



Cross Sector Collaboration to develop holistic & integrated solution of WASH issues in Bihar.



ANNUAL ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS(2013-14)

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ANUAL ACTIVITY MONITOR (2013-14)

1. About Viswash Bihar: It is a membership organization participated by Civil Society organization engaged in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector response in Bihar. Viswash is expected to strengthen the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector response in Bihar by means of networking of civil society, research and training institution and other stake holders. It emphasizes evidence based policy advocacy and capacity building measures for WASH sector. The network had has been promoted by Water Aid since its inception in year 2006.

VISWASH in its short existence of 6 years has made meaningful contribution in WASH sector by orienting new organisations in WASH domain, policy advocacy, information dissemination, sensitization to Lawmaker and executioners etc. Viswash lobbied and advocated drafting and adoption of WASH policy by state which has already been drafted. Recently it has partnered along with GSF Bihar Project (A UN Fund for promotion of Sanitation and Hygiene) which has recently been launched for strengthening NBA implementation in Bihar. Viswash is enough fortunate which had always been patronized by reputed International Agency: Water Aid. Viswash is also representing South Asian Collaboration for Fresh Water i.e. FANSA and work as Bihar state chapter for them. Freshwater Action Network (FAN) is a global network of people implementing and influencing water and sanitation policy and practice around the world. FAN works to improve water management by strengthening civil society to influence decision-making. It has strong presence in south Asia

2. Activity Highlight of Year 2013-14: Viswash by its own and from due assistance of its members, esteemed donors and well wishers organised different activities in year 2013-14. Among noteworthy accomplishment, GSF Bihar support become instrumental in furthering the mandate of Viswash in Year 2013-14. Viswash was recognized as State Sanitation network under GSF Bihar Project. It had been given mandate to work for the area like policy advocacy & replication of Best Practices of GSF Project among Grass root Civil Society Players with the Vision to strengthen NBA response in the state. During year 2013-14 , Viswash took several initiatives to fulfill its mission & mandate. Our focus for the year was Sanitation and Hygiene since state has accomplished fairly well in terms of water availability (though quality of water for drinking purpose is still a herculean task) but it failed to make sanitation facility available to all its citizens. Two third of house hold still don't have access of Toilet facility and forced to defecate in open. Following are some of the key activities which had been implemented in 2013 -14 .

2.1. Seminar on Mineral contamination in Ground Water in Bihar and remedial Action for improving potable water quality in Bihar:

Background: Water is one of the three most essential needs of human. Around one sixth of world population is still deprived of safe drinking water. Despite significant public investment, the situation has not very much improved in India. Invisible and unnoticed killers in water like fluoride, arsenic, iron etc. has not been taken as seriously as it should be. The backward state like Bihar though bestowed with bounty of ground water is still far behind the goal to reach its entire Citizen with provision of Safe drinking water. Health of ground water is ever deteriorating. Arsenic contamination is above permissible limit (0.05mg/l)* in many water sample collected from the hand pumps of these two villages. 15 districts of Bihar (including 57 blocks) have been found affected of arsenic contamination. Buxor, Bhojpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Katihar, Munghyr, Bhagalpur, Lakhisarai and Durbhanga are highly susceptible to Arsenic contamination*.

VISWASH Bihar (a membership organization) is very much concerned with this very important issue of safe drinking water and sanitation to all. VISWASH during last six years has been engaged in capacity building of civil society organization in area of WATSAN Promotion, policy advocacy and consultative support. Due to its intervention and advocacy measures, state prepared zero draft of water and sanitation policy. VISWASH believes that Civil society Organization(CSO) possess immense potential by which they can reach out mass through message related to Safe drinking water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

In line of its advocacy and sensitization activity, VISWASH Bihar organized an informative Seminar on Mineral Contamination in ground water which had been a neglected area of our decision makers. The Seminar was held at BVHA conference hall in Patna on 30th December 2013. Around 38 representatives from Civil Society Organization, Panchayati Raj, Research and education took part in the seminar. Presentation followed by panel discussion was dominant method of sharing of information throughout the seminar.

The resource team along with the participants critically analyzed the ever deteriorating situation of ground water and discussed the way forward. It had been mutually resolved that VISWASH would advocate further to so that mitigation measures related to ground water contamination would be highlighted in draft Water and sanitation policy of the state.

Objective of the Seminar:

The broad objective of the seminar was to exchange information pertaining to ground water contamination in Bihar and create awareness among Citizen Sector organizations, gram Panchayat members and social entrepreneurs & encourage them to include this issue in their development agenda. We through this explored gravity of mineral contamination related issue in precious ground water in Bihar and measures that could halt the use of contaminated ground water and also abuse associated to ground water exploitation. Following had been set objective of the Seminar:

Methodology & Format

The Seminar methodology included lecture, panel discussion, open session for sharing of knowledge and expertise by the experts and the participants.

Targeted Participants:

The seminar was participated by representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Members of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Representative of Education and research domains, social entrepreneurs etc.

Venue & Date:

The Seminar was held at BVHA conference hall in Patna on 30th December 2013.

Resolution:

- It had been mutually resolved that VISWASH would advocate further to so that mitigation measures related to ground water contamination would be highlighted in draft Water and sanitation policy of the state.
- The participants will further discuss the issue along with their Board members/Personnel and incorporate action in their next year plan.
- Viswash will conduct more sessions on such issue during next financial year and help in resolving issues faced by active members in water sectors through technical expertise.

2.2. Global Safe Hand Wash day celebration in Bihar: Viswash Bihar mobilised mass for creating awareness of the message of an auspicious UN promoted Global Safe Hand Wash Day. Comprehensive strategy was followed for reaching out people of the state . Three key activities were performed on Global Safe Hand Wash day-2013.

2.2.1. Mobilisation of Department of Education, Government of Bihar : Department of Education, Government of Bihar was motivated to engage Govt. Schools so that they involve children in spreading message of Global Safe Hand Wash day. Department of Education through a circular instructed Government Primary and middle schools to conduct events pertaining to Sanitation & Hygiene focussed to Safe Hand Wash practices. The day was celebrated in Government schools in Bihar. It had been proved to be a learning event for the children.

2.2.2. Rally on Global Safe Hand wash day: Viswash Bihar in collaboration of GSF Bihar project jointly celebrated Global Safe Hand Wash Day in Patna. The event was also graced by Hon'ble Chairman-Bihar Vidhan Parishad, Hon'ble Minister-Rural Development, Hon'ble legislatures, District Magistrate of Patna and many eminent personalities. A rally of school children was organised from Sahid Smarak to R Block Golumbar for spreading message of safe hand wash day.

2.2.3. Celebration by Viswash Member Organisations: Viswash mobilised member organisation for celebrating the day in their respective district. Member organisation celebrated the day in their community by involving community, women and children. Demonstration of safe hand wash practices was also done.

2.3. Celebrating World Sanitation day:

2.3.1. Policy Advocacy Workshop: Viswash & its member celebrated World Sanitation day 2014. Viswash organized state level advocacy workshop for popularizing the auspicious UN day on Sanitation i.e. World Sanitation day 2014. The topic of the workshop was **Means and Ways of Maximizing Participation of Civil Society Organisations in implementation of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in Bihar.** The workshop was held in Patna (Bihar) on 20th December 2013. The venue was Vidhan Parishad Annexi, Patna, Bihar to attract attention of legislatures towards the issue of Sanitation in Bihar. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Deputy Chairman-Bihar Vidhan Parishad- Mr.Salim Parwez. Total 161 people from cross section of society including CSOs, Panchayati Raj, Leading Media houses (Aaj, Prabhat Khabar, ETV Bihar, DD News etc.) and Education & training Institutions took part in the advocacy workshop. Representatives of international organizations like GSF, PSI, Plan contributed the workshop by providing technical assistant. The deputy chairman promised to raise issue of sanitation at appropriate forum and promised for all kind of support to Viswash in their advocacy mission.

The broad objective of the seminar was to share the learning of Voluntary organisations active in WASH sector & examine their issue that is coming out within the board ambit of NBA implementation in Bihar. The workshop discussed the transformed role of VOs in NBA implementation. The workshop also explored the areas in which they contribute their best. The workshop/seminar provided an insight regarding the measures state can adopt for encouragement of VOs/NGOs to take part in NBA implementation and improved delivery of sanitation services by them

The importance of World sanitation day had been highlighted in workshop & requested to use this day for reaching the deprived section with WASH message.

Role of Civil society Organization in promotion had been discussed in detail. Following attention point had been came out.VOs/ NGOs had has been seriously engaged in

Promotion of WASH here in Bihar. They are reaching out the least and forgotten families through innovative and path breaking measures and thus fostering the objective of NBA in Bihar. Many of them customised their approach as per the localised need of the people. They put their might to make concerned Gram Panchyat ODF. It had been felt by participants that their best potential to optimise NBA response is yet to be realised.

It had been concluded that estimating huge potential of Voluntary sector, they may bring sea changes in nature and effectiveness of NBA related response. They may be pivotal in gray areas of NBA implementation and foster sustainable impact of NBA which has always been a challenge. They may play catalytic role in Behaviour Change Communication through individualised approach, training to water and sanitation committee formed in Panchyats, social audit, survey, facilitation in Gram sabha's, micro planning, conducting of sanitary marts, etc. They may be helpful in reaching out most vulnerable like person with physical deformity, widows, HIV positive, Lepers etc. **There is need of devising facilitative policies and programme that would promote quality participation of civil society organisations in NBA implementation.**

2.3.2. Viswash took part in inauguration of GSF Bihar Project in Jhanjharpur in which Hon'ble Minister of rural development-Govt of Bihar inaugurated the event.

2.2.3. Member organization organized the day by involving children, conducting debates in schools, organizing Vichar Gosthis etc in their functional location in Bihar.

2.4. A study on Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)-Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment guarantee scheme (MNREGS) convergence related issues at Gram Panchayat level in Bihar State:

Introduction: NBA is flagship scheme of Indian government which is expected to generate demand of Sanitation services universal through making all Gram Panchayat Nirmal Gram Panchayat by 2022. The scheme desires a social change that has implication for women dignity and preventive health care. Despite all successes in previous years, there are perceived gray area pertaining to Peoples participation, uses of House Hold Latrines, demand and supply Gaps, volume and speed of resource flow. In many occasions NBA implementation related issues at grass root hindered the progress of the scheme. Though, state is trying its level best to overcome the operational challenges. Steps like convergence of NBA along with MGNREGS would be an inspiring experience if possible issues & faced issues timely reported and resolved.

Justification: Viswash as per mandate under GSF project was expected to bring NBA implementation related issue in notice. During conversation to member organizations & initial meeting along with implementing agencies like PRIs, PO & Block office it had been found that NBA-MNREGS convergence has created enormous opportunity but there are issues in execution. Viswash resolved for conducting a study to examine the NBA-MNREGS convergence at grass root level of implementation.

A team was constituted under leadership of Mr. Sanjay Kumar a well known expert of MGNREGS. ToR was developed. Three districts in which GSF is active had been identified i.e. Patna, Nalanda and Rajgir. Study team visited and guided discussion with various agencies and individuals that includes PO-MGNREGS; BDO, Assitant Engineer, JEs; Mukhias and members of PRI, beneficiaries etc. Their responses were documented. The draft report has already been preparation which is expected to be shared with Government

and other stake holders in near future. Methodology used was Literature review, consultation with implementing agencies, Facilitated group discussion etc.

Some Important Lessons of the study: The study provides a set of lessons, which would benefit the NBA implementation in the state. First, NBA promise to deliver significant gender benefits in terms of (i) reduced drudgery for women and girls in terms of dignity (ii) Second, TSC design largely focus more on low cost toilet access to individual households, and less on ensuing wastewater and solid waste management (including human excreta) issues. Hence, NBA needs to (i) be based on lessons from past operations of TSC. Sanitation sector deserves sizable public investment and attention. (ii) Make provision for data backed planning with clear indicators. (iii) Clear recognition of the role of NGOs and private sector in NBA implementation (iv) make provision for additional mechanism for poorest of the poor and other disadvantaged groups because an upfront cash requirement for construction of household latrine limits their participation in existing NBA since they get financial incentive only after construction of toilet (v) strengthen voices of females in the design and implementation arrangements at Gram Panchyat level. (vi) Creating demand for sanitation investment; (vii) improving delivery of services by all role players i.e. NREGS personnel, masons, bankers etc. by capacity building measures.(viii) strengthening institutional capacity of CBOs, NGOs and private sector; (ix) Rationalizing institutional incentive structure for construction of IHHL (x) Periodic data collection on demand of sanitation services and analysis.

Conclusion: Based on feedback related to convergence and needful changes in project management, policy instruction etc. could help in optimization of NBA outcome.

2.5. Mobilising Partners for Mass Awareness Campaign (Swachata Utasav) led by Department of PHED:

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan aims at eradicating Open defecation practice from rural India and strives towards the goal of Swacha Bharat. IEC is extremely important to NBA that lays the foundation of successful implementation of the programme. IEC is extremely important in bringing the behaviour change on different aspect of safe sanitation, demand generation, uses, link to health and hygiene and sustainability. Diseases that cause mortality and morbidity & malnutrition are linked to sanitary condition and can be reversed by uses of safe sanitation practices. Joint monitoring report of WHO-UNICEF places India as contributing to about 60% of open defecation in the world with alarming figure of 578 million people. Thus efforts are required to meet MDP.

With a view to increasing the pace of sanitation objective a 5 days result oriented national level campaign –Swachata Utasav is to be launched on 20 Feb 2014-25th Feb 2014 by Department of drinking water and Sanitation, Govt. Of India

We came to know in a meeting along with Secretary –PHED that our state is also geared-up to organise massive IEC campaign (Swachata Utasav) during 20-25 Feb, 2014. We also came to know that government of Bihar has developed event plan in this regard.

Viswash Bihar mobilised partners to supplement state support. Members were consulted and strategy was devised. Many activities were performed i.e. our members mobilised volunteers, get them trained and deployed with Government team for further the message of Swachata Utasav. Some members conducted comminty Meetings and discussion along with PRI on ODF villages, NBA scheme etc. etc. Organisations like Jyoti Kalyan Kendra Jehanabad ,Jagaran Kalya Bharti Forbisganj, Vikalp Foundation Gaya,Jay Sri Lakshmi Mahil Vikash Kendra etc. contributed there level best to make the Utsav a grand success.

2.6. A report on Sanitation related survey led by NRMC: VISWASH assisted NRMC (GSF Project Executing Agency) through facilitation in smooth conduct of a Survey on Sanitation facilities in villages of Bihar. VISWASH mobilised members for necessary facilitation in the Sanitation Survey. It also helped in monitoring of the progress of the Project here in Bihar. Total 6 VISWASH member organization took part in it through making available resource support and qualified man power.

2.7. Participation in Periodic review meeting of GSF Bihar Progress: Viswash took part in periodic review meet in Patna and Gaya and contributed in such meeting. It includes review conducted by Principal Secretary- PHED, Action reviews by GSF-EA.

2.8. Organising stake holders meet: Viswash organized core committee & stake holders meet periodically during year 2013-14. The discussion held and direction executed .

3. Conclusion & way forward: Viswash tried its level best to promote GSF mandate here in Bihar by mobilizing stake holders and consolidating effort of third sector in WASH domain. Viswash has developed its ambitious plan for year 2014-15. Some of the planned activities are as following:

Policy Advocacy related Activities: State WASH Budget Analysis, Drafting of State Sanitation Report on Qualitative aspect of Sanitation Theme to use it as instrument to advocate issue pertaining to Sanitation, District level consultation with Citizens, Officials, PRIs and other Stake Holders on Implementation issue of NBA, workshop of Stake Holders for Identification of Best Practices and documentation of Best Practices, Public hearing on mineral contamination in Ground water

Advocacy and Networking related activities: Meeting with WASH Committee(Vidhan Parishad & Vidhan Sabha) to Share the analysed budget & Validate State Sanitation Report & Findings of District level consultation, State level Conference of CSO for sharing findings of the State Sanitation Report & WASH Budget Analysis Report(50 participants), State Level Consultation with MNREGA & PHED stakeholder to about Panchayat level issues , Formation & Strengthening of District level Sanitation Facilitation Committee for follow up action.

Activities that may strengthen Sanitation Supply Chain in the State: Holding CSO meet to discuss possibility of Inception of RSM in Panchyats, Entrepreneurs meet to discuss RSM under public private

Capacity Building and Change Management: Strengthening of Network member organisation by workshop in Project Management focussed to WASH
Events for mass mobilisation: Global Safe Hand Wash Day & International Toilet Day Celebration.

Communication for development: Edit , republishing & updating of VISWASH website (From Website to Portal), Design, development and printing of Literature on VISWASH ,Regional Workshop of School teacher on Reproductive Health Hygiene promotion among Students, Celebration of important international day of WASH..

