Desludging Service Providers

Inclusion of the issues of the desludging service providers in FSM

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Desludging Services Providers - Introduction

- Desludging services include removal, transport and disposal of faecal sludge (fs)
- Providers of these services play a crucial role in ensuring that all the FS generated is collected and safely disposed
Objectives of the study

• To study the socio-economic context of the desludging service providers
• To understand the issues of the desludging service providers
Bengaluru

- Fifth largest city of India
- Population of 8.5 million
- Decadal population growth (2001-2011): 44%
- Sewerage coverage 66%
Methodology

• Mixed method
• Tools – Personal interviews and focus group discussion
• Convenient sampling
• Sample size
  – Quantitative 52;
  – 160 trucks out of 300-500 trucks in Bangalore
• Qualitative 20
Findings - Quantitative

Number of trucks

- 1: 20%
- 2: 23%
- 3: 38%
- >/4: 19%

Area of service delivery

- Pan Bangalore service: 40%
- Service around base location: 60%

Disposal of Faecal Sludge

- Disposed at the BWSSB STPs: 94%
- Disposed in the open: 6%
Findings-Qualitative

How did they get into the business?

• Started as a allied business
• From manual scavenging to mechanised cleaning
Findings-Qualitative

- Types of ownership-
  - Owns and operates
  - Owns and manages but doesn’t operate
  - Intermediary
- Diverse background in terms of education and awareness
Concerns

• Lack of disposal sites
  – Disposal over land
  – Disposal into water bodies
  – Difficult process to access disposal facility at STPs.
    ❖ Charges
    ❖ Paperwork
Findings-Qualitative contd..

Concerns contd..

• Business related issues
  – Pricing
  – Communication between service providers and end-users
Findings-Qualitative contd..

Concerns contd..

- Lack of dignity inspite of providing an essential service
- Lack of safe practices
- Lack of relevant training
Recommendations

• Access to disposal points
• Bringing dignity to the profession
• Forum to strengthen communication with end-users and policy makers- "Desludging Service Providers’ Association"
• Inclusion of service providers’ issues into the NFSSM policy primer
THANK YOU
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