

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

### **Policy Asks from Odisha Vikash Conclave**

1. Provision of drinking water should be based on water security plan of that particular area/ habitation prepared by people and panchayat of that area. . All the drinking water provisioning / source creation must have inbuilt source sustainability measures from the beginning.
2. Water security must ensure availability of water at each individual household level instead of community level.
3. Enhance capacities of the local governance structures (gram panchayats in rural areas and urban local bodies in the urban areas) and empower them for effective use of devolution of power and shift of fund to the local bodies for operation and maintenance of drinking water system. This is most needed after the devolution of fund to PRIs under 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (Centre) and 4<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (State).
4. Considering the increasing momentum around Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and also the diversity of situation, there should be flexibility in terms of menu of options for toilets and choice of materials including local materials for construction of sanitation facilities. This is absolutely relevant in case of people residing in disaster prone, hilly terrain and inaccessible location.
5. Target oriented approach under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) should have also target oriented behaviour change inbuilt. Otherwise there will be huge number of toilets generated without ensuring quality and their usage. Faecal Sludge Management has to be an integral part of sanitation programme and sanitation needs to be treated beyond toilets. Closing the sanitation loop – from disposal to transportation to treat is rather more important than providing access to toilet.
6. Hygiene being the driver for effective use of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, no single department is accountable for this. Having little component in multiple departments programme is heading nowhere and because of lack of hygienic behaviour, improvement in services for drinking water and sanitation is yielding little result. Hence accountability needs to be fixed with respective departments for ensuring hygiene. Making one department responsible for this is ideal.
7. As one year is just going to be over and we have committed to achieve SDG by 2030, vision document on SDG should be prepared by Government of Odisha without delay with clear road map of its implementation and accountability. This is relevant for all the goals, not confined to goal no 6.