

LARSEN & TOUBRO LIMITED

- **Background**

Long before CSR became a buzzword, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) was quietly transforming the lives of the underprivileged – starting with those around its manufacturing facilities. Structured around the theme **‘Building India’s Social Infrastructure’** their CSR policies and practices are formulated with a view to maximising their impact. L&T’s Integrated Community Development Programme is aligned with the UN Social Development Goals and addresses the most pressing needs – water, sanitation, education, health and skill-building. In the developing world, 2.5 billion people practice open defecation or lack adequate sanitation facilities; an additional 2.1 billion urban residents use facilities that do not safely dispose of human waste. L&T Technology Services are working on the prototypes to make them sustainable solutions supporting the process of sanitation from waste collection and disposal to energy conversion. The approach will be to make the prototypes more affordable, robust as well as designed to be manufactured with help of local manufacturing facilities.

- **Location, Date**

India

- **Areas**

Rural as well as urban

- **Stage/Scale**

Full scale

- **Objective of the assignment**

With a vision to bring positive social change and improve the quality of life in the communities where they operate, L&T operates across the following objectives:

- In the endeavor towards creating better quality of life in the communities they operate, their focus has been to provide access to safe drinking water.
- Their goal is improved access to quality healthcare through partnerships with Primary Health Centers, Community Health Centers and District Hospitals.

- **What was done**

- Many villages in India have to struggle for water and sanitation. The unavailability of safe drinking water leads to increasing morbidity and mortality rates. It also impacts educational attainments, migration and livelihood opportunities. Keeping this in mind, L&T’s integrated Community Development Programme has been launched in three states, to begin with, and focuses on holistic development in water and sanitation, education, health and Skill-development based on need-assessment. They are working towards enabling water-stressed rural communities to be self-sufficient in water for drinking, sanitation and agriculture.
- Many girls drop out of school due to the lack of toilets, so building toilets in girls’ schools contributes to female literacy. Company would set in motion the process of building 5000 toilets.

- In several of Maharashtra’s drought-prone agricultural areas, they have built check dams to ensure water supply during the dry months. Cultivating two crops a year instead of one, the villagers now need not migrate to cities for seasonal work. Drinking water facilities in schools and public places enable people to be Well-hydrated.







- To help the economically-weak: “Stay healthy despite the high cost of healthcare”, L&T has launched affordable health and welfare initiatives. They have set up community health centers at their facilities at Ahmednagar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Kansbahal, Mumbai, Surat and Vadodara. They focus on reproductive health, and conduct diagnostic and clinical camps and programmes that support maternal and child healthcare, immunization and health education. Rural health camps include ophthalmology, dental, gynecology and general health. Regular health check-up camps are held in schools and pre-school.
- L&T’s HIV/AIDS management initiatives include awareness camps (particularly for high-risk groups), Anti-Retroviral Therapy, counselling and testing.
- Artificial kidney dialysis centers for the underprivileged have been set up at L&T’s Health Centers at Chennai, Mumbai, Thane and Vadodara.

• Impact

As can be seen in the adjoining chart, the impact alone in the year 2015-16 is significant. Moreover, healthcare initiatives for women and children have brought about health seeking behavior among 0.25 million individuals in the year.

• Challenges and Issues

- In such a diverse country as India, addressing the issues faced by common people was not easy task. Spreading awareness about water conservation and its optimum use, double crop etc. proved to be a challenge in the initial stage.
- Another challenge was to break the orthodox of rural people regarding health habits and hygiene, which L&T was successful in many villages.

Programme Beneficiaries	
Focus Areas	2015-16
 Water & Sanitation	305,930
 Health	678,760
 Education	237,633
 Skill Development	44,771
Total Beneficiaries	1,267,094

- **Innovation**

L&T worked in a self-sufficient manner in addressing the WASH issues and consistently ranked among the few top companies for CSR in India. Along with sanitation and health contribution, L&T has also contributed to education and skill development- killing two stones with a single stone in many cases.

- **Lessons learnt**

L&T has proved how to utilize the CSR fund optimally. They have planned and executed all the activities so well that they have won the award for the best CSR company quite a few times.

- **Financials**

According to the rules of government of India, every company has to reserve 2% of its profits to the CSR activities. This is the sole source of finance for all the activities undertaken by the CSR division of L&T. Recently, they had announced an investment of up to INR 100 crore for the next three years to build toilets and health centres across India.

- **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

Mandatory spending of 2% of the profits will suffice for the purpose that L&T has taken.

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

- **Anand Mahajani,**
Head - Corporate CSR, Sustainability & OHS at L&T Infotech

- **Sources and References**

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