

COMMUNITY SANITARY COMPLEX: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

**Dibyendu Sarkar, Secretary,
P&RD Department,
Government of West Bengal**



Background

- The study was undertaken by water for People at the behest of the State Mission for implementation of SBM (G) in West Bengal, locally known as mission Nirmal Bangla
- The study was undertaken in March 2014, before the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched
- The report was finalised in 2015 and expected to provide inputs for taking up CSCs under the SBM
- It was a complete survey covering all toilets constructed by the Government agencies under the Total Sanitation Campaign and the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan
- In all 1119 CSCs under the Government programme and 146 Sanitary Complexes set up by non-government actors were surveyed
- For ease of data collection, monitoring and also for greater transparency AKVO Flow software were used in the survey

Performance Indicators

- **Number of CSCs constructed under NBA**
- **Distribution of CSCs across the state**
- **Number of functioning and non-functioning CSCs**
- **Access to the sanitary complexes by the beneficiaries**
- **Sanitary conditions at the toilets**
- **Promotion of hygienic practice based on availability of soap or other cleaning materials**
- **Operation and maintenance (level of maintenance) of the sanitary facilities**
- **Mechanisms for solid liquid waste management and their disposal**

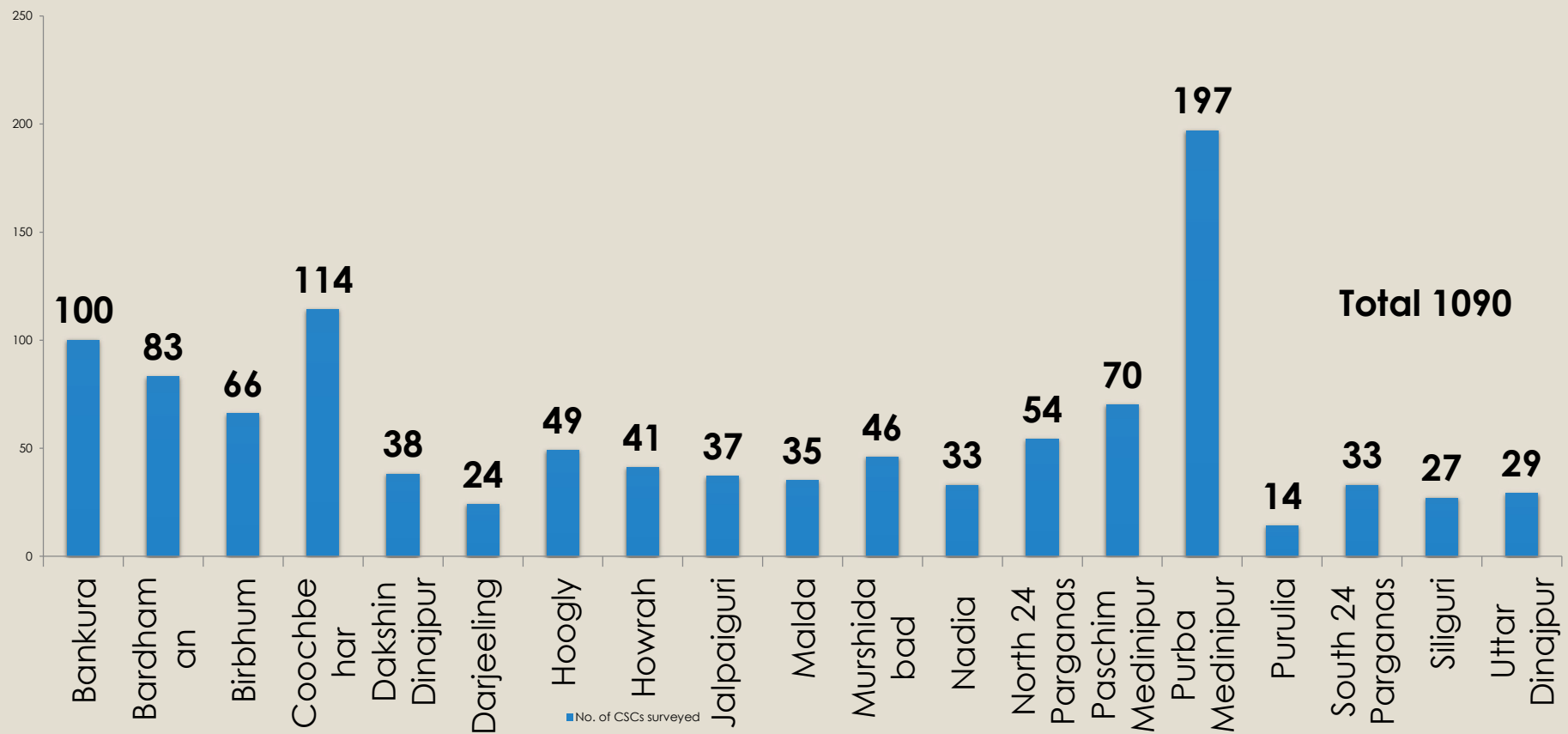
Financial Indicators

- **Fee for the usage of toilets**
- **Fee difference between male & female**
- **Income & expenditure**

Sustainability Indicators

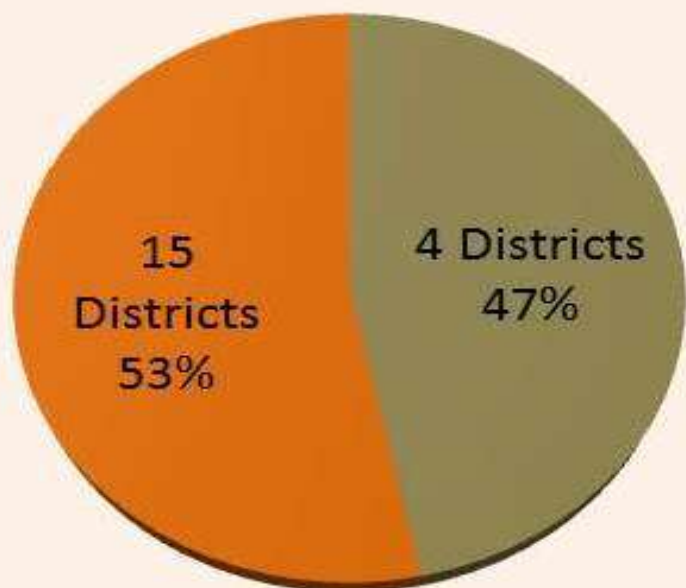
- **Collection of Tariff / User fee**
- **Availability of water**
- **Availability of plumber/maintenance worker**
- **Presence of caretaker / any other responsible person**

CSC distribution across districts



Distribution of the CSCs

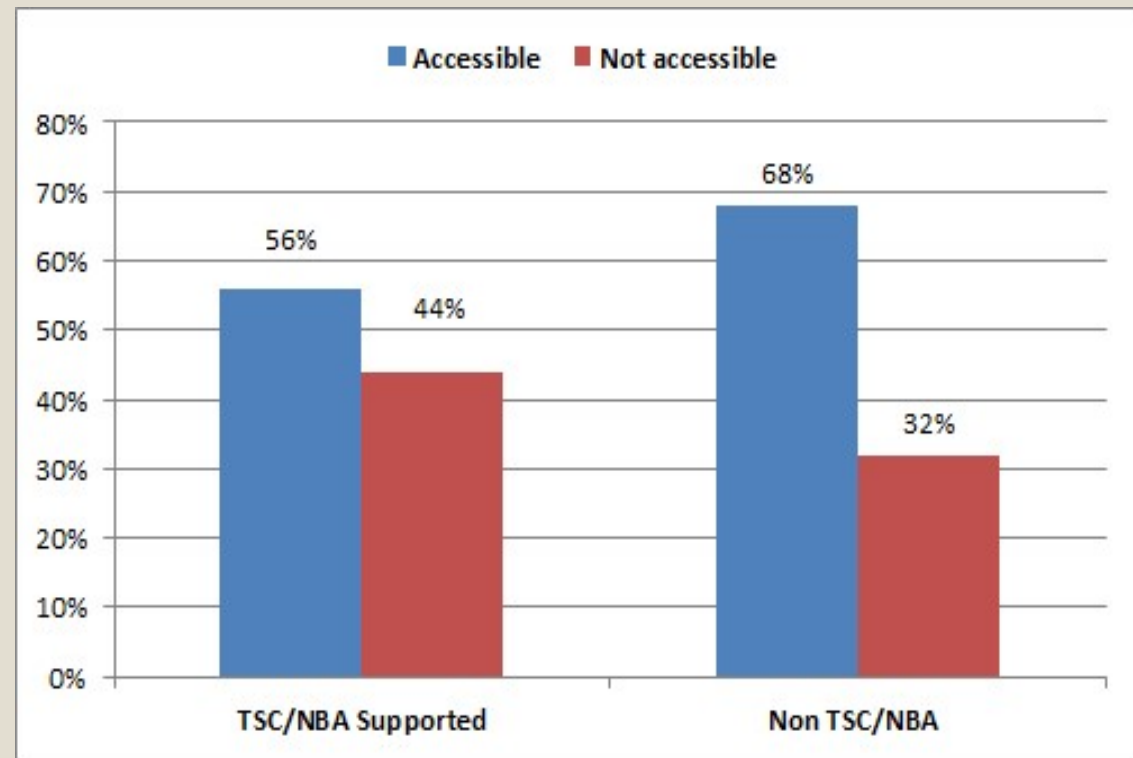
Uneven Distribution



- Uneven distribution
- Coochbehar and Bankura, which were exceptionally low in IHHL coverage, reported 2nd and 3rd highest CSCs
- Purba Medinipur had a strong history of sanitation movement and reported maximum no. Of CSCs

Accessibility

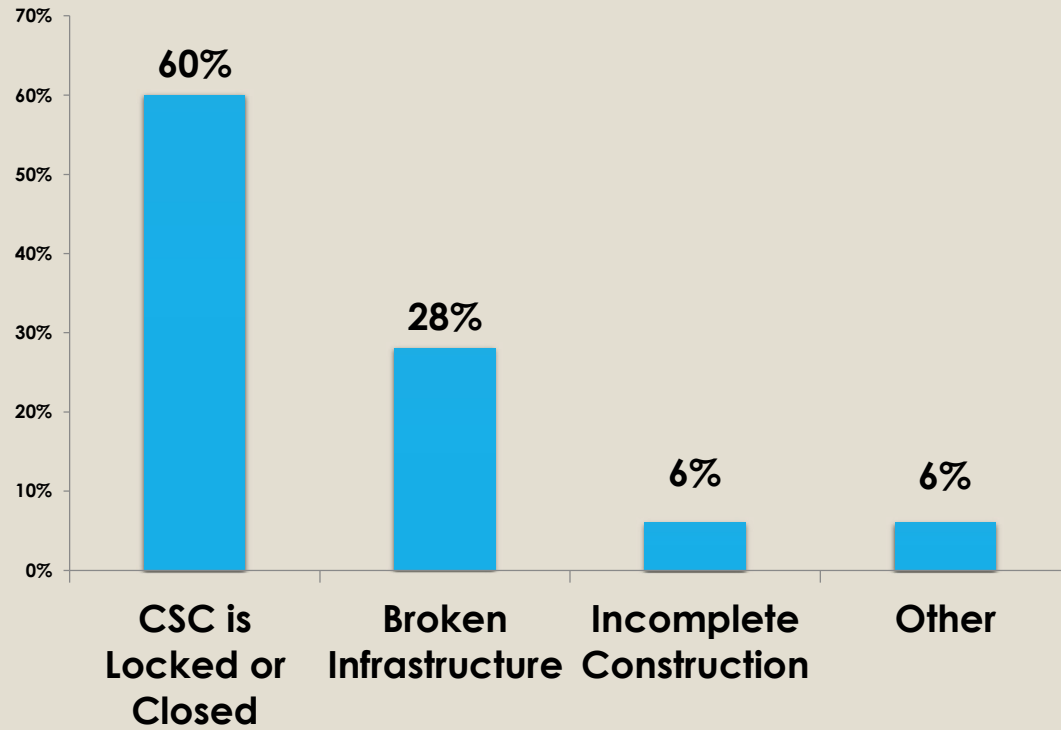
- **Accessibility for daily use was greater for the complexes built with community initiative (68%)**
- **Accessibility was lower (56%) in government constructed CSCs**



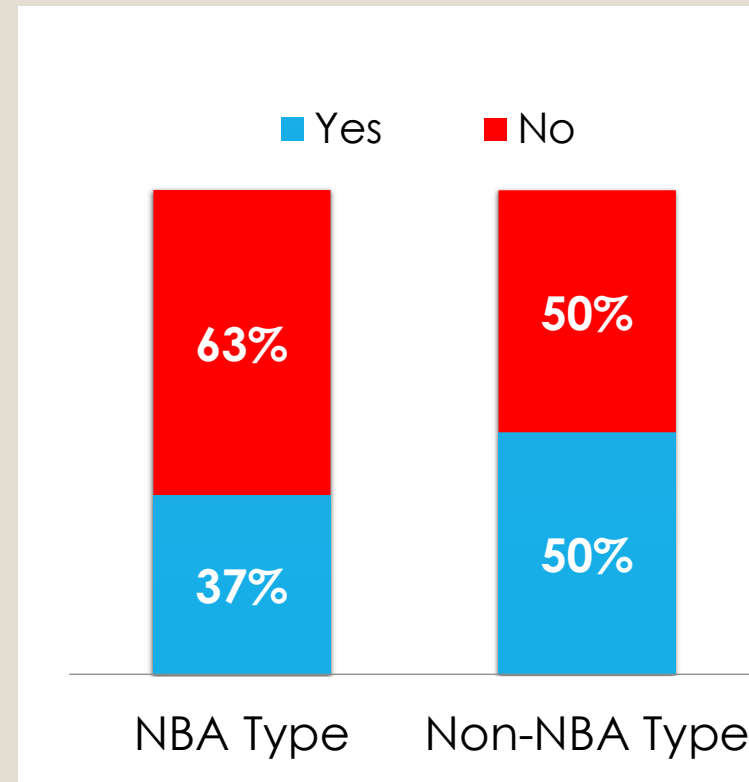
District-wise accessibility was greater in Darjeeling (80%) and Purba Medinipur (79%)

**Close-quarter defecation is a culture in the hills
Purba Medinipur is the front runner in sanitation movement**

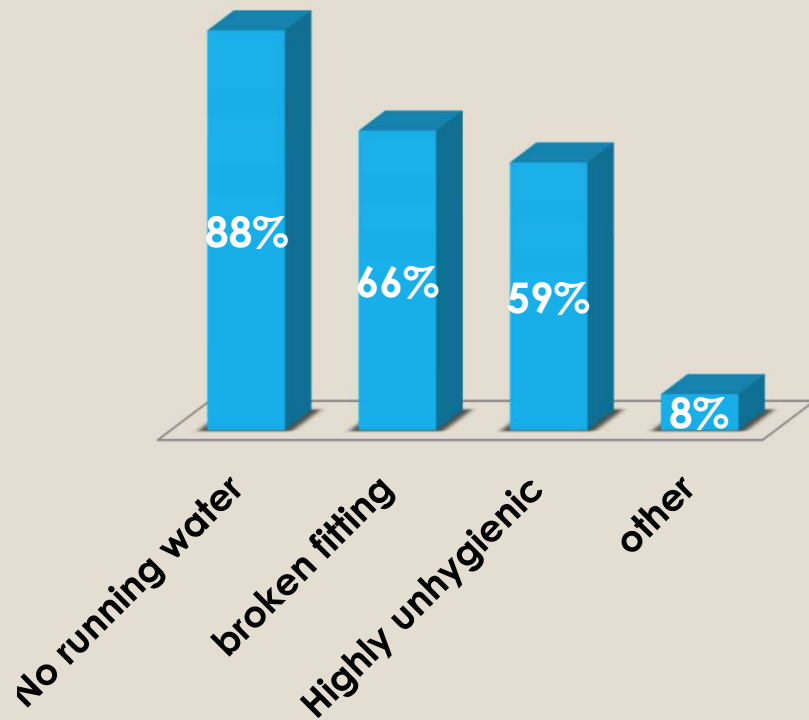
Why inaccessible?



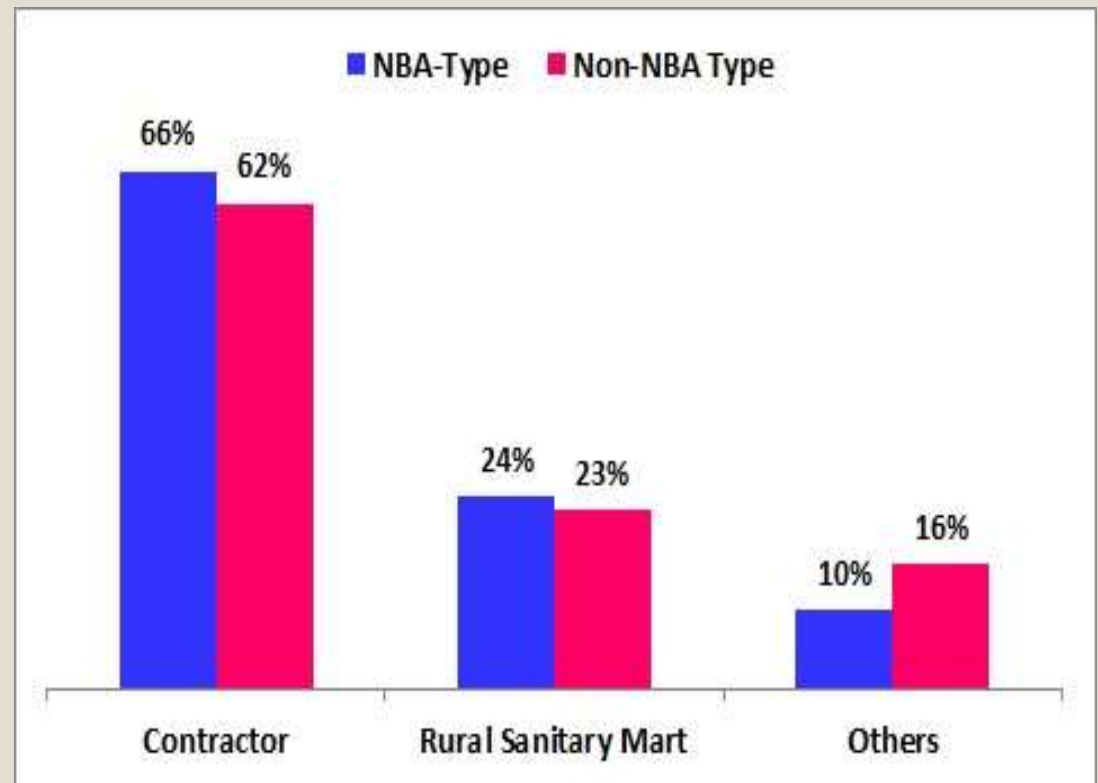
Whether water available?



Reasons for non-usability

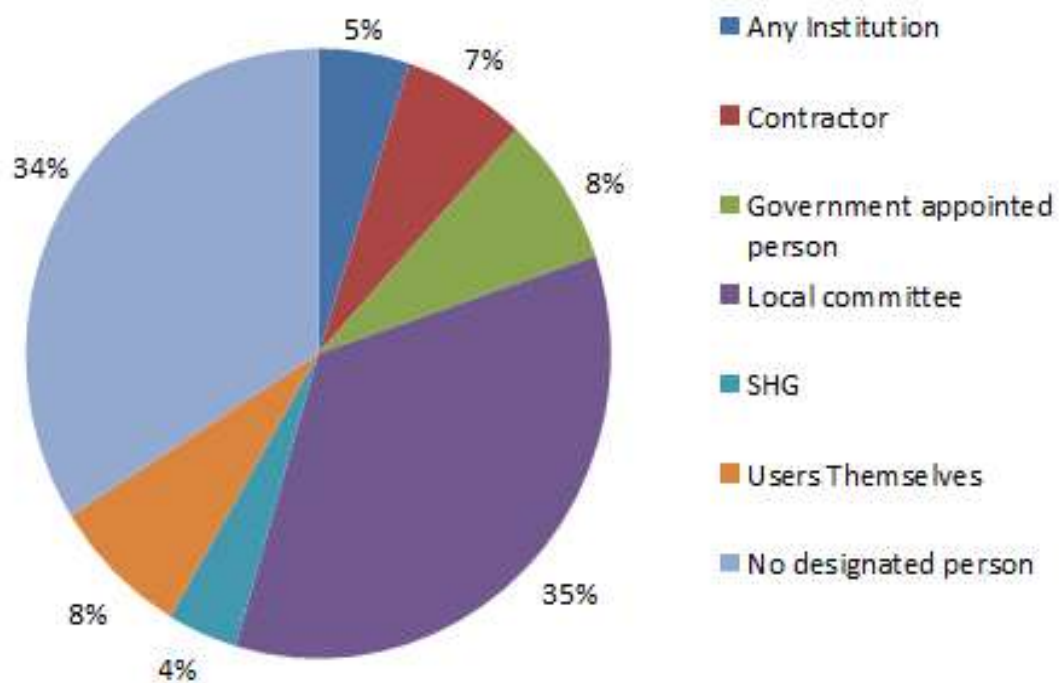


Construction agency



Management Structure

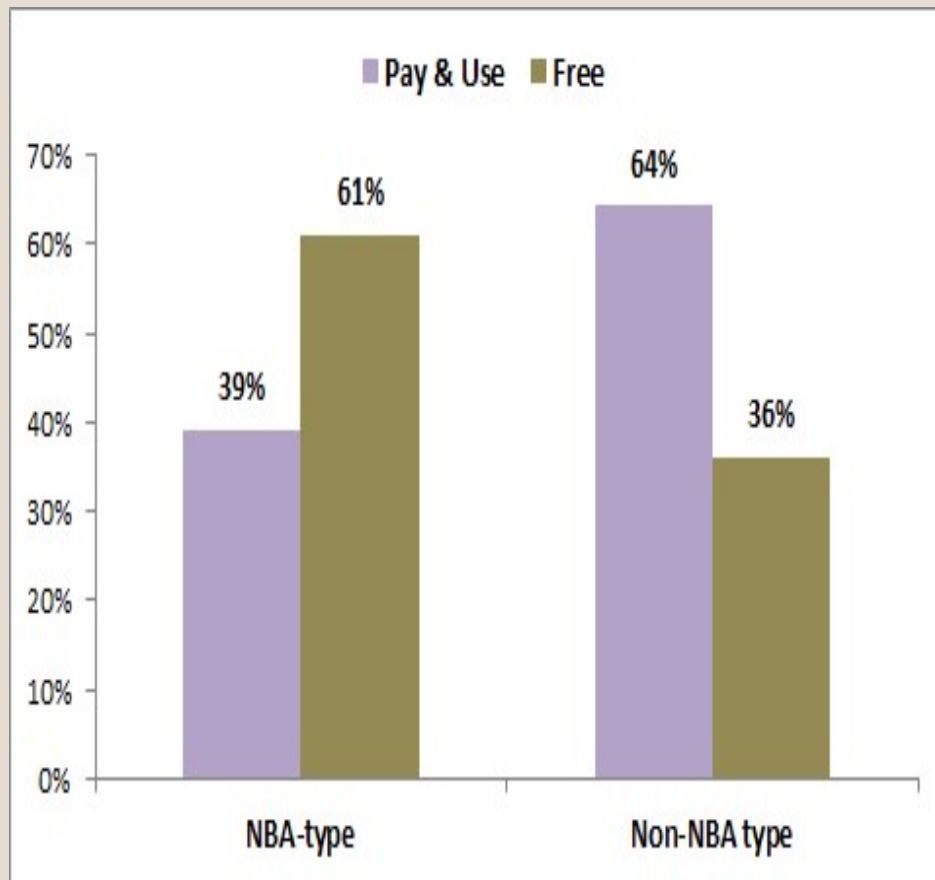
Who Runs the Complex



35% of the Complexes are managed by a local level committee

In 34% of the Complexes, no one has been assigned specific responsibility

User charges



CSCs developed under the programme are often free for the users

CSCs developed by the community usually charges fees

Is it one of the reasons for better maintenance?

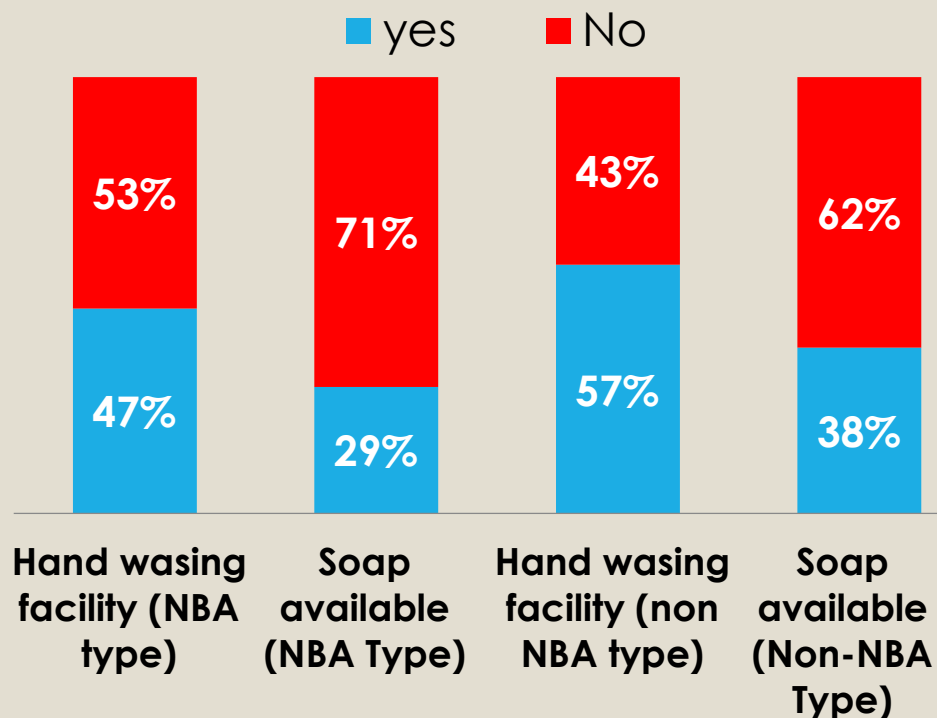
Who cleans?

Cleaning Agents		
Responsible For Cleaning	NBA	Non-NBA
Caretaker	40%	46%
Hired Employee	28%	36%
Cleaning Agency	17%	15%
Local Committee	3%	0%
SHG Member	1%	0%
Users	7%	2%
Not Cleaned	4%	1%
Total	100%	100%

State of cleanliness

- Out of 614 Government constructed CSCs in use, 407 (66%) CSCs are run by some designated person/ organization. Further analysis shows that out of these 407 CSCs:
- 303 complexes found clean on the day of survey
- 208 have 'Pay and Use' system in place
- 93 are 24X7 hours accessible
- 311 have water facilities inside the complex

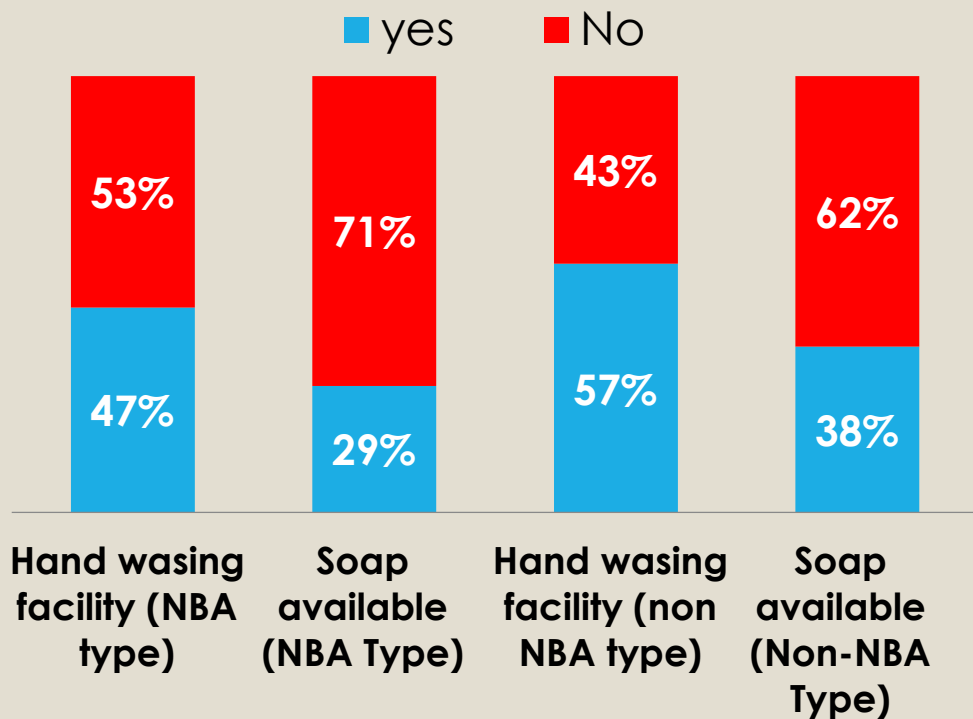
Handwashing facility and soap



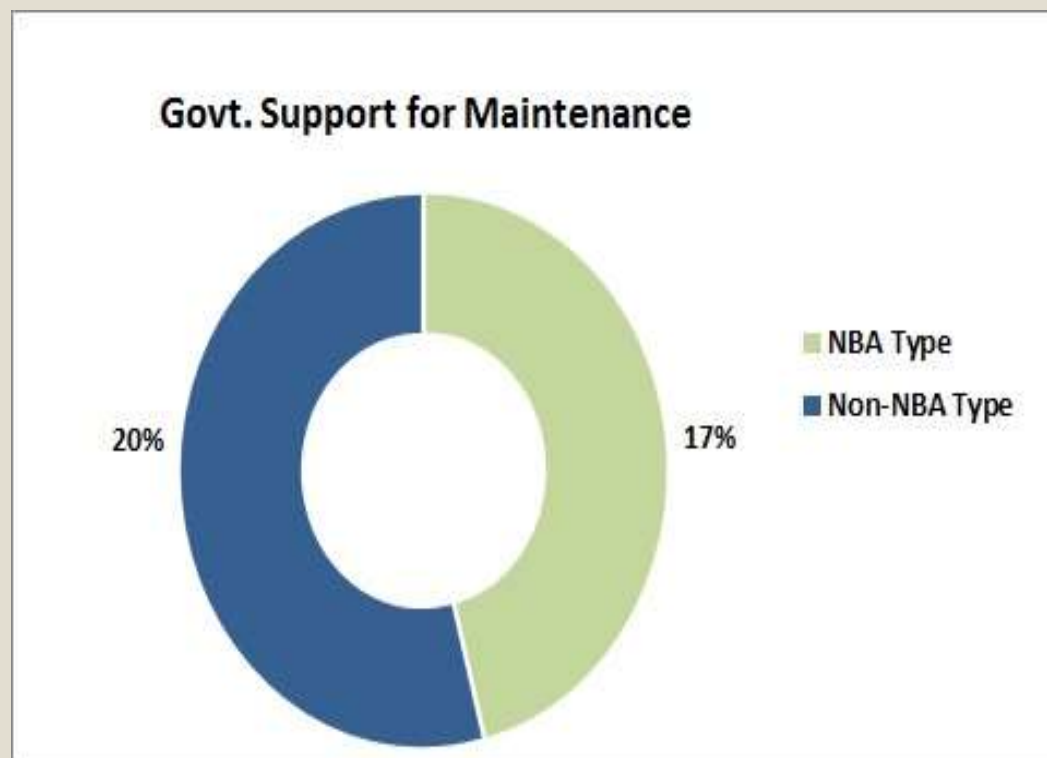
The economics

PARTICULARS	NBA-FUNDED	NON-NBA
Average Users / Day	96	146
Average monthly expenditure for cleaning material & others	Rs. 2000	Rs. 2300
Average monthly Staff cost	Rs. 1451	Rs. 1825
Average monthly Electricity Cost	Rs. 195	Rs. 82
Average monthly income	Rs. 4200	Rs. 5074
Total Average monthly Expenditure	Rs. 3646	Rs. 4207
Profit /Loss (Monthly Income – Monthly Expenditure)	Rs. 554	Rs. 867
Net Profit	Rs. 710.50	

Handwashing facility and soap



Do the Government pay for maintenance?



Reflections

- Uneven geographical distribution
- No CSC as such- all are public toilets
- Accessibility and maintenance are better when constructed with community initiative
- Maintenance is better where user charges are levied
- Without specified management structure, it is difficult to sustain

Observations

- Do we really need one CSC for every village having >100 hh?
- Should we not consider higher cost norm?
- Since every rural household have access to toilets, should we not focus on public toilets are places of public congregation?
- Everybody is talking of the Finance Commission coffer- can we think of something else?