

Karnataka Rural Sanitation Policy, Strategy and Byelaws for Waste Resource Management



“Sanitation is more important than independence” quoted by Mahatma Gandhi, this implies that proper sanitation and hygiene are essential for personal well-being and socio-economic development of the country.

The demand for fundamental services such as drinking water and sanitation has become a significant challenge, especially providing eco-friendly sanitation services to millions of people. It is even tougher in the country where the introduction of new technologies and laws may call into question the traditions and convictions of the people.

State and non-state organisations across the country have realised that existing sanitation management systems cannot help to achieve the intended results. To aid the effective implementation of sanitation schemes in the country with such challenges, it is necessary for the governing bodies to have structured regulations, defined roles and responsibilities, clearly defined waste management process, financial viability and monitoring of systems.

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD), Government of Karnataka is striving to achieve SDG 6 ‘Ensure access to water and sanitation for all’ and SDG 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”. As a part of implementation SBM (G), RDWSD has notified “Karnataka State Rural Sanitation and Waste Management Policy, Strategy and Model Bye-laws for SLWM-2020”. This is prepared based on SBM-G guidelines, Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act-1993, Environment Protection Act-1986, SWM Rules-2016 and PWM Rules-2016. This was drafted after due consultations with water and sanitation experts, general public, and various government departments.

The policy is strategic vision document to drive systematic implementation of rural sanitation programme. Strategy is a set of technical approaches and processes. Byelaw is a regulatory part for effective execution with special focus on solid and liquid waste management.

Karnataka is the first state to come up with such an endeavour in the country.

Based on the extensive consultations with water and sanitation experts, general public and various stakeholders including various government departments RDWSD has been able to

draft “Karnataka State Rural Sanitation and Waste Management Policy, Strategy and Model Bye-laws for SLWM-2020”.

Further, Government order was issued for implementation of Policy and Strategy in all the 6022 GPs on 12th March, 2020 and Bye-laws were published in Gazetteer as per provision of section 316 of Karnataka Panchayath Raj Act on 28th May, 2020.

The Karnataka State Policy on Sanitation and Waste Management drives the objective which includes guiding principles and approach, long term vision, goals and timelines to achieve the goals.

The Karnataka State Rural Sanitation Strategy describes the holistic approach for attaining the objective and includes guidance on technologies for retrofitting of toilets, solid and liquid waste management, financial resource planning, roles and responsibilities of different functionaries, information education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC), capacity building, monitoring and evaluation etc.

RDWSD is working towards ODF sustainability and ODF plus. 49,05,655 IHHLs and 2,111 Community Sanitation Complexes were constructed under SBM-G. In addition, with intent of innovation in improving access to and use of safe sanitation services the department has constructed 11,894 toilets in schools and anganwadis using special grants from the World Bank.

The department has achieved significant progress in constructing and operationalizing of 1,359 SWM units at GP level. To irradiate the mind-set of the people regarding the SLWM units, they are branded as “Swaccha Sankeerna”. These units are modernised with sanitary pad incinerators with a special aid from World Bank. RDWSD is taking up model ‘Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)’ in four geo locations to complete the loop in sanitation value chain.



In the LWM, grey water management is taken up in all the GPs under SBM (G), additional works are being mobilised through MGNREGS grants. Black water is being managed through

promotion of twin pits which also helps to eliminate human intervention in FSM. For the safe treatment of faecal sludge, sixteen FSSM plants are being built as models in different geo locations.

SHGs have been extensively trained to operate and maintain the infrastructure and system at the Swachha Sankeerna as revenue generating model. To aid to the implementation of byelaws in the field and address the sanitation and water related issues, the department has set up a Call Center (PARIHARA) with a dedicated phone number 9480985555. Citizens can register their queries and get it redressed within set timeframe.

The document can be downloaded from
<https://english.swachhamevjayate.org/documents/>.

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