

Minutes of the SuSanA India Chapter Seminar:

“Towards ODF+ Urban Maharashtra”

Pune, India
18 November 2017



Overview of the seminar

The SuSanA India Chapter seminar about the topic **towards ODF+ Urban Maharashtra** was held in Pune, India on 18 November 2017 during the event SANIVATION'17 around World Toilet Day. The two-day programme of SANIVATION included discussions on integrated wastewater management, people and NGOs' role in maintaining public sanitation facilities and the potentials of the sanitation economy in India. Further activities included a business-plan competition and presentations for young Sanipreneurs and also fun events like the urgent run to create awareness related to water and sanitation.

The three hour meeting of the SuSanA India Chapter was organized by the Ecosan Services Foundation, the India Sanitation Coalition and the SuSanA secretariat. The context of the topic was that Maharashtra State Government has recently declared all cities to be open defecation free (ODF). Under the Swachh Maharashtra Mission, started in 2015, the state had set out to achieve this by 2018, but has reached its goal earlier.

The seminar successfully connected different actors in the region and encouraged discussions on what this declaration of being ODF means in practice in the state of Maharashtra and elaborated strategies to make urban Maharashtra ODF+ or better.

It was further discussed that urban sanitation challenges need holistic planning approaches backed by comprehensive open-source data. The seminar analysed also the role of NGOs in urban sanitation and how to involve corporate engagement through CSR projects in urban sanitation.

Various media channels were used to communicate the meeting's proceedings:



Information about past and upcoming SuSanA India Chapter meetings

Link: <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/regional-chapters/indian-chapter/susana-india-chapter-meetings>



Playlist of all presentations held during the meeting

Link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0gMdVBup-4P8h_gKMTnzJmfkz6_jBFte



Pictures of the SANIVATION'17 are available in the sustainable sanitation Flickr gallery

Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/qtzecosan/albums/72157690901604996/with/37712191215/>



Preparation, feedback and on-going discussions originating from the SuSanA India Chapter session on the Forum

Link: <http://www.forum.susana.org/232-susana-meetings/21816-susana-india-chapter-session-towards-odf-urban-maharashtra-at-sanivation-on-18-19-november-2017-in-pune-india>

Saturday 18 November 2017

Venue: [Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration \(YASHADA\)](#)

<p>Session 1 2:30 - 2:40</p>	<p>Introduction to the session and the SuSanA India Chapter Speaker: Nitya Jacob, SuSanA India Chapter and Dayanand Panse, Ecosan Service Foundation</p>
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► Brief overview of SuSanA and the SuSanA India Chapter:

The meeting began with chair Nitya Jacob, who introduced the SuSanA India Chapter as being part of the overall SuSanA. In 2016, SuSanA started setting up regional chapters whereas India Chapter was the first regional chapter created. The SuSanA India chapter is an open and inclusive contribution to activities in India towards more sustainable and accelerated sanitation provision with existing sanitation platforms in India being invited to be a part of the SuSanA Indian chapter. The India Sanitation Coalition is a key partner of the SuSanA India Chapter and organises regular thematic online discussions. The SuSanA India Chapter counts 2,300 members as of the moment, which includes companies, government officials, NGOs, experts and practitioners.

The purpose of a regional chapter is to bring out grass root stories - practical information of what people are doing in sanitation and what problems they face – and then to get back to the community to answer these problems in a way which is useful to people through exchange and discussion. The SuSanA India Chapter captures online discussions and exchange in synthesis documents that are available on the website of the India Chapter.

SuSanA also organizes face to face meetings, like the 23rd, two-day SuSanA meeting in Chennai, with the theme of faecal sludge management. The outcomes are also available on the website.





► **Welcoming Words of the SANIVATION'17 organizer Dayanand Panse:**

In his welcoming speech, Dayanand Panse elaborated the context of the specific agenda *towards ODF+ Urban Maharashtra*. The Government of Maharashtra has declared urban spaces to be ODF in October 2017. As containment is not the only objective, he pointed out the need to discuss what comes next to ODF in terms of save collection, transport, treatment and disposal. The concept of ODF+ is working towards this holistic and sustainable goal. In order to reach that goal a lot of reforms are needed on all administrative levels.

SuSanA is helping to achieve this through the provision of case studies and discussions and to convey findings of discussions like this workshop to the Government of Maharashtra. As Maharashtra as a pioneering state in ODF and other fields there are hopes that other Indian states will follow these good practices and policies.

<p>Session 2 2:40 - 3:00</p>	<p>Inaugural address on ODF Urban Maharashtra by the State Government Speaker: Dr. Uday Tekale, Mission Director, Urban Development Department, Government of Maharashtra (GoM)</p>
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In the first presentation, Dr. Uday Tekale, State Mission Director for the Maharashtra Urban Development Commission presented the progresses and prospects of the Swachh Maharashtra Mission (Urban).

The Swachh Maharashtra Mission was launched in May 2015. Today, Maharashtra is one of six ODF states within India. The target is to construct 8.99 lakhs of toilets, so far 6 lakhs plus community and public toilets have been constructed. GoM developed a protocol to define ODF and a three tiered validation mechanism to declare a city as being ODF.

Dr. Tekale explained that the minimum criteria for a city to be declared as ODF is a coverage of at least 70% of all households with individual toilets. After the self-declaration by the city a validation at district level and finally a third validation through a state level committee verifies the status. As an incentive mechanism for sustainability, the monetary rewards for reaching ODF status is split up into recertification periods of 6 months undertaken by third party.

In order to achieve ODF communities the Mission provided capacity building workshops at State Level, Divisional Level and Urban Local Bodies level. Further, daily Good Morning and Good Evening Pathaks (Squads) undertook vigilant monitoring of OD Spots. This OD watch system is still in place to ensure ODF status is maintained. Dr. Tekale further described the converging funds for toilets that were utilized. Subsidies of a total of INR 17,000 are among the highest amongst all States in India. In order to emphasise quality, prefabricated toilet constructions were exempted from the subsidy and contractor constructed toilets were prohibited. This should encourage a demand driven approach and support beneficiary led construction of toilets.

The way forward is to reach the status of being ODF+ in urban areas. This is defined by GoM that more than 80% of all households have individual toilets, the remaining percentage has to be covered by community or public toilets. Additionally, all toilets have to be connected to a disposable system and safe collection and treatment is ensured. To reach that goal Dr. Tekale emphasized that Faecal Sludge Management projects and numerous schemes will be implemented in the future.



To sustain the status of ODF, GoM has elaborated a sustainability charter including 7 principles on sustainable sanitation, among others that the aim is universal access to individual toilets, and adequate and clean community toilets and to move towards ODF+/++.

Mr Pramod Zinjade, Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal, said there is need to ensure water along with sanitation. The lack of water is a major constraint in using toilets especially when they are not covered by a municipality. Twin pit toilets need little water and can be suitable for such locations.

Download presentation: <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/resources-and-publications/library/details/2891>

Watch presentation on SuSanA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/AODP6MLwO-w>

<p>Session 3 3:00 - 3:20</p>	<p>Challenges and solutions of planning for urban sanitation Speaker: Ms. Dhanashree Gurav, Shelter Associates</p>
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In this presentation, Dhanashree Gurav shared Shelter Associate's methodology to provide households with their individual toilets (One Home One Toilet). Shelter Associates works in 76 slums in six cities of different sizes in Maharashtra.

Shelter Associate's methodology is threefold: first, they create spatial data on the GIS platform, second they mobilise communities right from the beginning, and third they deliver households toilets through a cost sharing model.

Dhanashree Gurav emphasized the huge need for having data in hand. The problem being not that no data exists but there is no linkage between different data sets collected. Having data is essential for need assessments, thorough planning, sound implementation, as well as monitoring an evaluation. Especially because

data collection is not as tangible as building a specific number of toilets, it is crucial to understand and to advocate the advantages of it.

Dhanashree Gurav further detailed the data collection procedure: infrastructure aspects for drainage lines, water roads, individual toilets, etc. and also demographic information on each household are collected and mapped with different colours within the GIS platform based on a Google earth map. This visual mapping ensures a holistic plan for each area. All data are available open source on the [Shelter Associates website](#).

Another important aspect she pointed out is that a minimal investment of INR 10 lakhs in data collection leverages about INR 6.86 crores of investment. Thus, one main goal is to institutionalize this data within the Urban Local Bodies. To reach that goal, Shelter Associates provides training for junior engineers and sanitary inspectors to use these maps, and as of now the maps are already used on the ground. One further aspect is the versatile usage of these data, it not just for sanitation but also for the management and strategies of water and waste related issues.

Dhanashree Gurav explained further that their concept allows for individual construction because the households are on board in the whole decision process, the building of toilets is not through contractors.

Pratima Joshi, one of the founding members of Shelter Associates, concluded the presentation with the statement that speed and scale are of essence, and that the elements of the methodology from Shelter Associates can help fine tune and strengthen the Swachh Bharat Mission.

In the discussion following the presentation, Mr. Pramod Zinjade spoke about the need to contextualise training and make it relevant to people from the grassroots and practitioners.

Download presentation: <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/resources-and-publications/library/details/2891>

Watch presentation on SuSanA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/nSQIb5f7KBU>

Session 4 3:40 – 4:00	Role of NGOs in urban sanitation Speaker: Ms. Meena Narula, Water for People
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Meena Narula's presentation focussed on the role of NGOs in urban sanitation. She puts the experiences that Water for People had in rural communities into perspective to the very different context in urban areas and states that this cross-fertilization between the urban and rural frames should continue to happen.

The sanitation approach of Water for People is that they look at services which are commercially viable, and follow a market-driven approaches such that the solutions that can sustain themselves on the ground and finally also sustain these gains through monitoring.

Four main roles have been identified for NGOs in urban sanitation. Firstly, NGOs can enhance demand led sanitation, i.e. demand generation through innovative approaches. Further, they can positively influence behaviours around sanitation coverage and usage.

The second role is to strengthen the supply chain through a market development approach so that people have access to good materials. The demand needs to be complemented with access to government provisions. NGOs can support innovations and collaboration for the expansion of the market for sanitation goods and services.

Thirdly, Meena stressed NGOs role to develop business models for safe resource recovery and reuse. To reach that, sanitation needs to be looked at from a value chain perspective; there is value in solid waste and liquid waste and it needs to be figured out how it can be brought in productive use.

Fourth and finally, NGOs can create an enabling environment that enhances innovations. To engage in capacity building and to influence policies and programs in order to take it up to scale is a space where NGOs with their limited funds can play an important role.



Download presentation: <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/resources-and-publications/library/details/2891>

Watch presentation on SuSanA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/qRShu-iE8Tw>

<p>Session 5 4:00 – 4:20</p>	<p>Corporate engagement in urban sanitation Speaker: Mr. Adwait Joshi, Samhita</p>
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In the last presentation of the session, Adwait Joshi presented Samhita Social Ventures, a corporate social responsibility (CSR) consulting firm based in Mumbai. Samhita's aim and role is to bridge between different members of the specific sector and facilitate multi stakeholder platforms.

The objective of the presentation was to present how a corporate looks at the sanitation space and inversely, how the present sanitation actors can look at corporates in a conjunctional manner.

To that end, Adwait Joshi presented three main types of companies: The first type of company are those that have a strong alignment with the sanitation cause and a strategic interest in area. These corporates are happy to collaborate because the collaboration is very close to their area of working.

The second group of companies works philanthropically. This is the largest area today in India, where a lot of work is happening and the most support to SBM is given. These companies however, act primarily as a donor and thus rely on the expertise of NGOs and experts.

The third category of firms are those that want to work catalytic. These firms may or may not belong to the first or second group of firms, but they are ready to find a solution along with practitioners on the ground and to make that solution multiply at an exponential rate.

Adwait Joshi further highlighted an ongoing collaboration together with Government of Maharashtra. An innovation platform that brings specific companies with existing innovations together in order to exchange knowledge and scale projects to the next level.

Download presentation for examples of cooperation: <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/resources-and-publications/library/details/2891>

Watch presentation on SuSanA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/wl2ANz1GgG8>

<p>Session 6 4:20 – 5:25</p>	<p>Discussions on the way towards an ODF+ Urban Maharashtra Moderated by Ms. Shipra Saxena, ISC</p>
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For a concluding discussion round Shipra Saxena laid out two questions: First, how can the ODF status maintained and how to ensure that the remaining gaps are filled? And second, what comes next to ODF?

Dr. Uday Tekale stressed the way forward is to focus on households that do not yet have access to individual toilets. GoM needs still some support for smaller urban local bodies to install a decentralized treatment of faecal sludge. UNICEF, CEPT, Samhita and other organizations are working on this. ISC offered to GoM to provide support. There has to be an ODF state sustainability plan that will take care of these loopholes and that is unique for each district. This can be along the lines of a rural ODF sustainability plan.

Another discussion participant noted that decentralised waste water treatment and the reuse of wastewater as far as possible is a very important aspect.



Meena Narula noted greater surveillance in terms of identifying problems and suggested to look at incubation grants especially involving engineering colleges for new technologies.

Meena further noted that infrastructure is very important for sustainability. It is not only the lack of awareness or motivation that makes people not use toilets, but also other issues like livelihoods, lack of connectivity, especially electricity, which makes it difficult for people to construct toilets.

Adwait Joshi stressed collaboration and partnerships, connecting dots and bringing people together is important to reach sustainability.

Dayanand Panse added three points to the discussion. First, septage management is going to be an issue with regards to sustainability and reaching ODF+. Second, the sustainable use of toilets requires water - that has to be guaranteed. His third point was to take menstrual hygiene issues (sanitary napkins and their safe disposal) into account.

Nitya Jacob stressed that wastewater treatment and faecal sludge management poses challenges, especially in small towns because there is not enough capacity. He also suggested going beyond conventional sewage treatment plant models, since there are lots of other options that can be brought into the mainstream.

In the end, it was stressed that there is a need for a glossary of options for septage management/wastewater management (comparable to WASH in Schools manual).

The final announcement was that the next SuSanA India Chapter meeting will be scheduled around 19 to 21 February 2018 in Goa in the frame of the 50th IWWA convention.

► Contact us

Please address any feedback to [Nitya Jacob \(nityajacob@hotmail.com\)](mailto:nityajacob@hotmail.com) or the SuSanA secretariat at info@susana.org. For further information on the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance please visit our website www.susana.org

For further information about the SuSanA India Chapter please visit <http://www.susana.org/en/knowledge-hub/regional-chapters/indian-chapter>

Minutes were prepared by Franziska Volk (SuSanA Secretariat).

List of participants for the SuSanA India Chapter seminar in Pune, India (18 November 2017)

	Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country
1	Babar	Rahul	Energy Tech Solution P. Ltd.	India
2	Badhe	Sunil D.	MJP	India
3	Bharmal	Arwa	C-WAS, CEPT University	India
4	Gangathade	Prashant	NGP Solutions P. Ltd.	India
5	Gosavi	B.T.	MJP	India
6	Gurav	Dhanashree	Shelter Associates	India
7	Jacob	Nitya	SuSanA India Chapter Coordinator	India
8	Jadhar	Manohar	MJP	India
9	Joshi	Adwait	Samhita Social Ventures	India
10	Joshi	Pratima	Shelter Associates	India
11	Kelkar-Khambete	Aarti	India Water Portal	India
12	Kharkar	Rohini	Rochi Engineers	India
13	Kharkar	Pradeep	Rochi Engineers	India
14	Kulkarni	Nishikant P.	MJP	India
15	Narula	Meena	Water for People	India
16	Panse	Dayanand	Ecosan Services Foundation	India
17	Pelzer	Gerhard	IFOAM	Germany
18	Ribhute	Nitin	Samarth Systems	India
19	Saxeni	Shipra	ISC, FICCI	India
20	Shelar	Pranin	MJP	India
21	Shiratti	Rashmi	Shelter Associates	India
22	Surve	Atul	SESPL	India
23	Tamilian	Bharathy	UNICEF	India
24	Tekale	Uday	Government of Maharashtra	India
25	Volk	Franziska	SuSanA Secretariat	Germany
26	Zinjade	Pramod	MPSSM	India