

How Does SuSanA Generate Impact?

Case Story 3: City Sanitation Plans and Septage Management in India

At a Glance



Country: India

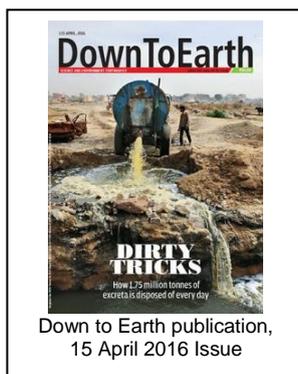
Topic: City Sanitation Plans and Septage Management

Actors: CSE, GIZ, BMGF, BMZ

Impact Argument: SuSanA serves as host of the SFD Promotion Initiative. Constituting a neutral, international platform was an essential prerequisite to receive funding for the project. Moreover, as an international network of partners, SuSanA facilitates the acceptance of SFDs as a working tool in India and beyond. As part of the SFD project consortium the CSE Water Programme created SFDs of 11 cities with the aim to strengthen advocacy for improved urban sanitation programming. The presentation of this work at the National Sanitation Workshop resulted in the MoUD (Ministry of Urban Development) national flagship programme Swachh Bharat Mission to support 29 flagship cities. These included the 11 cities that SFDs were developed for and 12 cities of the CSE Ganga project launched in 2016.

Introduction

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is a public research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi, India. One of CSE's foci is on water management issues. In this regard, CSE works to strengthen capacities of city officials for preparing City Sanitation Plans (CSP) including septage management. In this endeavour, the organisation benefitted from SuSanA, among others. We talked to Dr. Suresh Kumar Rohilla who is a Programme Director at the CSE Water Programme with a specialization in Urban Water Management to find out more about SuSanA's role in promoting City Sanitation



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Plans and septage management as an important tool in the daily work of city officials/managers for sustainable urban development in India.

Interview

SuSanA: Suresh, can you tell us more about CSE's work in the field of water and sanitation management and how you have used SuSanA and collaborated with SuSanA partners in this endeavour?

CSE has been working on water and sanitation issues for over three decades. In 2012, the Centre published a two-volume study entitled "Excreta Matters" which constitutes India's first and most comprehensive survey on the state of its water management. The report provides the water-waste profiles of 71 cities from across India, which made it very clear that a paradigm shift in the country's water and sanitation efforts was required. Working towards this paradigm shift we have benefitted from SuSanA and the opportunities for collaboration it offers. For example, we have been closely working with SuSanA partner GIZ on two projects for the last three years. The first one is the so-called "Shit Flow Diagrams Promotion Initiative" and the second one is a project on "Capacity enhancement on preparation of City Sanitation Plan (CSP) and Septage Management" for city officials. Both are funded by the German Government.



Dr. Suresh Kumar
Rohilla, Programme
Director, CSE Water
programme

SuSanA: What is the project on capacity enhancement on preparation of CSP and Septage Management about?

The project on CSP constituted a two year partnership (2014-2016) as part of the GIZ Sustainable Habitat Programme – Support to National Urban Sanitation Policy (SNUSP) II, aimed at improving the sanitation situation in small and medium towns in select states of India, namely Andhra Pradesh/Telangana, Kerala and Maharashtra. SNUSP in collaboration with CSE developed a training programme for state and city officials on the preparation of CSP and its implementation. The training programme was especially designed to enhance the understanding of CSP, its importance, and to showcase the process of developing a robust CSP and septage management. The partnership built on the experience and strengths of both institutions and helped in developing more targeted interventions.

SuSanA: Can you also elaborate more on the Shit Flow Diagrams (SFD) Promotion Initiative?

In 2014, CSE started partnering with a consortium of institutions that are active in the field of excreta management, among them the GIZ Global Sector Programme Sustainable Sanitation, on the so-called SFD Promotion Initiative. Since November 2014, the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has supported the initiative with two grants. The initiative's aim is to promote excreta (both septage and sewage) flow analysis to inform urban sanitation programming through so-called Shit Flow Diagrams (SFDs), a tool that visualises the outcomes of service delivery and that was initially developed by consultants commissioned by the former World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program. The SFD Promotion Initiative is managed by GIZ under the umbrella of the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance.

“SuSanA constitutes the ideal setting to host the SFD Promotion Initiative.”
- Dr. Suresh Kumar Rohilla, CSE

**SuSanA:
Why was
SuSanA**

chosen to serve as the platform for the initiative and what are the benefits of this setup?

In my opinion, SuSanA constitutes the ideal setting to host the SFD Promotion Initiative for several reasons: SuSanA is a neutral and respected international platform for sanitation issues with an active community of individuals and organisations working in the field. Moreover, all information is freely available and partners have the chance to publish their work, including SFDs, on SuSanA's website. Finally, without SuSanA, the initiative might not have happened at all. As I said, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) financially supports the project. In fact, the funding by BMGF has been granted under the premise that the SFD Promotion Initiative be run under the umbrella of SuSanA. And without the BMGF grants, the Initiative would not have been possible. This includes the development of tools such as the SFD Graphic Generator, which allows users to create their own SFDs, which in turn significantly contributes to the widespread use of SFDs. So, indeed, SuSanA played an, if not *the* most important role in making the SFD Promotion Initiative happen.

SuSanA: What has your work on SFDs entailed so far?

The initiative comprises two phases so far. Phase I (2014-2015), a 1-year kick-start phase, focused on the development of approaches and methodologies. This included the testing of the approach and tools in 50 cities worldwide. Here, CSE prepared SFDs for 11 select cities across India. The ongoing second phase, starting in November 2015, works towards the continued rollout of SFD as a decision support and advocacy tool with active participation of city stakeholders.

SuSanA: CSE's work focuses on promoting SFDs in India. The SFD Promotion Initiative on the other hand operates globally. How have you benefitted from the global outlook of the SuSanA platform?

First of all, looking beyond national borders is the only way to solve the global sanitation crisis and therefore global solutions are absolutely essential. With regard to promoting SFDs in India, the fact that the initiative is built on an international network of partners greatly facilitated the acceptance of SFDs as a working tool. The international development of tools and methods (e.g. the SFD Graphic Generator) for producing SFDs in a standardized way by the SFD Promotion Initiative made it possible to advocate for their use in India and beyond. Knowing about the global use of SFDs made it easier for CSE to advocate for their use in India. To sum up, operating as part of SuSanA and with SuSanA partners like GIZ has provided CSE with definite advantages. Moreover, given that receiving funding has absolutely been dependent on having a neutral platform like

SuSanA, SuSanA also plays a big role in making SFDs free for all on the SuSanA platform. This way, SFDs can be promoted globally and are taken up by city stakeholders during targeted trainings as well as by other stakeholders like PSI and IWMI who have now started producing SFDs independently in India. This all contributes towards the achievement of more sustainable sanitation in India.

SuSanA: What challenges have you faced promoting SFDs and how has SuSanA helped you overcome these?

Ensuring citywide sanitation is challenging and needs involvement of various actors/agencies, ULB (Urban Local Bodies) functionaries and experts in areas such as urban planning, sanitation, technical infrastructure and financing. A lack of (i) awareness, (ii) detailed guidelines on CSP preparations, (iii) adjustments of by-laws, (iv) adequate administrative structures and (v) local expertise are the main obstacles preventing citywide sanitation. Our partnership with SuSanA and our collaboration with SuSanA partners like GIZ build on the experience and strengths of SuSanA, its partners and CSE and helps to develop more targeted interventions. The partnership has contributed towards stakeholders understanding the added value of a CSP and Septage Management for sustainable urban development and has enabled city officials/managers to prepare and integrate the CSP as an important tool in their daily work.

SuSanA: Let's also talk about the policy implications of your work, particularly regarding CSE's involvement in the Swacch Bharat Mission.

Absolutely. The Swacch Bharat Mission became possible by bringing all stakeholders to the table to discuss the economy of sanitation. As part of this endeavour, the Ministry of Urban Development (now: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) selected 131 cities/towns to receive extensive handholding support so that they could become flagship towns for faecal sludge management in India. CSE was chosen to provide the support to 29 of these selected cities after having developed SFDs for select cities under the SFD Promotion Initiative and the Centre was invited to present the results of excreta flow mapping at a national workshop organized by the Swacch Bharat Mission. Thus, the SFD Promotion Initiative and its close link to the SuSanA platform has been a valuable support to strengthen CSE advocacy efforts to improve urban sanitation in India and was one of the major actors to bring these issues to the forefront.



SuSanA: Can you say what impact your work on City Sanitation Plans and Septage Management already had?

As part of the two projects we have produced SFDs for eleven cities as already mentioned. While most of these cities already had CSPs, none of them addressed FSSM (Faecal Sludge and Septage Management) in their plans. In addition, CSE, in collaboration with GIZ India, did capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for developing CSPs of cities in three southern states. Similarly to the eleven cities mentioned above, none of these cities had FSSM in

their plans. Hence, CSE helped six so-called champion cities to develop SFDs before their CSPs were finalized. Finally, CSE is also doing capacity building of ULBs for developing CSPs of ten small and medium cities in Ganga Basin. Here, we developed SFDs at the very initial stage of development of CSPs. These were also presented in City Sanitation Task Force (CSTF) meetings.

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), around 8,000 towns and cities are targeted to become Open Defecation Free (ODF). The AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) programme in turn targets 500 cities for sewage and septage management and the National Mission Clean Ganga, finally, targets 118 priority towns along the river for interventions addressing river pollution abatement.

Among those, 131 towns/cities have been identified as flagship cities for ODF++, i.e. citywide sanitation and effective faecal sludge and septage management.

SuSanA: How have you used your publication “Down to Earth” to gain visibility for your projects and translate them into policies?

We have featured SFDs twice as cover stories (April and December 2016). Given its wide readership – the magazine with both print and web editions is read by over 20,000 people, both state and non-state actors – we were able to use “Down to Earth” as part of our communication strategy to gain wider outreach – with tangible results.

In March 2017, the central government announced the national policy on Faecal Sludge and Septage Management released by the Minister for Urban Development of the Government of India. In addition, seven states – namely Orissa, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telengana – have either issued state policies on septage management or operating guidelines for mainstreaming effective FSM in policies, planning, programmes and projects. Moreover, draft operating guidelines on FSM for urban planners (UP) have included SFDs. Furthermore, several states’ annual action plan (SAAP) for the next three years approved under the AMRUT programme have earmarked and allocated funds for FSM and citywide sanitation. Over 50 detailed projects regarding emptying, collection or treatment/co-treatment of faecal sludge with sewage and solid waste are reported in progress. In July 2017, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Director released “Septage Management – A practitioner’s toolkit: City’s journey beyond ODF.” The toolkit includes SFD as a starting point for cities in identifying intervention areas across the urban sanitation value chain and has been circulated by SBM to the Principal Secretaries of all states and the Municipal Commissioners of 131 cities.

SuSanA: Overall, if you look at your cooperation with SuSanA, how has it benefitted your work?

Our partnership with SuSanA and collaboration with SuSanA partners have helped immensely to contribute to CSE’s efforts with regard to outreach and scaling up of sustainable and affordable urban sanitation interventions in order to achieve citywide sanitation not only in India but also across South Asia and Africa.

Thank you, Suresh, for these interesting insights into your work. We are looking forward to continuing the fruitful collaboration between CSE and SuSanA.

Further Information

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
cseindia.org

SFD Promotion Initiative
sfd.susana.org

Down to Earth (publication)
www.downtoearth.org.in

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Swachh Bharat Mission
<http://swachhbharat.in/>

“Excreta Matters” (Special Report)
<http://www.cseindia.org/content/excreta-matters>

AMRUT
<http://amrut.gov.in/>

“Septage Management: A Practitioner’s Guide. Urban India’s Journey beyond ODF”
<http://www.swachhbharaturban.in:8080/sbm/content/writereaddata/Septage%20Management%20A%20Practitioner%E2%80%99s%20Guide%20with%20SBM%20logo.pdf>

SuSanA Impact Case Story

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