Enabling Policy and Regulation: Context Setting

Good governance and infrastructure are critical for providing improved inclusive sanitation services.

SDG 6: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

*OECD study on water governance: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/water-governance-in-oecd-countries_9789264119284-en#page34
Enabling Policy and Regulation

Current status: policy, guidelines and government programmes

• **Sanitation is a state subject**
• **Policy shift from exclusive centralized sanitation systems, to a combination of centralized and decentralized sanitation systems**
  • The National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Policy, 2017
  • National Missions and schemes: SBM, AMRUT and NAMASTE
• **Policy and guidelines covers**
  • Coverage of households connected to septic tanks/sewer network
  • Treatment choices: Construction of FSTPs, Co-treatment plants and STPs
  • Safety of sanitation workers: Emergency response sanitation unit (ERSU) at the district/city level for safe cleaning and maintenance of septic tanks, sewer lines and manholes
  • Capacity building and IEC

Enabling policy and regulatory framework

- Many states have adopted septage management policy – UP, Tamil Nadu, Odisha etc.
- Toilets: Number of Individual Household Latrine, community toilets and public toilets has increased
  - Not all the households are covered, especially in slums
  - Faulty design of septic tanks making desludging difficult
  - Septic tanks are not connected to the sewer lines – where available

- Infrastructure creation for septage management
  - Many states like Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh are constructing FSTPs and/or co-treatment plants. But the gap still exists (e.g. only 59 cities out of 762 cities of Uttar Pradesh have septage management facility – FSTP/co-treatment plant)
  - Challenge in selection of appropriate technology for septage management
  - Non-contextual design of the treatment plants. (e.g. 37 FSTPs out of 40 FSTPs are with capacity of 32 KLD in Uttar Pradesh)
Enabling policy and regulatory framework

**Operation and maintenance**
- In many states, cities are doing the O&M, in Odisha O&M of FSTPs is being done by transgender SHGs
- Under DBOT model, once the plants are handed over to the cities, there is lack of clarity who to do the O&M and how
- Cities do not have adequate fund to bear O&M expenses of FSSM plants
- Many FSSM plants are not operating at its optimum capacity – inadequate sludge
- Managing and monitoring quality of the treated water and bio-solids is a challenge for the plants

**Providing septage management service**
- Many cities do not have adequate vehicles to provide desludging services
- Some state and cities have formal system at the ULB level to accept desludging request
- Fixation of desludging fees is either left to private operators, or arbitrarily fixed
  - High fees is detrimental for the poor households to de-sludge, however, forced to hire services in exigencies
- Response time to provide the service is not committed
- Many cities finding difficulty in provide desludging services for the households located in difficult terrain or to be reached through narrow lanes

*DBOT – Design, build, operation and transfer*
Enabling policy and regulatory framework

• **Health – safety – social welfare of sanitation workers**
  • Only few states are focusing on the health & Safety and social welfare of sanitation workers
    • Garima scheme of Odisha govt - for safety and dignity of core sanitation workers
    • Trichy and Coimbatore cities are ensuring sanitation workers are linked to the existing govt. schemes for social welfare, Customized health camps, creation of alternate employment opportunities through skill/ entrepreneurship training
    • Zero death of sanitation workers - yet to be achieved - 347 people have died in the last five years, with Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Delhi accounting for 40% of these fatalities.

• **Business model – public-private-people partnership and creation of livelihood opportunities**
  • Public-private partnership models (HAM) is being explored in O&M of public toilets – for example in Telengana and Andhra Pradesh
  • In many cities private players provide the desludging service – some cities and state have formal mechanism to engage with them, others do not
  • Some cities and and state providing employment opportunities by engaging women groups in managing sanitation services CTs/PTs and FSTPs - empowerment
  • In UP, STPs are managed by the contractor but later co-treatment modules are built – lack of clarity who will maintain them
Enabling policy and regulatory framework

- **Monitoring of performance of cities in providing sanitation services**
  - Odisha and Tamil Nadu have demonstrated examples of data/IT driven mechanism - transaction
  - Use of SaniTab in Maharashtra- for household level surveys for generating baseline information for planning and monitoring ODF and FSM activities
  - **Setting-up contextual targets to achieve higher outcomes of inclusivity at the ULB level;** like Ease of Septage management Tool developed for UP state.

- **Regulation**
  - City level FSSM bye-laws are available in some cities mentioning the roles and responsibilities of city government, public and private players – only 8 out of 762 cities in UP has FSSM bye-laws
Emerging challenges and Priorities for way forward

- **CSE study indicates cost of O&M of a FSTP is Rs. 18-24 lakh/year.**
  - Should the O&M cost of plant operations be paid by the city municipal authority? From state and central finance commission support for small towns that are running deficit in municipal finances. Or any other means: Hybrid Annuity Models, Sanitation Tax etc.?

- **Enabling framework for integrating women's and marginalized group in policy formulation and governance of sanitation service chain** –
  - How to get their voice heard in decision making and get them involved in the service delivery mechanism?

- **Health and safety of sanitation workers** – how fast can we equip them with the machines – tools and gears to ensure zero death of sanitation workers.
  - How can we dignify their work? Can the cities at least account for and register all sanitation workers and cover them under existing welfare schemes?

- **Use of IT on governance** –
  - how we can use IT to inform policy decision, how to ensure IT helping service delivery – making governance more responsive and accountable and the scope of grievance redressal
Emerging challenges and Priorities for way forward

• **Key questions**
  • How to get the voice of citizen -women heard in decision making and get them involved in the service delivery mechanism?
  • What does the experience of different states inform us on the criticality of Governance, Policy and Regulations - in achieving inclusive sanitation outcomes?
  • What is the international and other global south country/cities experience informing us?
  • How to set out goals?
  • How to materialise this at state or city level, what should be our role as enablers? What should be done first?
Thank you!

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