"We have to stress on cleanliness, sanitation. By 2019 we must ensure a Swachh Bharat. Dignity of women is our responsibility. We have to ensure that we provide toilets for all."

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, 15 Aug 2014

Situation and Urgency

Unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene claim the lives of an estimated 1.5 million children under the age of five each year worldwide. It also underlines that open defecation leads to deadly diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases which kills hundreds of thousands of people worldwide every year.

WHO-UNICEF

Statistics indicate, more than 500 million or half of the openly defecating world population lives in India. SANITATION is the hygienic promotion of health by prevention of human contact with faecal matter and ensuring its treatment and proper disposal. While its starts with building toilets it does not end there. In spite of heavy investments and sanitation programs that have constructed thousands of toilets, why do we continue to fail? WE NEED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY!

"The poorest 20% of urban households bear more than 60% of the urban average of per capita economic impacts of inadequate sanitation."

Water and Sanitation Program
Pune

The Alliance began working on community sanitation with the Pune Municipal Corporation in 1999. By 2000, more than 10,000 seats in community toilet blocks benefiting at least 500,000 slum dwellers. This was the first time an Indian city achieved such scale in slum sanitation. A precedent-setting partnership between the municipality, NGOs and community-based organizations was created. The Corporation provided land, capital costs, water and electricity, while NGOs and CBOs designed, constructed and maintained the community toilets. We have seen substantial improvements in community-based sanitation and related policies and programs, and the program in Pune set an excellent precedent for success.

Mumbai

In 1998, through advocacy by the Alliance to provide sanitation facilities for urban slum dwellers, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (with World Bank funding) called upon NGOs to demonstrate pilot slum sanitation projects. Since then, the alliance has constructed several toilet blocks across Mumbai using the funds provided by the authorities and has had several impacts on sanitation policy. One of the strategies of the alliance is the formation of community-based organizations to manage the toilets after construction which is now part of a policy requirement.

NIRMAL MMR ABHIYAN

Under the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan toilet scheme of the central government, where the goal is to make Mumbai open-defecation free, SPARC was contracted to construct 367 toilet blocks in 10 ULBs. As of March 2011, 289 toilet blocks with a total of 5780 toilet seats have been constructed, though problems relating to land, CBOs, politicians were faced, the alliance has been successful in completing the project.

SPARC began by addressing the challenges women faced due to lack of sanitation in slums and through internal reflection with NSDF and Mahila Milan developed a community-led sanitation strategy for all. The Alliance wanted to engage with Municipalities so that capital costs of construction would be paid by the city and design, construction, operation and management would be done by local Community-Based Organisation (CBO’s).

SPARC worked with 20+ Municipalities and implemented Community-driven Sanitation Programme.

community led slum sanitation

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**Community Center:** Building community centers on top of the toilet not only improve its multifunctionality, but also create avenues for communities to use common spaces, a much needed establishment in dense slums.

**Community Maintenance**

Community Based Organizations (CBO's) issue monthly member passes and collect the money. They manage and maintain the toilet blocks on a day to day basis.

**Caretaker room:**

Housing the toilet's caretaker improve the chances of the toilet being well maintained.

**Children’s toilet:**

Smart squatting areas for children not only prevent their need to compete with the adults, but also discourage open defecation which is most common among the children. Less than 300 toilets in the city have children’s area, less than a quarter of them are used.

**Separate entries for men/women:**

Provides the much needed privacy, and ensures gender equitable access.

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**Behaviour and Space**

*In spite of the community toilets being constructed with all fixtures to facilitate hygiene practices, why do we continue to see hygiene related issues?*

The design of the community toilet has direct correlation to user behaviour. It is therefore critical to link of how it ensures a comfortable use of the facility in terms of safety, hygiene etc. It is important to understand how the design can responds to the cultural and social practices within a given community but ensure hygiene.

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**Rethinking the toilets**

- Capable of evolving incrementally
- Create a synergy between need and functionality
- Through design creates a sense of ownership
Material Concept: Metal Screens
Metal screens made of welded metal could be quite beautiful for his... could also employ the local skills of welders, fabricators and carpenters.

Material Concept: Bamboo
Bamboo is easily available and can be renewed and repaired.

Material Concept: Planting
Planting and lowering creepers is a powerful option and looks amazing and their fragrance will help mitigate the unpleasant odour from the toilet block and break the usual perception of the facility.

Material and Form
Do traditional load bearing toilet structures or more permanent RCC (reinforced cement concrete) toilet buildings do their jobs?

Yes! Although only partially. They do provide safe places to defecate, but only partially solve the problem. Building RCC structures in a landscape where all buildings are temporary in nature, reversible in their construction and touch the ground lightly is a mistake. Instead, what if community toilets are built as light steel structure with an array of infill materials that are fabricated offsite and assembled quickly onsite?

Technology for Sanitation
Sanitation not only includes facilities to prevent human contact of hazardous wastes, but also proper treatment and disposal of wastewater. Is it happening?

Only partially! The sewage network cannot reach interiors of slums and septic tanks cannot be cleaned since disposal machinery cannot reach them. It is crucial for a community toilet in Mumbai or in other parts of India, that cutting edge technology is explored, that introduces safe and efficient waste mitigation practices. A range of solutions such as efficient septic tanks, bio digesters networked with solar panels as well as chemical introduced decomposition techniques that do not pollute ground water or create stagnation etc.
WE NEED TO THINK DIFFERENTLY!

We need to explore newer solutions that address these issues!
We need to invest to test smarter, more efficient community toilets!
We have to stop open defecation in cities!

Site Planning

Should a toilet be a dirty place for everyone to hurriedly finish the necessary daily ablutions?

Not necessarily! The location of a community toilet and the manner in which it is embedded in a community is as important as the design of a building at that site. The location and its surroundings are critical in terms of site selection. Other functions such as community activities, adult education, a safe space for children to study would also help break away from the image of a community toilet as a mono functioning dirty piece of infrastructure.

Through other compatible uses, the toilet can be embedded much better within its neighborhood. Our experience says that, chances of a community toilet being better maintained is higher, if the toilet functions as a community center. We need to think differently!
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Area Resource Center (ARC)
SPARC is committed to promote community owned and managed Area Resource Centers. These are the focal points of community meetings where community concerns are discussed and solutions and strategies to be presented to cities and government institutions are worked out.

ARC is a place where survey information and savings collected by the communities are stored and accessible to them at all times.

Across 9 states, 72 cities. Outreach to 750,000 households.

Community mobilization and capacity building

SPARC

Savings and Credit
Along with collecting the daily savings, the rituals connect women and motivate them to talk about their issues in general. New savings groups are formed every year. MM also helps the women to cope with financial crises through loans to the saving members when needed. This assists women and their families to obtain loans easily and at reasonable interest rates. It also helps women obtain financial literacy and take on leadership roles in their neighborhood and city.

Savings groups: 992 with 42,679 savers
Saving Amount: ₹1,45,61,239
Loan Amount: ₹12,62,55,330

Geographical Coverage
Today, NSDF and MM have a membership of close to 2 million people. The Indian Alliance now works in 72 cities in 9 states.

Prepared by:
Relocation and Rehabilitation

The Alliance has been engaged in the work of rehabilitation and relocation of the urban poor from various locations, including pavements, airport, railway tracks and slums in general. As result of a 2009 court decision, municipalities engaging in urban infrastructure projects are now required to resettle displaced households. So Alliance also relocate families that are affected by work on infrastructure projects like road widening, constructing fly-overs or foot over-bridges, have been relocated to SRA housing. The Alliance also supports poor and vulnerable families who lost livelihood post relocation by providing them food grain until they become independent.

So far the Alliance has relocated 34018 families across Mumbai.

Night Shelter for Sadak Chaap

Sadak Chaap is a loose but fast-growing federation of street children in Mumbai. "Sadak Chaap" is a term by which children refer to themselves. "Chaap" means stamp, and "Sadak" is street - the term aptly describes those who carry "the stamp of the street". The simplest definition is one the children have developed themselves, "without a roof and without roots..rootless and roofless". The Sadak Chaap Process operates Night Shelters for children who have run away from home and gives them safe shelters and food for the times when they are most vulnerable. It seeks to create a network for and by the street children, and initiates all rehabilitation on the basis of the children’s aspirations.

SPARC runs 3 Night Shelters in Mumbai with capacity of 25 children each.

GOALS FOR SPARC AND THE ALLIANCE

- to demonstrate the potential and value of building community capacities.
- to increase the capacities of communities to initiate and execute projects.
- to drive construction of their homes and improving neighbourhoods.
- to establish a working relationship with professionals, financial agencies, politicians and administrators.
- to become a learning laboratory so others can learn from the experiences.

THE ALLIANCE

All projects are precedent-setting, in that they demonstrate how government can successfully partner with communities on projects that can be scaled-up across cities and states so that very large numbers of the poor can benefit. Alliance undertakes two types of housing activities: in-situ upgrading or redevelopment and resettlement/rehabilitation projects. Till now 5091 housing units have been constructed by the Alliance.

housing and infrastructure

PROJECTS

Relocation and Rehabilitation

Night Shelter for Sadak Chaap

Infrastructure

Sanitation The alliance’s campaign for zero open defecation advocates universal minimum sanitation in large, medium and small cities across the world. As a result, Alliance builds individual toilet as well as community toilets in slums with local Municipalities and communities.

SPARC has provided 788 toilet blocks with 10819 seats so far in different infrastructure projects across India.