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HGS (INDIA) LIMITED

Corporate Social Responsibility

Prime Minister Relief Fund – 2017-18

Executive Summary – Phase V



Preamble

Open Defecation is a big problem faced by our society. Despite the efforts from our Government and various NGOs, defecation in the open has been surprisingly resistant to solutions and is still posing a big threat. It can lead to various fatal diseases, stunted physical development and impaired cognitive function. A report by WHO-UNICEF says that 58 percent of Indians do not have access to proper sanitation & still defecate in the open. HGSI has decided to contribute to tackling this problem by building Community Toilets in rural areas in the NCR & surrounding areas.

For this purpose HGSI contacted Sulabh Sanitation & Social Reform Movement for their sheer experience and expertise developed over the years in tackling this particular issue. It is our belief that given proper awareness, infrastructure and facilities, open defecation would soon be a problem of the past and we could contribute to providing a better and hygienic living environment for the people of India.

HGSI has adopted the villages of Jatpura and Mukimpore in district Bulandshahar of Uttar Pradesh. HGSI has resolved to completely eradicate the problem of open defecation in these two villages. For this HGSI has decided to spread awareness about problems of open defecation and by organising “Awareness Camps” in these villages and construct community and individual toilets in the villages. HGSI is determined to make these villages completely ODF (Open Defecation Free) by 2020.

In PHASE-I, which was our Pilot Project, community toilets were constructed at 2 locations which were identified by HGSI and Sulabh after surveying the villages of Jatpura & Mukimpore in district Bulandshahar along with the Gram Pradhan and people of the village. These toilets were constructed primarily for women & children.

In PHASE-II, the local Jatpura- Mukimpore Inter-College was chosen for construction of a toilet complex. This location was decided upon the requests from the school principal and local villagers for constructing a toilet complex for both girls & boys. Earlier, the girls numbering over 500 were made to share a common toilet which was woefully inadequate for the number of users.

In PHASE-III, toilet construction was focused at individual homes of Jatpura villagers. The whole village was surveyed, and one area predominantly occupied by the under-privileged was selected for toilet construction. The chosen locality has no proper sewage system, with most of the waste/ sewage water accumulating in surrounding areas near fields. The situation was especially problematic for women and young girls, who travel considerable distances for daily routines, and after sunset hours being considered as unsafe. The construction of toilets inside individual homes of villagers would help provide them a basic life necessity and promote hygienic and respectful lives.

In PHASE-IV, individual homes of Jatpura villagers continued to be the focal point of toilet construction. Post a village survey, under-privileged households with no access to public toilets and lack of a proper sewage system were selected for implementation. Women and young girls were especially adversely affected by lack of accessibility to safe toilets. To improve sanitation and hygiene conditions for villagers, toilets were constructed inside individual homes.



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Contribution to Prime Minister Relief Fund

At the end of Phase IV of the toilet construction project, HGSI commissioned implementation and awareness campaign partner Sulabh to conduct a second survey on the use and implementation of previously constructed toilets at individual homes of villagers in Jatpura.

	November, 2016	July, 2017
Toilets in Use	58	30
Toilets in use but soak pit cemented	5	15
Toilets Not in Use	18	35
Toilets Demolished	4	5
Total:	85	85

As observed in the survey, during the period November 2016 to July 2017, the number of toilets in use fell to nearly half. In consultation with the survey agency, HGSI's CSR Committee evaluated the reasons for such poor usage of constructed toilets and attributed the same to lack of proper use of constructed toilet, cementation of soak pit, and or demolition or modification of toilets for other purposes.

Thus, the ongoing CSR project on toilet construction was somewhat unable to meet its expectations of impacting rural sanitation and hygiene conditions and practices. As a result, HGSI's CSR Committee took the executive decision to contribute INR 9.71 lakhs towards the Prime Minister Relief Fund, fulfilling its CSR obligations for the year 2017-18.