Best Practices under Sanitation from Maharashtra

1. Defecate in open and get exposed! (Village Waki Bu. Taluka Deulgaon Raja, District : Buldhana)
4. Open defecation free village campaign” Village: Kherade wangi, Tal: Kadegaon , District : Sangli
5. ‘Bhishi’ for latrine construction (Village Hingna Kavthal, Taluka Sangrampur , District : Buldhana).
6. Health Protection (Village - Malshevga , Taluka – Chalisgaon , District : Jalgaon.)
7. Clean Mondays (Village - Bhankhed, Taluka – Chikhli , District : Buldhana )
8. Recycling of wastewater: Sunita’s household model (Village Wadgaon Tejan, Taluka Lonar , District : Buldhana.)
10. Local Co-operative helps latrine construction(Village Rethare Harnaksha, Taluka Walwa , District : Sangli )
11. Anjubai motivated 100 latrines (Village Kankatrewadi, Taluka Atpadi , District : Sangli )
12. Setting up a Rural Sanitary Mart (Village Rethare Harnaksh, Taluka Walwa , District : Sangli )
1. Defecate in open and get exposed! (Village Waki Bu. Taluka Deulgaon Raja, District: Buldhana)

Abstract: A big group of people was not complying with the Gramsabha resolution for constructing latrines. The Gramsabha passed a resolution that no document or certificate (dakhla) from the GP would be given to a family that did not construct a latrine. Gramsabha further resolved that “No ration supply” from PDS shop would be given to families not having latrines. This pressure worked well. Some people were habitually going for open defecation despite having a latrine. Teams of volunteers moving guard in the dawn used Torches (flashlights) to expose those defecating in open and also blew whistles. This pressure of shame forced people to use latrines.

Prior conditions: Initial sensitization campaign succeeded in convincing majority of villagers to construct latrines. Approx. 40% of the people however did not construct latrines. Elderly people and some others were not using latrines even though constructed.

The process of change: Initially after getting convinced the village leaders, viz. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat (GP) members, ex-members, and Gramsevak constructed latrines in their own houses. The leaders did so and many villagers were inspired. Group meetings, door-to-door contact, and Gramsabhas yielded good results and 60% of the households were covered. Some old latrines were repaired and activated while many new latrines were constructed. Still, 40% families went for defecating in the open. VWSC consulted the SO, and developed a strategy.

They got the Gramsabha to pass a resolution that the GP, Sarpanch or Gramsevak should not sign any certificate or document (dakhla) for a family that was not using a latrine. This pressure worked on many families and they took up latrine construction on priority. There still were some families who never needed any certificate from the GP. These families did not budge. Another Gramsabha resolution blocked the rations supply (from PDS shop) to those families. This took the cause further and 95% of the village had latrines.

Lastly, only two families remained. SO and VWSC requested police cooperation and filed cases on those two families. One-day detention at the police station and a little police pressure worked effectively. Without any further legal proceedings, the dispute was settled. The village now had 100% latrines. But some people still habitually went to defecate in open. Hence, two teams of volunteers from the village. These teams got up at 4 a.m. every morning and went on guard. They used “Kissan Battery” torches to throw focus on whoever was squatting in open. The volunteers also blew whistles at those defecators. This brought shame and people gradually stopped going in open. Village Waki Bu. is proud to be a Nirmal Gram, a village free from open defecation.

Abstract: Students, the next generation of citizens did not have enough awareness about personal hygiene and about ‘optimum use of water’. Mirrors in the school campus, nail-cutters hanging outside the windows, and funneled pipes for water the trees were good tools that the children enjoyed. They learnt sanitation while having fun.

Impact: Zadegaon, Borala, Sagoda, Kahupatta, Vadgaon-mali, Savangi-mali, and Malegaon have followed this practice.

Prior conditions: Children were not used to cutting nails at proper time and in proper manner. Children were not aware of using water with care. Children were not used to washing hands properly before and after eating.

The process of change: School children were enjoying the mirror hanged on a small tree. Girls were busy in observing their bindis and boys were engaged in setting hairstyle. Near the window of one of the classroom, some were engaged in cutting their nails with nail-cutters, hanging outside the windows. Many girls and boys were maintaining planted trees with the new watering method. This is a scene from the village school of Wadgaon Tejan. Village water supply and sanitation committee (VWSC) members and schoolteachers planned an innovative idea of creating awareness of personal hygiene among school children. Putting nail-cutters in a specific place was the first idea. Soon after putting nail-cutters, students both girls and boys were attracted to it and started using it as fun. Gradually the fun became a habit. Schoolteachers were happy with the idea and response. A teacher added one more innovative idea when he brought a small mirror and hanged it on a small tree. Here was another tool entertaining school children. Girls and boys -- natural for their adolescence -- started using the mirror. Then another innovation came up, where the idea was to develop the concept of ‘optimum and appropriate use of water’. Small pieces of pipe were put near the roots of plants. Students were instructed to wash their hands after lunch in the upper portion of the pipe, which worked as a drip water-supplier. Proper collection of solid waste was next idea. The teachers put two containers in the premises of the school. Student collected and dumped all type of solid waste into these containers.

All the four innovative ideas have created awareness among students and developed practice of personal hygiene. All the tools: nail-cutters, containers, mirror and plants are maintained and managed by school children. The students have extended the idea and are pressurizing their parents to follow the same practices in their families.
3. Safe Water Storage”Village – Malshevga, Taluka - Chalisgaon of Jalgaon District

Objective: To ensure that drinking water stored at household level is maintained safely, irrespective of the fact that in summer it may come from a traditional source or one that is faecally contaminated.

Position
Drinking Water stored in the home is susceptible to contamination from, the source water itself, dirty storage vessel, improper handling during its collection, vessel not covered, vessel sitting on the floor, drinking water taken using a glass by dipping in the vessel. This situation has changed due to improved message to generate awareness and improved self storage system.

Best Practice Adopted

In the Jalswarajya Project village of Malshevga in Chalisgaon Taluka of Jalgaon District the Youth Group has become active in promoting project objectives as a result of mobilisation of the community, a programme of promoting installation of plastic taps in traditional clay pots has become very successful. The modification to the storage vessel is the introduction of a tap. This can be of plastic and can readily be introduced into an existing clay pot. The cost is about Rs. 10 for the tap and Rs. 5 for the insertion in a clay pot.

Pratiba Sanjay Sutar was the first woman to decide to have a tap in her clay pot and within a period of only 8 days the Youth Group persuaded 90 women to follow her example.

Now the Youth Group is following this with a programme to encourage women to adopt home chlorination to increase the health benefit. Home chlorination is now becoming more common in towns but has yet to reach villages. The material used is commonly diluted sodium hypochlorite liquid that requires two or three drops in a 10 litre pot. The cost of a bottle of the liquid (”Medichlor” or similar) is about Rs. 12-15 for 2-3 months supply.

Abstract: In the beginning of the project, villagers concentrated on the sanitation works in the village but later on this process slowed down and to speed up the same a different strategy was required to be planned. Village Panchayat and Jalswarajya committees jointly planned a set of various activities were planned which eventually resulted in the increasing the number of latrines in the village.

Impact: The said activity was carried out in other demonstration villages (Rethare Harnaksh, Kharsundi, Lingnoor, Jader Boblad) and in project villages like Kasegaon, Madgyal, Arewadi etc.

Prior conditions: During the implementation phase it was essential to start up the latrine construction along with water supply scheme. Some special efforts were required to create awareness about latrine construction among the villagers.

The process of change: The open defecation free village Awareness Campaign was launched by the Village Water Supply and Sanitation committee (VWSC) of Kherade Wangi on 9th August, 05 with support with the Village Panchayat. This campaign for creating clean village awareness at all levels of the society is being continued till date. Representatives of BLSC, SHGs, CBOs and VP members located in different vadi-vastis of the village have been designated as facilitators for assisting the VWSC in conducting this Campaign. Besides helping the VWSC, facilitators are also responsible for physically monitoring and evaluating the progress of activities under open defecation free village campaign.

This campaign was initiated with following objectives:

- Creation of open-defecation-free village awareness at village level.
- Develop facilities for collection, compilation and dissemination of information related to current status of latrine coverage (individual and public), drinking water supply and Environmental sanitation.
- Develop networking of CBOs, SHGs and Mahila mandals for achieving the common goal of 100% open defecation free village.
- Disseminate information on Jalswarajya non-negotiable principles through Newsletter and other resource materials.
- Conduct micro planning exercise on open defecation issues relevant for Rural Development.
- To create awareness about safe handling of drinking water.
- To encourage people to construct individual latrines.
VWSC of Kherade wangi launched this campaign on the occasion of The “Kranti Din”. The Theme of the programme was “Clean village”. These activities were organized in order to encourage the community and to create awareness as well as action among different sections of the society.

Hagandari hatav Rally:- Considering the implementation phase of Jalswarajya project, initially the VWSC of Kherade Wangi launched the said rally with the help of Z.P. school students (swacchhatadoot) for creating the open defecation free village Awareness at village level.

**Gramsabha**

Villagers of Kherade Wangi took the decision to make village 100% open defecation free, and the Gramsabha passed following resolutions regarding the individual house-holds, who have no latrine or a non-functional latrine and are not responding to the campaign. Gramsevak will list out such families. Gramsevak and Talathi shall not issue the 7/12 extract and other documents to such families. Such families will be banned from the benefit of Ration and Kerosene.

Those families who got the benefit of latrine construction subsidy scheme, but at present are not using the latrine should immediately convert the same for use; otherwise such families shall be liable for recovery with 18% interest on seed money.

Issuing of notice: VWSC has issued notice to all the villagers, who do not have individual latrines. Besides this, VWSC also issued notice to the non-functional individual latrine owners mentioning the clause of recovery with 18% interest on seed amount.

Corner meetings: Considering the geographically scattered habitation VWSC of Kheradi Wangi planned 5 corner meetings on vadi and vastis. The following important issues were discussed with the participants.

Need of environmental sanitation and its direct relation to Health and hygiene. Government schemes like, Sant Gadege Baba Abhiyan, Nirmal Gram Puraskar, Amachya gavat Amhi Sarkar etc. Also the problems and Constraints of individuals regarding latrine construction were discussed.
Financial problem was found to be the major one. Considering the financial constraints at village level, facilitators gave information on various sources of credit i.e. from local bank, SDCB and from other co-operative banks.

Demonstration: VWSC has identified the families from different locations in the village, who were willing to construct latrines immediately. Such latrine construction was started on the same day as a demonstration.

Micro planning: At the end of the day, ward and vasti wise micro-planning for 100% open defecation free village was done in consultation with villagers. As a result of these efforts all participant were clear about the concept of open defecation free village, villagers were mobilized for constructing low cost soak pit type latrines instead of going for septic tank latrines. One of the vasti in the village called Shere-tati has completed their target for latrine construction for every household. It was revealed from the whole exercise that if proper technical assistance is provided to villagers, they can certainly take positive initiatives in solving local sanitation problems.

5. ‘Bhishi’ for latrine construction (Village Hingna Kavthal, Taluka Sangrampur, District : Buldhana)

Prior conditions: Villagers did not actively respond to the campaign for latrine construction. Most people pretended acceptance but did not pay their contribution for constructing latrines. Repeated appeals by committee members could not get people construct latrines.

The process of change: With support from the district staff and SO VWSC actively ran the campaign for motivating people to construct latrines. People pretended acceptance, but did not act accordingly. The committees had decided that all villagers should pay Rs. 200 every month so as to save enough funds to construct latrines. Very few people paid this amount. The VWSC came up with a solution. They formed groups of 10 families each. Each group was motivated and led by one of the VWSC members. Each group was expected to collect Rs. 2,000 each month. This turned into a healthy
competition. Six groups were formed. Twelve thousand rupees were collected by the six groups. All group members sat together and drew a lottery. Of the six chits in the box, one was picked up. This chit was called “Ishwar-chitthi” (God’s chit) by the villagers. The group named in the chit got the 12,000 rupees for construction of their latrines. In the first month, one group completed their construction. Next month, the groups met again and lottery was drawn in favour of another group.

This ‘bhishi’ system has worked well and the village currently is 95% open-defecation free. The villagers have resolved to make their village 100% open-defecation free by 1st January 2006.

Problems and solutions: Villagers were not willing to spend for construction of latrines. Group efforts, competition mode, and the attraction of winning a lottery made a big difference. Each month, one group won the bhishi (or Ishwar-chitthi) and got its latrines constructed.

6. Health Protection (Village - Malshevga, Taluka - Chalisgaon, District: Jalgaon )

Objective: To ensure that schoolchildren, in particular, wear chappals at all times while walking in the village. And women learn better drinking water filtration techniques.

Position: The main drive of the current sanitation programme in India is removal of open defecation by humans. Another aspect that is largely ignored is the health problems caused by diseases routed through animal faeces as well as human faeces in and around the village. A particular example are soil-transmitted helminths such as hookworm and tapeworms, which are transmitted through ground contamination, entering the human body through the bare skin of the feet or by the oral route. Turbidity in water can come from animal waste as well as from suspended particles of sand, dust and vegetable matter. The traditional method of removing this is simple filtration through a single cloth while collecting the water. This practice is not sufficient to remove parasites, cysts and helminths that are also not killed by chlorination.

Best Practice: In the Jalswarajya Project village of Malshevga in Chalisgaon Taluka of Jalgaon District the Women’s Group has become active in promoting project objectives as a result of mobilisation of the community. Village women are made aware of the benefits of chappals for children and the use of better filtration of drinking water during a women’s group meeting to explain roles and responsibilities in the Jalswarajya Project. This has also been strongly supported by Teachers in the school and by the Youth Group and is now being taken up across the village by all families.
Although personal cleanliness will help stop diseases such as worms reaching the intestines of children, a better practice is to ensure that children are encouraged to wear chappals at all times outside the home.

Removal of turbidity in water and the health impacts is best done using the four-fold cotton cloth technique for filtration.

7. **Clean Mondays (Village - Bhankhed, Taluka – Chikhli, District : Buldhana )**

Prior conditions: The village had garbage dumped at every corner and there was no regular removal. Gutters were open and often stagnated. Wastewater gushed on to roads in many places in the village.

The process of change: Initial sensitizing campaign was successful and villagers started thinking about sanitation conditions in their village. This village has 182 households with 90 % of them belonging to scheduled tribes. Villagers responded well to cleanliness drive and looked at sanitation as worship. Villagers resolved to clean the entire village every alternate Monday. On such typical Monday mornings, a tractor-trailer strolls through the village. Loudspeaker mounted on the trailer plays Sant Gadgebaba’s famous dhoon “Gopala Gopala Devkinandan Gopala”. Villagers in groups clean the streets and collect all garbage in the trailer. Women sweep the streets and men clean the gutters.

Amazingly the villagers have continued this practice. This regular practice has made the villagers extremely conscious about environmental cleanliness. People have gone through many behavioural changes because of the Monday processions.

Problems and solutions:

**The village is poor and people seldom thought of cleaning the village.**

The appeal of “Gopala Gopala” and the auspicious environment generated by a Dindi worked very well. People felt proud of cleaning the streets. This has now resulted in changing the habits of people.
8. Recycling of wastewater: Sunita’s household model (Village Wadgaon Tejan, Taluka Lonar, District: Buldhana.)

Prior conditions: Majority of houses in the outer vastis of Wadgaon Tejan did not have a drainage system. Wastewater from kitchen and bathrooms gushed over streets or in the backyard of the houses. Water used in kitchen was never re-used.

The process of change: After successful formation of VWSC, SAC and WDC an exposure visit to village ‘Vakana’ of Jalgaon Jamod Taluka of Buldana district was arranged. Vakana is one of the ‘Adarsh’ villages, declared 100% open defecation stoppage in 2003. Smt. Sunita Manohar Tekade, secretary of social audit committee of Wadgaon Tejan was one of the participants of exposure visit and she was impressed by low cost household level filtration model developed by women of Vakana. Sunita adopted this and implemented it in her house immediately after returning from the tour. The demonstration of the unit was arranged in one of the Mahila Gramsabha. Women attending the Gramsabha were fascinated and replicated it in their respective homes. This boosted Sunita’s confidence further.

After one month, she along with her husband came with another idea. The proposal was an extension of household level filtration model. It was low cost model of recycling of wastewater. Wastewater from washing clothes or utensils was being wasted unnecessarily. This wastewater could be reused with the help of this method, she argued. The idea was simple but effective, could be replicated in decentralized wastewater management of entire village.

The model was installed within a month. The model is constructed in three-tire system, the first part is the main washing platform, the second part is a filter tank and storage tank of filtered water and third one is wastewater tank, which is linked to kitchen garden for watering the plants and also used for cleaning (Sadasarvan) of flooring of internal house and open space around house. Sunita and her husband are proud that no water from their house is wasted.
Problems and solutions:
Wastewater from Kitchen and from washing clothes was wasted and often gushed to roads. Sunita Tekade and her husband developed a household easy-to-make and cheap-to-run model for recycling this wastewater. Their kitchen garden is now watered well and the road in front of their house remains clean.

9. Forestation on wastewater (Village Savangi Tekale, Taluka DeulgaoRaja)

Prior conditions: The wastewater from some 80 households was carried in open gutters. This water ended up in the river thus polluting the river and sometimes overflowed on to the street.

The process of change: The sensitization campaign made villagers aware of environmental sanitation. While many villagers took up latrine construction, wastewater management still remained a problem. VWSC was active and social pressure tactics were effectively used to encourage latrine construction and use. The village currently has 80% latrines constructed and in use.

The old gutters carrying wastewater from 80 houses ended up in the river and were polluting the river. VWSC president, members of VWSC and SAC were very active and were concerned about the pollution in river. They discussed the problem with the SO and district staff and derived a technical solution. The VWSC agreed with the solution and work was taken up with GP support. The gutters were deviated to open plots near the village school. Villagers and VWSC members volunteered and planted trees in this open land. The wastewater from gutters was channeled to this new plantation. GP also appointed a caretaker/watchman for this area. Around 40 to 50 trees like Subabhul, Lime etc. are growing well in this plot.

The village has achieved three things in one shot: Their wastewater does not pollute the river anymore. Wastewater is not wasted, and a garden of 40 trees is growing without any expenses. Schoolchildren are enjoying the breeze and shadow of this garden in their backyard.

Problems and solutions: Wastewater from open gutters was polluting the river. The villagers deviated the gutters to an open plot near the school. They planted trees and used the wastewater to water the trees. GP appointed a caretaker to maintain the plantation.
10. **Local Co-operative helps latrine construction (Village Rethare Harnaksha, Taluka Walwa, District: Sangli)**

Prior conditions: Poor villagers were facing difficulties in the funds mobilisation for latrine construction. Construction of latrines and clean village was a major job to be completed under Jalswarajya project along with the water supply.

The process of change: The village Rethare Harnaksha is fully covered by women’s SHGs. The SHG members are very active and are engaged in different village development activities. The SHGs are now capable of giving internal loans and also running other activities like RSM. Since the beginning of Jalswarajya project, all the committee members have consistently made efforts for 100% latrine construction.

For villagers who were **not able to raise enough money** for construction of latrines, the SHGs and a local cooperative credit society came as a boon. Priyadarshini Pat Sanstha (co-op credit society) sanctioned 70 loan proposals (with 12% rate) for construction of latrines. In all the 70 cases, SHGs became the guarantors for their members. Members got loans because of SHG support. Thus the local cooperative and SHGs – both run by the villagers themselves – have set a sound example of financing their fellow villagers. Rethare Harnaksh is rapidly marching to be an open-defecation-free village in the near future because of such cooperation and support among its villagers.

This is indeed a learning example for other villages and village-level credit cooperatives.

**Abstract:**

Most of the villagers are well aware about the importance of latrine construction and villagers were facing problems to make financial arrangements. **This problem was solved by the SHGs in the village.** These SHGs took a lead and accepted the responsibilities of these villagers and **facilitated** the loans for latrine construction. Impact: These joint efforts proved fruitful and the village Rethare Harnaksha is about to achieve the target of 100% latrines in the near future.

11. **Anjubai motivated 100 latrines (Village Kankatrewadi, Taluka Atpadi, District: Sangli)**

Prior conditions: Initially villagers showed enthusiasm about construction of latrines.

But as they became aware of the expenses and difficulties in the construction, they turned their back to the idea of having latrines.

The process of change: Kankatrewadi is a small village (147 households) in Atpadi Taluka. Most of the villagers have low income and work as agricultural
labour. As the village participated in Jalswarajya project, **lot of awareness was generated about environmental sanitation.** Many villagers were willing to construct latrines. The survey by SO and villagers revealed that the village was located on hard rock and it was extremely difficult to construct latrines with soak-pits. The opinion in the village started to turn around and latrine construction was mostly discussed as impossibility. Smt. Anjubai Suryavanshi, middle-aged illiterate woman and member of the WDC found this discussion unacceptable. While villagers were giving up the idea of constructing latrines, Anjubai forced them to think otherwise. Her strong words and intense persuasion made the difference. One by one the committee members, women and men, accepted her arguments. “Despite all difficulties if we all struggle to get food, we should also struggle to have our latrines. Latrines are as necessary as food and housing”, this was Anjubai’s argument. The village accepted it and the village currently has 103 latrines. Other households are following the same.

Abstract: The villagers desisted from constructing latrines considering the costs unaffordable. One inspired woman from the village, Anjubai Suryawanshi argued with fervour and inspired the village to think of latrines as a basic necessity and not as a comfort or luxury. She motivated them to struggle for latrines just as they struggled for food.

**12. Setting up a Rural Sanitary Mart (Village Rethare Harnaksh, Taluka Walwa, District : Sangli )**

Prior conditions: The villagers constructing latrines had to face many problems in acquiring sanitation material at right price.

The process of change: The VWSC and WDC members as they encouraged latrine construction in the village recognised the need for supplying latrine related materials at right price in the village. The women then decided by consensus that one of the women’s SHGs shall run a Rural Sanitary Mart (RSM). Many SHGs were active and they vied to run the RSM. They declared a competition of sanitation amongst the SHGs.

The terms of competition had different indicators, e.g. all members should have latrines, all should be using soaps and ladles, all should have clean homes and clean backyards etc. The marks earned by each SHG were displayed publicly and the assessing process was described in a meeting of WDC. This transparent and novel bidding won the applause of women and villagers. Dnyaneshwari SHG won the competition. RSM run by Dnyaneshwari SHG provides the required sanitary material (like latrine construction material, soap, ladle etc) at village level. Besides these the said group in consultation with VWSC organised some focus group discussions related to sanitation activities in various vastis of the village. This activity
has proved helpful for motivating SHGs from other villages to participate in sanitation activities.

Problems and solutions:  
The villagers had difficulty in accessing material for latrine construction and sanitation accessories at right price and at accessible place. RSM run by the SHG served both purposes. It supplied all material at right price and within the village. The SHG also turned this into a good income-generation activity.


Prior conditions: Tribal population lives in peculiar physical and social conditions. Tribal mentality and rationale is shaped by the conditions they live in. It is difficult to motivate tribal villagers if the intervener is not well versed with tribal dynamics.

The process of change: Village Rajura successfully became a 100% open-defecation free village. The villagers showed exemplary persistence in achieving the water supply village is now marching towards becoming a Sanitation and Hygiene Resource centre. This is a unique example of a tribal village becoming a resource centre. The Community hall (i.e. also used as Jalswarajya office) in Rajura has all its walls painted with slogans and posters disseminating important messages on sanitation. The local artists have prepared various tabletop models of latrines. The models also include low-cost Toilet-rooms (sandas-ghar). The exhibition of models also includes an Adarsh School model with sanitation facilities for children, hand-pump, soak-pits, and roof-water harvesting model. (The school in Rajura already has all these features.)

A vermiculture unit for garbage disposal is already operative in the village. Villagers are also constructing a Nadep-type compost pit. SHG in the village has provided all the houses with sanitation-ware like soap-stands, mugs, brooms etc. and ladles (Ograle). Some active VWSC members and other villagers are trained by Teams as resource-persons on personal and environmental sanitation. 15 resource-persons (8 men and 7 women) are now empowered to guide other tribal villages in achieving 100% mark in sanitation. All these persons have been involved in the entire process of Jalswarajya in their village and know the nitty-gritty of the project. Rajura in near future will be an effective place for exposure visits on sanitation especially for other tribal villages.

Problems and solutions: Tribal villages are difficult to be motivated by outside intervention unless their questions are understood and
problems answered. Tribal sanitation and hygiene promotion resource centre in Rajura will act as a live guide on all questions regarding sanitation in tribal villages. Tribal villagers can visit Rajura and get answers by seeing the work done in Rajura and by talking to the tribal resource-persons in the village.