COMMUNITIES of the poor want sanitation for health and hygiene and dignity to defecate in privacy. For the Alliance of SPARC, Mahila Milan and NSDF, the commitment to minimum universal sanitation began way back in 1986, when women from the pavement settlements of Byculla pointed out that there could be no greater indignity than hiding one’s face while relieving oneself in the open.

Determined their children should escape such degradation, the Mahila Milan designed a ‘federation toilet block’ and, what’s more, developed community management strategies to ensure toilets were kept clean.

Neither the State, nor the poor, nor the private sector could effect a solution on its own. Communities therefore offered a simple partnership process to the city: the city bears the capital cost of construction while the communities design, construct, manage and maintain the toilets.

The Alliance’s first demo project (at Chikhalwadi, Mumbai in 1998) was followed by an invitation from Pune to explore providing minimum sanitation for the city’s slum dwellers. Mumbai followed suit. And today, the Alliance’s ‘Zero Open Defecation Campaign’ has marched beyond to cities in Andhra, Gujarat, Orissa, Pondicherry and TamilNadu.

A new toilet block at Villipuram is a great attraction for young and old

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Mahila Milan decided that their children should not face the humiliation of defecating in the open.

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Tirupur Toilets Mark Turning Point for Alliance

WHEN Sameer Vyas, IAS officer and MD of New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Ltd. (NTADCL), Tamil Nadu, heard of the community sanitation work of the Alliance, he immediately got in touch and visited the sanitation projects in Mumbai and Pune, in April.

Tirupur had already decided that it wanted to work on urban sanitation. Although a successful industrial town, employing thousands in its factories – it accounts for 75% of India’s knitwear exports – there is hardly any sanitation in the town slums.

This is where Vyas came into the picture. NTADCL had raised funds from the market to develop infrastructure for Tirupur and given a contract to engineering major L&T for laying sewage lines and building 2000 toilet seats across the city.

L&T however had no experience in constructing toilets in slums. They subcontracted the Alliance to do a survey of slum settlements to assess the need for sanitation facilities and to construct community toilet blocks.

For the Alliance, this was an important opportunity to collaborate with State authorities as also private agencies. It offered to organise communities and train them in construction and management of toilet blocks.

Tirupur marks a very important turning point for the Alliance not only in Tamil Nadu but in the country as a whole. Cities are now recognising that building toilets is not simply a technical construction exercise but rather, that successful community sanitation programmes are upheld by strong and organised communities. Because of its proven ability to mobilise people and build to scale, the Alliance is being approached for assistance with sanitation projects more frequently.

The Navdisha toilet at Govandi is an example to a city as far away as Tirupur in Tamil Nadu.

Community leader from the South addresses the Federation on sanitation issues.

Tirupur शौचालय गठबंधन के लिये महत्वपूर्ण मोड
First Time Federation

“I HAVE never met people who are so interested and eager to join us,” said Padmabhan, a veteran NSDF leader. He had just returned from a very successful visit to Tirupur where he led a team of 25 Federation leaders from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka, to assess the level of sanitation in the town’s slums.

The team had in-depth discussions with slum dwellers there and shared information on community built and managed toilets as also about the NSDF. Although there is a federation in neighbouring Coimbatore, this is the first time federation activity is being initiated in Tirupur.

Everyone was excited about the Municipality’s plan to follow the Alliance’s toilet model throughout the city. Working on community toilets – Federation-style – is a transforming experience. For the first time slum dwellers will have access to clean and affordable toilets. This has a very beneficial impact on the entire settlement’s (and especially women and children’s) health. Working together forges relationships between local leaders and municipal officials. Confidence grows within the community which is then geared to take on more complex issues such as acquiring land and housing.

Singareni Toilets Signpost for Hyderabad

WHEN construction started on the two-storey toilet block in Singareni slum on the fringes of the bustling city of Hyderabad, Twin Cities Slum Dwellers Federation coordinator Shankar recalls that at first local residents could not guess what sort of structure was coming up.

Some thought it was an apartment block, others that it was a health centre ...only to learn that the building, in fact, would house toilets.

Singareni is a large settlement of more than 6000 households, of mostly migrants from the tribal interiors of Andhra Pradesh. They work in the mines as well as do wage labour in the city. Singareni is a vibrant settlement, religiously diverse with a mix of Hindu, Muslim and Christian populations.

But there are no toilet facilities for its inhabitants. A graveyard
Pucca Toilets for Pushkaram

VIJAYWADA, on the banks of the Krishna river, is today a major agricultural, trading and business center, a dynamic city of a million residents spread across 57 square kilometres.

But consider that more than 50% of these residents live in informal settlements and slums. A majority of which are perched precariously along the canals and tributaries of the Krishna, without access to basic sanitation and sewerage facilities.

Add, that in August 2004, the city expected lakhs of pilgrims to flow in from all over the country to celebrate the famous Krishna Pushkaram, a festival that occurs once in 12 years – all needing basic amenities.

You can imagine the difficulty in providing sanitary facilities in a fix over Pushkaram works," municipal authorities there. ( Officials in a fix over Pushkaram works," reported a June edition of The Hindu).

The Vijaywada Corporation sought a grant from the A.P. State Government for major developmental works for the Pushkaram. Of this, Rs. 66 lakhs were allocated for water supply and Rs. 62 lakhs for sanitation.

Mahila Milan leaders Lizbeth Naidu and Meena Ramani from Mumbai, who are both successful community contractors today after their preliminary experience in Mumbai, are undertaking the construction work. It is the first toilet to be built by Mahila Milan community contractors in Hyderabad – pointer to the prospects ahead for community contracting in the country as a whole.

Naidu pointed out that water shortage was a major obstruction to construction. There was only one bore well, used only for four hours in the morning to conserve the water. Waste water from the kitchen/bathing spaces was led into pits outside the huts, and used for washing and cleaning, besides replenishing the ground water level. The highly saline groundwater could not be used for drinking so residents carried back drinking water from as far as two kms. away.

Mahila Milan, therefore, made it a point to install another bore well specially for toilet construction – which is now being used by slum residents for household purposes.

> at the back of the settlement serves as their open toilet – and for women, many of who are forced to go out in the dark, this a real threat to health and security.

The Alliance is constructing a 40-seater community toilet block here. But this is more than just a toilet block – it is a demonstration of the city of what is possible when poor communities work as partners in providing basic sanitation and housing to its worse-off citizens. What's more, the toilet design serves as model for the Municipal Corporation for future projects.

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Beyond Temporary Toilets

> Very often, the expenditure on upgrading sanitation infrastructure for local festivals is grossly wasteful, as typically huge amounts are spent on constructing temporary facilities which get dismantled post-festival.

This year too, temporary toilets were provided by agencies like Sulabh International in Vijaywada — but there was a small and crucial difference in the overall sanitation strategy of the city. It was decided that the Alliance, on its part, would construct permanent community toilet blocks which could be used even after the Pushkaram.

With bid accepted, SSNS, SPARC’s Section 25 not-for-profit construction company, geared up to construct 15 toilet blocks at sites designated by the Municipality — and alongside, organise slum communities to maintain and manage these blocks. All this in the extremely short time frame of six months, in readiness for the massive influx of pilgrims.

Community contractors from Mumbai, under the supervision of the AP Federations and assisted by the Alliance, took on the challenge of constructing the toilet blocks. Contractors like Mahboob and Liaquat Ali, who worked with the Alliance on the Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project, and Mahila Milan contractors Lizbeth Naidu and Meena Ramani were co-opted.

Mahboob has learnt to speak Telugu, while Naidu, having spent many months in Andhra, says she now calls herself ‘AP ki Naidu’ (a joking reference to the erstwhile Chief Minister of the State, Chandrababu Naidu).

Ramesh from the Twin Cities Slum Dwellers Federation, along with a team from the AP Feds and Parab from the Mumbai Railway Slum Dwellers Federation, oversaw the construction, and liaised with Vijaywada municipal authorities. Municipal engineers tirelessly supervised construction and engineering procedures.

The toilet blocks include counter-cum caretaker rooms to facilitate fee collection from communities. “Construction is only 10 percent of the job. The success of this model can be judged when communities are involved in maintaining and managing them,” said V’wada Corporation Commissioner Usha Rani.

During the Pushkaram festival, the toilets were managed and maintained by caretakers appointed by the AP Feds. Post-Pushkaram, Sulabh International is maintaining the seven toilet blocks at public locations, while eight toilet blocks have been handed over to the care of local slum communities.

Significantly, a brigade of toilet caretakers from Vijaywada began to participate in Federation activities and even attended NSDF’s Fifth National Convention in Mumbai.

**Talking of Toilets**

**Beyond Temporary Toilets**

> अधिकार राष्ट्रीय लोहारों के समार स्वच्छता संस्थाओं के सुधार पर खर्च विलक्कूल ज्यादा होता है क्योंकि आम टीयर पर अस्थायी स्वास्थ्य की निम्नलिखित में बहुत पैसा खर्च होता है और लोहार के बाद उन्हें हटा दिया जाता है। इस साल भी विज्ञापन में सुलाह इंटरफेरेंस जैसी ऐसीयांगीहरा अस्थायी संरचना बनाया गया — पर शहर की संरचना स्वच्छता योजना में एक छोटा पर महत्वपूर्ण अभाव था। यह निष्ठुरता का गण की गए कुलक, अपनी ओर से स्वच्छता संरचना स्वास्थ्य बनाया गया जो कि पुकार के बाद भारी कम होने जा सकते हैं। यह रूपरेखा मिलने के बाद स्वास्थ्य जीवन में विकास नहीं होगा और जीवन में ही परेर रखा।

**समुदाय संस्कृति**

महान और विज्ञापन अंकों के द्वारा लोहार देखकर उन्होंने मुंबई सीवेज डिस्पोजल परियोजना पर रक्षक के रूप में काम किया था और गैलिला मिलन के दौरान जिज्ञासा नायडू और मीना रामाणी चुने गए। महाबुब ने तेलुगु बोली सीखी थी और नायडू का कहना है कि इन्हें महीनों आई में भिड़ाने के बाद वे अपने आप की एपी की नायडू कहती हैं (श्याम के मुख्यमंत्री चंद्रबाबू नायडू के नाम से)। निम्नलिखित की देखभाल दुबारा शहर झोपड़ीवाली संस्थान के संस्थान और एपी. संगठनों के एक दल ने और मुंबई रेल्वे झोपड़ीवाली संस्थान के परवर्ती की। उन्होंने विज्ञापन, नाराजगीकर्ता प्राकृतिक के साथ भी मस्तहस्त की।

नाराजगीकर्ता इंजीनियरिंग ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने निम्नलिखित और इंजीनियरिंग खुदाईयों का अक्षरित निर्माण किया।

समुदाय संस्कृति में काउंटर एंव कंपाउंड बिल्डिंग का काम भी होता है जिससे समुदाय से शुल्क वसूलना सुविधाजनक हो सके।

“निम्नलिखित तो काम का सिर्फ 10 प्रतिशत है, इस मॉडल की सफलता का निर्णय तब होता है जब समुदाय इसके रखरखाव और प्रबंध में जुड़े हों”, विज्ञापन कार्यालय लोहारों को प्रबंध और रखरखाव एपी. की संगठनों द्वारा नियुक्ति संस्थाओं को हासिल किया गया। पुकार के बाद, आप जमानों पर लिखा शहर स्वच्छता संस्थाओं का प्रबंध सुलभ इंटरफेरेंस कर रहा है, जब तक आंध्र के नायडू स्वच्छता रायहर के अंतर्गत ओस्ट्रेलिया नियुक्ति संस्थाओं को दे दिये गये हैं। महान्यान है कि विज्ञापन से शहर स्वच्छता रखरखावारों का एक बड़ा डल संस्थान गतिविधियों में भाग लेते लगा है और मुंबई में एन.ए.ए. डी.एफ. के पांचवें स्टेट के अधिवेशन में भी आया था।
Overcoming Obstacles – MM Style

PUNE has been in the vanguard of the Alliance’s toilet construction program. Its construction wing, SSNS (the only non-profit agency involved) was awarded the tender for construction of 23 toilet blocks on the basis of the lowest bid offered.

The participation of Mahila Milan members (who are subcontracted by SSNS) as equal players in construction represents a major achievement for community contracting.

Not that the road was easy for the MM. For instance, members faced construction delays because they did not

Gavipuram
Guttahalli is Model for B’lore

GAVIPURAM
GUTTAHALLI
(a mouthful to say but a name to remember!)

was the chosen site for a federation-style toilet block that will hopefully become a model for the entire city of Bangalore.

Over 400 families live in this settlement and the old community toilet had fallen to disrepair and disuse without proper management and cleaning systems. Now a brand new two-storeyed toilet block with a circular stairway stands in its place.

Gavipuram-Guttahalli बैंगलोर के लिये मॉडल

गावीपुराम-गूटहल्ली (बोलने में लम्बा पर याद रखने लायक नाम है) चुना गया समृद्ध के तरीके का शौचालय संकुल बनाने के लिये, और आशा है कि यह पूरे बैंगलोर शहर के लिये मॉडल बन जाएगा। इस बस्ती में 400 से अधिक परिवार रहते हैं और पुराना शौचालय ढंग से रखना व सफाई न होने के कारण खराब और बेकाबू हो गया है। अब उस की जगह एक बिलकुल नया दो मंजिला, गोल सीढ़ी बना संदर्भ संकुल खड़ा है।

TOILET BLOCKS FOR SHILLONG:
Inspired by the community toilet design, a team from the Gangtok Water & Sanitation Project is supporting the building of similar blocks in Shillong. Team-members were introduced to the design at the Universal Sanitation workshop organised by the Alliance in March ’04. On a later visit to Mumbai and Pune to understand the Alliance’s work better, the Gangtok team was specially impressed by the children’s toilet mould.

Shillong के लिये शौचालय संकुल: समृद्ध विज्ञापन से प्रेरित, गंगटोक जल एवं स्वच्छता परियोजना इस पक्ष के शौचालय संकुल शिल्लिंग में बनाने का समर्थन कर रही है। गंगटोक द्वारा मार्च ’04 में की गई आचारिक स्वच्छता कार्यशास्त्र में दल के सदस्यों का यह इंजिनियर रखा, एवं बाद में गटकोल के दल के विभागों के लिये मूल सिद्धांत और पूर्ण व प्राचीन प्राप्ति में गंगटोक के तरीके का दल का शौचालय बनाने के निमित्त रूप से प्रस्तुत आया।
The Case of the Unbuilt Toilet

ANITATION, for the Alliance, is not just about constructing toilets. It is also about creating transparency, surmounting red tape and fighting corruption, and ultimately, about changing the power relationship between the poor and the city.

Here’s another illustrative case from the ‘Politics of Shit’ file. SPARC received a legal notice accusing it of delaying and obstructing construction of a toilet block in North Mumbai. This was startling to say the least – since despite local political opposition and threats, SPARC had been doing its best to complete the job. There had been a temporary pause in construction work, true, but that was because on two different occasions, local police officials hauled away SPARC appointed labourers from the site and in one case, even the toilet contractor. That too, without giving cause.

The truth then emerged that a local politician wanted to build toilet blocks in his’ slum with the help of MP funds – while the Alliance’s community-style toilets are directly opposed to this patronage style development. SPARC filed a reply in the Mumbai High Court, and later contacted the Mumbai Police Commissioner when labourers were again locked up on baseless charges.

Balancing different interests must be tough on the Municipality as well. Ultimately, the Municipality withdrew permission to build a toilet in the slum. Such are the twists and turns that take place in the ongoing saga of community toilet construction...

> The MM ladies, of course, met this challenge in their own inimitable way. Narrates Jyothi Bhende, “The other day, I was in an auto returning from Hadapsar (site of a relocation project) when I saw a municipal van pass by. I immediately asked the auto driver to follow. I wanted to know where the van was going, because no one had come to our construction site for almost a week. The sludge had accumulated and the local residents were beginning to get anxious. I made the driver pull the auto up in front of the van and asked the driver why he had been avoiding our sites. He hemmed and hawed till over a cup of tea I stressed how important it was for him to take the sludge away because of the ill effects it could have on the residents’ health... The very next day, we were all very happy to see the van arrive and take away truckloads of the stuff!”

> Utadharapanukta mahila milan vahon ko nirman mein dehri ka saamana karna padha kyon ki humne purna sandais tadbhane ke bad kichhad hotane ke liye nijhi thokdara ke naye mantralaya karmchari ke rishtey nahe din thi. Mahila milan kare nuvadhe ke zameen chutti ki sahmane aane ke teri ke kise thiy. Jyothi mahe beatahi se ‘us din hain hangarshos se vapan aate hue aotda ke thi ke mene mantralaya ki gaddi ko jaate dekh. Mene foraan abharikshavan ko utarak poleh kare ke khaan. Mene deekhna chah rehi thi ke gaddi keh ja thah thi, khojhi hame mehranum sahre sait par ek harhe se koi na dekh se aaya the. Kichhad ekdhi rehi thi thi dehri ke padhey rehie jaha chhirit hota hain ro se the. Mene gaddi ke samane anana aotda padha karaapan aur unse jhukden dehri ko puch se koi thi ke vahan sahre pahal par kah thi nahe aha reha the. Tho here-udeh kare na khaa. Fikr mene ‘us se vahan pinjari thi aur gaddi ke kichhad le karna kina kinha jahithi thi thi bah hain rane wale sab beemar padh jakayenge... Amal rehi dni ham sab khaa hain gade woh gaddi adhi aur dehri kichhad degi.”

The Case of the Unbuilt Toilet

SANITATION, for the Alliance, is not just about constructing toilets. It is also about creating transparency, surmounting red tape and fighting corruption, and ultimately, about changing the power relationship between the poor and the city.

Here’s another illustrative case from the ‘Politics of Shit’ file. SPARC received a legal notice accusing it of delaying and obstructing construction of a toilet block in North Mumbai. This was startling to say the least – since despite local political opposition and threats, SPARC had been doing its best to complete the job. There had been a temporary pause in construction work, true, but that was because on two different occasions, local police officials hauled away SPARC appointed labourers from the site and in one case, even the toilet contractor. That too, without giving cause.

The truth then emerged that a local politician wanted to build toilet blocks in his’ slum with the help of MP funds – while the Alliance’s community-style toilets are directly opposed to this patronage style development. SPARC filed a reply in the Mumbai High Court, and later contacted the Mumbai Police Commissioner when labourers were again locked up on baseless charges.

Balancing different interests must be tough on the Municipality as well. Ultimately, the Municipality withdrew permission to build a toilet in the slum. Such are the twists and turns that take place in the ongoing saga of community toilet construction...

> follow the private contractors’ practice of bribing municipal workers to take away sludge resulting from demolition of old toilets.

> उदाहरणस्वरूप महिला मिलन पहलों को निर्माण में देरी का सामान करना पड़ा क्योंकि हमने पूर्ण संदेह लोटने के बाद कीचक हटाने के लिए निजी ठेकेदारों के नई मन्त्रालय कर्मचारियों के रिश्ते में नहीं दिया था। महिला मिलन के महिलाओं ने इस लूटा का सामान आने ही तरहसे स्थानीय राजनीति की गाड़ी जाते देखा। मुंबई महानगरकर्ता के स्थानीय कार्यालय में शहर भागीड़ी की गाड़ी के साथ आए थे। मुंबई के समने आना अंदों बड़ा बाज़ार कर्मचारी बना कर रहा था। समने आना की निमित्त काम कुछ समय के लिए रुका था, पर फिर इससे दो अलग अलग बार स्थानीय पुलिस अधिकारी स्थानीय कार्यालय द्वारा लागे गये मजदूरों को वहां से पकड़ कर ले गए और एक बार तो शहरी स्थानीय ठेकेदारों को उन्हें ले गए, जो भी बिना कोई वादा करते। सच्चाई सामने आई तो पता चला कि एक स्थानीय राजनीति ‘अपनी‘ झोपड़ी में एम. पी. फंड की सहायता से शहरी स्थानीय संस्था बनाना बाधित था – जबकि गद्दीबन में समाजवादी आधारित शहरी स्थानीय इस तरह के संस्करण तरीकों के विविध विश्वास है। स्थानी भुमि मुंबई ऊर्जा में उद्योग और बाद में यह फिर से मजदूरों पर उत्पाटन अभियोग लगाकर उन्हें बंद किया गया तो हमने मुंबई पुलिस कमिश्नर से लांच किया। दिनदह बनों को संबंधित करना न्यायालय के द्वितीय चरण में करना है। आखिर न्यायालय ने झोपड़ी में शहरी स्थानीय सिद्धांत के निर्माता चर्चा घेराबंध और धुमधाम में पड़ी।
Ah‘bad Gets its First Community Toilets

WITH the Ahmedabad Municipality finally coming through on its promise to permit the Ahmedabad Slum Dwellers Federation to build the city’s first two community toilet blocks, construction took off with a bang. It’s been a very exciting time for everyone, with the ASDF already set to push the authorities to scale up the project citywide.

When NSDF and Mahila Milan leaders from Mumbai visited Ahmedabad in 2003, they helped the ASDF identify priority locations for the toilet blocks: One was Shankar Bhavani, a strongly federated area where an old municipal toilet served as an open garbage dump. Another was Nagori Kabarasthan, where the community toilet was in complete disrepair and had to be demolished and re-built.

Since this second slum hosts the main federation centre, leaders felt it was an important location to launch such an initiative. This toilet is now in the final stages of construction.

Ahmedabad Gets its First Community Toilets

Ahmedabad, Nagpur, other cities are also getting community toilets. This month, the Ahmedabad Slum Dwellers Federation (ASDF) finally got permission to build the city’s first two community toilet blocks. Construction took off with a bang.

The Ahmedabad Fed finally got permission to build the city’s first two community toilet blocks. Construction took off with a bang. Below, Fed members visit Mumbai.

The Ahmedabad Fed finally got permission to build the city’s first two community toilet blocks. Construction took off with a bang.

Below, Fed members visit Mumbai.

Ahmadabad को
पहले समुदाय
शौचालय मिले

हमदाबाद नगर पालिका ने आखिर अपना बातचीत पूरा किया कि वो अहमदाबाद झोपड़ीहरू के संगठन को शहर के पहले दो शौचालय संकुल बनाने को निर्देशित कर दिया। निर्माण का काम जोरों से चालू है। सभी के लिये बड़ा उल्लासवर्धक समय था। और एन. एस.डी.एफ. ने जिस चीज़ के लिये ऐसा किया था कि वो अहमदाबाद में की गई निर्माण कार्य को पूरा करेगी, तो तैयार तैयार था। इस प्रकार निर्माण का काम सकारात्मक लागू हो गया।

चढ़ाई बढ़ाना

ये कहानी है उस शौचालय की जो पहाड़ चढ़ कर बनाया गया। पहाड़ी पहाड़ी पर शौचालय बनाने वाले मुंबई के अमोल पत्र कहता है, “इस साइट पर संदर्भ निर्माण का सामना लाना बड़ी समस्या थी। गोलीय संकट था और चढ़ाई थी इसलिए इसहारे में कोई क्रूः नहीं आ सकता। इसलिए हमें संगठन की साइट लेकर माल ले जाने के लिये मजदूरों को पैसे देने पड़े थे।” इस केस में स्पष्ट दर्ज को सिस्टेम का अपने बाँट में ‘टॉड’ के लिये अतिरिक्त खर्च का प्रावधान रखें। “टॉड” का महत्त्व मुरंज जगहों पर माल ढोने के लिये दिया गया पैसा। इस बीच में परियोजना पर काम जोरों से चालू है।
Why is Sanitation Like Cinderella?

In development discussions, the issues of water and sanitation are always clubbed together. What ends up happening however is that the scarcity of clean water becomes a focus, while the debate on lack of sanitation ends up as a fight between technical experts on the best way to manage and treat waste. Sanitation, in other words, gets the stepsisterly or Cinderella treatment.

For women living in slums and on the pavements, sanitation is, of course, the first priority. Without access to toilets, they are forced to defecate in the open, preferably under the cover of darkness. Often they don’t eat or drink anything all day because of the fear of having to go to the toilet. Many suffer from severe health and emotional problems since, for them, answering nature’s most basic call is a daily humiliation.

Even when very senior and highly committed development experts discuss the issue, sanitation is only seen as an ‘environmental hazard’. And thus for the poor living in third world cities, their aspirations to get a clean and secure habitat is relegated to a sub-set of an environmental goal – rather than being recognised as a key goal in itself.

The reality is that lack of adequate water and sanitation flow from the lack of equitable governance. As the Alliance points out, although the urban poor do face a serious water crisis, there’s always a better chance of getting water – whether by stealing, exchanging, paying or fighting for it.

For women living in slums and on the pavements, sanitation is always a better chance of getting water – whether by the urban poor do face a serious water crisis, there’s always a better chance of getting water – whether by stealing, exchanging, paying or fighting for it.

The case of sanitation is very different. Slum dwellers simply cannot access sanitation without institutional help. Over the past two decades, the Alliance’s effort therefore has been to mobilise communities to voice their demand for sanitation. The community toilet block model which it advocates is designed by women from pavements and slums, and is currently being implemented right across the country.

Models of a slum house and toilet were set up in the UN lobby by SDI when the Millennium Development Goals were announced in 2000.

The occasion was the announcement of the UN Millennium Development Goals for poverty eradication.

IT WAS probably the most unusual exhibit ever put on show in the lobby of the UN in New York. People flocked in large numbers...to see the model of a third-world community toilet block set up by Slum/Shack Dwellers International in year 2000. The occasion was the announcement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for poverty eradication.

The community toilet block model which it advocates is designed by women from pavements and places maintenance in the hands of organised slum communities. This model is currently being implemented right across the country.

June 2005

Alliance’s Jockin briefs UN Chief

Kofi Annan

Jockin ne santath ka praveachan ya punya youth sarva ko kanya ananand se karaya.