

Best Practices Foundation



***Integration of gender sensitive approaches in
support of the National Urban Sanitation
Policy***

WHY Gender Sensitisation IN SANITATION

Women are the most severely affected by lack of clean and accessible toilets, especially in urban slums



Source:

http://pool.hesperian.org/w/images/thumb/4/41/EHB_Ch7_page_110-1.png/650px-EHB_Ch7_page_110-1.png

Menstrual hygiene

Lack of continuous supply of water for personal hygiene, disposal bins, basins leading to absenteeism at schools or workplaces

Maintenance of toilets

No running water, poor lighting, male attenders, and unclean conditions

Privacy & Dignity

No doors, broken windows/ ventilators and common entrances to toilets

Issues that deter women from using public toilets

Child related

- Women are primary care-givers of children.
- No safe place to change diapers of infants.
- Most common cause of under five mortality: pneumonia (17%) and diarrhoea (9%) -both linked to poor hygiene and lack of toilets

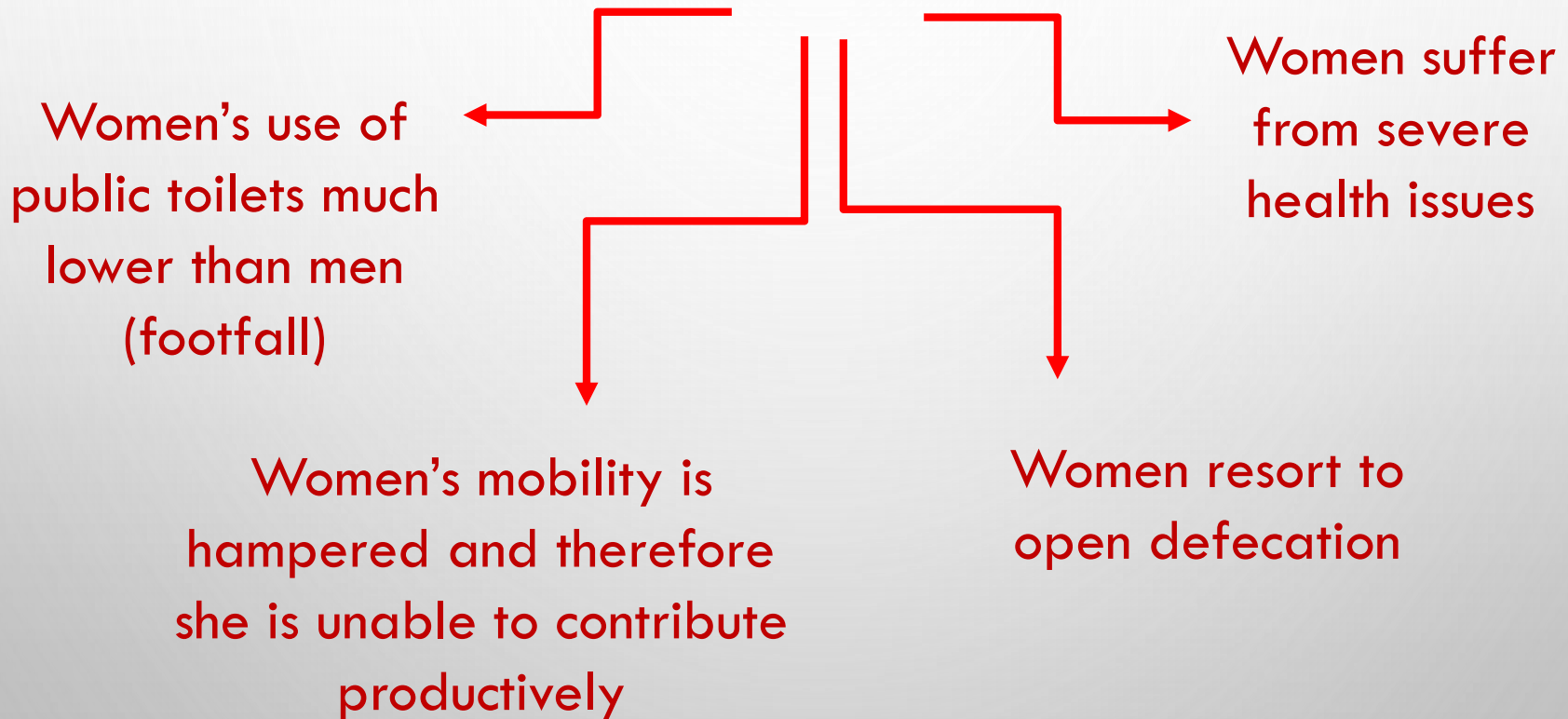
Safety

- Women wait until dark and walk far making them vulnerable to harassment, assault, rape, and infections.
- Women reduce intake of food and water leading to poor health.
- Lack of proper lighting, door locks, and female caretakers

Consequences

Because toilets are not gender sensitive, women avoid public toilets

Therefore



Result

OFFICIALS DO NOT FEEL THE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE WOMEN DO NOT USE PUBLIC TOILETS



Source: <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-centre-asks-states-to-construct-toilets-for-women-cops-1993268>

Solution

Awareness for
women on necessity
and proper use of
toilets

*In order to break this
cycle, a 2 pronged
approach needs to
happen*

Making public
sanitation
infrastructure more
responsive to
women's needs

Gender Sensitisation – How?

Women's inputs on location and design of toilets, to address their specific needs & concerns

Women's involvement in different phases, namely: identification, preparation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring/evaluation

Use of gender and culturally-sensitive IEC materials to promote sustainable sanitation practices, taking into account illiteracy and traditional and cultural norms among women

IEC messages to be displayed inside and outside toilets and disseminate broader messages on awareness raising and importance of toilet use

Women to be involved in designing IEC material

Localised surveys undertaken to understand the needs of women before embarking on design & construction

Gender sensitisation of corporators, government officials and monitoring committees

Bidding process to incorporate a clause ensuring contractor's gender sensitivity and knowledge of gender needs

Recommendations for Gender Sensitive Public Toilets



Recommendations for Access to toilets

- NEW TOILET COMPLEXES TO BE LOCATED IN SAFE AND HIGHLY VISIBLE PLACES.
- TOILETS TO BE LOCATED WITHIN REASONABLE WALKING DISTANCE.
- TOILETS TO BE OPERATIONAL DURING PEAK HOURS.
- USER CHARGES TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE ENTRANCE AT ALL TIMES.
- ENTRANCE TO THE TOILET COMPLEX TO BE WELL LIT.
- THE ENTRANCE STEPS (IF APPLICABLE) SHOULD NOT BE BROKEN OR DAMAGED TO ENABLE ACCESS FOR WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT, OLD OR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED.
- ADEQUATE SPACE IN WAITING AREA FOR WOMEN TO STAND IN QUEUE



Source:

http://www.impatientoptimists.org/~media/Blog/Images/BlogPosts/RelatedArticles/E/EPEZ/erampp380945panacac9b8ed4174eadbde3a2e0cf9b7eab__autocropped_ra_autocropped.jpg

Recommendations for Privacy & dignity

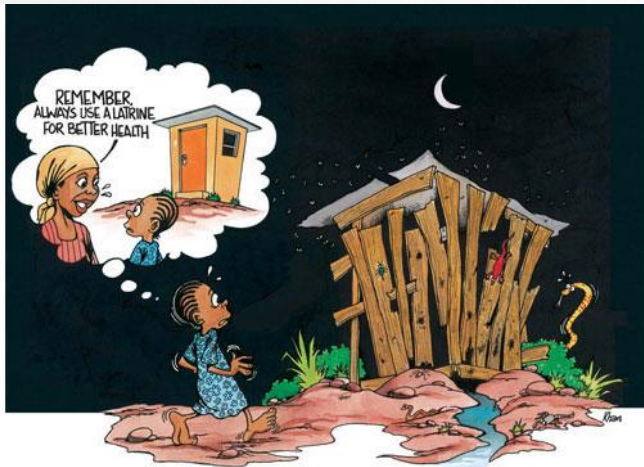


Source: <https://www.wsp.org/content/2013-cartoon-calendar>

- FUNCTIONAL DOOR LOCKS WITH LATCHES (ON THE INSIDE) TO BE ENSURED.
- SEPARATE ENTRANCES FOR MEN AND WOMEN.
- FEMALE CARETAKERS FOR MAINTENANCE OF TOILETS FOR WOMEN.
- TOILET WINDOWS (INCLUDING VENTILATORS) AND ROOFS SHOULD NOT COMPROMISE ON WOMEN'S PRIVACY.
- HOOKS PLACED ON TOILET DOORS TO HANG THEIR BELONGINGS.

Recommendations for Safety

- *Continuous supply of electricity during operational hours.*
- *Latches on the inside of toilets should be in working condition.*
- *Doors should be in good condition and weather proofed.*
- *Helpline for women and children should be set up (if not existing already).*
- *Contact number for complaints and helpline to be displayed.*
- *Female caretakers for maintenance and surveillance of toilets for women.*



Source:

<https://www.wsp.org/about/Calendar/2005%20Calendar>

Recommendations for Menstrual hygiene

- CONTINUOUS AND AMPLE SUPPLY OF WATER FOR TOILETS AND WASH BASINS FOR CLEANING AND USAGE.
- PROVISION OF CLOSED BINS (IN EACH CUBICLE) FOR SANITARY NAPKINS.
- PROPER DISPOSAL MECHANISM FOR SANITARY NAPKINS.
- STANDARDS HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH IEC MATERIALS ON HOW USERS SHOULD DISPOSE OFF SANITARY TOWELS.
- STANDARDS HAVE TO BE MONITORED (REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING REGIME) TO ASSURE WOMEN THAT THE TOILETS ARE HYGIENIC.

Recommendations for Maintenance of toilets

- *Women should be involved in shaping and making the institutional arrangements (such as selection of sites)*
- *Functioning ventilation windows to be ensured*
- *Working flush systems*
- *Standards (a regular maintenance and cleaning regime/checklist e.g. cubicles cleaned, trash bins emptied, floor cleaned, supplies refilled) have to be established and monitored to assure women that the toilets are hygienic*

BPF contributions and deliverables thus far

- Workshop to train GIZ sanitation team on Gender and Urban Sanitation and workshop report
- Case studies on urban sanitation initiatives at Nanded, Jaipur and Tiruchirapalli added as appendices to the workshop report
- Creation of benchmarks which were revised and made more concrete and relevant to the GIZ process at the workshop
- Comments on Andhra Pradesh State Sanitation Strategy(SSS) and how it fits into the benchmark indicators
- Comments on engendering Shimla and Tirupati contract documents on public toilets

BPF contributions and deliverables thus far

- Put together a comprehensive Gender needs list for Public toilets
- Gender needs checklist for public toilets reworked as a matrix with actors involved and segregation by 'essential' and 'nice to have' specifications.
- Literature Review on sanitation and public toilets segregated into government initiatives including PPP; NGO and private initiatives; general articles on status of women
- Course outline for a possible online certification course for contractors on gender sensitivity and knowledge of gender needs with regard to sanitation issues faced by women.
- A possible Gender needs compliance section for the contract documents for public toilets.