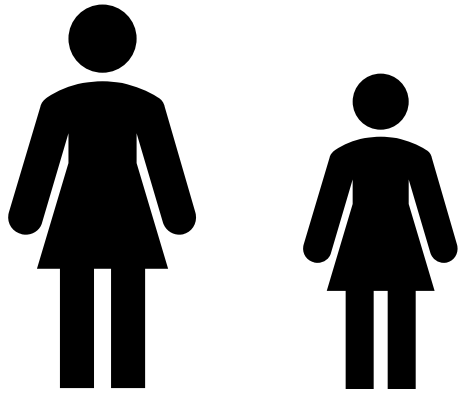
- Children in India are shorter, on average, than children in Sub-Saharan Africa, even though Indians are richer on average.

- Evidence suggests that Open defecation explains **54**% of international variation in child height.

- GDP only explains **29**%

    -Spears(2013)

WHY Sanitation

- Unsafe water and sanitation contributed to **5**% of the total disease burden in the country, mainly due to diarrhoeal diseases and other infections
- Was the second leading risk responsible for disease burden in India in 1990, but dropped to the seventh leading risk in 2016.
- Burden due to this risk is also highest in several EAG* states and Assam: Improvement lowest in EAG states
- Higher in females than in males
- Child and maternal malnutrition was India's leading risk factor for health loss in 2016, causing 14.6% of the country's total DALYs

* Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh, referred to as the **Empowered Action Group (EAG) states**

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Need to remember and reinforce

- Tracking and analysing toilet construction and usage now limited to only holding government accountable

- Not even so much for an inherent value.

- Importance as an instrument towards ultimate goal,

- Ultimate goal: reduce morbidity and mortality by safely containing and disposing all faecal matter.

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How ODF is ODF?

"ODF is the termination of faecal-oral transmission, defined by
  a) no visible faeces found in the environment/village; and
  b) every household as well as public/community institutions using **safe technology option for disposal of faeces**"

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Guidelines for ODF verification, 2015

Simply Put
- Universal Usage (implying and subsuming Universal access)
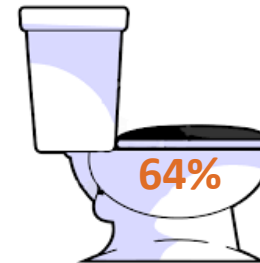 - Safe containment and disposal of faecal sludge

What we found in ODF Panchayats

82%

70%

64%

49%

Constructed toilets

Functional toilets

Used toilets

Regularly used toilets

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The typical route to ODF

```
House visits,          Monitoring and        Target
village meetings       Morning follow        Completion?
                       ups

Team                   Construction          Declaration
Mobilization and
Allocation

Triggering             Follow up?            Verification
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◄────────────────── **Time Bound** ──────────────────►
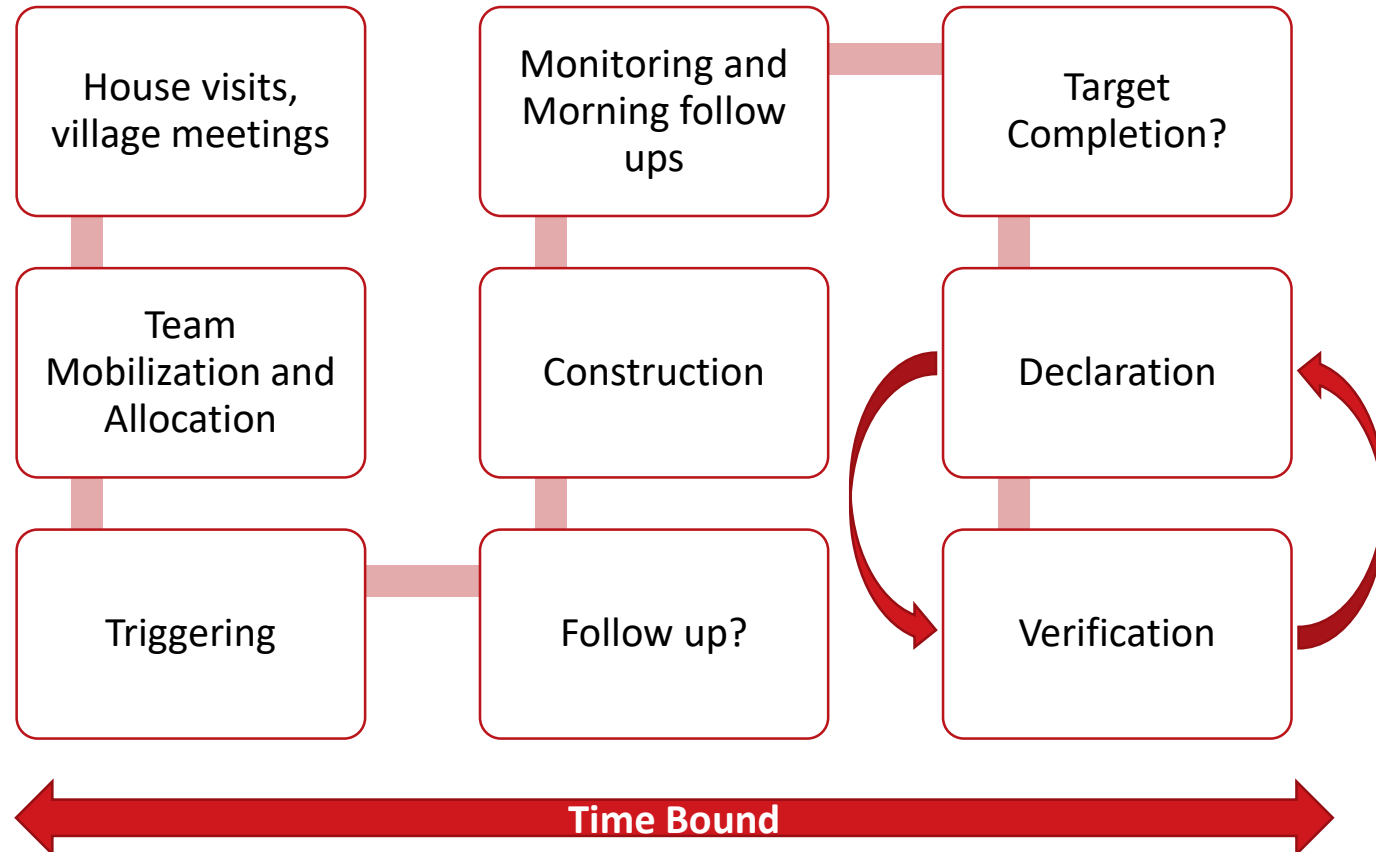
- 42% of the sampled households visited at home by anyone in the context of the SBM.

- 25% of all those who constructed toilets reported GP pressure as the primary cause of construction.

"If we had waited for people to demand, wouldn't have done it in 42 days. Stopped all our other work." - Sarpanch
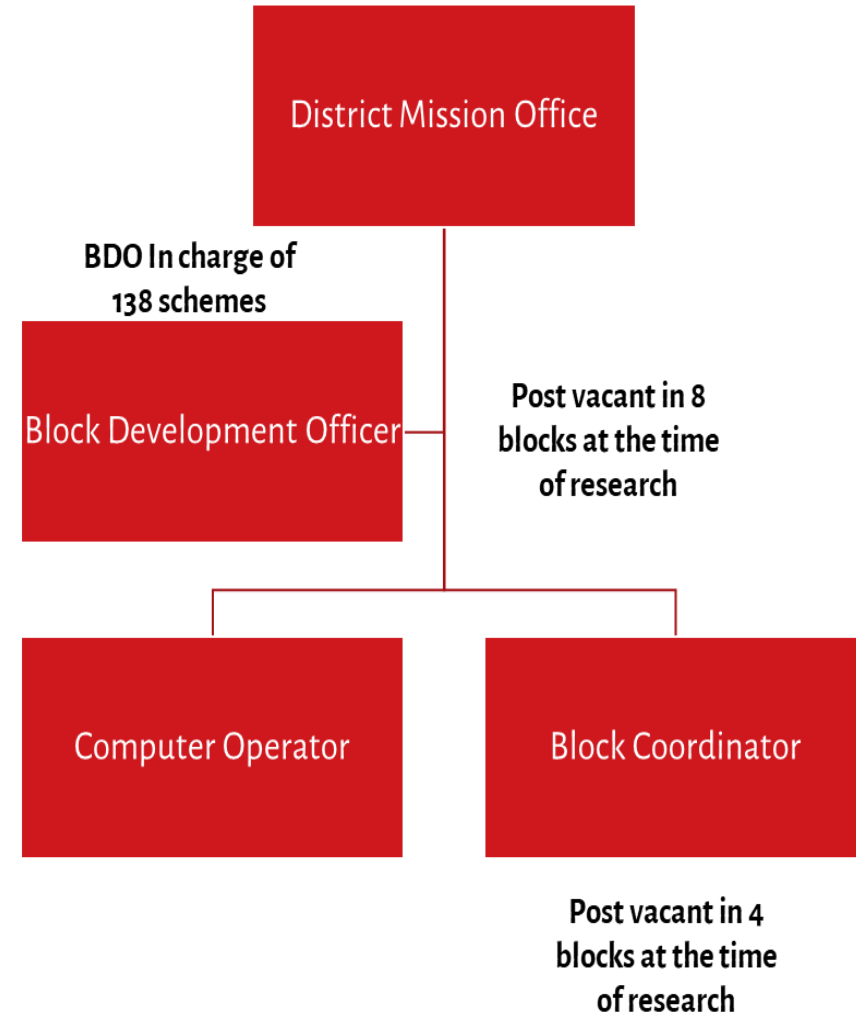
"Threatened with ration cuts and throwing kids out of school. Mortgaged jewellery to make toilet. Cost over a lakh. Had to build, no choice. Even if it means taking loans" - Beneficiary

Administrative capacity

Recommended District Programme Management Unit Strength

- 1 District Coordinator,
- 1 Assistant Coordinator,
- 1 IEC Consultant,
- 1 Capacity Building Consultant,
- 1 Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant,
- 1 Sanitation and Hygiene Expert,
- 1 Solid and Liquid Waste Management Expert,
- 1 Accountant,
- 1 Data Entry Officer.

"[a] government officer as a full-time Block Sanitation Officer. Until that is made operational, the State governments may officially assign SBM(G) activities to a senior official posted at the Block level. He/She may be assisted by a Block Coordinator and a Data Entry Operator engaged on contract who shall be provided emoluments to be decided by State. This Block level arrangement shall be asked with handholding, supervising and monitoring every GP in the implementation of the scheme." (MDWS, 2017)

District Mission Office

BDO In charge of 138 schemes

Block Development Officer

Post vacant in 8 blocks at the time of research

Computer Operator

Block Coordinator

Post vacant in 4 blocks at the time of research

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A public health crisis in the making

Demonstration effect

Association with affluence and urban ethos

Looking to the neighbour's preferences

Low access of FSM services

Low awareness of pit clearance nuances.

Lack of facilities.

Information Asymmetry

Dependent on mason for design decisions

Lack of awareness of technology options and nuances

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A public health crisis in the making   (contd)

"**Water, cleanliness of water sources and public water bodies, decentralized solid and liquid waste management, 3Rs (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse), drains, maintenance of school and Anganwadi toilets, hand-washing and personal hygiene, hand-washing in school before Mid-Day- Meal, awareness and training on pit emptying and faecal sludge management etc**"

SBM Guidelines, 2017

"*Why are people still making single pit? At least they have something in the form of a functional toilet. Depends on the person's economic condition. We wanted to at least start toilet usage. Once it starts, they get into the habit of usage. There's no set design for toilets. Designs are different everywhere*" - BDO

"*Everyone in the house uses – big tank because so many members in the HH. Who will clean the pit again and again.*" - Beneficiary

"*Most people felt that septic tanks are better and should be constructed if they can be afforded. Very limited awareness about pit cleaning and sludge management.*" – Panchayat Secretary
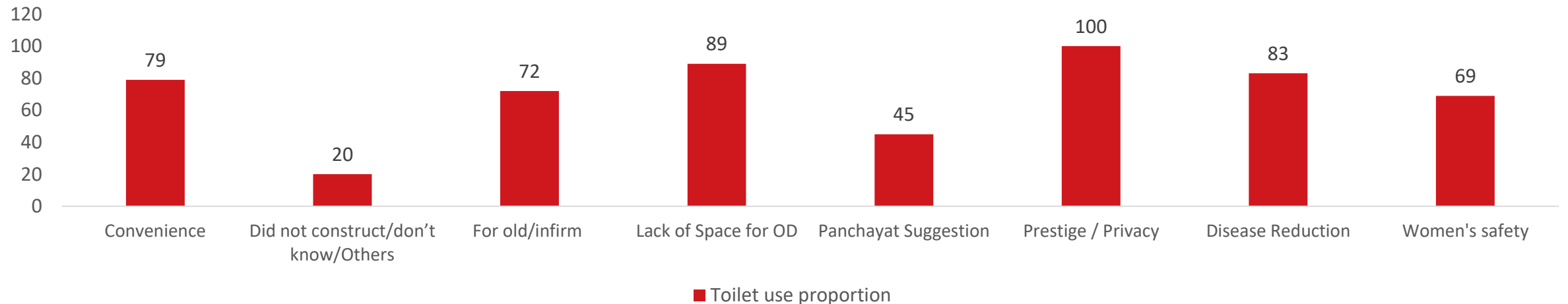
The impact of the approach on usage

All numbers are %
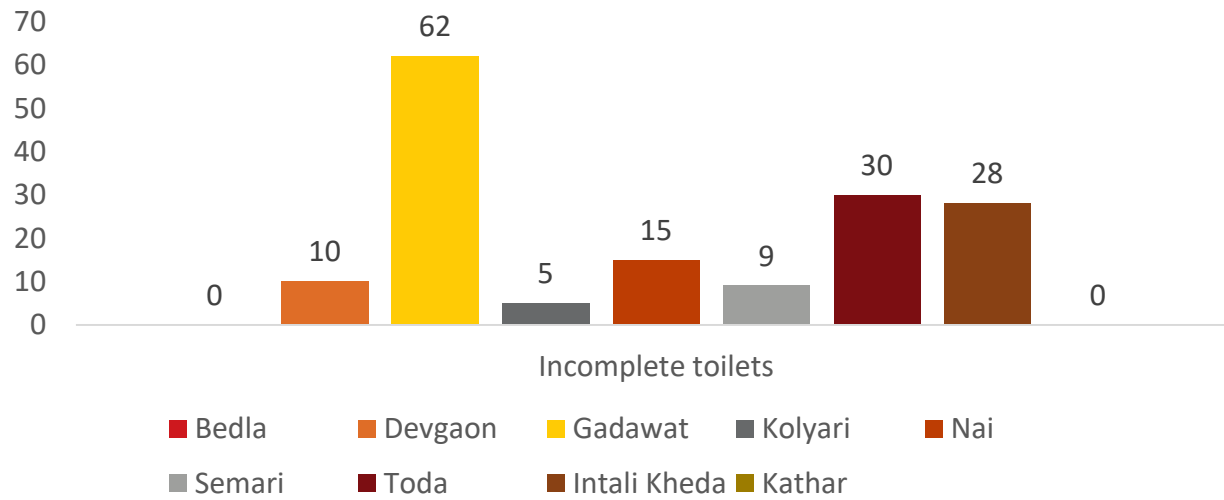
"Threatened to remove people from NREGA, BPL etc. Used 'administrative terror' – refused to get their work done. You can always find pressure points even for the richer communities. If you demoralize the leader of the community then people follow the example. "- BDO
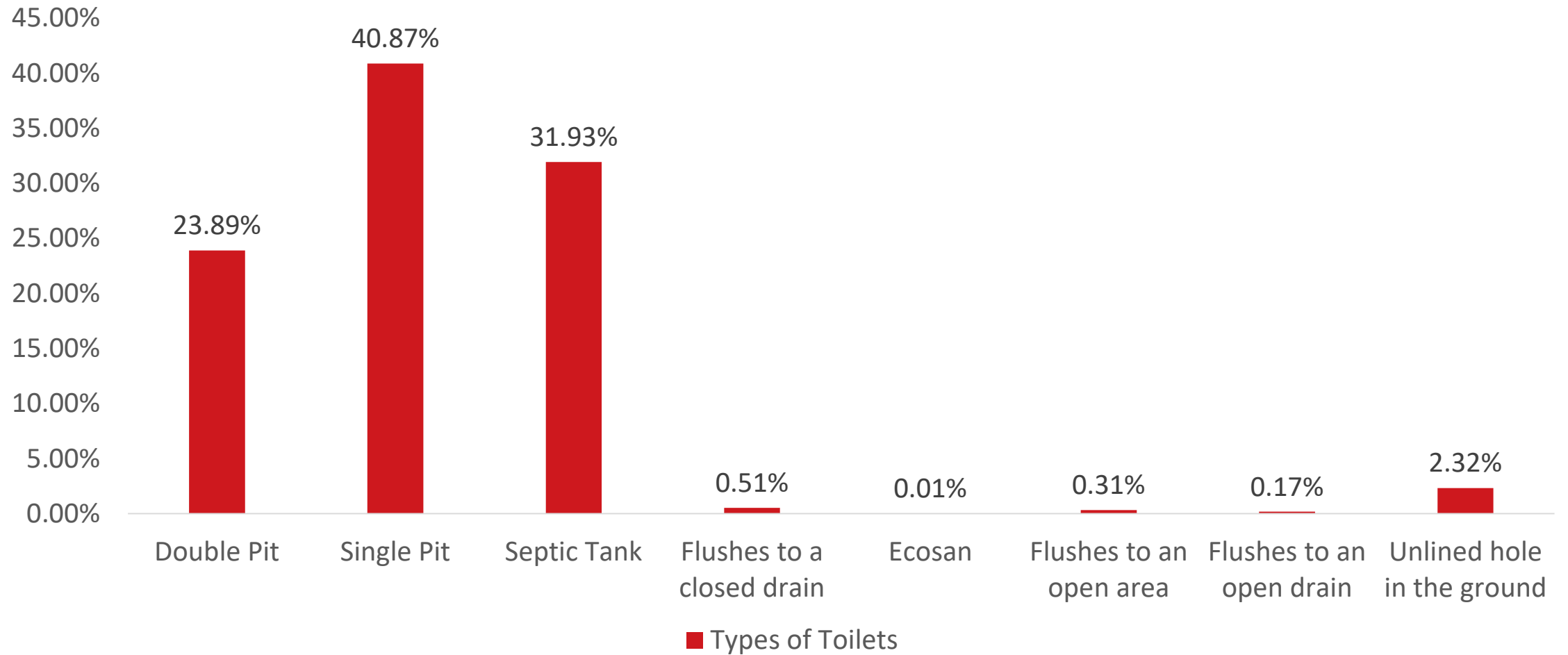
"Don't know why the toilet was made. 'Sarkar jaane'. It's fine, got it made". - Beneficiary

"Threatened with ration cuts and throwing kids out of school. Mortgaged jewellery to make toilet. Cost over a lakh. Had to build, no choice. Even if it means taking loans" - Beneficiary

Why does type of construction matter? Importance of Toilet Technology

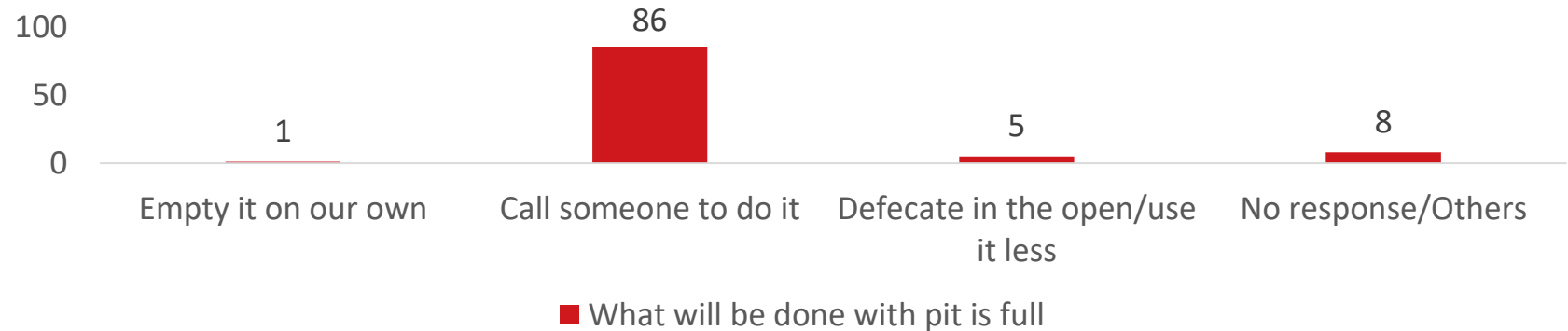*Report of "Household survey for Assessment of Toilet Coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin" 2017 by QCI*
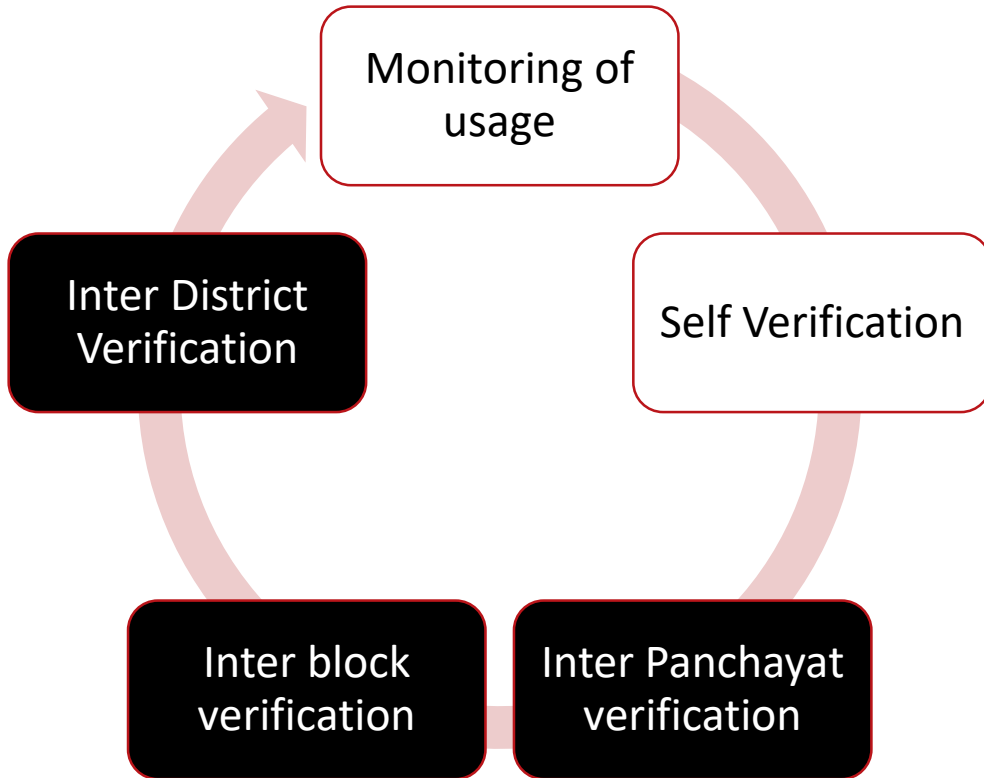
Need to look beyond the immediate term

48% of Scheduled Tribes (ST) respondents reported owning a septic tank as compared to 73% of the general category respondents and 97% of the OBC respondents.
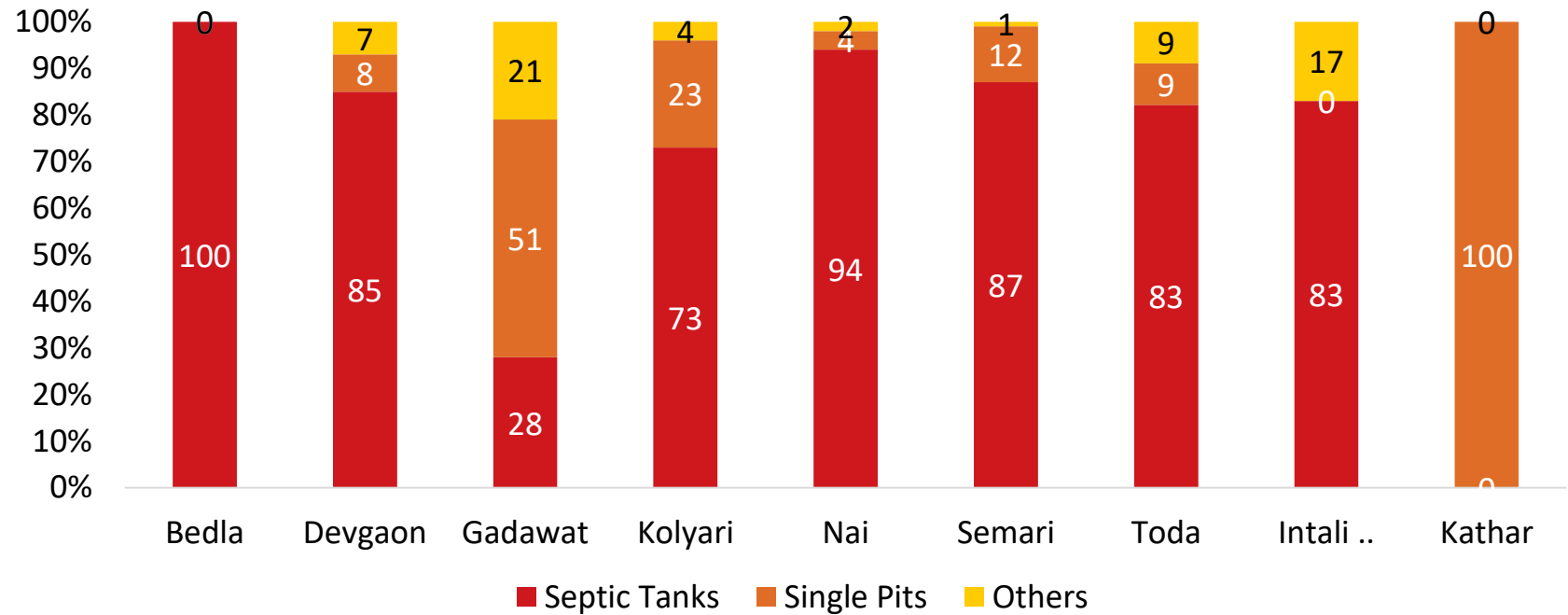
On average, 61% of the toilet owners did not know the time it would take before their pit would fill up if every member in the family used the toilet.

	Septic Tanks	Single Pits	Others
Bedla	100		0
Devgaon	85	8	7
Gadawat	28	51	21
Kolyari	73	23	4
Nai	94	4	2
Semari	87	12	1
Toda	83	9	9
Intali ..	83	0	17
Kathar	0	100	0

What will be done with pit is full

Empty it on our own	Call someone to do it	Defecate in the open/use it less	No response/Others
1	86	5	8

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Ensuring credible self declarations

Gram Panchayat Level
- Resolution of ODF status through Gram Sachiv
- Passed in Gram Sabha or fortnightly meeting of GP.

Block Level
- ODF proposal and copy of resolution submitted to BDO for block level verification. Verification team may comprise BDO, JTA and Block Coordinator.

Inter-district verification
- District sends a request for interdistrict verification
- The state team conducts a verification of ODF GPs using a sample survey

State level validation
- State validation takes place within 3 months and after 6 months of the inter district verification

Cycle diagram labels:
- Monitoring of usage
- Self Verification
- Inter Panchayat verification
- Inter block verification
- Inter District Verification

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Verification challenges

"[a]t least two verifications may be carried out. The first verification must be carried out within three months of the declaration to verify the ODF status. In order to ensure sustainability of ODF, a second verification may be carried out around six months after the first verification. The State will ensure at least one level of verification of all households in every village that declares itself ODF. If some States may have more than one level of verification, the subsequent verifications can be on a sample basis."

"It is observed that despite declaration and verification, there are instances of 'slip-back' by some households or 'outsiders'. It may be noted that an ODF declared and verified village, district or State does not necessarily lose its ODF status on account of the temporary 'slip-back'."

"Once a village obtains ODF status, the maintenance of the ODF status will be the responsibility of the community. Any new household added to the village must have access to toilets."

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Role of Community/Social Audits in Monitoring and Verification?

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Situational Summary
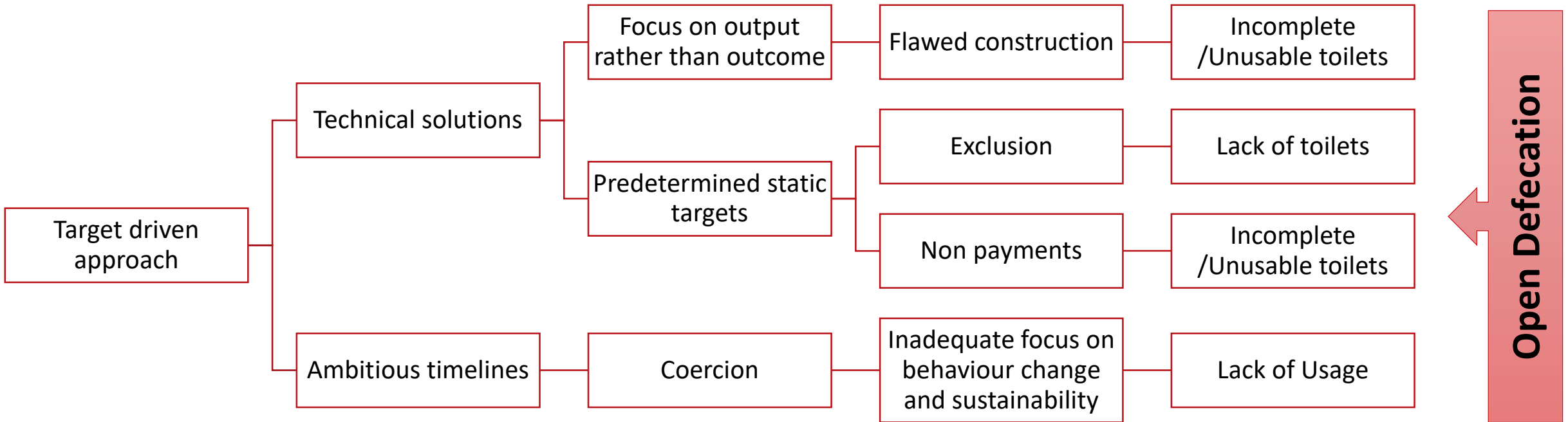
What could be done?

Using sanitation for social inclusion and positive gender impact	Rationalization of work across administrative levels	More focus on BCC
Basic qualifications and clear incentives for Swachhagrahis	Norms for DBT in Incentive	Revising eligibility criteria to order of preference
Focus on Monitoring including social audits	Set standards for rigorous verification	Focus on water provision

"Guidelines which say everything say nothing at all"

Senior Bureaucrat associated with SBM

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Source - SBM Guidelines, 2017

What you/we can do?

Remember the ultimate goal not the intermediate objective

Follow the sanitation value-chain

Ask questions!

Demonstrate case studies

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