

Engagement of Urban SHGs in WASH, Strengthening Urban Livelihood and Adaptive Social Protection

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Poverty and Occupational vulnerability

- 25% of Population live on low income in urban India (UNDP, 2009)
- The vulnerability of the urban poor is shaped not only by risks and shocks but also by the pre-existing socio-institutional context.
- Individuals in vulnerable occupations, like sanitation workers and waste pickers, face heightened vulnerability due to their intergenerational job roles, caste, and social exclusion.
- Urban poor women are vulnerable and face barriers to economic opportunities due to a lack of skills, formal education, and gender-based roles defined by their family and society.



“Social relationships or institutions can give rise to different forms of inequality, economic exploitation, social exclusion and political marginalisation.”- Cleaver, 2005

Addressing vulnerability of urban poor

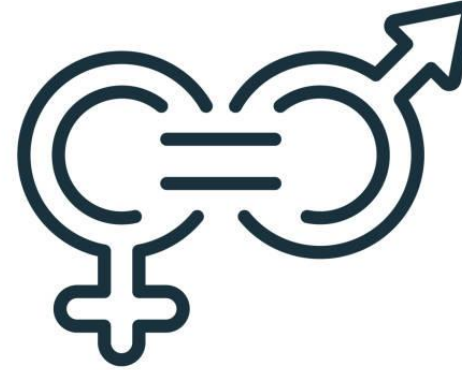
- India's 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) and DAY-NULM (2013) mandates ULBs to address urban poor vulnerabilities.
- Focus on grassroots institution building, skilling, and engaging SHGs in sustainable livelihoods and WASH.
- DAY-NULM and Swachh Barat Mission (SBM) Convergence Guidelines (2018) issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Several states have directed cities to identify, enumerate, and organize urban poor women, engaging their SHGs in WASH activities.



Principles of DAY NULM & SBM Convergence



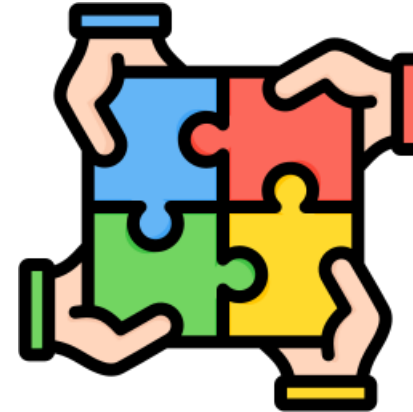
Inclusivity



Gender
Intentionality



Livelihood



Convergence &
Collaborations

Vulnerability to building community leadership

Women and vulnerable groups like informal sanitation workers, waste pickers, and trans people are collectivized into SHGs to safeguard their livelihoods

Capacity building and their engagement in WASH ensures last-mile connectivity in service delivery and livelihood security for them

Secured livelihoods help them handle crises and shocks better

SHGs not just manage operations but now shape community WASH needs.

Odisha Story: SHGs leading WASH



Odisha issued a directive in 2020 to form SHGs of sanitation workers, waste pickers, trans-genders

Around 3000 SHGs have been engaged in WASH value chain

Recognised as semi-skilled and skilled workers based on their type of work

Women and TG SHG members earn between 13500 - 15000 INR per month

Provided with hardship allowances of 10%-15% of their wage

Odisha Story: SHGs leading WASH

Targeted interventions



Capacity Building



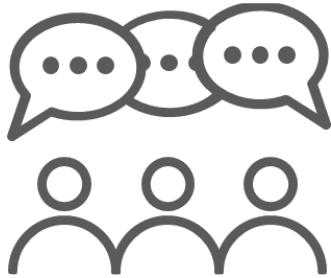
Skilling



Financial Literacy

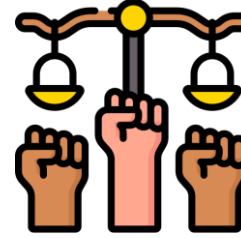


Digital Literacy



Communication Skill

Outcome



- Improved voice and agency



- Increased access to economic opportunities



- Sustainable livelihoods

Tailored, inclusive and equitable Adaptive Social Protection

5 Point Strategy

- Tailored, inclusive and responsive to the specific needs and supported by institutional frameworks
- Four categories of social protection: protective (coping strategies), preventive (coping strategies), promotive (building adaptive capacity), and transformative (building adaptive capacity).

1. Policy for safety & dignity of sanitation workers
2. Improving/ ensuring access to livelihood, healthcare and social security entitlements
3. Empowering women and transpeople through equity measures
4. Ensuring sustainable livelihood with safe workplace and dignity
5. Converging various sectors, programs, and stakeholders with ULBs serving as convening authority

Safety and dignity of WASH workers



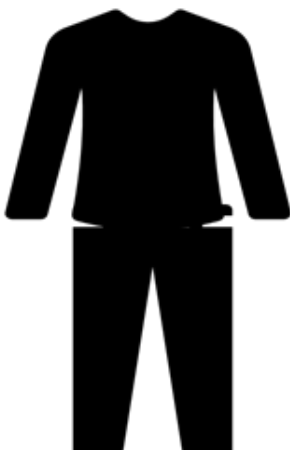
Identity card



Public Health



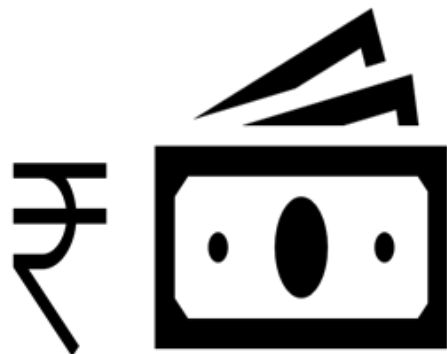
Lounge & Locker



Uniforms



Gender friendly Personal Protective Equipment



Fair Wages & Hazardous allowance



Accident/ Life Insurance & Social security Entitlements



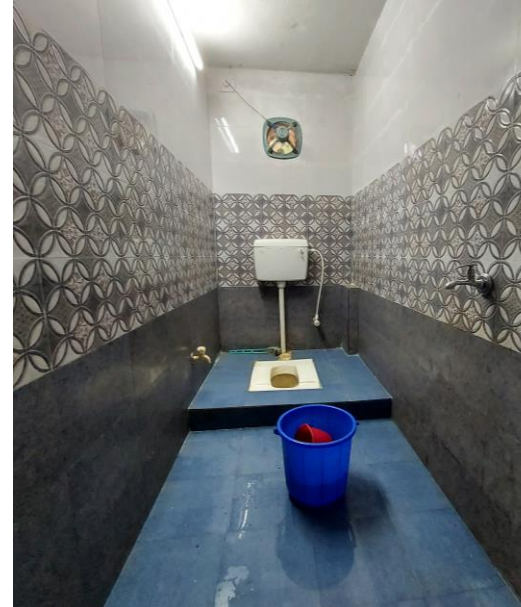
Drinking Water & Separate Toilets



Lounge with locker facility at waste processing units



4 pairs of uniforms to each worker



Provision of functional toilets



Health camps for both preventive and responsive healthcare

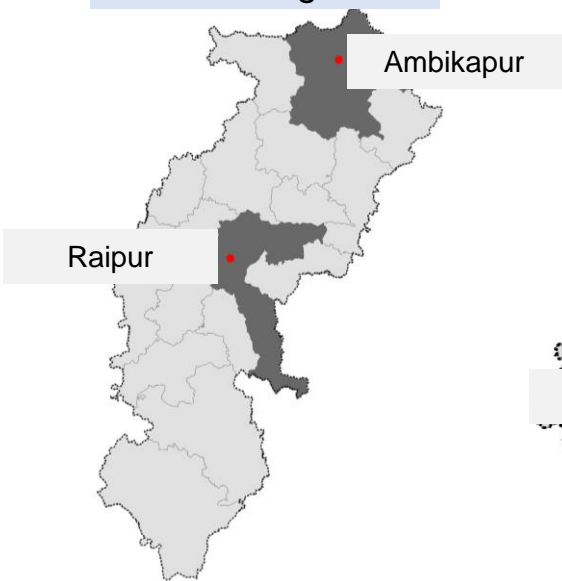
UMC's landscape study across for DAY-NULM – SBM convergence

Map of India with study states highlighted



6 states
10 cities

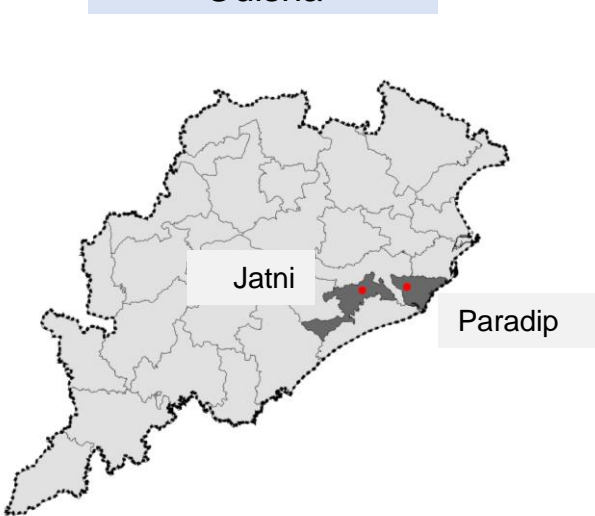
Chhattisgarh



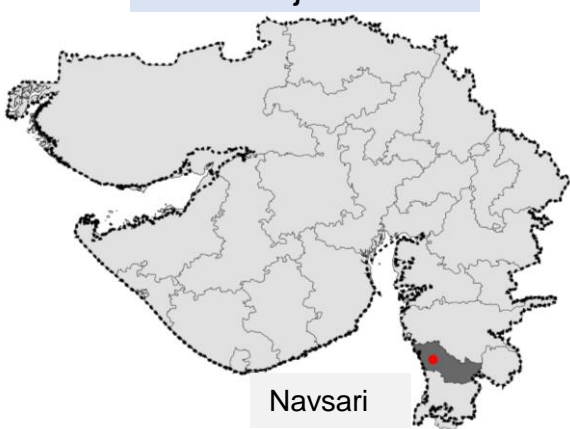
Madhya Pradesh



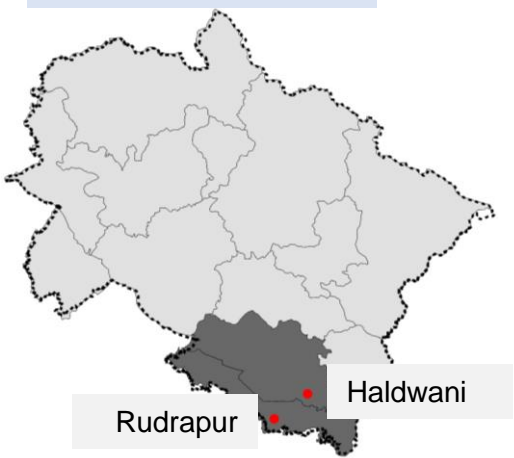
Odisha



Gujarat



Uttarakhand



Rajasthan



Purpose of study undertaken

The study aimed at understanding the issues in convergence of SBM 2.0 and DAY - National Urban Livelihoods (NULM) in engagement of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in provision of services across the value chain in Solid Waste Management and Used Water Management under the Swachh Bharat Mission SBM initiative.

Key aspects that are covered under the study, that are presented here

**Identify
Enablers at State
level that has led
to convergence**

**Identify
Enablers at ULB
level that has led
to convergence**

**Status of
Engagement of
SHGs across
SWM and UWM
value chain**

**Possibilities of
convergence
between SBM &
DAY-NULM**

Summary of SHG engagement across SWM and UWM value chain

Total SHGs formed in the city	Total SHGs engaged as service providers in SWM and UWM	Solid Waste Management (SWM)				Used Water Management (UWM)			
		Total SHGs engaged as service providers in SWM and UWM	SHG engaged in IEC and User charges combined	SHG engaged in SWM (D2D, Street Sweeping)	Vulnerable groups engaged in SWM (MRF, MCC)	SHG engaged in construction of IHHT	SHG engaged in Used Water Management UWM (O&M of PT and CT)	Vulnerable groups engaged in UWM (FSTP)	SHGs engaged for audits of PT/CT on interim basis
18593	560	560	422	61	27	10	26	2	12
	3%		75%	11%	5%	2%	5%	0%	2%

- **Only 3%** engagement of SHGs in SWM and UWM activities, from the total SHGs formed.
- **75% engagement of SHGs in the IEC and User charge collection activities** across the SBM components, **suggest successful leverage of SHGs in community focused and behavioral change components.**
- **11% engagement of SHGs in D2D collection, suggests a big opportunity** for the ULBs to train and engage SHGs for effective collection of domestic waste.
- More efforts are required to engage SHGs of vulnerable groups in Treatment and Processing of SWM and UWM and leverage the expertise and enable them continuous livelihood.

Key reasons of low engagement

SBM- U and DAY-NULM teams are driving the connect between urban SHGs and City’s SWM and UWM activities and its infrastructure

However

CHALLENGES		STRENGTHS	
Absence of enablers from state level is not letting cities engage SHGs formally	Low willingness in ULBs to engage SHGs in high technical works such as desludging and STP O&M.	ULB officials trust SHG expertise and appreciate consistent performance	Strong willingness of SHGs have been found for more technical involvement
SHGs in IEC activities are not paid due to absence of scheduled payment terms and absence of contracts	Absence of mechanisms to engage SHGs as human resources of private contractors	SHG members not belonging to traditional Sanitation work also managing city’s sanitation work	SHGs team with traditional sanitation workers and ensure safe working conditions for them

Recommendations



Form State-Level Convergence Working Group

Shall help in developing an institutional arrangement and kick start the activities for the convergence program

Sl.no	Designation	Role
1	Commissioner and Director, DMA	Chairperson
2	Mission Director, DAY-NULM	Member
3	Mission Director, SBM-U	Member
4	Secretary, Maharashtra Skill Development Mission	Member
5	Managing Director, MAVIM	Member
6	Concerned State Mission Managers, DAY-NULM	Member
7	Concerned Nodal Officers, SBM	Member
8	Technical Support Group (CEPT representatives)	Conveners



Issue Advisory to ULBs

- Urging ULBs to engage SHGs in various service contracts especially in the city’s sanitation infrastructure.



Capacity building

- Developing capacities of State and City-level Mission functionaries through developing collaterals.
- DAY-NULM-led Skilling and Entrepreneur Development support to SHGs.

Enablers at State level



Prepare model SHG-friendly contract clauses

Contract clauses that safeguard both SHGs and ULBs to be inserted into all such service contracts.

The contracts should clearly state the preference for SHGs

Leniency in payment of tender fee, in requirement of previous experience in concerned activity, in minimum bank balance, etc.

Recommendations



Form City-Level Committee

Headed by the Chief Officer/ Municipal Commissioner of the ULB, with representatives from concerned Missions.

Sl.no	Designation	Role
1	Chief Office / Municipal Commissioner of ULB	Chairperson
2	Concerned City Manager, DAY - NULM	Member
3	Nodal Officer, SBM-U	Member
4	Community Organizer, DAY - NULM	Member
5	RO representative	Member



Identify SHGs

Identification based on :

- A. Performance in
- Panchasutra activities
 - Maturity of the SHG, and
 - Membership in SHG Federations.

B. Willingness of SHGs for the identified enterprise

Enablers at City level



Prepare SHG-friendly context-specific EOI/RFP/contracts

ULB should prepare invitations for EOI, RFP, and contracts based on the model documents floated by the State-level Working Group.



Train and capacity-build SHGs

On the following Aspects:

- Basic technical understanding,
- Business elements
- Standard operating procedures.

The committee should identify nodal persons to coordinate training and capacity building from SBM and NULM.

Thank You

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