

MAVAN EKTA MISSION: HEALTH THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

- **Background**

Manav Ekta Mission is the brainchild of Sri M — spiritual guide, social reformer and educationist — working under the aegis of the Satsang Foundation, towards the oneness of all humanity.

A woman has constantly felt the lack of toilets in public areas that are clean, secure and private enough to be used by women. Most affected are school-going girls between 12 and 18 who invariably miss 5 days in school during their menstrual period due to lack of clean and functioning toilets in schools. 11% of schools in India do not possess basic sanitation facilities, while 34 % of toilets remain in unusable conditions. The WHO estimates that nearly 600 million Indians defecate in the open—a sizeable human waste of nearly 72000 tonnes every day that can prove to be a health threat with potential epidemics, common threats being cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, infectious hepatitis, and hookworm. India needs 115 million toilets by the year 2019—the official deadline to eradicate open defecation.



The Objectives of Manav Ekta Mission address the six crucial areas of social co-existence in India that will help us achieve lasting peace and harmony, Community Health being one of them

The Mission actively conceptualizes, organises and executes activities and initiatives that bring true reformation and change in human minds for a better, more inclusive and truly united world.

- **Location, Date**

Kerala, 2012

- **Areas**

Rural

- **Stage/Scale**

Full Scale

- **Objective of the assignment**

The emphasis is on propagating effective community awareness programs to improve sanitation and primary healthcare.

• **What was done**

The citizens seldom use public toilets in India due to its highly unhygienic conditions. In addition to this, it is difficult to employ attendants to clean such toilets manually in a highly educated state like Kerala due to the social stigma. Eram's unmanned eToilet uses technology and sustainable design to address the difficulty of keeping public toilets clean. Eram developed a coin-operated eToilet with an electronic system that triggers an automated, self-cleaning mechanism. It automatically cleans itself after each use and the water gets recycled for flushing.

• **Impact**

- Positive growth in the attendances of girl child in school.
- Gave confidence and security to women in public places.
- 500 schools are impacted through the technology.

• **Challenges and Issues**

- The major challenge is to reduce the cost of these eToilets to a price tag of Rs.1,00,000 without compromising the quality in order to increase the number of installations.
- periodic inspection visits to ensure the toilet's pristine condition by technician is another issue.

• **Innovation**

- The school eToilets are girl-friendly, even featuring napkin vending machines and incinerators for their benefit.
- The eToilets feature options for solar power and sensors to control usage of water and electricity.
- The usage pattern statistics of the toilets can be easily gained through the GPRS connectively inbuilt in the e-toilets.
- water gets recycled for flushing.

• **Lessons learnt**

- Due to lack of sanitation units in public women don't feel safe.
- In high educated society technology should be used for awareness towards sanitation.

• **Financials**

- Funded mostly by local governance bodies, the basic eToilet costs about INR 2,00,000 and the operations costs are met by a minor usage charge and advertisements on the exterior and inner walls of the toilet.
- The INR 30 million grant from BMGF is also received.

• **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

Though the units comes with self cleaning technology, a specific technician's visit is important for longer sustainability.

• **Implementer Contact Persons**

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• Sources and References

- <http://manavektamission.org/community-health/an-etoilet-innovation-is-leading-the-indian-revolution-in-public-sanitation/>
- <http://manavektamission.org/contact-us/>