

Dr. Megha Phansalkar -Manifesto Statement 2 Major areas needing attention

*As a steering committee member I wish to add value in bringing Community led WASH Governance for last mile service delivery, enterprise development towards livelihood and knowledge management. I believe that **Community led WASH Governance is a key to achieve and sustain an Open Defecation Free(ODF) society. Sanitation can become a livelihood opportunity for entrepreneurial women through convergence approach with other developmental initiatives.***

As a potential Steering Committee member, I have a manifesto that aligns with the WSSCC expected outcomes as mandated by the council and elaborated in the global activities supported by it. The key areas of focus are Access & Usage, Equity, Involvement, Knowledge and Skills & Delivery. My aim is to work towards a holistic and comprehensive approach that calls for concentrated efforts both by leveraging and investing for sanitation , hygiene and water supply to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The emphasis would be on commitment to equity for poor and marginalized communities to ensure that the global, regional and national level works, propagated by WSSCC, are fully integrated with each other.**

Community led Wash Governance:

- I strongly believe that the Community led WASH Governance would enable institutions to support access to sanitation through convergence and partnerships. It would empower the local communities to decide and manage their sanitation. Governance mechanisms in hand with the community institutions can improve the last mile service delivery.
- There are many inspiring examples of partnerships with communities and local self-governments to overcome difficulties and achieve social objectives of connecting marginalized people with water and sanitation services. I intend to build on the same through WASH governance.
- The pillars of WASH governance which I wish to promote are partnerships, participation, transparency and accountability. They would improve access & usage focusing on equity, involvement, knowledge, skills & delivery to participate in the development process, while removing barriers against those who are often excluded.

Sanitation Enterprise as symbiotic partnerships with women's Groups

- Having worked with community institutions for many years, I have understood that the presence of community institutions and their federations provide a strong foundation for community driven enterprises, especially in the agenda for human development.
- With the twin goals of ending poverty and improving human development indicators, water sanitation and hygiene activities are integrated into the rural livelihood programs across the globe, which needs to be mainstreamed with innovations.
- Focusing on convergence the manifesto aims to empower community institutions to provide sustainable sanitation services linked with livelihood opportunities through an enterprise model.

My manifesto strongly advocates opportunities for empowerment of women by involving them in the decision making and implementation process of water and sanitation initiatives , open defecation free societies, pooling of resources and promoting women-centric entrepreneurship.