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**Report on**

**“Amplifying the voices”**

**“ Workshop for dissemination of SACOSAN-VI Declaration Output”**

**FANSA-India**



Organized by: FANSA-BIHAR

Supported by: FANSA- INDIA

Venue: BVHA-Patna

Date: 30.06.2016

**Executive summary:** The heads of delegations from eight countries from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Asian conference on sanitation in Dhaka, Bangladesh, January 2016. During this SACOSAN VI declaration, several commitments were made. FANSA India has planned to disseminate the declaration and facilitate cross-learning at regional platforms to move ahead. To carry forward, Bihar chapter of said agenda, **FANSA-India** organised a workshop on **"Dissemination meeting of SACOSAN VI Declaration and Leave no one Behind (LNOB)"** at Patna.

**The meeting aims to achieve following objectives:**

1. Dissemination of SACOSAN VI commitments, other outputs.
2. Dissemination of Leave No One Behind (WSSCC consultation process) outputs, i.e. sharing of challenges, issues, aspirations of marginalized groups through presentation and providing country reports, regional report, fact sheets.
3. Develop Framework of advocacy action to ensure government meets the commitments.
4. Input into development of indicators framework for tracking the progress of action on SACOSAN VI commitments.

**Methodology:** The workshop was organized for one day. The participants were informed about the agenda and the thematic area of discussion in advance. The workshop included presentation by experts, panelists and group discussion which was participatory in nature for sharing of knowledge regarding the SACOSAN VI commitments.

**. Inaugural Session:**

- a. Welcome Speech: The workshop started with a welcome speech by the convener, FANSA Bihar. He firstly welcomed distinguished dignitaries present on the dais and the other guests followed by introduction of the participants.
- **After the welcome speech, Convener FANSA –Bihar updated the present progress of Bihar governments/state government's physical and financial status of the fund allocation till dated. In continuation of his presentation he also briefly stated about the progress of FANSA –Bihar activities.** VISWASH is a network in which many organizations, researchers, social workers are associated with it. **VISWASH/FANSA-Bihar** works on evidence-based policy advocacy, promotion of supportive and conducive environment of innovation and problem solving pertaining to WASH, capacity building etc. A part from this several studies have been performed on the thematic issues related to WASH they are like Gender Violence due to lack of sanitation, An assessment of commitment exhibited by various political establishment towards realization of universal Sanitation services in Bihar, Panel discussion on ETV on to incorporate water sanitation in

the party Manifesto, on the eve of last assembly election 2015 A study of VIDHAN Sabha Proceedings/15<sup>th</sup> Legislative assembly and Impact study on SBM(G) and many more.

In continuation of the presentation he briefly highlighted few achievements like supported the PHED department in drafting the state wash policy and also having regular advocating with the government on this issue has resulted in to incorporate two of WASH issue in the seven nischay of GoB.

During his presentation he suggested upon to generate revenue which will excel and support in Operation and maintenance (O & M) of the community toilet, public places etc. to keep environment clean.

After the updates of the state by the convener Fansa- Bihar Dr.Saroj Tucker regional coordinator FANSA has briefly stated about the role and function of the FANSA INDIA Network. She said that total 428 organizations are the member of FANSA Asia network and 250 are from India itself. Dr. Tucker in her presentation highlighted few points of Sacosan VI which is as follows: It is needful to Support public campaigns on safe waste disposal to reduce stigma and discrimination against sanitation workers and ragpickers. She emphasized need of Building awareness on hygiene and sanitation issues and the right to sanitation to ensure adoption of good hygienic sanitation practices by individuals and communities. She emphasized on design of toilets and its importance. Allow users to choose or adapt the toilet design while constructing a household toilet under SBM so that it meets their specific needs. She said manual cleaning of drains is not acceptable and it is imperative that adopt new technology so as to replace the in human practices of manual cleaning.

During her brief presentation she also shared the experience of Dhaka declaration and the SACOSAN commitments. In the Dhaka declaration first time prioritized the poorest and most marginalized, bridging the gaps in access to use of appropriate sanitation and hygiene services for children, adolescents, women, differently-abled people, or those excluded due to age, caste, ethnicity, religion or gender living in hard to reach areas or affected by disaster. She also said that menstrual hygiene management for women and girls has been given high priority.

In continuation of her presentation she said that leave no one behind consultation process is an important and first step towards addressing equity and inclusion in sanitation and hygiene. However, we need to continue and deepen this process by systematically creating more platforms for constructive dialogue, so the need and aspiration of marginalized group and include them in the design, delivery and management of sanitation services. For, unless we put the last mile first and listen, they will continue to be left behind. A film on **“leave no one behind”** has been shown to the participant in regional language. The objective behind showing the movie was that there is no need of local language one can understand the issue by expressing his or her need by reflecting action.



Dr.Saroj tucker briefing about the FANSA India's networks progress

In between the presentation Mrs.Suman Singh one of the board member of the VISWASH/FANSA Bihar has expressed her SACOSAN VI experience .She has expressed about the menstruation and personal Hygiene and the myth which the adolescent girls and women are facing due to lack of awareness and social stigma. She also cited that the women and the adolescent girls generally use the old clothes and keep it within the house or throw it on the back of their home due to lack of awareness which is highly infectious. She also emphasized that health system is defunct and due to that proper information regarding the menstruation hygiene is not being given proper attention.



Mrs. Suman singh sharing her experience of SACOSAN VI in the workshop at BVHA

In continuation she also emphasized that system has to be streamlined and fulfill all the parameter /indicator so as to achieve the target of ODF. At the end of her presentation she expressed that we have to come together and work hard to achieve this herculean task of ODF by 2019.

After the briefing the second session started on the thematic topic Experience sharing by government officials/NGOs representatives/ community representatives/development partners and others. The panelist for the second session were Smt. Seema Singh from Panchayati Raj department(GoB), Mr RadhaKant Kumar, Project Director, Drought prone area programme(Department of rural development government of Bihar), Mr. Firoz Khan consultant GSF and Dr. saroj Tucker regional coordinator Fansa.

**Seema singh** from Panchyati Raj expressed her view that any issue which has not being taken seriously and implemented has no significant meaning. Political will is important to execute the programme successfully .In Bihar the present government has focused on seven Nischya out of which two are specifically related to WASH issue .During her presentation she stressed that to prioritize ward level first and involve them into planning process before the execution of plan. She also stressed that civil society has to come forward and advocate with the Government at state level on the WASH issue so that to bridge the gap between the two .She has also emphasized on that the training on sanitation issue must be obligatory at all level especially to the newly elected panchyat members .

In continuation of Seema singh presentation Mrs.Suman singh has stressed that qualitative training should be given at the panchyat level. She also said that panchyat sachiv in GP is over burden and faces difficulties to execute the schemes properly at village level needs to be taken care of so as to execute the government schemes very smoothly and effectively.

During the presentation Mr. Ajit singh one of the member of VISWASH network has suggested that its prime time for the civil society to change and retrospect themselves. They inclined towards to execute awareness related issue at the grass root level and play a role of catalyst between community and government. He also expressed that the CBOs who are executing the work properly must be rewarded and the non performers should be punished and removed. He also said that CBOs play a pivotal role for which they are known for in the society.



Mrs.Seema Singh sharing the role of Panchyati Raj institution in SBMG

At last seema ji said that Panchyati Raj Institution is not strengthened in the state and it needs to be reinforced first. Government has to be committed to strengthened the gram panchyat first which will be the eye opener in executing the government schemes at the grass root level.

After the brief presentation given by the Seema Singh, Mr. Firoz Khan, consultant GSF, has briefly given his presentation and emphasized about the key role of CSO in the SBMG program. Government cannot achieve the target of ODF by 2019 without the support of civil society. He has briefly illustrated about the shift of SBMG program in rural development department GoB from the PHED. He stated that RD department has started the planning process and associated the JEEVIKA in implementing process. He has briefly elaborated the success of first block (Piprasi) ODF of Bettiha district.



Mr. Firoz consultant GSF sharing the success of ODF block Piprasi in the workshop.

In continuation of his presentation, he also emphasized that allow users to choose or adapt the toilet design and technology while constructing a household toilet under the SBMG program, so that it meets the specific needs of the users. CSOs will play a very important role in execution of the uses and implementation of design at the grass root level.

At the end of the first session, Mr. Radha Kant Prasad, director rural development government of Bihar, has cited his opinion that there is a dynamic change in the society regarding the sanitation issue. Perception has been changed in patriarchal society and it is being seen that male members now have taken initiative regarding the sanitation issue at their house level.



He emphasized upon the hygiene practices and illustrated that people use mud/soil to wash their hands, which is very prone to be trapped by fatal water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, jaundice, typhoid.

etc.He briefly stated about the utilization of government fund .During his presentation he said that CSO must be the part of social audit in sanitation work otherwise it has no significant importance .

After finishing the session Mr. Sunil Kumar has briefly presented about the SACOSAN VI declaration. He expressed that first time the elderly/sanitation worker/ and the transgenders voices have been included in the SACOSAN VI decalaration. They have been given due place in the society.

### **Group work:**

The third session was designed in such a way so that the house come out with certain out comes and indicators . The group exercise broadly discussed commitment pertaining to most vulnerable group of our society.The topic was basically categorized in four different work group.The thematic area of discussion was basically elderly, menstruation hygiene,sanitation workers and rag pickers,SACOSAN VI commitments indicators etc.

The working group of the conference discussed categorically about the issues,the action of the state change required ,action required by third sector ,expected outcome,timeline and resources.

The thematic area of the first group was elderly and disabled .The group was much more concern on the issues related to design and technology especially user friendly to all.It is being difficult for the elderly and disabled person to use it properly.The major out come of the group highlighted to friendly policy document.the society/community and all service provider must be sensitized on this challenging issue.The innovative idea must be replicated and dessiminated to all level.The work must be executed within the timeframe so that progress can be evaluated and monitored.

The second thematic area of discussion was on the Adolescent girls(MHM).In india menstruation and the menstrual practices are clouded by taboos and socio-cultural restrictions for the women as well as adolescent girls.limited access to product and lack of safe sanitary facilities prove to be barriers to increased mobility for girls and the likelihood of resorting to unhygienic practices to manage menstruation.Sensitization of PRIs,health workers are required. They must be aware of the government schemes running under the state like SABLA,YFHC,ICDS VHSND ETC.Sanitary napkins must be provided in school and they should be given proper training on this issue.The major outcome will be decrease in dropout in school.Increase in the health status of the women and the adolescent girls.

Third thematic area was **SANITATION WORKER & RAG-PICKERS:** since very beginning of our society still manual scavenging is in practice. 1991 act which has been implemented by the govt. to eradicate such evil practices from whole country.The first and foremost step towards this campaign is to involve civil society so they can aware community not only at grass root level but at state and district level also.There must be monitoring system which will lead to reduce this evil practices and excel to achieve the target of ODF by 2019.

Fourth thematic area : **INDICATORS FOR SACOSAN VI COMMITMENTS:**The group also discussed on the possible indicator pertaining to the SACOSAN VI commitment They quantified the perceived activities with the timeframe of completion of the activities.

At the end, there was a feedback session where the participants were given their reaction/suggestion and the convener has summed up the program with vote of thanks at last.

**Conclusion:**The event provided platform for cross learning and develop understanding of different perspective .There was consensus on SACOSAN VI declaration and every body was agreeing that the person that is more or less excluded in the state run WASH program is most important for success of WASH in the state like Bihar.There still prevail operational issues vis a vis policy vacuum that support such groups like transgender/senior citizen/disabilities/frontline workers etc.The house resolve to advocate the right of most vulnerable group of the our society pertaining to WASH.

Photo gallery:

