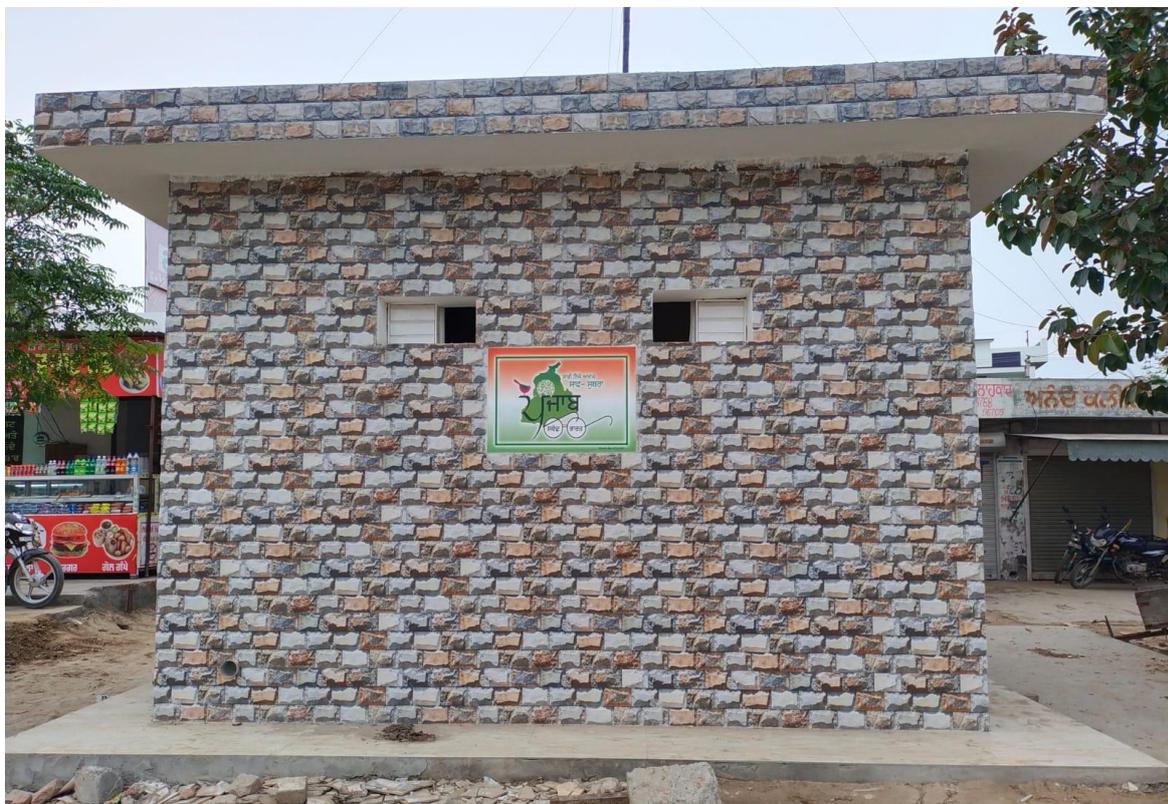


Punjab's Mansa Kanchian caters to the sanitation needs of the floating population



Finding a way to cater to the needs of the floating population and at the same time sustain the ODF status, Mansa Kanchian village in Mansa District of Punjab has constructed a community sanitary complex (CSC). The well-maintained facility with separate units for men and women will also provide for the needs of passengers who alight from buses that stop at the village.

CSCs built in public spaces are in accordance with the Phase II guidelines of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) to cater to migrants and the floating population.

Mansa Kanchian located near the border of Bathinda District is home to a population of 2500 individuals and 480 households. The main road on which the CSC has been built is frequented by travellers from neighbouring districts who often make a halt in the village.



To address the sanitation needs of such a floating population, the GP under the leadership of the Sarpanch, and the Panchayat Secretary held a meeting with its members, where they discussed issues related to sustaining the ODF status.

They learnt that in the absence of sanitation facilities on the main road, people including women who work in the fields or get down from the buses seeks spaces around the bus stop to relieve

themselves, often doing so in the open.

Hence the GP, as a first step looked for available land with proximity to the bus stop and with the consent of the community, panchayat members and shopkeepers decided to build a CSC near the main road that provided space for women, passengers, and the floating population to relieve themselves. They sent a proposal to the concerned Department under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II which was approved.

With the support and convergence of SBM(G) funds amounting to Rs. 2.10 lakhs and Rs. 90 thousand from the 15th Finance Commission grants that totalled Rs. 3 lakhs, the CSC was built. It took approximately 3 months for the facility to be functional on July 1, 2021, under the supervision of panchayat members and officials from the district.

The CSC consists of 4 bathrooms separate for men and women each measuring 67.5 sq. ft. While the women's section has one western and one Indian toilet, the men's section has 2 urinals with 2 wash basins.



The entire operation and maintenance are being supervised by the Gram panchayat and its members, who ensure its cleanliness with the help of a sanitation worker, employed for the purpose.

Plans are in the pipeline to charge a nominal fee for usage of the facility, which will go towards monthly incentive for the cleaner and other maintenance charges.

Reactions from GP leaders:

Smt. Birpal Kaur, Panchayat Secretary: The CSC in our village helps passengers who travel from afar to refresh themselves. I have seen so many women who approach our homes to find toilets and I personally felt the need for this facility which is a safe space for them.

Sh. Harbax Singh, Sarpanch: The idea to a CSC has contributed immensely to the sanitation needs of the floating population. We intend to focus on operations and maintenance of CSC to ensure sustainability of our ODF village.

Inputs: Ms. Aalia Ali, Governance Fellow, SBM (G) Punjab