Enhancing Community Engagement in the NAMASTE Enumeration Process in Kerala

Devika Hemalatha Devi | Praveen Nagaraja | Akhilesh Ramesh | Aswin S Kumar















ROADBLOCKS TO NAMASTE IMPLEMENTATION IN KERALA STATE



Repeating Sanitation Safety Crises

Between 2015 – 2024, sanitation accidents saw a resurgence in Kerala, marked by inadequate supervision and safety protocols. This is in stark contrast to the State's 2023 Declaration of being manual scavenging-free.



Sanitation services through multiple modes

government delivery; Formal service providers contracted via government; and unregistered or unlicensed informal service providers or individuals all provide sanitation services in Kerala



Implementation Gap

NAMASTE's decentralized structure of 1 PMU managing 94 ULB Nodal Officers proved unwieldy. Virtual meetings yielded poor results due to absenteeism and proxy attendance. **ULBs failed to report workers**, stating they were untraceable, or not handling fecal waste within ULB boundaries.

The methodology employed Action Research from a Community Capacity Building perspective. A sequential workflow was developed with three tasks:

AWARENESS AND CONSENSUS GENERATION; CAPACITY TRANSFORMATION & TRUST BUILDING

PMU Consultation State on implementation field barriers, challenges, stakeholder mapping, and status of sanitation work

Kozhikode Corporation: Pilot Meetings with the Health Standing Committee helped identify sanitation workers and ERSU staff prior to the rest of the State.

Workshops to orient Nodal Officers on Enumeration Camps with conducting sensitivity to maximize worker and fear participation by assuaging of punishment.

Kozhikode Corporation proactively implemented anti-dumping Night Patrols and identified 73 workers without formal camps, inspiring competition among other ULBs.

WASH Institute supported the State PMU In identifying 1576 sanitation workers (97%)

408 workers enrolled in PMJAY

ERSUs instituted in all 94 ULB; 14 District HQs equipped with PPE and 4 ULBs have trained ERSU units

WASH Institute created permanent training infrastructure within KILA's campus, and equipped KILA with training modules to ensure a sustainable training mechanism

Individualized PPE distribution via NSKFDC in 59+ ULBs (1,267+) workers



ENUMERATED



SUPPLEMENTING THE NAMASTE SCHEME ACROSS INDIA

ENSUS







TRANSF





BROADER DATABASE OF **QUESTIONS**

This process builds upon the NAMASTE enumeration process and creates a robust database called the Safaimitra Resource Management System

EQUIPMENT

