

TOUR REPORT ON VISIT TO WEST BENGAL- 15-16th April, 2009

Wednesday, 15th April, 2009

After arrival at Kolkata airport, went to Purva Medinipur Dt. accompanied by the State TSC Coordinator, Shri Chandi Charan Dey, NSSC Member and Shri Dave, UNICEF WES Specialist.

1. Visited Alasuli primary school under Babartyahat Paschim Gram panchayat in Nandakumar block.

- School Water & Sanitation, Hygiene Education is implemented in the school in partnership with PRI, Rama Krishna Mission and UNICEF.
- Teachers and children have been trained in School Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Education;
- School cabinet was functional and has assigned various duties to its members
- Maintenance of school toilets - cleaned by Health Committee of class IV students of School Cabinet on a monthly rotation basis.
- Force lift pump was installed to the tubewell with a seesaw which enables the water to be lifted to the overhead tank when children play.
- Water from the tube well has been tested in the water quality testing lab of the block and has been found to be safe for drinking.
- In addition, locally produced (by Rama Krishna Mission in their production centres at Tamralipta Guchha, Dakshin Dhalhara) water filter of 10 litres capacity costing around Rs.350 for removal of iron was also kept in the school.
- Water supply and hygiene education messages were painted on the school wall.
- Low cost compost pit made of bamboos have been set up inside the school compound in which biodegradable waste has been dumped for production of manure. The school is using the

manure for production of vegetables for mid day meals in the well maintained School kitchen garden.

- Schools children were taught norms of health and hygiene and were aware of the need to wash hands with soap.
- **Good practices:**
 - **Partnership of PRI, big NGO and UNICEF gives good demonstration projects**
 - **School cabinet**
 - **Force lift pump with overhead tank for toilets**
 - **SWSHE messages on the school compound wall**

2. Visited Chaitanyapur village next. The Rural Sanitary Mart(RSM) and Production Centre(PC) set up by Rama Krishna Mission Lok Shiksha Parishad (RKMLSP) has an impressive two storey building for training, a production centre with 11 men and 25 women producing school and individual toilet materials like pan, slab, smokeless chulhas, a water quality testing lab and a sanitation park.

Setting up of RSM-PCs by NGOs under TSC and their involvement in IEC, water quality and sanitation in the neighbouring blocks have improved coverage and also led to a number of successful pilot projects in various areas.

3. Visited Barada village of Chaitanyapur G.P. In this village of about 850 households, 55 households have bio-gas plants of which about 40 are linked to toilets. There are 11 Tara water handpumps maintained by trained women groups. 50 p. per hh p.m. is charged from the users for its maintenance. The households do not have any inhibitions in using gas from biogas plants linked to toilets for cooking purposes. Decentralised solid and liquid waste disposal methods are used in the village. There are vermi- compost pits for bio degradable waste and soakpits for kitchen waste water. This decentralised waste water

disposal system should work in most rural areas where space is not a constraint around houses.

4. Next visited Lakshya I GP in Mahishadal block to see the community based Water Quality Monitoring System. Tara hand pump is maintained with collections from the users at the rate of Re.1/- per month from 23 families. Water quality was tested on 1/10/2008 and found to be within the permissible level. Water quality samples are given to the Panchayat Facilitator who is paid Rs.25/- per collection and also for giving feed back of results to the womens group. This money is now paid by the PHED gradually to be paid by the GP.
5. Visited another hamlet of Barada village where women group was trained for water quality monitoring and surveillance. **Results of water quality tests are put up on a display board next to the hand pump. This is a good practice that can be disseminated to states.**

Thursday, 16th April, 2009

1. On 16th April visited Bardhaman district, Doluibazar II GP under Memari I police station. Visited RSM run by Siksha Niketan. It is producing toilet slabs, water filters and pans. RSM-PC presently has orders for 470 toilets from Memari I block and 33 school toilet units. Water filters are sold for Rs.350/- each. 12 workers are engaged. Each earns about Rs.2500/- to 3000/- per month. Also saw a rain water harvesting system in the compound.

Kalanavagram, Paschim Medinipur:

2. A water quality lab is run in this village by the same NGO. Capital cost given by PHED out of NRWSP fund and the recurring cost given by the PRIs from the 12th Finance Commission's grant. One

bacteriologist has been engaged by the NGO at a salary of Rs.4, 000/- p.m. So far tested 1100 samples of which 150 have tested positive for bacteriological contamination. In these cases, water sources are treated by chlorination. 450 cases of iron deficiency. In these cases, iron removal filters are being encouraged. The Health Deptt. gives consumable chemicals to the lab. **Convergence of PHED, Rural Dev., and Health Deptt. is a good practice here. The model of RSM run by an NGO also running a water quality testing lab tried out in West Bengal appears to be success story which can be replicated.**

3. Visited **solid and liquid waste disposal yard** run by Siksha Niketan in partnership with the GP. It started as one of 5 pilot plants in 2007. The GP has spent Rs.3 lakh as capital cost from TSC funds and another Rs. 3 lakhs from other funds for setting up the system. The disposal yard is about 2.86 acre out of which ½ acre is used for the compost pit and cleaning sheds, the rest consists of a pond and a nursery. The capital cost has been given by the GP and the operation and maintenance has been outsourced by the GP to the NGO. Payment collection is done by GP. The GP spends Rs.50, 000/-per month towards this. Initially 4 villages were taken up and later extended to cover all 15 villages in 2008. Business people in the market area have responded well. The GP has 34,000 population and 4000 households. The NGO has been given 6 rickshaws for door to door and shop to shop waste collection. 3 women are engaged for segregation of waste in the disposal yard. Sanitation workers get Rs.50 per day. One manager supervises the operation. The GP does not charge anything for the service now, but intends to charge Rs.2.50/- per household and Rs.5/- per shop per month. One collection agent has been engaged who will get Rs.0.50/- as incentive out of Rs.2.50 collected.

Farmer families use bio waste on their own plots. 1500 – 1700 households already using bio waste in their own plots. Each rickshaw has 6 containers with a capacity of 25 – 30 kg of waste i.e. about 150

kg-180 kg per rickshaw and totalling 900 – 1080 kg. garbage collected by 6 rickshaws. Each rickshaw is paid Rs. 130 per day.

There are few good models of rural SLWM. Though this model is only for solid waste management, it would be one of the models that can be replicated.

4. Visited **Dadpur village** with about 30 Modhi (S.T.) families reside. Though this hamlet is part of a NGP GP, only 2 house-holds in this village have toilets in their houses. Many women said they resorted to open defecation. Some men were using the community toilet with 2 seats. The ADM and other District authorities promised to ensure that all houses were provided with toilets by end May, 2009 failing which the NGP awarded to the GP would be withdrawn.

5. Visited school toilet in Navagram village constructed at an enhanced unit cost of Rs.28000 with the additional Rs.8000/- from BRGF funds.

6. Visited a community toilet in Navagram Paschim. Well constructed and maintained. 8 – 10 families use 2 toilet seats. The users said that people resorted to open defecation because they were insufficient. I suggested that each house should have one toilet seat to ensure proper maintenance.

7. Visited Satgachia community toilet complex in a crowded market area. Constructed at a cost of Rs.4.5 lakh – Rs.2 lakh from TSC and balance from GP & bazaar community- in 2006. 3 toilets + 5 urinals + one bath for gents and one toilet + 2 urinals +1 bath for ladies. GP has collected Rs.50, 000/- as user charges from the lessee who charges Re.1 for toilet use and 25paise for urinal use. Disposal of liquid waste in the market area is still to be addressed by the panchayat and district authorities. This GP does not have either a solid or a liquid waste management system. Garbage was thrown all over the market area.

I held discussions with the Sabhadhipati of ZP who is in his second term as Sabhadhipati. It was wonderful to learn from him that he was a TSC Motivator before he became a ZP member. He has taken keen interest in TSC activities. He said that for the success of TSC, either the Sabhadhipati or DM should take interest in the programme implementation. He also requested for provision of incentive for construction of superstructure of old, already constructed toilets and new toilets. West Bengal is persisting with the old unit cost of Rs.640/- (Rs.320 as beneficiary contribution, Rs.192/- as Centre's contribution and Rs.128 as State contribution). I pointed out that this could not be done for old toilets, but atleast new toilets could be built with superstructure by enhancing the unit cost already allowed by Centre.

Held discussions with Dr. M.N. Roy, Principal Secretary, Panchayat Raj & RD Deptt. West Bengal, Shri Chandan Sengupta, sanitation expert in Shri M N Roy's office and Shri Ganesh Choudhury, TSC State Coordinator, West Bengal. The Principal Secretary also requested that TSC fund be allowed to be used for building super structure for the old toilets. He was against raising the unit cost without this provision because he did not want the old adopters of TSC to be discriminated against, when the new adopters were getting incentive for super structure. I suggested that at least the remaining 7 lakh BPL families could be given benefit of enhanced unit cost so that they could build toilet with super structure. Principal Secretary also said that they have a programme for 10 districts lagging behind in TSC and hope to achieve 100% coverage by 2010 – 11 by providing 10 lakh toilets per year to cover the balance of around 22 lakh households.