

Gitanjali is WASH and Hygiene Juggernaut

Gitanjali is busy in her multiple roles

Gitanjali Bagh from Basti Bikash-2, a settlement in Bhubaneswar city always wanted to contribute to change. Her means were small, but her dreams and abilities were not. Living in a small asbestos roofed house with her husband and three sons Sagar, Sandeep and Sangram, she remained active with ideas and responsibilities within her settlement. A housewife she was immersed in different developmental activities for the betterment of her settlement. She is infact the secretary of the Basti Bikash 2 community. Her husband Kabir is a daily laborer and is happy to let Gitanjali be in her myriad roles. Adding to her existing chores, she is happy and excited with her new role in the CFAR project, where she is a member of the Single Window Forum; and also a Covid Sachetak and Swachh Sathi.



Coordinates with Stakeholders for Septage Management

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has established a physical space for the location of a Single Window Forum in its premises which acts as a body where all WaSH related issues from different settlements are flagged off. The active members of the settlement level single window are delegated to work in the BMC single window.

Gitanjali who is a representative from her settlement goes to the BMC every day to collect and collate demands for de-sludging of septage and sends de-sludging vehicles to the settlements, by contacting government and private agencies involved in the work. Her managerial and leadership abilities are put to full use.

Is a Covid Sachetak!

As a Covid sachetak, she visits every house in her settlement, explaining the proper method of using masks, the rules of social distancing and demonstrates the methods of hand washing. Not just that, she accompanies Covid positive patients to the hospital, regardless of the personal risks associated. But while doing so she strictly follows the associated precautions. With the money

saved in her SHG group, she bought herself an oxymeter and carries it with her and checks the oxygen levels of the people who have cold and fever, lest they have Covid. As a Swachh Saathi, she has taken initiatives to ensure the cleanliness of her settlement as well as the settlements nearby.

Awareness, Coordination and Management - Gitanjali is everywhere

She goes to the BMC and submits applications for those who do not have toilets in their households. She sensitizes people on Septage Management which includes proper construction of toilets, collection of faecal material in the septic tank, cleaning the tank and transporting the waste, faecal treatment and reuse. She has organized awareness drives on safety and security of Safai Mitras. She informed the people in her settlement about the toll-free number (14420) issued by the government to complain against hazardous cleaning of septic tanks/ sewage lines, and to learn more about safe cleaning of septic tanks/ sewage lines as well as to register complaints of Safaimitras (Cleaning Volunteers) and sanitation workers.

Drainage and Garbage disposal

In her settlement, the people while building their houses left no space for the construction of drainage. She explained to them on the benefits of constructing drainage and walked the talk by contributing funds and space. As a result of her relentless campaigns, people now dispose garbage in dustbins and not outside the homes, or just anywhere, as in the past.



Swaccha Abhiyan

Her achievements are endless...



She has formed five Mahasanghas (Area level federations); she has constituted hundred self-help groups, and she has collected eighty work orders for the construction of toilets, as well as completing de-sludging of 50 septic tanks.

She now wants to implement the Government policies/ programmes on WaSH and FSSM in her settlement as well as in her vicinity. She is a WaSH and Hygiene juggernaut.