

---

# SLUM ENVIRONMENT SANITATION INITIATIVE, GWALIOR



## Laxmanpura: A Profile

---

---

A joint initiative of:



UN Habitat



Municipal  
Corporation  
Gwalior



Water Aid India



Sambhav

Slums Environmental Sanitation Initiative (SESI) is a pilot project being undertaken to demonstrate how communities can be empowered to acquire adequate water and sanitation facilities that meets their needs. In Gwalior UN-HABITAT, Water Aid-India and Gwalior Municipal Corporation have come together in a tripartite partnership, with 1:1:1 financial support targeting 5000 families in the city, for reaching open defecation free status.

**Objectives:**

- Generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation, health education, and capacity building.

- Cover schools/ Anganwadis in with sanitation facilities and promote hygiene education and sanitary habits among students.
- Ensure total open defecation free slums by constructing low cost individual HH latrines, community managed sanitation complexes wherever required and school sanitation complexes.
- Development of community owned and managed water supply and environmental sanitation facilities.

### **SESI PROJECT AREA-GWALIOR**

---

16 slums were identified as poverty pockets on the basis of PPSA findings and discussions between Sambhav, Water Aid, UN Habitat and Municipal Corporation, Gwalior for the implementation of the SESI Program. Criteria for selection of slum was decided by – percentage open defecation, availability of drinking water and disposal of garbage and socio economic status of the households.

#### **Program Strategy**

- Organizing women as self help groups for their economic self reliance and participation in the program implementation.
- School hygiene promotion towards building healthy habits
- Motivating households for household toilet construction.
- Developing deeper understanding of linkages between poverty and sanitation and Hygiene promotion.
- Mobilizing community and Government Resources for improving living conditions in the slums.

### **LAXMANPURA**

---

#### **Ward No: 30**

#### **Corporator: Laxmi Narayan Kushwah**

Laxmanpura is a 150 years old slum located in the heart of city near Padav crossing. Falling under ward no.30 of the Municipal Corporation and headed by Mr. Laxmi Narayan Kushwah (Parshad), the slum habitation mainly comprises Jatav (SC) communities largely making its livelihood through labor. The status of the slum in context of sanitation and hygiene remains poor with most of the people using the railway tracks nearby for defecation, which at times has resulted in serious accidents. Logging of contaminated water at numerous locations highly contributes to the vulnerable status of health.

- 44% families have no toilet facilities and use the railway line nearby for defecation.
- No availability of drinking water and toilet in Govt. Primary School.
- No arrangements for disposal of water
- Unhygienic maintenance of community toilet.
- Congested and narrow roads within the slum which make it very difficult for vehicles to pass through.

## PPSA Survey Findings

House Hold	229
Families	327
Population	1635
House Hold Toilet	110
OD Families	62
BPL Families	70
Disabled	10
Pakka House	50
Kaccha House	179
Metalled Roads	390 Meter
Constructed Drain	300 Meter
Anganwadi Bhawan	2
School	1
Community Hall	0
Community Toilet	1
Private Borewell	0

SESI Programs”

**Community Based Organization**-Each slum will form a Formal Association of Community Representatives which will act as over all management and advocacy institution. It will also help in demand raising and interacting with Government and Political Forums.

**Women SHG** have been formed for sustainability of the program. Each group will have about 15 members. Through its saving and credit activities it would help in economic self reliance of women.

**Sanitation Fund**-The project will create a sanitation fund which will be used towards providing loan for construction and maintenance of toilet and water facilities.

**Capacity building** –SESI will provide different trainings on Leadership training of women, Hand pump mechanic training, advocacy skills, gender analysis for enhanced participation in empowerment of the community.

**Exposures** will be arranged for the community, SHG, and elected representatives for visiting places where community managed sanitation facilities are working successfully and broadening vision on community participation in managing and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.

**School Hygiene Education**-SESI lays great emphasizes on the building of healthy habits among the children through regular educational activities and class room learning.

**Infrastructure Strengthening**- Gwalior Municipal Corporation will provide sewer line, water points, construct community and school toilet complex, and administrative and technical supports.

# Laxmanpura : From OD to OD Free

## *A case study on Community Managed Community Toilet*

It isn't really easy to picture in mind and paint the same thing on canvas always!, but Laxmanpura of Ward 30 in Gwalior stands to be a contradiction to the verdict.

Two years back from now Sambhav, Water Aid, UN Habitat and Gwalior Municipal Corporation joined hands to put into action the Slum Environment Sanitation Initiative , a tri-partite coordination program to be implemented in 16 poverty pockets of Gwalior urban.

Laxmanpura, just like any another slum may have not impressed the selection team, if it was not for the large number of people identified going into the open for defecation. Sources told that people would either defecate behind the defunct community toilet constructed earlier or go to the railway tracks nearby. There were even instances when some met with accidents.



Sambhav had a mission now to achieve, and Water Aid had both its hands open to support the initiative to try and make it possible to have more and more people use household toilets.



The venture took off and Neeta from Sambhav started spending more and more time in the slum, just trying to establish a dialogue with people, but this just dint seem to work out. With their eyes suspecting and questions interrogating people would seem with just one question “oh! Yes we know many like you have come and gone, all make big promises, and vanish without a sign”. As they say *never give up* we came across

Jasoda Bai, who seemed to have some ray of light still lighted in her mind, and came ahead to support the initiative.

Now started the campaign of reaching people on messages on better health and why sanitation and hygiene was important. Gradually women started to get together, men though less in numbers did also start to come ahead. All started to believe that probably sanitation does go deeper as a reason being poverty.



A CWASC – Nirmal Samittee was formed. This was a group of 10 people from within the slum who believed in change and wanted things to change in Laxmanpura. Regular meetings would take place, people would discuss about sanitation, better education, water scarcity and even at times to find ways to have better ways of life for women. Sambhav then started the toilet construction campaign. Never did anyone know that

getting a toilet constructed in house could be a sour grape to chew. People would just not be ready to construct a toilet in houses, all said its more convenient to go in the open.

The Nirmal Samittee saw this as an emerging issue and decided to use the group to motivate people and make them understand why a household toilet was so important. 83 toilets were constructed in Laxmapura. For the rest of the houses there wasn't enough space to construct household latrines. It was then proposed that may be a community toilet may be able to prevent more people from going in the open to defecate.



Once it was decided that the toilet would be constructed , a question that who would be looking after the toilet. Jasoda, Shakila and Harsh stood as a single voice that “we the nirmal samittee would look after the toilet once its done”.



With open ended support coming from the Municipal Corporation it wasn't hard to decide that the old CT be demolished and a new one be constructed on the same place.

Jasoda and Shakila would keep a track of the daily construction work being done, and maintain slips of every labor that would be working in the site daily. The entire CT design went through a series of modification done by Manav and Pramod

from Water Aid to make it look more and more attractive and useful (Thanks to Mamita and Depinder who stood always to support all modification that were needed).

Finally the CT construction and painting was over. But this wasn't just ending here, sewer line construction was another issue that took over 4 days to be resolved, a big group of people surrounded Gary and Vijay and spoke all sorts of things against Sambhav, that this sewer line would smell and who would come up to maintain the line when its chocked. At about 12:30 in the night Apaa from Laxmanpura came up to stand by the side of Sambhav, and explained people that the sewer line construction would have no effect on the environment of the slum.



The toilet was complete and waiting to be unleashed, with a question still standing that how would be the electricity and water charges be borne in the initial phase. A ton of thanks to the Municipal Corporation (especially Hon. Mayor Mr. Shejwalkar and Program Manager Mr. K.K. Shrivastava) who decided to provide one year of free electricity and water to the CT.

The CT is yet to be officially inaugurated, Jasoda, Shakila and her team mates are looking after the routine operation of the toilet, that has an incinerator for disposal of sanitary pads, disabled friendly and child friendly toilet, bathrooms and urinal. The CT has a membership of about 90 people and a traffic of 10 daily users.



Mr. Rao and Mr. Malay Shrivastava from Project Uday, Govt of Madhya Pradesh have visited the Laxmanpura CT and decided to replicate the same model at 20 other sites in MP.

This is just to start with, a many more such examples are yet to set to have more smiling faces around us.



Laxmanpura Community Toilet

### Components:

1. Child Friendly Toilet- 6 Seats
2. Disabled friendly toilet- 2
3. Ramp for Disabled
4. Urinal- 2
5. Incinerator-1
6. Bathing room
7. Caretaker Room
8. Water Tanks
9. Separate sections for men and women

⇒ Cost Estimate: Rs.4.6 Lakh (Land provided by Municipal Corporation)

⇒ Electricity and water provided free for first one year