

Visioning exercise

As part of Embedding, the WASHCost (India) project has conducted a visioning exercise on 3rd May 2010 to disseminate and discuss the research findings / recommendations with the concerned stakeholders from the department and communities. During the recent Advisory Group Meeting held on 28th Jan 2010 at CESS, Mrs Chitra Ramachandran, Principal Secretary (RWSS) agreed to support this process and ensure the implementation of recommendations. The exercise was carried out on the CESS campus with 30 participants from 3 test bed villages. The participants included representatives, i.e Sarpanch and Ward Members of the village Panchayat (an elected administrative body at the village level), youth groups, key informants and women from Self Help Groups. The Superintendent Engineer and the Assistant Engineers of the Ranga Reddy district were present throughout the day. WASSAN team anchored and documented the process.

The Exercise was divided into three parts.

Part 1: Identifying the Problems of WASH and segregation of problems

Part 2: Problem Analysis using tree as an example (Problem Tree Analysis)

Part 3: Strategic plan for identified issue with specific roles and responsibilities

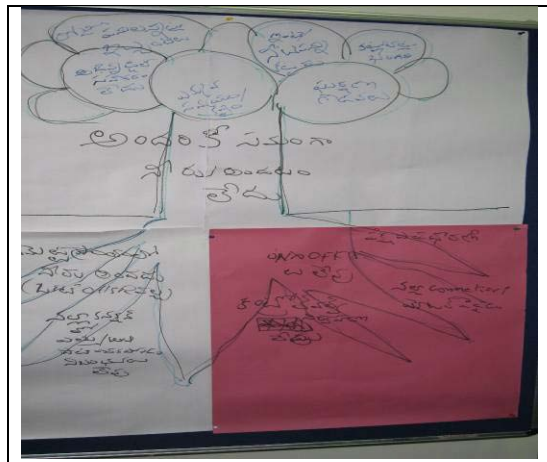
Part 1: The participants were divided into four groups (three village specific groups and the Department officials group) and asked to identify the problems that they are facing with regards to water supply and sanitation. The problems were then placed in a Venn diagram to depict if they are common across the three villages or specific to one village only. Further the problems identified by the department were also categorised village wise. Finally the issues identified during the WASHCost survey were also shared with the participants and added to the diagram.



Part 2: In the plenary one problem which is common across the three villages was discussed with a focus on its causes and effects. The problem is represented by the stem, the causes are symbolised as roots and the effects are depicted as branches, fruits and leaves etc. It was explained to the participants that we can only see the problem and its effects but we do not see the roots i.e causes of the problem.

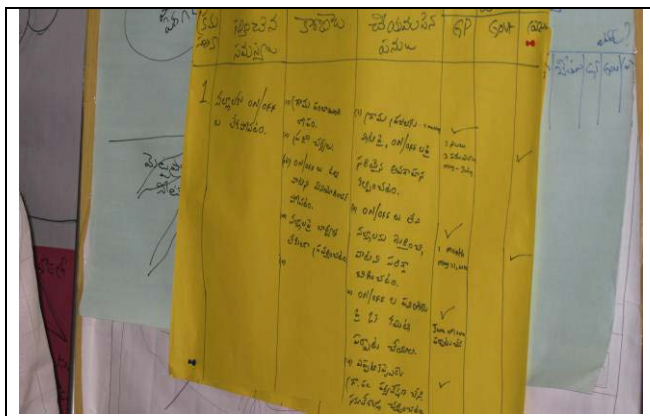
Hence instead of working at the roots we always try to address the effects in an ad hoc manner rather than tackling the root causes with the aim of completely overcoming the problem. This was well understood by the community members.

Part 3: During this session the participants were requested to form into three groups (village specific) and each group was given the task to prepare a strategic plan to



address a common problem identified in part 1. The groups were asked to present the step by step approach to address the issue and to specifically identify actions and who is responsible for taking these actions (includes, Gram Panchayat, Households and the

Department Officials.) Interestingly, for most of the activities the group members fixed responsibility to either GP or community. The participants asked the WASHCost project to facilitate the initiatives for the period of at least one year.



In the **plenary** the experts (Prof Ratna Reddy, G. Ram Gopal Reddy (SE, RWSS) and Mr. RajaMouli (Sarpanch from Gangadevipally - a model village for WASH governance in AP) gave suggestions to each group on how to improve/modify the solutions. During this session Mr. Rajmouli, shared his experiences of converting Gandevipally into a Model village and the efforts they made during the last 15 years to make the WASH service delivery sustainable.

Finally it was agreed by the community members, RWSS officials and WASHCost Team that similar exercises should be conducted at the village level to motivate other members of their community. The community members requested follow-up support and facilitation during the process of improving service delivery in their villages.

Overall conclusion

This initial step of a planning process provided a solid basis for developing and costing the interventions and activities required in these three villages to improve WASH services delivery. As this process proceeds, key LA members will gain a first-hand understanding and

appreciation of the potential benefits (or otherwise) of adopting a life-cycle cost (LCC) approach to estimating the costs of achieving and sustaining a specified level of service.