



Overview

2nd City Sanitation Task Force Consultation Meeting



CSP For

Technical Assistance



Municipal Corporation Shimla



German International Cooperation - ASEM



Introduction

CDD Society in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Shimla organised the 2nd Consultation meeting of the City Sanitation Task Force on 21st February at Rotary Club Hall, Mall Road, Shimla.



From Left: Mr. Harish Janaratha (Dy. Mayor, MC Shimla), Mr. Deepak Sanan (Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Himachal Pradesh), Mr. A.N. Sharma, Municipal Commissioner (MC Shimla) and Mr. Dirk Walther (Senior Advisor, GIZ-ASEM)

The objective of the meeting is to share the outcomes of the sanitation situation analysis conducted as part of preparation of the City Sanitation Plan for Shimla. German International Cooperation (GIZ-ASEM) is providing technical assistance and funding for preparing the same.

Welcome Address

The meeting initiated with a welcome address by Shri. A.N. Sharma, Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Shimla. He extended a warm welcome to all the CSTF members who participated in the meeting.

Mr. Sharma expressed his concern on Shimla's ranking at 292 out of the 423 cities surveyed as part of NUSP and mentioned it as a matter of debate. However he acknowledged the fact that a lot needs to be done to improve the sanitation scenario in Shimla City.





Mr. Harish Janaratha, Deputy Mayor, MC Shimla acknowledged the need for improving the sanitation situation in the City.

He assured full cooperation from the administration in preparation of City Sanitation Plan for Shimla City. He also said that citizen's views and recommendations will be duly considered through consultations to be conducted by elected representatives.

Introduction to GIZ and CSP

Mr. Dirk Walther, Senior Advisor, GIZ-ASEM briefly introduced GIZ-ASEM and its collaboration with Ministry of Urban Development in preparing City Sanitation Plans. GIZ-ASEM at present is involved in preparing CSPs for seven cities in India. These are Shimla, Varanasi, Raipur, Nashik, Kochi, Tirupati, and Nainital.

Mr. Walther shared with participants the process adopted by GIZ-ASEM for CSPs preparation He also highlighted the key sanitation issues in Shimla City which needs to be addressed through CSP.



Technical Presentation - Sanitation Situation in Shimla



The technical team including Mr. Rajesh Pai, Mr. Rahul Sachdeva (CDD Society) and Ms. Neelima Thota (Alchemy Urban Systems) presented the situation analysis with respect to sanitation in the City.

The key findings and issues with respect to basic services like water supply, sewerage system, solid waste management system, and access to public sanitation were presented to the CSTF members for their review and comments.



Remarks from Principal Secretary, UD, GoHP



After the technical session, Mr. Deepak Sanan shared his concern regarding the sanitation situation in the City and way forward to improve the situation. Some of the key points raised by him are mentioned as follows:

- The intermittent water supply and more importantly contaminated water supply is a major issue to be addressed. The jaundice outbreaks in the last 2-3 years are an indicator of the gravity of the situation. The city should aim at 24x7 pressurised water supply. Adequacy and equity in water distribution to all class of people should be ensured.
- The natural resources (especially water) should be optimally utilized. The City does not require additional sources of water to cater its demand, rather requires effective management (reduction in non-revenue water).
- When multiple institutions are responsible for delivery of basic services, accountability needs to be ensured to avoid blame game.
- Solid Waste Management is a key issue that needs prioritization (waste visible in public if not managed properly).
- The citizens have to understand their responsibility in keeping healthy environment. The ill-maintained septic tanks and informal systems for O&M often lead to discharge of wastewater into open drains posing health hazard.
- The State and City Administration should join hands for preparing a State Sanitation Strategy, which forms basis for City to plan for sanitation services.



- The awareness campaign is crucial to bring about a change in citizen behavior making them more responsible toward their responsibilities in making their City neat and clean. He emphasized on appropriate means of communication for wider outreach. The concept of users pay (for improving the services) has to be appropriately disseminated amongst the citizens.

Group Discussion

Dr. Sonam Negi, Corporation Health Officer, MC Shimla and Mr. Rajesh Pai moderated the group discussion. The objective of the session was to discuss issues related to Technical, Financial, Institutional, Capacity Building and Governance in Water supply, Wastewater Management, Solid Waste Management and Public Sanitation, and recommendations from their side to improve the sanitation situation in the City. The members actively participated in the discussion and highlighted the gray areas that need to be addressed. Some of the issues discussed and recommendations made are mentioned as below:

ISSUES

Water Supply System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate water supply in summer/tourist season. • Water supply network old and worn out at many places. • High Non-revenue Water (NRW) due to poor metering, leakages and illegal connections. • Shortage of man power and proper O&M systems. • Proximity of water supply and sewerage pipelines causing contamination of water – incidences of water borne diseases (Hepatitis – A, E). • Lack of funds for implementation of projects as identified in DPR.
Sewerage System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-connectivity of septic tanks with sewerage system in core and peripheral areas (overflow from septic tanks flowing in open drains). • Non connectivity between old and new sewerage system (entire quantum of wastewater generated not collected effectively and transported to STP for treatment). • Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) are underutilized. • Sewer network defunct at many places – leakages. • Septic tanks are not properly maintained – informal systems for desludging / improper septage management. • Sewage flow in open drains causing environment nuisance. • Service managed by more than 1 department/organisation – lack of accountability. • Lack of funds for implementation of projects as identified in DPR.



Solid Waste Management System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in door to door collection due to topographic constraints • Clearing of waste and transportation to treatment site (collection efficiency – 70%) – lack of man power and transportation fleet • Chocking of road side drains due to open dumping of waste • Sub-optimal segregation at processing unit due to mixed waste • Plastic bags banned in Shimla, still packaging material contributes significantly to plastic waste generation
Public Sanitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public toilets are inadequate and not easily accessible in periphery areas • O&M of toilets maintained by MC Shimla is an issue – lack of dedicated staff for regular O&M • Lack of water storage structures and erratic water supply affects O&M • Sanitation for migratory population (construction labour coming from other states) is a key issue

RECOMMENDATIONS

Technical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems as one of the options for wastewater management • Focus on strengthening of supply network rather than augmentation of water supply sources • Hand over all the public toilets to private operators for O&M • Formalise system for septage management
Institutional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire responsibility of sewerage system in Shimla to be handed over to MC Shimla by IPH • Training of MC Shimla staff and recruitment of additional staff for management of sewerage system
Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting FGDs at ward level for identification of issues to be addressed through awareness campaign



Concluding Remarks

The meeting concluded with ward councillors/citizens showing active interest in validating the data and urging the MC Shimla to facilitate the data interpretation and drafting recommendations for a clean and green Shimla City.

Participation of CSTF Members

