

NIDAN

- **Background**

Open defecation and poor hygiene practices are prolific in India due to a lack of sanitation infrastructure and awareness about these issues. This leads to serious health and safety consequences, especially for girls, such as increased risk of infections and harassment when relieving themselves outdoors.

Nidan works to empower poor and marginalized communities through community-based and pro-poor participatory interventions in education, livelihoods, health, sanitation, financial services, social security, legal aid and advocacy. It actively works with the government to advocate for policy changes to influence government funding across these areas.

- **Location, Date**

Bihar and Jharkhand, 2005

- **Areas**

Urban (Slums and Schools) and Rural

- **Stage/Scale**

- Full scale implementation for Capacity building in urban slums and schools
- Construction of toilets in rural areas: Pilot in Barkurba village of Muktapur Panchayat of Kalyanpur Block of Samastipur

- **Objective of the assignment**

To initiate, establish and consolidate people's institutions, processes and, programs aimed for socio- economic development of poor.

- **What was done**

- **Community WASH Intervention:**

- It enters a community and conducts a needs assessment to assess the status of sanitation facilities and usage.
- It facilitates monthly meetings with various CBOs such as adolescent girl groups to educate the community about WASH.
- It helps form community Water and Sanitation Committees who conduct household visits to educate families about WASH and provide linkages with loans through community saving cooperatives to enable toilet construction.
- It facilitates linkages with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to enable reimbursements of INR 12,000 to individuals post toilet construction
- It identifies masons in the communities and trains them to effectively construct and maintain toilets.

- **School WASH Intervention**

- It facilitates construction and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure and builds awareness in 285 schools. It conducts hygiene education sessions, trains

teachers to do the same and forms WATSAN committees consisting of children, including adolescent girls responsible for the maintenance of sanitation facilities. It also works in 15 schools through Coca Cola's and NDTV's Support My School campaign to improve sanitation awareness and WASH and school infrastructure

- **Nidan's Initiative**

The sensitization and awareness program was conducted in Barkurba village of Muktapur Panchayat of Kalyanpur Block of Samastipur in the month of July to August 2015 by Nidan and was highly appreciated by the people of the village. They were not much aware of evil effects of Open- defecation as the village experience 99% of open defecation. GOI/state governments were working and have launched many programs to provide safe sanitation to people below poverty



line with special focus in rural India. Seven families in Barkurba village have gone through the sensitization program for toilet construction and their toilets have been constructed. They said, initially they were unaware about the importance of toilet, evil effects on environment and on physical health, after the conduction of the program they got sensitized and came forward to build the facility. These seven families were directly helped and supported by Nidan staffs to maintain health and hygiene. Open-defecation is a major issue in the whole of Barkurba village. We consider these seven families as our representative as they have done a revolutionary work.

- **Nidan's Mission- Swachh Bharat**

In collaboration with Charities Aid Foundation India (CAF India), Nidan has constructed 40 toilets and installed handpumps in Motihari district of Bihar. The project has been initiated under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a cleanliness campaign run by the government of India and initiated by the Honourable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Under this project in Bihar first few toilets were constructed at Narha Panapur village of Motihari district.

- **Impact**

1, 70, 000 people reached through these interventions (65, 000 direct and 1, 05, 000 indirect beneficiaries). Direct outreach refers to the number community members, students, teachers reached through WASH awareness, WASH training programs and construction of toilets in communities and schools (approximately 20,000 of direct beneficiaries are adolescent girls). Indirect outreach refers to the number of people reached through direct beneficiaries.

- Nidan reached out to 125 slums, 400 villages and 300 schools across eight districts in Bihar and two districts in Jharkhand. The district of Dhanbad in Jharkhand has engaged Nidan as a technical expert to make the entire district 100% open defecation free by 2017.
- In 2014-2015, Nidan reached more than 20,000 adolescent girls through WASH awareness and construction of toilets in communities and schools. It has engaged with 64 adolescent girl groups comprising of more than 400 girls to spread sanitation awareness.
- Since 2005, it has constructed 10,000 toilets in communities and more than 300 toilets in schools.

- **Challenges and Issues**

Nidan is looking to expand its community and school sanitation programs in existing districts, as well as new states. It plans to create a micro-finance institution fund and integrate this with its sanitation program to facilitate loan provisions for constructing toilets. It is looking to develop its menstrual hygiene interventions in schools as well. The major challenge is funding required for Organizational Development, to Deliver Programs and for Geographical Expansion

- **Innovation**

Nidan leverages community-based organizations (CBOs) to spread sanitation and hygiene awareness in communities. It links CBOs to relevant government schemes to enable construction of sanitation facilities in individual households. Nidan also works in schools to improve WASH awareness and construction.

- **Lessons learnt**

While mobilizing of resources for program implementation is a constant challenge, continuous engagement in the communities provides inspiration and strength to overcome the challenges. The community and the government are not seen as 'stakeholders' but rather as relationships to be fostered towards the socio-economic empowerment of all.

- **Financials**

INR 4.2 crore and INR 2.5 crore was spent on such activities in year 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

- **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

The program is part of CSR initiatives and no revenue is generated.

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

- **Arbind Singh**
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- **Sources and References**

- Company Website
- <https://www.dasra.org/social-organization/nidan>
- <https://www.dasra.org/sites/default/files/Dignity%20For%20Her%20-%20Part-II.pdf>