

SWACHH BHARAT SWACHH VIDHYALAYA ABHIYAN, GAIL

- **Background**

GAIL as part of its CSR initiative engaged in sanitation and GAIL CSR policy itself clearly indicates that sanitation one of the thrust areas of GAIL CSR interventions and to support the cause of building the toilets in Govt. schools. In order to support this agenda, they have launched “*Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidhyalaya Abhiyan (SBSVA)*”. This program aims to construct toilet blocks in government schools.

With an objective to make the sanitation efforts more effective and sustainable, as part of SBSVA, GAIL has used latest **Bio toilet technology** and installed pre-fab toilets in Odisha. The bio-toilets treat human waste onsite in a specialized multi-chambered and matriced bio-digester tank. The waste is “digested or eaten away” by a bacterial culture or inoculum that converts the organic faecal matter into pathogen-free water.

It is making proactive efforts to address the issues of health and sanitation, by introducing interventions that make at least primary health care facilities accessible and affordable to the rural and marginalised communities. It is operating 20 Mobile Medical Units across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, covering more than 391 villages and a population of almost 5,00,000.

- **Location, Date**

New Delhi, 2014

- **Areas**

Rural

- **Stage/Scale**

- SBSVA- Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab
- Bio Toilets in schools in Odisha



• Objective of the assignment

- The focus of the program was to build individual household toilets for marginalized communities in far flung villages of Guna in Madhya Pradesh.
- It also aims to provide functional toilets in Govt. schools with water facility and reduce the dropouts of girls from schools

• What was done

The implementation of the program started with the formation of monitoring committee, identification of schools, award of work, pre-installation activities, and Installation of Bio toilets on sites. During the above mentioned process, all stakeholders (Govt. Administration, School children, Parent Teacher committees of schools and GAIL implementing partners) have been taken into confidence about the new technology. After educating on Bio toilets and its functioning to end users and school authorities, installation is carried at sites (Schools). A team from GAIL constantly liaised with all govt. departments for smooth's execution of the project.

• Impact

GAIL has constructed 3614 school toilets in Govt. schools of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh with maintenance for two years and reached 150585 students. This maintenance is carried with the active help and support of School and Parents body.

• Challenges and Issues

The age-old practice of defecating in the open is highly prevalent. Breaking that is important and challenging. For a less developed country such as India, providing sanitation facility to crores of households, lakhs of schools, anganwadis, and health centres across the country is a huge financial need. It is equally important that once provided, people should use.

A bio-toilet is costlier than a pit latrine, hence higher financial outgo; and few organizations, institutions and companies are providing bio-toilets, despite the numerous short-term and long-term benefits. Many a time people, including governments, think short-term and may end up compromising with the environment and water – happening by providing pit latrines that can contaminate the ground water.

• Innovation

• Women Participation

GAIL firmly believes that a woman's position is a true reflection of a society's progress. Women were always included as part of the beneficiaries.

• Bio-toilets

They are environmentally-friendly sanitation systems. They treat waste at source, reducing carbon footprint. It gives out re-usable water thereby reducing need for more freshwater. Biogas, too, in case of large bio-tanks, can be captured and utilized. It doesn't need any separate operations and maintenance.

• Lessons learnt

Bio-toilet being costlier than a pit latrine, and higher financial outgo is the best technology that also prevents contamination of environment and ground water.

- **Financials**

During the period of 2015-16, INR 39.83 Crores were spent in construction of bio-toilets in Odisha.

- **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

The bio-toilets have a great social impact – ridding the society of open defecation, helping the families and children lead a healthy life, reducing school drop-outs. The economic advantage is in terms of higher productivity by all members of the family, as well as reduced medical expenditure. The bio-toilets have gone beyond providing access to affordable sanitation:

- Reduce health concerns and water-borne diseases through onsite waste treatment;
- Reduce school dropouts (more so for the girls);
- Womenfolk are the biggest beneficiaries – bio-toilet provides them sense of security and raises their dignity
- Society and the economy benefit immensely as the bio-toilet system obviates the need for sewage transportation and centralized treatment; such (planned) investments by governments can be directed in other areas such as education and healthcare.

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- **Implementer Contact Persons**

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- **Sources and References**

- Study submitted by GAIL