



Grama swarajya samithi - Visakhapatnam swachh bharath swachh Vidyalaya (SBSV) project

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Introduction

Grama Swarajya Samithi (GSS) is a non - governmental organization involved in various developmental activities in Visakhapatnam District and the focus groups are children, women, tribal, rural and urban disadvantaged communities for the last 20 years. The 'Urban WASH - Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya' project, a three-year project that aims to promote sanitation, effective use and ownership of school Water, Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructure in 20 GVMC schools in Vishakhapatnam city is implemented through GSS and the benefactors are Plan India, USAID and Coca Cola India Pvt. Ltd. Through this project, around 6,000 girls and boys from 20 Greater Visakha Municipal Corporation (GVMC) schools are getting access to potable water and safe sanitation. It will enhance the capacity of key stakeholders particularly the school children, teachers, School Management Committees (SMCs), functionaries and communities in performing their responsibilities for ensuring quality WASH in schools. The project interventions contribute to the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) through the Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya component. It will address school sanitation and importance of segregation waste into degradable and non-degradable wastes. The project will create replicable models for municipal corporation school improvement program.

Description of solid waste

Around 6000 children from 20 schools segregate the waste generated from their day to day activities in the school and put the degradable and non-degradable waste into separate bins.

Mode of collection/ transportation/ processing

The collection of segregated waste is by the door collection agents of GVMC and it is transported and processed by GCMC.

How was it done

GSS has provided the separate dustbins to the schools for collecting the segregated waste. These wastes were removed daily from the schools by GVMC. The children are also encouraged to create awareness among their parents and their families also participated in the segregation of wastes and gave it to GVMC door to door waste collection staff. A committee was formed in schools to effectively implement and monitor the activities. The school level committees formed among the children gave information about segregation of the wastes during the morning assembly. A cluster of 5 schools were provided a GSS appointed hygiene promoter. They also closely monitor the schools. Capacity building trainings were organized for the children, teachers, school management committees, parents, midday meal cook and non-teaching staffs of the schools, public health department officials and local leaders. The participants were strongly discouraged from littering the roads, drains and public places. Twenty children's clubs were formed in the schools to motivate, guide and monitor the waste segregation activities. Hygiene promotion of committees were also formed in the slum areas. World Environment Day, World Water Day etc. were celebrated, organized campaign rallies, distributed IEC materials like wall papers, door stickers and cultural activities with the message were also organized to generate maximum awareness and involvement of the people to make the programme a success.

The Impact

Waste Management is a challenging issue in the city of Visakhapatnam. Segregation of waste and its proper disposal can alleviate this problem. It is very important to protect our natural resources, water bodies and beautiful beaches. Behavior change communication (BCC) have great impact on children and in turn they act as change agents. The children who got sensitized on waste management in turn sensitized their parents, friends and relatives. Through this kind of effective dissemination of knowledge, people of Visakhapatnam adopted the measures of the waste segregation and the local government implemented the schemes that ensured proper collection and ecofriendly disposal of wastes. This positive change happened due to the community interventions carried out by Grama Swarajya Samithi. We think it is a significant and sustainable change made possible through the efforts of GSS, Plan India, USAID and Coca Cola India Pvt. Ltd.

The programme could ensure 100% participation from the school children and about 85% of their families also participated in the segregation of waste. The GVMC ensured the safe disposal of segregated wastes.

Due to the effective implementation of the scheme, 2 GVMC schools were selected for Andhra Pradesh State Swachh Vidyalaya award.

Economic aspects

The project is implemented under Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya (SBSV)

programme funded by Plan India, USAID, Coca Cola India Private Limited.

Conclusion

The GSS-SBSV project has shown that children could be effectively utilized as game changers to alleviate the problem of garbage heaps in our habitats. Along with the children, the general public, different government and non-governmental agencies have a definite role to play in the efforts to make our habitats garbage free.

