Community sanitation through GWM in Karnataka's Haveri District

Liquid waste when managed efficiently, prevents the spread of disease while contributing to a cleaner environment. To ensure this, elected representatives and the residents of the Kodiyal Gram Panchayat (GP) in Haveri District of Karnataka adopted a nature-based technological option to treat their greywater before it joined the Tungabhadra River.

Situated on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, Kodiyal GP has a population of about 8500 with adequate water for all their needs. However, the wastewater generated in the GP would previously pollute the river that flowed alongside. The 'Nirmal Haveri' campaign was taken up to address this critical issue.

The pilot project was a combination of a two-stage sedimentation pond followed by a constructed wetland as inline treatment and a bypass drain to address the wet weather flow.

In this regard, the local administration together with engineers collected the necessary data, and based on the quantum of greywater generated, conceptualized the project, and identified suitable land. Design and drawings were prepared, and necessary approvals obtained from the Zila Panchayat of Haveri before the pilot project was commissioned.

The liquid waste management system is currently functional and effectively managing greywater generated in households.

Significantly, the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDW&SD) Karnataka has taken up initiatives to address Greywater Management (GWM) under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) Phase II and ODF Plus initiatives. In fact, the RDW&SD has given in-principle approval and released grants of Rs.205 crore which is 25 per cent of the total amount approved for GWM implementation under SBM (G) Phase II to 4464 GPs across the state.

These works also aid the works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the Department providing 55 LPCD of water of which about 70 per cent becomes wastewater. The Liquid Waste Management (LWM) structures will also ensure the sustainability of water sources.

RDW&SD has also carried out a special campaign “Swaccha Grama, Swaccha Parisara” during June 2020 under IEC and HRD activities, to educate the rural masses regarding greywater usage in their kitchen gardens. The advantages of reclamation of water and reducing dependency on freshwater for non-potable usage were emphasised.

The Department is also working towards the prevention of water pollution by commissioning both nature-based and cost-effective engineered technologies such as Waste Stabilization Ponds (WSP), constructed wetlands, sedimentation tanks, etc., to reduce the pollution load on the natural water sources.