

Solid Waste Management through Gram Panchayat Level Federation of SHGs in Rural Karnataka



BACKGROUND

Solid waste management (SWM) has emerged as one of the biggest service delivery challenges in India. Improper management of solid waste poses risks to the environment and public health. Numerous studies indicate that the unsafe disposal of waste generates poisonous gases and leachates, due to microbial decomposition, climate conditions, refuse characteristics and land-filling operations. Though solid waste generated in rural areas is predominantly organic and biodegradable and contains non-biodegradable materials and domestic hazardous wastes it is becoming a major problem as the waste generated is not segregated in-situ and is of the order of 0.3 to 0.4 million metric tonnes per day, as reported by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), Government of India. The role of individuals and the state towards protection of the environment is enshrined in Articles 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act. Further, according to the 11th Schedule added to the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act of 1992, Panchayats, the rural local bodies (RLBs) are responsible for maintaining hygiene, sanitation, and cleanliness of villages.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) launched on 2nd October 2014 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister envisioned an India free from Open Defecation and with 100% scientific management of Solid Waste by 2nd October 2019. The Mission also envisaged creating an eco-system of related stakeholders, which would provide livelihood opportunities for marginalized sections of communities, helping the Mission to accelerate its progress towards Mission objectives.

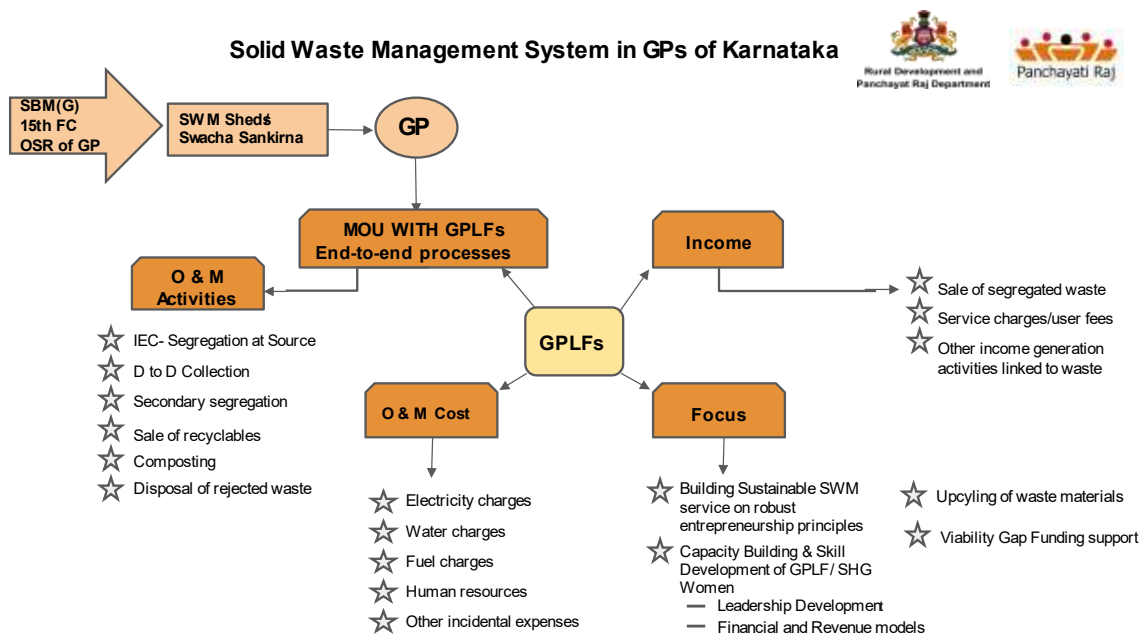
Keeping in line with the objectives and aspirations of SBM (G), Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department, GoK has been striving to provide adequate infrastructure, and eliminate any strategic and institutional barriers, and creating robust institutional capacity by engaging women at the level of Gram Panchayat Level Federation¹ of SHGs for Operation and Maintenance of end-to-end processes of solid waste management system.

At the household level, due to traditional gender roles, women are primarily responsible for the initial steps of the value chain of solid waste management. Implementation of proper waste management practices at this stage creates a highly impactful and positive ripple effect to the rest of the waste management process. Due to this unique positioning, women can create momentum for positive change and work in their communities to create viable solutions.



¹ Sanjeevini, Karnataka State Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (KSRLPS) is identifying women and handholding them for formation of Gram Panchayat Level Federations (GPLFs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

STRATEGY ADOPTED IN KARNATAKA



Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Department of RDPR Dept. is the nodal agency for implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in Karnataka. The process of setting up of the physical infrastructure for collected unsegregated dry waste, storage, segregation and storage after segregation till sale and composting unit, known as **Swachha Sankeerna** units/sheds are being facilitated by RDWSD. With the support of SBM (G) funds, own funds of Gram panchayats and other funds available for convergence so far about **5877 DPRs** of GPs for setting up physical infrastructure have been approved, and about **4635 units** are under various stages of completion. Most of the GPs have also procured vehicles for transportation of solid waste.

Panchayat Raj department and Karnataka State Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (KSRLPS) have been encouraging SHGs to take up O & M contract for end-end management of Solid Liquid Waste in the Gram Panchayats through formalized mechanism created and MoU signed between GPLFs and Gram Panchayats.

Abdul Nazeer Sab State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Mysore (ANSSIRD&PR) and Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Renewable Energy and Rural Development (MGIRED) are providing training over 5 days for the GPLFs in understanding the processes involved in Solid waste management, categories of segregation, management of wet and dry waste, domestic hazardous waste, etc.



Trainings also involve field visits for experiential learning. Additionally, NGOs are being identified in all districts to undergo trainings from ANSSIRD and MGIRE and continue trainings at District level to ensure higher number of GPLFs are trained.



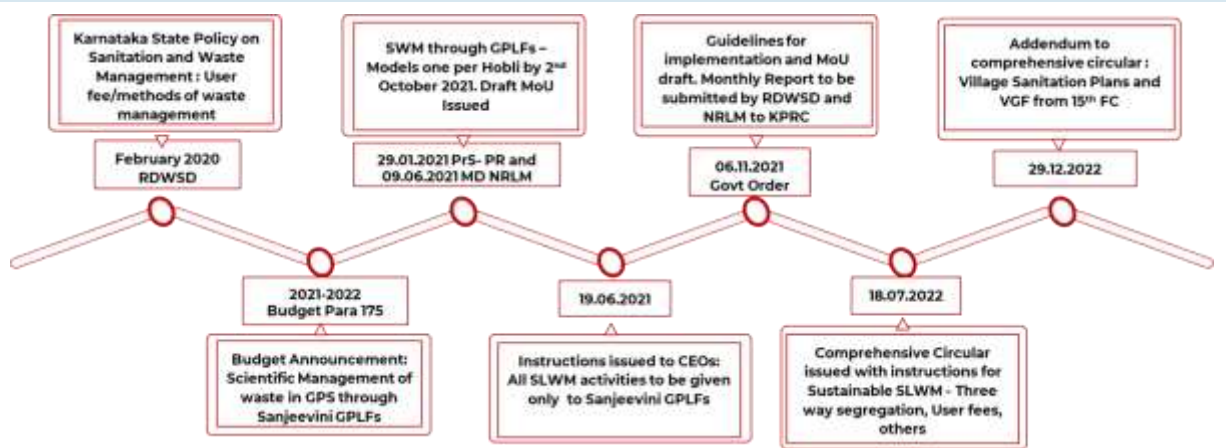
Women from GPLFs are also being given driving skill training and are engaged in driving the Swachhta Vahini's used for collection of waste from source. Enrolled women are given free driving skill training at the district level and the process of obtaining Driving License's for these women is being facilitated by Govt.



It is serving dual purpose of women empowerment and sustainability. In the absence of SWM practice waste generally would be burnt in the villages, emitting poisonous gases, or ending up in open spaces, drains, water ways etc. Now the waste is being properly collected and segregated, and revenue is earned from the sale of recyclables and service fee collected from residents and commercial units.

Ever since this formal process of O & M contract being given to GPLFs by GPs through an MoU has been initiated, we have seen heartening examples of empowered women from self-help groups who have taken on the responsibility of managing their community's waste and striving to convert them into zero-garbage and zero-waste GPs. Some GPs have emerged as lighthouse GPs in this respect given the exemplary work done by SHG groups in this sector.

TIMELINE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORTIVE EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED BY STATE



IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

Inclusion of women in SWM can lead to multiple positive outcomes and lead to several direct and indirect benefits to the society. As women gain education and skills through this formal engagement, they can access more opportunities, which eventually means household incomes increase, infant mortality rates go down, and children are able to stay in school longer. This can be a great **opportunity to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty**.

OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Positive outcomes noticed after the SHGs taking responsibility as part of the MoU between GPs and GPLFs for SWM:

Service rendered

- Regular collection has been ensured by SHG members in Gram panchayats
- Effective monitoring from the SHG group leaders.

Success of SWM system

- Improvement in the source segregation from Households.
- Effective sorting of dry waste and regular sale of dry waste
- Regular user fee collection has been observed in GP

Impact on SHG women

- High level of confidence among the women involved in SWM activities.
- Their participation in Gram sabhas and other meetings of the GPs has increased

STATUS OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RELATED ACTIVITIES (AS ON 02.08.2022)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Number of Gram Panchayats | 5960 |
| No.of MoUs signed | 3293 |
| No. of Training Programmes on SWM | 274 |
| No. of GPLFs given training on SWM | 2835 |
| No of Women | 8,871 |
| Driving skill | |

| | |
|---|------|
| No of women identified for driving training | 3631 |
| No. of batches completed training | 47 |
| No. of batches ongoing training | 8 |
| No. of women completed driving training | 1263 |
| No. of women drivers working in GPs | 295 |
| No. of women undergoing driving training | 226 |

ENHANCED GP-SHG CONVERGENCE

Karnataka is one of the progressive states with provision of 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State Panchayati Raj Act. This equal participation of women in rural local governance, needs to translate into meaningful participation, gender equality and empowerment of rural women. Participating in SWM creates an opportunity for women to engage in local governance and eventually take on leadership roles.

Thrust for SHG-GP convergence will ensure effective community mobilisation and greater public ownership of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) one of the flagship programs of the Govt.

Converging benefits and resources from various schemes such as MGNREGA, SBM, NRLM, and Central & State funds through 15th FC, SFC, OSR etc. to create positive impact on the lives of poor and vulnerable.

INCREASE IN WOMEN WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

The female workforce participation in agriculture fell from 46% in 1987 to 33% in 2011 and further decreased to 23% in 2017. Female workforce participation has also declined slightly from 3.5% to 2.5% in manufacturing. The exception is construction and services, where it has risen by almost 1-1.5%. Given an increase in mechanisation by 32% from 1999-2011², the estimates show that almost the entire decline in female labour use in agriculture during this period can be explained by a rise in mechanisation.

CLEAN VILLAGES

Realisation of clean and healthy villages as envisioned in the SBM through effective Behavioural Change Communication through women.

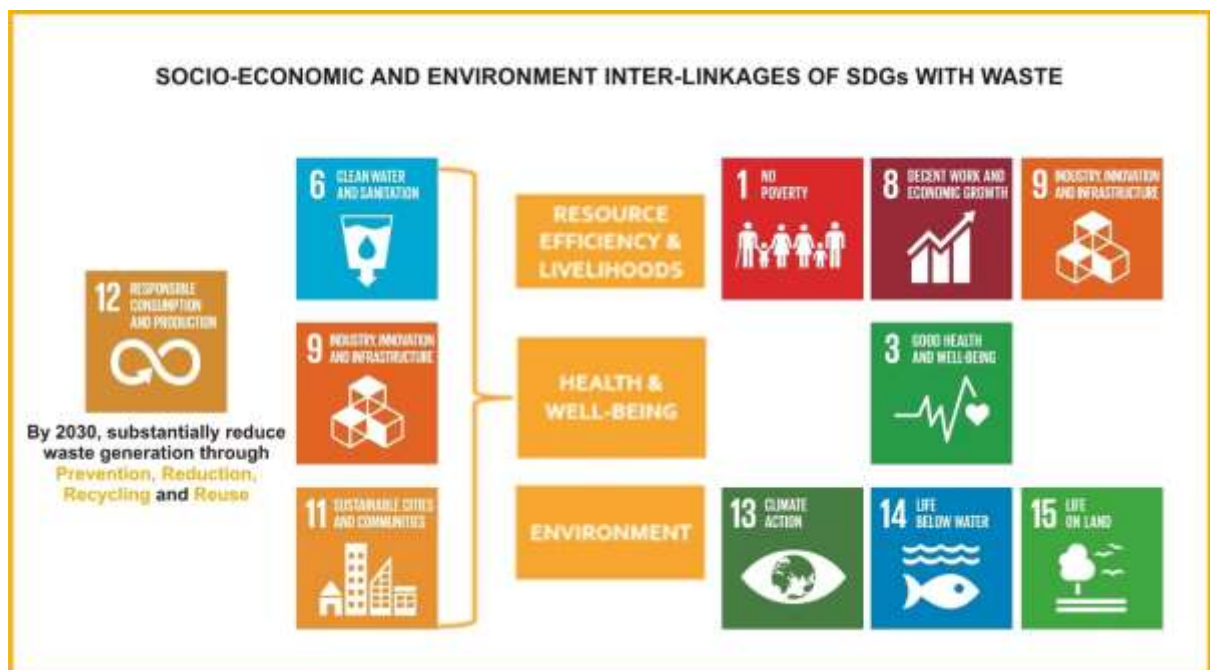
² [What is keeping Indian Women out of the Work Force?](#) (Scroll.in)

Reduction in waste generation in rural areas due to effective functioning of GPLFs, focus on alternate materials to single use plastics, upcycling of waste materials, by products from waste materials etc.

ALIGNMENT WITH LOCALISATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Through this project women are provided with driving training a skill which they can utilise for their farm activities or anywhere else. Lower female mobility constricts their access to non-farm jobs, the SWM activities are located nearer to them with their panchayat limits, hence they can easily take up these activities and establish themselves as micro enterprises and generate more jobs.

GP-SHG convergence for SWM will lead to enhanced capabilities of Gram Panchayats for good governance in relation to waste management and attainment of localisation of SDGs through participatory local planning, democratic decision making, transparency and accountability.



Socio-Economic and Environment Interlinkages of SDGs with SLWM
 Source: https://www.devalt.org/newsletter/jun17/of_3.htm

Ministry of Panchayat Raj department has taken a thematic approach and identified 9 SDG related themes for focussed interventions through Panchayats. The proposal will directly contribute to Themes 1, 2,5,8 and 9.



SDG related Themes for focussed interventions through Panchayats.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO SDG RELATED THEMES FOR FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS THROUGH PANCHAYATS

| Sr. No | Themes | Specific local actions addressed through this proposal. |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Direct contribution | | |
| 1 | Theme 1: Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods village | Income generation through skill training, entrepreneurship development and employment. Strengthening SHGs by handholding training |
| 2 | Theme 2: Healthy village | Cleanliness to combat malaria, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases. |
| 3 | Theme 5: Clean and Green village | Efficient waste management facility |
| 4 | Theme 8: Village with Good Governance | Strengthen Gram Sabhas for ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels. Effective delivery of the services |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| 5 | Theme 9: Engendered Development in village | Women' s participation in economic activities under SHGs. Active inclusion and engagement of women in livelihood and skill development programmes. |
| Indirect contribution | | |
| 6 | Theme 6: Self-sufficient infrastructure in village | Proper sewage system by the construction of close and covered drains. |
| 7 | Theme 7: Socially secured village | Strengthen Gram Sabhas for ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision making at all levels. |