

National Workshop on Community-led Approach in the context of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)

Nainital Statement

This statement presents the main conclusions and recommendations of the National Workshop on Community-Led Approach in the Context of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan held at the Uttarakhand Academy of Administration, Nainital from April 16 to 18 2013. The workshop was convened by the Key Resource Centre of the Academy in collaboration with the global Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and supported by the Government of India and Institute of Development Studies (At university of Sussex), with facilitation support by Knowledge Links and input from the CLTS Foundation. The 129 participants included Sri Mantri Prasad Naithani, Cabinet Minister for Water & Sanitation, Uttarakhand, Sri Pankaj Jain, Secretary Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Director General, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission, Government of India, Smt Pratima Gupta, Director, NBA, Government of India, Sri S. Raju, Principal Secretary, Water & Sanitation, Uttarakhand, Directors of Sanitation and others from 20 States, and 20 Natural Leaders from Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, and NGO representatives. The workshop process included the context of sanitation, under nutrition and stunting, a demonstration of CLTS triggering, a Knowledge Fair by Natural Leaders, a presentation on Government-led CLTS in Zambia, contributions by WSP, Unicef, and State Government officers, group work, and presentation and lively discussion of recommendations.

Given such a large and diverse group, and a participatory process, it was remarkable that a high degree of consensus was evident on major issues, leading to the following headline recommendations. These were informed by the wide range of experience of Government officers, Natural Leaders and others. All recommendations commanded widespread support from those who took part throughout the workshop, and are presented to the Ministry for favourable consideration:

Major Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Collective behaviour change.** The focus should continue as community-led collective behaviour change (CCBC), with communities making themselves open defecation free (ODF).
- **The habitation.** The habitation is the natural community for collective behaviour change (CCBC). The habitation and not the Gram Panchayat should therefore be the unit for triggering CCBC, saturation, achieving ODF, verification of ODF, incentive payment and monitoring.
- **Selection of habitations and rewards.** Habitations for triggering behaviour change should not be selected on the basis of having a water supply already but on other grounds of suitability. After achieving verified ODF conditions they may be rewarded with water supply or other benefits.
- **Incentive payments.** Incentive payments should be given only after habitations have been validly verified as ODF and not before. This is critical. At States' discretion the incentive payment can be either to the habitation community as a whole or to individual households through bank transfers as in MGNREGA. A majority of participants favoured transparent and public incentive payment to the community as a whole.

- ***Delinking NBA and MGNREGA.*** Administrative and other problems with the convergence of MGNREGA and NBA have proved a very serious bottleneck, demoralising staff and gravely slowing NBA disbursements and implementation. MGNREGA should be delinked from household toilets. MGNREGA can be used for solid and liquid waste management, school sanitation, anganwadi sanitation and other public purposes.
- ***Women's movements, organisations and leadership.*** Women, women's movements and women's organisations have a vital role at all levels in the campaign for Nirmal Bharat. Wherever possible, they should be identified, triggered and supported to lead the drive for ODF and hygienic conditions including menstrual hygiene. In sanitation at least one third of staff at all levels should be women.
- ***Wide-ranging intensified use of IEC funds.*** Funds for IEC should be increased for extensive use for awareness raising and capacity building at all levels, and new additional activities including training for CCBC triggering and follow up, training and remuneration of Swachchhata Doots/Natural Leaders as an army of foot soldiers dedicated to WASH, and monitoring activities at state and other levels.
- ***Campaigns for CBC.*** Campaigns should be mounted, nationally, state-wide, and at District and Block levels, for CCBC. Government staff should be trained in attitudes and behaviour for triggering and facilitating CCBC and supporting Natural Leaders. Campaigns should be led by the District Administration, multi-pronged and inclusive of line departments, NGOs, CBOs, religious and political leaders, the media and other organisations. Community-led approaches should be used, establishing and spreading from clusters of habitations which achieve ODF.
- ***MIS, monitoring and verification.*** MIS should be evolved to show activities, especially the actual use of toilets (rather than merely building toilets) more transparently especially at the habitation level, using mixed methods including ICTs. To minimise corruption NBA social audits can be supported by use of the Right to Information Act. Monitoring, reporting and performance evaluation should give much more emphasis on habitations validly verified ODF and less to toilets constructed. Valid verification is vital and can take various forms, including verification by mixed groups with peer Natural Leaders and other third parties.
- ***Non-functional toilets.*** The Natural Leaders were emphatic and unanimous that no expenditure should be incurred to rehabilitate non-functional toilets. Funding for rehabilitation would inhibit and slow CCBC. After triggering and with peer pressure, people will either rehabilitate them themselves or build new ones.
- ***Task Forces and champions.*** For NBA implementation, Task Forces for CCBC should be established as dedicated units in the MDWS and in States to promote, support and spread community-led approaches for CCBC. Committed champions in Government should be identified to staff these task forces and assured enough continuity in post to have a lasting impact.

These experience-based recommendations are submitted to MDWS on behalf of workshop participants as a contribution to a new NBA in the hope and belief that their adoption will speed up and improve implementation and contribute significantly to the achievement of the target of a Nirmal Bharat in 9 years' time. Their rationale will be further elaborated in a report from the workshop.