

## Sanitation for People: Assessing socio-cultural realities of sanitation practice in Indian cities

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Venue:** Conference Hall, Centre for Policy Research

**Time:** 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

**RSVP:** [sci-fi@cprindia.org](mailto:sci-fi@cprindia.org)

### The Topic

The Scaling City Institutions for India: Sanitation (SCI-FI: Sanitation) initiative at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) is pleased to organize a half-day workshop to discuss the findings from three studies conducted on gender and socio-cultural issues relating to urban sanitation – 1. ‘Infrastructure, gender and violence: Women and slum sanitation inequalities,’ 2. ‘Ethnography of Sanitation in Small Towns: Angul and Dhenkanal’ and 3. Learnings from the Micro-politics of Sanitation Provision, Access and Negotiation in Mumbai’s Informal Neighbourhoods.

Presentation 1: Infrastructure, gender and violence: Women and slum sanitation inequalities

By Dr. Susan Chaplin (CPR)

The needs of the urban poor living in slums and informal settlements are largely omitted from infrastructure planning process because of the illegality of their housing – the primary victims of which are women. This research project, conducted in Mangolpuri, a resettlement colony in West Delhi, and Kusumpur Pahari, a large slum in South Delhi, aims to understand these gender-based repercussions of the active as well as passive infrastructural violence perpetuated by the nature of toilet access made available to the urban poor. The study also looks at the lived

experiences of sanitation for women working in formal markets.

Presentation 2: Ethnography of Sanitation in Small Towns: Angul and Dhenkanal

By Anju Dwivedi and Dr. Ranjita Mohanty (CPR)

The study aims to provide a deeper socio-cultural understanding of urban sanitation in small towns. It explores the extent and ways in which socio-cultural norms, behaviour and practices influence sanitation in small towns. For the purpose of the study, 11 unauthorised slums in Dhenkanal and a total of 10 slums in Angul, out of which 5 authorised, and 5 unauthorized slums in Odisha were covered. The study has given special consideration to perceptions and practices of the poor towards sanitation, and includes aspects such as caste, religion, gender, tradition and custom, ritual, and kinship that influence sanitation practices. Based on the findings, the study also suggests how policies and programmes can effectively address these issues.

Presentation 3: Learnings from the Micro-politics of Sanitation Provision, Access and Negotiation in Mumbai’s Informal Neighbourhoods

By Dr. Renu Desai, Research Fellow, Centre for Urban Equity, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

This presentation will discuss two key learnings emerging from research undertaken in 2009-11 along with Colin McFarlane and Steve Graham for the “Everyday Sanitation” project at Durham University, UK. The presentation interrogates how people’s everyday experiences, interactions and practices constitute sites of entitlement, and urges us to incorporate this understanding into thinking about sanitation policy and

interventions aimed at achieving universal access to sanitation. It also examines how open defecation emerges in the two informal settlements through everyday embodied experiences, practices and perceptions forged in relation to the materialities of informality and infrastructure. It does so by tracing the micro-politics of provision, access, territoriality and control of sanitation infrastructures; everyday routines and rhythms, both of people and infrastructures; and experiences of disgust and perceptions of dignity.

### **ABOUT Scaling City Institutions for India: Sanitation (SCI-FI:Sanitation)**

The SCI-FI: Sanitation Project at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) aims at cross-sectoral and policy-relevant research for urban sanitation. Since 2013, the project has focused on research related to governance and programme implementation in this sector. It has engaged with local, state and national governments to generate research questions and advise them in policymaking and programme implementation, and assist them in working with alternative technologies and service delivery models. Current research and initiatives under the programme relate to institutional, financial, legal and socio-cultural dimension of sanitation in Indian cities. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to public discourse and understanding of issues, challenges and options relating to urban sanitation.

### **Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>11:00-11:15</b>	Introduction & Setting of context
<b>11:15-11:45</b>	Presentation on 'Infrastructure, gender and violence: Women and slum sanitation inequalities in Delhi' by Susan Chaplin
<b>11:45-12:15</b>	Presentation on 'Ethnography of Sanitation in Small Towns: Angul and Dhenkanal' by Anju Dwivedi and Ranjita Mohanty
<b>12:15-12:30</b>	Tea Break
<b>12:30-1:00</b>	Presentation on 'Learnings from the Micro-politics of Sanitation Provision, Access and Negotiation in Mumbai's Informal Neighbourhoods' by Renu Desai
<b>1:00-1.45</b>	Open Discussion and Questions
<b>1:45-2:00</b>	Closing remarks