GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (GVMC)

- ## Background

  With a population of 2.1 million – expected to double by 2030 – Visakhapatnam is the largest city in Andhra Pradesh since the state split and Telangana was created in 2014. With 793 slums it has proportionately the highest rate (44%) of slum population in India. The city's economy is the tenth largest in the country, and its port has become the fifth busiest in terms of cargo handled. 32% of the population is connected to the sewer system, and 60% either have on-site facilities (septic tanks and pit latrines) or are connected to open channels. 8% of the population of Visakhapatnam lack access to toilets, which represents 30,000 households resorting to open defecation. There are about 200 community and public toilets, 75% of them managed by Sulabh International on a pay-per-use basis while the rest are operated by community groups. Assessments have shown problems with poor maintenance and with the quality of service varying sharply between the low-end facilities in low-income neighbourhoods and the high-end facilities in busy areas.

- ## Location, Date

  Visakhapatnam, 2014

- ## Areas

  Urban - Visakhapatnam City

- ## Stage/Scale

  Full Scale

- ## Objective of the assignment

  To develop sewers and treatment infrastructures for treatment and reuse of waste water

- ## What was done

  - The municipal and state authorities have strived to promote Visakhapatnam as the vibrant metropolis and model on sanitation. The authorities used the political agenda and awareness processes of the Swachh Bharat Mission with funds and resources from the Smart City Mission (2015) to develop urban sanitation services, and developed a comprehensive strategy for sustainability of sanitation infrastructure.
  - The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) took initiative in the city to forge partnerships with various stakeholders to promote the sanitation agenda. To aid in the process, the Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) set up an advisory cell, supported by USAID to provide technical assistance to the GVMC.

- ## Impact

  - Visakhapatnam utilised the national programmes and state policies to develop city wide sanitation programmes. This resulted in a coordinated effort towards sanitation between the state and central government.

- Drainage, sewers and water treatment infrastructure was built to enable water reuse.
- Faecal sludge management systems were revised and implemented for safe disposal.
- Open defecation was eliminated in the city

Challenges and Issues

- The sanitation policies and procedures were fragmented across several departments.
- The Urban Community Development Department is insufficiently engaged in sanitation efforts and coordination efforts were lacking.
- The participatory exercises conducted as a part of Swachh Bharat and Smart Cities missions were more ad-hoc events than systematised institutional processes.
- The local NGOs had low urban WASH capacities.

Innovation

The GVMC utilised Swachh Bharat and Smart Cities missions to acquire funds, develop policies and procedure to create an environment where sanitation efforts can grow. Public awareness was also generated by improving the urban WASH capacities of local NGOs.

Lessons learnt

- The combination of strong leadership and highly specialised technical support led to the design of a strategy that struck a balance between the need to quickly achieve impact at scale and the longer process required to ensure quality and sustainability.
- Making a connection between being a clean city and harvesting economic opportunities and promoting stakeholder engagement were important ingredients of these efforts. They helped increase the support for sanitation related activities.

Financials

Not Available

Economic sustainability/Revenue Model

Not Available

Implementer Contact Persons

- **Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation**

Sources and References

- WaterAid (2016) A tale of clean cities: *Insights for planning urban sanitation from Ghana, India and the Philippines (Synthesis report)*. London: WaterAid