

# SUZLON FOUNDATION – SANITATION PROGRAMS

## • Background

The CSR initiatives of individual companies in Suzlon group are now under the umbrella of Suzlon Foundation. A comprehensive CSR policy and program framework has been evolved focusing on integrating a sustainability perspective across the business and offsetting business footprints through sustainable development programs.

The key sanitation issues the foundation worked on are Open defecation; poor hygiene and sanitation of toilets in schools; lack of proper hand washing; lack of adequate waste water drainage; lack of access to hygiene, sanitation knowledge, skill, facilities and services; lack of collective management of the issue. The implementation approach focused on

- Participatory rapid appraisal
- Formation of health and sanitation committees and institutional mechanisms
- Preparation of community action plans
- Capacity building through workshops and exposure visits
- Input supply
- Community mobilization and behavior change communication
- Construction of amenities
- Maintenance of amenities by community

## • Location, Date

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh; 2010-11

## • Areas

Rural

## • Stage/Scale

Full scale

## • Objective of the assignment

To initiate and sustain sanitation and hygiene in poor unserved rural and peri-urban areas of Suzlon neighbourhood.

## • What was done

### Household Level Solid Waste Management, Pondicherry

- This project in partnership with Ekoventure, reached out to 600 households. In the intervention, women's groups were formed and awareness meetings were conducted on health, hygiene and solid waste management. Video films on solid waste management, ECOSAN toilets and Essential Microbicide (EM) usage were projected during these meetings. Nearly 35 existing women SHGs were identified, scrutinised and graded for the selection of enthusiastic and willing women SHGs to participate and implement the project activities. Based on the performance, out of these groups 24 SHGs were selected, and deemed as a cluster; and their members were trained in batches of 25 people. This included exposure visits to solid waste management projects at village/community level

to understand the importance of segregation and decomposition of solid waste; effective microorganism based production of activated EM, Bokashi and management of solid waste units. The training comprised of 28 introductory awareness sessions, 16 video projections, 4 exposure visits and 21 training programs on EM.

- Thereafter, each household was supplied with two solid waste management units - a barrel with a tap at the bottom, small brick and nylon net/bag. The women groups prepared Activated Effective Microorganism (AEM) in a common place and each household received required quantity of AEM and Bokashi per month. The foundation provided the Effective Microorganism stock solution, jiggery, saw dust, etc required for the preparation of AEM and Bokashi. The technique was adopted from Dr. Lucas Dengel's manual on "EM Technology". The fluid which is drained everyday from the barrel was used as liquid fertilizer, in pots, garden beds, septic tanks etc. Vegetable seed mini-kits were distributed to nearly 200 women and demonstrations were conducted to lay Kitchen gardens using the compost obtained by decomposing the solid waste from the households by using the technology.
- Further, each SHG was provided with Rs. 25,000 as revolving fund to be issued as loans to the members. 50% of the interest amount was used for the project activities like promoting menstrual health and hygiene in schools along with the construction of three incinerators (one at each school) for the safe disposal of the napkins.



### **Nirmal Gram Puraskar**

- This was initiated in Isarthuni, Gopalpura & Tajpuriya villages of Madhya Pradesh where Positive health was reinforced through health awareness sessions for students of 12 schools, school teachers & anganwadi workers. One teacher from each of the 12 schools was trained as a resource person to conduct these sessions. As part of the project, student sanitation rally was also held.
- Apart from this, technical expertise was sought from public health department to demonstrate soak pit construction in two villages which was followed by construction of 200 toilets in these villages by the foundation. A "triggering exercise" was also held in these villages by taking groups near human waste and demonstrating contamination of water from waste, triggering a feeling of horror.
- Following this a third party evaluation of Isarthuni village was done, and it was declared 'Open Defecation Free'. It also received the President Award for 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar'.

## PEHCHAN Project

- This project was initiated in Chikkavaddatti and Murdi villages of Gadag district of Karnataka and Jamgaon, Ghorvad, Advadi villages of Dhule district in Maharashtra.
- In this project at the school levels, in order to bring about behaviour change among school going students, many school health programs were implemented in the villages and through this, messages related to proper use of toilets in school and sanitation education was imparted. These messages are also being reinforced from time to time to emphasize its importance. Sessions also included awareness on personal hygiene. This was done through short stories from their school books like 'Guni Manjoo'. In addition, posters, songs, games and competitions were also used.
- During self help group meetings, discussions were held on women's health with emphasis on menstrual hygiene, environmental sanitation, safety of food and drinking water; techniques in water filtration, purification using alum or chlorine solution were done to influence behavior change practices.
- Discussions about different health aspects of the village were also done with the gram panchayat and village health committees. Epidemic prevention activities like cleanliness around and chlorination of drinking water tanks, well and hand pumps were carried out by the community members and, soakage pits were constructed around these water sources.

- **Impact**

These projects have led to prevention of open defecation; enhanced hygiene and sanitation in schools; decrease in diarrheal episodes; increased sanitation awareness; enhanced sanitation around community water sources; enhanced hygiene- sanitation knowledge, skill, facilities and services and community ownership of the issue and its management.

- **Challenges and Issues**

Resistance to drink chlorinated water due to its bitter taste; low adoption of vermi-composting activity due to water shortage; slow adaptation to new hygiene and sanitation practices by adults.

- **Lessons learnt**

Multi-stakeholder, Multi-pronged approach to group sanitation behaviour change is powerful in any community setting.

- **Financials**

The spending is part of the CSR budget of the company, Suzlon Group.

- **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

Under the solid waste management project, each SHG was provided with INR 25,000 as a revolving fund which could be issued as loans to the members at 2% interest per month. It was agreed that 50% of the interest amount thus collected will be deposited in a separate bank account in the name of the cluster; to be jointly operated by the elected/selected leader of the cluster and the field staff of Ekoventure. The interest amount thus accrued was utilized for the project activities. This ensured the sustainability of the project activities.

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

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- **Sources and References**

- Company Website
- Corporate sector involvement in Sanitation by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), 2013