

# SANITATION GATEWAY

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Towards sustainable behaviour change



## From the Desk of Rumjhum Chatterjee, MD - Capacity Building Division

"...the day every one of us gets a toilet to use I shall know that our country has reached the pinnacle of progress...", these words of wisdom shared many years ago by Jawaharlal Nehru, seems to be extremely relevant today in this **'International Year of Sanitation'**. The concerted drive of the Indian government to assist every rural household to possess and use a toilet and completely eliminate the practice of open defecation by the year 2012 is a dream and also a Millennium Development Goal. Feedback Ventures is privileged to be a part of realisation of this dream of **'Bharat Nirman'**. The message of practicing safe sanitation using the CLTS approach is spreading fast across the country. We have taken forward the CLTS approach from Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim and are making inroads into Goa, Bihar and Orissa in this quarter. It is emerging as an empowering process for community action and collective behavior change.

In this volume of the newsletter, you will read about the important concept of the **'Sanitation Ladder'**. You will also read about the stories from the fields of Madhya Pradesh. I take this opportunity to thank our readers for their valuable comments on our first issue of the **'Sanitation Gateway'**. I would also look forward to hear from our readers on best practices of the CLTS approach that they have experienced while working with the communities.

### The CLTS Approach: Sanitation Ladder

The CLTS approach ignites the community to take collective decision and community action to stop the practice of defecating in the open. But, what next? The general perception is that the community action would move towards construction of toilets, which is expensive and the poor cannot afford. Hence, an element of subsidy is in-built in the sanitation program.



CLTS approach creates an urge amongst the community to unshackle themselves from the web of 'dependency syndrome' and makes them internalise that they can overcome their chronic behaviour even without constructing a toilet. There have been instances where a community has become open defecation free from the day the village was triggered. The construction of toilets happened eventually in due course of time. Such is the power of trigger, that it can overcome the sanitation barriers, such as: the **subsidy syndrome**, which is pervasive; **poverty**, which is vicious; and **technology**, which is mystified and perceived as expensive. The key focus is to safely dispose off faeces so that it does not reach back to them through various faecal-oral transmission routes.

When people develop this understanding of safe disposal of faeces, the CLTS approach helps to promote communities to explore, innovate and construct safe toilets using locally available resources. As a result, the communities construct 'no cost toilets' and gradually move to higher technology options depending upon their affordability, preferences and availability of resources. This gradual transition in toilet technology options is known as the **'Sanitation Ladder'**.

### CLTS Events in the Quarter

States	One Day Orientation Workshop	Five day ToT Workshop	Three Day Sensitization Workshop
M. P.	2 (District level)	2	1
Goa	1 (State level)	-	-
Bihar	1 (State level)	-	-
Orissa	1 (State level)	-	-

### Empowered to Change!



Collective decision to stop open defecation

### Nature of Events Conducted

One day orientation workshop at the state/district level	Sensitise key stakeholders on the CLTS approach and methodology and formulate a strategy to support the TSC.
Five day ToT workshop at the district level	Train master trainers on the CLTS approach and methodology for scaling-up the TSC program in the district.
Three day follow-up workshop at the district level	Organise refresher course to re-organise the efforts and also address gaps in knowledge and skills.
Three day sensitization workshop	Sensitise the program managers on the CLTS approach and methodology and prepare an action plan to scale-up the TSC program in their area of operation.

### CLTS in Media

The **Navhind Times**, 22 September 2008, published an article *'Aim for making Goa free from open defecation: Tripathi'*, on the workshop conducted by Feedback Ventures on 17 September 2008 in Goa.

**Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Nai Dunia, Nav Bharat, Raj Express**, August 2008, extensively covered the CLTS events conducted by Feedback Ventures in Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh.



### Message from the Commissioner, Indore Division, Indore

**BASANT PRATAP SINGH**

I.A.S.

Commissioner  
Indore Division, Indore



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#### MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate Feedback Ventures for bringing out newsletter on their experiences in implementing Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to Total Sanitation Campaign (TCS) in some states of India.

The TSC was initiated in Indore division from 2002. At the outset, the status of sanitation in the districts was dismal with

very low access to a sanitary toilet. The Campaign primarily aimed at the BPL households and was implemented through GPs with assistance from the PHE department. Toilets were constructed but open defecation remained rampant and a widespread habit.

The Govt. of MP is very keen to make the state a 'NIRMAL Rajya' by 2010. The TSC was redesigned to build demand for improved sanitation. Feedback Ventures with support from WSP-SA conducted workshops in 4 districts of Indore division based on the CLTS approach to sanitation. The first workshop was conducted in Khandwa district in December 2006 and the entire division was covered during this year. The results are encouraging. The division has gone a long way from 1 NGP in 2006 to 55 NGPs in 2007 and around 600 GPs expected to be ODF in 2008, along with two blocks of Khandwa district.

We are committed to make the whole division open defecation free and fully sanitized in coming years. WSP-SA is helping the government to conduct follow-up workshops in the entire division to sustain the initiatives engineered by Feedback Ventures. We acknowledge their efforts and endeavors in bringing sanitation at the top of the development ladder.

I am sure GoMP, WSP-SA, Feedback Ventures and the committees will all get united to realize the dream of making the entire state 'a Nirmal Rajya' very soon.

(Basant Pratap Singh)



2006. Around 75% of the total household representatives of the village had assembled to hear the team. In this village almost 80% households practiced open defecation. Moreover, casteism was a strong deterrent to all development initiatives in this village. Using the trigger tools, such as 'walk of shame', expenses on health, respect for women, the triggering activities were conducted. The triggering created a very strong impact on the community. Under the leadership of the lady Sarpanch, Geeta Bai and the village Patel, Babu Bhai Patel, the drive was initiated to make the village free from open defecation. Support came from the women and aged, shedding casteism, communal barriers and gender disparity. These change agents used the powerful medium of Self Help Groups (SHG), through which monetary loans were provided to the households for constructing toilets. These SHGs constantly monitored the progress of sanitation in the village. Material for toilet construction was purchased from the nearest market at Khandwa, which was 7 kilometers away from the village. The Gram Panchayat only provided facilitation support to the communities.

Under the dynamic leadership of the women folk of the village, an urge to change arose amongst the community. They took immediate action to terminate the practice of open defecation and construct household toilets. The revolution not only resulted in making the village free from filth, but also united the community for total sanitation. This village is proposed for the Nirmal Gram Puruskar this year. As a consequence to improved sanitation practices the natives say that the water and sanitation borne diseases have reduced to a large extent. Due to lack of patients, the doctors practicing in this village have moved to other villages. As a reward for becoming ODF, the government has taken the initiative of improving the village infrastructure. In this way the women of the village, assisted by the aged, emerged as powerful change agents for the village, which is heralded as one of the most sanitised village in MP.

*Contributed by Ajit Timari, CEO, Janpad Panchayat, Baladi, Khandwa*

### Children as 'best promoters' of behaviour change

Bringing about behaviour change in children is easy and fast. Children play a vital role in reaching out to the larger community to make change happen. Picture below shows ignited children of **Bhaisawa village in Khandwa district of MP**, toiling hard to dig a toilet pit.



### Women as 'change agents'

**Village Borgaon Khurd, district Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh:** The CLTS ToT workshop was organised in Khandwa district of MP in December 2006, where village Borgaon Khurd was selected to demonstrate the process of triggering to the master trainers. A team of master trainers along with facilitators from Feedback Ventures went to the village for hands-on learning on 28 December

### Reader's Feedbacks

"It is very nice and congratulations for putting your efforts to bring the newsletter. Could you form a linkage of bamboo pipes and walls of toilet structure..." , Selim Reza, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, Agartala.

"Very thoughtful & informative newsletter", K. N. Vajpai, Loomba Trust, New Delhi.

"...It is really useful..", Neeta Goel, Project UDAY, ADB, M.P.

"..I am very happy to see CBD take the initiative in this most talked about but least actioned area of social concern in our country.", B. Ramaswamy, President NIFM, Feedback Ventures, New Delhi.

### Forthcoming CLTS Events

- One day orientation workshop in Betul, M.P.
- Five day ToT workshop in Panna and Betul, M.P.
- Three day follow-up workshop in Indore and Bhopal, M.P.
- Three day sensitisation workshop in Rewa division, M.P.