



**Workshop Report on  
State Level Sensitization on “Community Led Total  
Sanitation (CLTS)”  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 Patna**



CLTS Foundation, Kolkata



# Community Led Total Sanitation shows the way for open defecation free in Bihar

A one-day orientation workshop on CLTS which was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister PHED Sri Chandra Mohan Rai was held in hotel Chanakya, Patna, Bihar on 27th Jan 2011. Dr. Kamal Kar (Chairman, CLTS Foundation, Kolkata) and Dr. Amit Agarwal (Deputy Commissioner, Palwal district of Haryana) made presentations on CLTS approach and shared experiences on its global spread, applications, success and challenges in few states in India (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra) to the senior policy makers of the state of Bihar. The day-long workshop on the possibility of introduction of CLTS in Bihar was being organized by the **Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)**, DFID supported Sector Wide Approach to Strengthen Health **SWASTH Programme** and **CLTS Foundation**. The inaugural session of the meeting was presided over by the Minister of Water Supply and Public Health which was attended by more than 200 participants which included three Principle Secretaries of the State, Chief Engineers, Deputy Development Commissioners, Executive Engineers, Superintending Engineers, , NGO's, PRI Representatives and the members of SWASTH Programme. The key speakers of the inaugural session were Sri Chandra Mohan Rai, Honourable Minister PHED, Dr Kamal Kar, pioneer of CLTS approach, Mr Rabindra Panwar, Principal Secretary, PHED, Mr. Manoj Shrivastava, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj Institution, Mr A.K. Srivastava and Chief Engineer, PHED, Bihar.

Shit is just not '*shit*' here. This unsanitized word has been used purposely by Dr. Kar and few other speakers to generate disgust and wake up the audience from a stereotype lecture on health and sanitation. He mentions that CLTS is about calling "a spade a spade" and learning from the local communities in their own language where "*faeces*" is often "*shit*". The shits of millions who defecate in the open every day determines the conditions of living and contribute to the death of thousands of children in the state. Children and women are the major victims of open defecation where women continue to suffer silently. Thousands of children under five die of diarrhoea every year due to poor sanitation and rampant open defecation which is directly contributing to the growing poverty of the state. Dr. Kar said that 600 million Indians still defecate in the open pouring in millions of tonnes of shit in the open every day which worsens the sanitation situation by contaminating most water bodies and sources of food. To create urgent action to counter this killer disease, CLTS fire was ignited amongst 200 participants mostly from the government, researchers, SHGs, GPs and INGOs/NGOs. The primary objective of the workshop was to sensitise the major stakeholders of sanitation for mainstreaming CLTS approach into on-going sanitation programme of the state to make Bihar open defecation free as early as possible.

## Inauguration of the Workshop

In his inaugural speech Mr Ravindra Pawar (Principal Secretary, PHED) said, “This workshop will act as an ignition to bring Bihar in the category of states, which are open defecation free and will improve the impact of ongoing sanitation program. “

Inaugurating the workshop, the Sri Chandra Mohan Rai honourable Minister PHED said, “ I have this challenge to free Bihar from the shame of open defecation in a time bound approach”. He assured all the possible support to the department in working towards making Bihar open defecation free.



Honourable Minister PHED, Shri C M Rai, Inaugurating the workshop

Dr.Ms.Geeta Verma, Deputy Team Leader, Nutrition SWASTH, in her speech gave a brief introduction of

SWASTH programme in Bihar. Mr Manoj Shrivastava, Secretary, Panchayati Raj, spoke about the CLTS approach as being vibrant with no set blueprints. He was of the view that the approach would be successful if implemented in an activist mode.

Dr Kamal Kar, the pioneer of CLTS, introduced the concept to the participants. Most participants who heard about CLTS approach for the first time were thoroughly surprised and intrigued to learn about the triggering tools used in CLTS. There were murmurs of disbelief in the hall to learn that facilitation of a session in a community is done by using the crude word of “shit” and further using the localised word used for “faeces”. They became speechless when they further learned that the triggering process also entails visiting the defecation areas, and bringing shit from the OD areas to the community gathering.

Explaining the concept Dr Kamal Kar said, “the approach raises awareness amongst the community that as long as single person continues to defecate in the open everyone is at risk of contamination. CLTS triggers the community’s disgust, the shame, sense of self-respect and finally the collective desire to change the situation which propels them into action and encourages innovation, mutual support and appropriate local solutions, thus leading to greater ownership and sustainability.”

### Post Tea Session

The post tea session started with a presentation on CLTS by Dr Kamal Kar. In his presentation Dr Kar shared global experiences of CLTS and compared between the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and CLTS. While TSC is a programme CLTS is an approach. The states like HP and Haryana underplayed the subsidy component of TSC and made best use of CLTS approach within the campaign. Subsidy is something that is non-negotiable in CLTS approach. He said, “CLTS focuses on the behaviour change needed for real and sustainable improvements to sanitation. It therefore invests in community empowerment and capacity building instead of household level sanitation hardware. The focus

shifts from toilet construction for individual households to the creation of 'open defecation free' (ODF) villages".

After this Mr.Amit Agarwal, IAS, DC Palwal, Haryana, shared his experience in adopting the approach in the districts of Panipat and Palwal of Haryana that led to GP's becoming completely open defecation free. He said," the approach is flexible; various tools could be adopted to bring about a sense of shame of open defecation in the community." He cited examples from Haryana and Himachal.



Right to Left- Mr Manoj Srivastava, Principal Secretary, PR Dep, Mr Ravindra Panwar, Principal Secretary PHED, Shri C M Rai, Hon'ble Minister PHED, A K Srivastava, Chief Engineer. Dr Kamal Kar, CLTS Foundation, addressing the participants.

Later, the participants watched two documentary films on CLTS. The first one was "Clean Living" Part I by BBC World". The film reiterated how participatory approach successfully promotes collective behaviour change as the key to sustainable, improved sanitation in Bangladesh.. The second film "No shit Please" took participants through a transformation process a village went through when triggering was done. The basic text of the film is based on CLTS work carried out in Himachal Pradesh, India. It introduces the concept and approach of CLTS in terms of roles of various actors involved in the process that includes trained CLTS facilitators, community members, natural leaders, women and children and implications for action to be initiated at various levels.

### Post Lunch Session

Participants were divided in ten groups of 15-20 in each sub- group for group exercise. Each group was given the following exercises for discussion and presentation in plenary.

- Action plans or activities they might undertake to introduce/ implement CLTS in their respective districts, blocks in the next week/month/three months.
- The challenges they might come across in introducing CLTS
- Doubts and clarification they might have and which they would like to discuss.

All the 10 groups made presentations after the group work.

Some of the key challenges which the groups stated are:

- Difficulty in shift from subsidy to no subsidy approach
- Difficulty in ensuring involvement/ participation of women
- Non availability of Trained personnel
- The problems of convergence of various departments
- Lack of active participation of government officers- Lack of time/coordination

- Lack of awareness , orthodox mindset
- Separation/complex dynamics within communities on the basis of caste/gender/religion, etc
- Non availability of land for landless people
- New role of NGOs as opposed to their role in Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

Likewise the groups also came out with the probable activities they would be undertaking in their respective areas in next seven days, one month and three months.

#### Planned activities within next 7 days

- Formation of a dedicated team to implement CLTS approaches in districts.
- Raise awareness amongst various stakeholders, especially NGOs and Government departments
- Selection of the villages for CLTS pilot
- Selection of resource persons at block level and panchayat level



Participants in the group work

#### Planned activities within next 1 month

- Inter-sectoral convergence meeting of health, ICDS, PHED, PRIs and NGOs
- Conduct district level workshops and TOTs
- Formation of monitoring group
- Need based IEC strategy

#### Planned activities within next 3 months

- CLTS mapping and triggering will be initiated in selected villages
- Formation of community groups in each villages for CLTS

The group presentations were followed by question and answer session. The session was chaired by Mr Santosh Matthew, Principal Secretary, Rural Development, Mr Amit Agarwal, IAS, Palwal, Haryana and Dr Kamal Kar. Mr.Prakash Kumar, Deputy Team Leader, SWASTH, coordinated and facilitated the session.

Mr Santosh Matthew opined that being a social process we need to have patience. We have tried various approaches in the past and we have seen the results. There is no harm in trying this out as well. He extended his full support and ensured that his department will provide all the necessary support to implement CLTS process in the state.

Prakash Kumar, speaking on the session, emphasised on the need to change our professional mindset at first, and then take the process forward to change others. He added that if we triggered the CLTS process we have to take it to its logical conclusion. We can't afford to go for the second triggering unless ODF villages emerge. The process of triggering is very short lived and we have to ensure that proper pre and post triggering support is readily available during this process.

He also spelt out the need for convergence. Prakash Kumar extended all the possible support from DFID-SWASTH in building the roadmap for making Bihar an open defecation free state.



Sitting right to left- Mr Santosh Mathew, Principal Secretary, Rural Development, Dr Kamal Kar, CLTS, Mr Amit Kr. Agarwal, ADC, Palwal, Mr Prakash Kumar, DTL, SWASTH

The workshop came to an end with all the panellists clearing the doubts of the participants.

### The Ways Forward

- The district PHED department will hold consultations with other stakeholders (NGO, government departments, etc) to prepare a district plan for implementing the CLTS. The plan will be later submitted to the PHED headquarters in Patna, Bihar for approval.
- The SWASTH team will initiate the advocacy process at the state level to create an enabling environment for ironing out the barriers in implementing CLTS. The focus will be mainly on downplaying the subsidy or any other incentives which hinders adopting CLTS.
- The success of CLTS will be demonstrated by doing the pilot in 3-4 blocks. The quick results of this pilot will strengthen the advocacy process at the state level. This will be done once the district plan for the CLTS has been submitted and approved by the PHED headquarters.
- There is an immediate need for synergy between various players in the state, notable among them are World Bank and The Gates Foundation. The SWASTH team will hold consultation with these organisations towards achieving that goal. This will help in universalization of the CLTS in the state.
- It is imperative to involve the media in wider dissemination of the fruits of CLTS. A one day workshop is planned in the month of February/March to sensitise media on the issues of water and sanitation. This workshop will help in creating a "Media Army" that will report the issues and progress of CLTS in media. This will also create an added pressure on the government departments to start the CLTS process in their respective areas (where it has not been started).

## Annexure 1

### List of participants

1. Minister, PHED, GoB (Government of Bihar)
  2. PS (Principal Secretary), PHED, GoB
  3. PS, Panchayati Raj Department, GoB
  4. PS, Rural Development, GoB
- PHED Head Quarter:

5. Chief Engineer, Urban, PHED
6. Chief Engineer, Design, PHED
7. Superintending Engineer, PHED-8
8. Director, PMU, PHED, GoB
9. Director, Water Quality, PHED, GoB
10. Director, Communication & Capacity Development, PHED, GoB
11. Deputy Director, Water Quality & Pranjal, PHED, GoB
12. Executive Engineer, PHED, HQ.
13. Assistant Engineers, PHED, HQ
14. Joint Secretary, PHED, HQ

#### District Administration:

15. Deputy Development Commissioners- 24 districts
16. BDO in place of DDC, Munger, Director in place of DDC, Saharsa

#### PHED:

17. Executive Engineers, PHED, District Level- 34 district (Except Siwan, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, E. Champaran, Arwal & Araria)
18. District TSC Coordinator- 36 (Except Purnea & Supaul (vacant))
19. INGO representatives-5
20. NGO representatives-17
21. PRI Members-3
22. SHG members-2
23. A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies-2
24. Jeevika-1
25. BTAST State team/ field staffs members-23
26. Media representatives-16

