



Community-led Total Sanitation



Dear friends and colleagues in CLTS and WASH,

In this month's newsletter, we focus on India and the Swachh Bharat Mission as well as introducing you to the latest publication from the CLTS Knowledge Hub. And we look forward to hearing from you about any publications, resources or research studies you have found helpful for your work. Email us at clts@ids.ac.uk

India: progress with Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The Government of India's [Swachh Bharat Mission \(Gramin\)](#) recently celebrated its third birthday (2 October). A good time to take stock and assess progress of the campaign to end open defecation and clean up India.



Timely, relevant and action-orientated research The momentum and scale of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) is unprecedented. The speed of implementation means that the identification of gaps and finding answers to these in ways that provide practical ideas for policy and practice can have exceptionally widespread impact provided they can be timely, relevant and actionable. The trade-offs between timeliness and the time required for conventional academic rigour are vast. Fortunately, a range of innovations and approaches have recently been developed and applied in India for timely and practical learning on sanitation. Therefore, WaterAid India and the CLTS Knowledge Hub at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex commissioned some timely, relevant and action-orientated research. Four consultants were asked to conduct a rapid review of accessible literature combined with key informant interviews and field visits on four key topics. They were given freedom to be highly flexible in their approaches. The topics and headline findings were:

1. Twin-Leach Pits: There is a lack of knowledge on technical aspects of costs and construction and technical information on toilet designs and functions.
2. Septic Tanks and Faecal Sludge Management: There are variations in the number of septic tanks in each state. Faulty construction and careless treatment of faecal sludge are second generation challenges that need attention.

3. **Men and Open Defecation:** Several studies have found a clear gender gap in toilet usage. Many campaigns have focussed on women leaving men's open defecation as a major problem. Examples of national and local efforts to stop men openly defecating have revealed promising approaches.
4. **Sanitation Coverage, Usage and Health:** Partial usage varies widely across studies which have methodological inconsistencies. Current knowledge points to the need for a high coverage and usage to achieve major benefits in health and nutrition.

Take a look at the resulting [Timely Relevant and Actionable Reports for SBM](#)



Immersive Research In order to learn from the experiences of districts that had been declared open defecation free, Praxis, the CLTS Knowledge Hub at the Institute of Development Studies and WaterAid recently undertook an immersive research project. The researchers spent three nights and up to four days in each of a total of eight villages in Madhya Pradesh (3), Uttar Pradesh (2) and Rajasthan (3), in districts which had been declared open defecation free (ODF). They stayed with families without a specific agenda learning open-endedly from lived experience, observation and conversations. The [main report](#) sums up the key findings and suggests ways to strengthen the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin; the [policy and practice note](#) presents actionable recommendations; and the [methodology note](#) describes the activities, challenges, lessons learnt and guidance for use of the methodology by others.

Workshop Uttar Pradesh (the most populous state in India) has seen pockets of success with some districts attaining or being close to declaring ODF as part of the Swachh Bharat Gramin campaign. From September 11-13, 2017, the CLTS Knowledge Hub at IDS and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) together with the Divisional Swachh Bharat Team in Moradabad, facilitated a joint workshop to help identify successful practices and methods for rapid sharing, learning, adopting and adapting of these practices for local needs and conditions. Following the workshop, IDS and WSSCC produced a workshop report that summarises the discussions and a note on how governments, international agencies, NGOs and others working towards ODF at scale can hold similar workshops that enable peer-to-peer learning. You can [find the report and related documentation here](#)

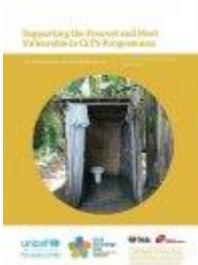


Views and opinions

In an article in The Wire, 3rd October 2017, Santosh Mehrotra and Vinod Mishra ask [Has the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Brought a Paradigm Shift in Rural Sanitation?](#)

And an NDTV show looks at the [Truth vs Hype of Swachh Bharat](#). In response, Nipun Vinayak, one of the guests on the show, has also written a [rebuttal](#) to the way the programme portrayed progress with Swachh Bharat Mission.

Learning Paper: Supporting the poorest and most vulnerable in CLTS



The CLTS Knowledge Hub and UNICEF convened an Asia-focused workshop titled ‘Supporting the Poorest and Most Vulnerable in CLTS Programmes’ in the Philippines in May 2017. The event brought together participants with experience of working on directly, supporting or researching CLTS programmes from across the continent. Over the course of five days participants representing a range of different organisations explored ways the poorest and most vulnerable can be supported both through strengthening the CLTS process and the introduction of support mechanisms.

This Learning Paper is more than just a summary or record of the event, and aims to provide a starting point for the conversation on this critical subject to continue within the WASH sector. It focuses on strengthening the CLTS process, identifying and targeting people for support, the sequencing of support mechanisms, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and the different support mechanisms and the associated risks. It concludes with summarising some emerging principles, considerations and recommendations which are not just relevant for CLTS programmes but other approaches, all of which are working towards equitable and adequate sanitation for all by 2030.

You can [download this Learning Paper here](#)

This publication complements the Learning Brief [Supporting the least able throughout and beyond CLTS](#) which is also available in Portuguese [Apoiar os Menos Capazes ao Longo do CLTS e Depois do CLTS](#) *A French version is coming soon. Version française à venir.*

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