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?
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
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.
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

- Constructed toilets: 82%
- Functional toilets: 70%
- Used toilets: 64%
- Regularly used toilets: 49%
The typical route to ODF

- 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)
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
“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
“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.
Ensuring credible self declarations

Monitoring of usage

- Inter District Verification
- Inter block verification
- Self Verification
- Inter Panchayat verification

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
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.”
Situational Summary

Target driven approach

Technical solutions
- Focus on output rather than outcome
- Flawed construction
- Incomplete /Unusable toilets

Predetermined static targets
- Exclusion
- Non payments
- Incomplete /Unusable toilets

Ambitious timelines
- Coercion
- Inadequate focus on behaviour change and sustainability
- Lack of Usage

Open Defecation
### What could be done?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What could be done</th>
<th>Rationalization of work across administrative levels</th>
<th>More focus on BCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using sanitation for social inclusion and positive gender impact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic qualifications and clear incentives for Swachhagrahis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on Monitoring including social audits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationalization of work across administrative levels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norms for DBT in Incentive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revising eligibility criteria to order of preference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set standards for rigorous verification</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on water provision</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Guidelines which say everything say nothing at all”

Senior Bureaucrat associated with SBM

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