



Guiding Principles for Sustenance of Nirmal Panchayats under Total Sanitation Campaign.

The state of Himachal Pradesh has been implementing the Sanitation Campaign since Year, 2000 when the campaign was first started in the District Sirmour of the State. After the implementation of the Sanitation Campaign for the last more than Ten Years, at present the State has emerged as one of the leading States which have not only adopted the Total Sanitation Campaign as a part of its State policy but, has also been in the forefront as far as achieving targets set by the GOI, in the field of Individual House Hold sanitation (IHHL) concerned. With the present coverage of more than 90% in the field of Individual House Hold sanitation (IHHL) now the focus of the Total Sanitation Campaign in Himachal is to achieve the following;

1. Sustenance of the Already achieved Open Defecation Free Status/ Open Defecation Free societies.
2. Inclusion of the left out/ newly added households in the Sanitation Campaign.

Sustenance of the Already achieved Open Defecation Free Status/ Open defecation Free societies:-

According to the Strategy for Rural Sanitation adopted by the State and also the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) guidelines issued by the Government of India, the emphasis of the Sanitation Campaign in Himachal has been to build Nirmal Societies based upon the sustained Sanitation Campaign. As a matter of the State policy the emphasis of the Sanitation Campaign in the State has been to involve the communities to own up Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and engage them in planning, implementation and sustenance of the Nirmal Status. In order to strong foundation for the community participation in this campaign all the Districts were authorized to take the services of NGOs/ SOs in carrying out the task of Information Communication and Education (IEC) activities under the Sanitation Campaign.



The present success of the Total Sanitation Campaign in the State could be attributed to the extensive IEC campaign undertaken by these NGOs / SOs as the Districts, which have climbed high on the Sanitation ladder, had a good network of their Field level functionaries. As per the latest progress reports submitted by the Districts, there has been significant increase in the sanitation coverage of the rural areas with more than 90% coverage in IHHL. In addition to the IHHL coverage, presently, more than 2792 gram Panchayats out of total 3243, have also claimed to have achieved ODF status.

Though this success in terms of actual numbers is immense, yet, the reports as submitted by the Districts, both online as well as thorough the Monthly Monitoring System of the Department, seem to be bit exaggerated as last year out of 526 Nominations for the NGP, only 253 could actually get the award. Similarly, this year too there has been unprecedented increase in the number of reported ODF GPs and a total No of 1258 GPs and 10 Block Panchayats have applied to the GOI under the NGP. Since the GOI has planned to impose very harsh measures on the Panchayats which fail in their NGP verifications and also on those GPs, which after attaining the NGP status, fail to sustain it. The State Government, in the furtherance to the sustainability of the Sanitation Campaign and also to ensure honest reporting has decided that all the Districts must take the following steps, to monitor the quality and quantity of work/activities being undertaken by the Non Govt. Organizations/ Support Organizations.

1. Formation of Guiding Principles for Payments to NGO's/ SO's under Total Sanitation Campaign.
2. Sustainability measures required at the Gram Panchayat level.

Guiding Principles for Payments to NGO's/ SO's under Total Sanitation Campaign:

- All the districts must devise a mechanism whereby the future payments of the NGOs/ SOs are linked to the verification of the ODF Status of the Panchayat



after the NGO/ SO submits the verification form provided as annexure-A. Regarding this the Districts could ensure that;

- MOUs of the NGOs/ SOs are suitably amended that the NGO/ SO receives only 30% of the payment after the GP is declared ODF (usage based) and the Status is so verified 100% for all the components of TSC by some independent agency like Development Block.
- The release of second instalment i.e. 40% should be contingent upon the sustainability of the ODF/ NGP status under the Sanitation campaign and also based upon random checks carried out by the District Water Sanitation Mission.
- The emphasis should be upon checking the authenticity of progress report submitted by NGO monthly, quarterly and yearly.
- The release of two other instalments @ of 15% each to concerned NGO/ SO should be made only after reviewing the status of progress made under the previous instalment. For this the district could develop the mechanism for ensuring quality management and sustainability.
- As the focus for the ODF GPs now would be on SLWM, before extending the term of NGOs/ SOs, the District should require them to submit their clear-cut action plan separately for SLWM, School & Anganwari Sanitation and for its Sustainability.
- In case of new appointments of NGOs/ SOs, the agreement should cover all the components of TSC with emphasis on its sustainability.
- Before making payments to the NGOs/ SOs the recommendations of the Block administration shall be taken so that there is greater co-ordination between the Blocks and the NGOs/ SOs.
- The NGOs/ SOs should be made responsible for the effective working of BLSC/ VLSC/ WLSC.



- NGOs / SOs, which work for the convergence of Solid/liquid Waste Management with other related Programmes, could be considered for some incentive under the Campaign.
- The agreement should specifically provide that, in case at any stage, the Reporting of NGP/ ODF status is found to be erroneous than the NGO/ SO would be liable for the refund of the instalments received thus far and it would also imply that the NGO/ SO would not receive any future instalment in respect of that GP.

Sustainability measures at the Gram Panchayat level:

In order to ensure that the Gram Panchayats which achieve Nirmal Panchayat Status either through self proclamation or through attainment of the Nirmal Gram Puraskar/ MVSSP do not slip back to the Open Defecation Status or suffer due to mismanagement of the Solid and Liquid Waste Generated in the its jurisdiction the District Water & Sanitation Mission should issue following directions:

- Each Gram Panchayat which claims ODF Status should pass a Gram Sabha Resolution in this respect and the claim should be addressed to the BDO as a proceeding of the Gram Sabha.
- All the blocks should be asked to verify that the claims of ODF Status at once, and incase this claim are found to be of false then the claim of such Panchayat should be publically rejected by the DWSM.
- In case the ODF/ NGP/ MVSSP winner GP fails to maintain ODF status than its right to claim such status should be withdrawn by the DWSM with public announcement of de recognition.
- DWSM should ensure that the ODF/ NGP / MVSSP winner GPs must maintain its status and for this each Panchayat should be directed to takes up the issue of present position of Sanitation in its Jurisdiction in each Gram Sabha Meeting as a regular agenda item.



- Since the Department of Health under NRHM has formed Village Health and Sanitation Committees (VHSC), the review of the present position of the Panchayat viz a viz Sanitation especially Open Defecation Free Status should also form an important component of its agenda items.

Inclusion of the left out/ newly added households in the Sanitation Campaign:

Since the Status of Nirmal Himachal cannot be achieved without ensuring coverage to all the households, each DWSM should make fresh survey of the newly constructed houses or recent migrations. In case the DWSM needs to add new households in its projects than the Districts could take up matter with the State HQ so that the project objectives for the District could be further enhanced.

But for the families which refuse to construct IHHLs, these could be persuaded by launching specially designed interpersonal contacts for which DWSM could direct the NGOs working with them and also its staff members dealing with Sanitation campaign to organize visits to these areas, so that these people are made aware of the health hazards posed by their callous attitude.
