

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am pleased to present this year's annual report for the Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE). This year has been a time of significant growth and innovation as we continue our mission to uplift marginalized urban communities.

Our work has focused on critical areas such as water, sanitation, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. We have made considerable strides in improving access to essential services and fostering community engagement. Through our initiatives, we have empowered individuals, particularly women and the urban poor, to take charge of their futures and build more resilient communities. A notable aspect of our efforts has been the integration of digital solutions to enhance economic opportunities and promote sustainability. Additionally, we have emphasized the importance of education and environmental stewardship, ensuring that our work not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for long-term improvements.

These achievements are a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, as well as the invaluable support of our partners and donors. Your contributions have been crucial to our success, and we are deeply grateful for your continued commitment.

As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to developing sustainable and impactful solutions that address urban challenges. Together, we will continue to create a more inclusive and resilient future for the communities we serve.

Warm regards,

Renu Khosla

Director, Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE)

ABOUT CURE

The Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) is a not-for-profit, ‘unthinking’ development organization that works with urban, informal, and low-income communities. CURE’s strength is its communitarian approach. CURE believes that community participation is a ‘powerful organizing ideal’ – the scaffolding that fosters sustainable development in and of communities. It seeks to build real and meaningful partnerships in cities that contribute to the plan and design of local interventions. CURE facilitates processes that enable people to come together, recognize their problems, articulate their needs and concerns, and plan solutions designed to improve the quality of their lives with equitable solutions for basic urban services - taps and toilets at home, housing, livelihoods, health care etc.

Mission Statement

CURE's mission is to achieve three goals; reconnected urban societies that take informed decisions to ensure sustainable urban development; strengthened local agencies with capacities for participatory community development and real evidence built from the ground up for effective service delivery.

Vision Statement

CURE India envisions a world where all people are equal and must get access to an equal level of services. CURE believes in demonstrating several integrative models of sustainable urban development where the poor are enabled to build home toilets and houses, connect to potable drinking water, get access to waste management services, harvest rainwater and be water resilient and improve their living environments.

Approach

Communitarian approach of CURE in its work advances the resilience of urban community by enabling them to identify and prioritize their concerns, make choices and agree on solutions,

prepare development plans and strategies for implementation, contribute resources and share in the maintenance of facilities. This approach helps connect the individual with the community.

OUR WORK AREA

The Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) adopts a communitarian approach at the heart of its core strategies. This approach measures the return on investment by the resilience and self-sufficiency of the communities, empowered to drive their own success stories with minimal intervention from CURE. Leveraging innovative engineering designs and methods, CURE ensures comprehensive and sustainable ecological solutions that integrate people seamlessly into the city's fabric. By partnering with like-minded donor organizations, various agencies, and government departments, and with active community involvement, CURE has focused its efforts on areas with the greatest need, striving to bring dignity and improved living conditions to people's lives.

CURE works with urban informal and low-income communities to un-think, reimagine, innovate and de engineer solutions to include and integrate people in the processes of city development. CURE works on several issues to make a sustainable change in the lives of people by engaging the community to take pride in the improvement of their neighborhood, nurturing them to be equal and make them capable and resilient.

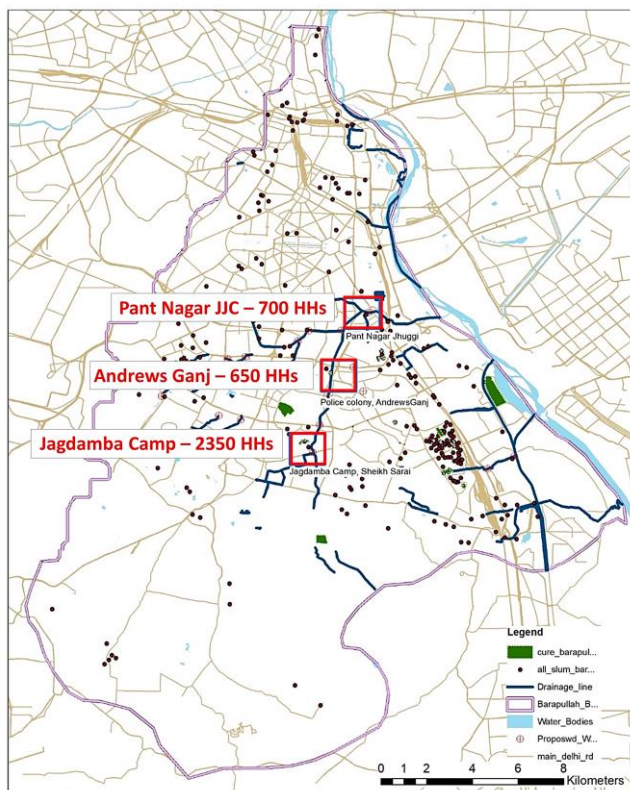
Some of the focus areas of work are:

- Slum upgrading
- Water
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Environment
- Housing
- Livelihood

THE WATER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY HUB PROJECT

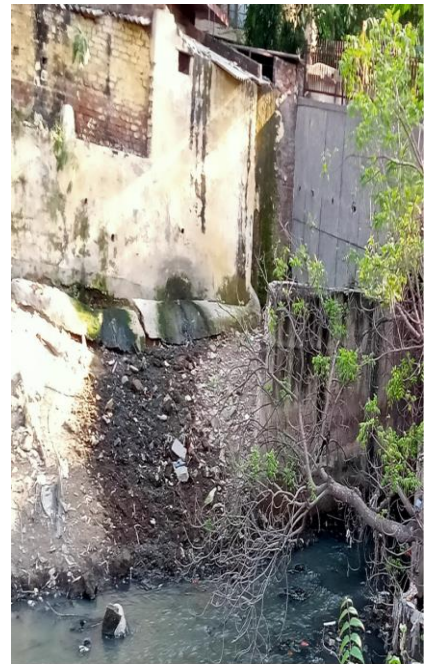
The Water Security and Sustainability Hub project along the Barapullah drain in Delhi is a pioneering initiative addressing water and sanitation issues holistically. It aims to improve water quality, hygiene practices, and prevent waterborne diseases. The project currently operates in three settlements: Jagdamba Camp, Andrews Ganj, and Madrasi Camp, where various efforts have been undertaken throughout the year to tackle water-related challenges and enhance community engagement.

Key activities included resource mapping to identify community needs and assets, forming groups to foster collective action, and conducting water quality and quantity testing. A survey of toilets was conducted to plan for sanitation improvements, and water pressure measurements were taken to identify areas needing better supply. These activities not only collected essential data but also actively involved residents, raising awareness and empowering them to participate in sustainable water and sanitation improvements.



Water Hub project location and its water related issues

The project has expanded its focus to include sanitation. Multiple assessments and surveys have been conducted to identify key issues in the area. Advanced GIS tools are being used to map affected areas continuously, collect crucial data, and guide informed decision-making for targeted actions and sustainable infrastructure solutions.



Waste water discharge from the pipes directly to the drain making drain more polluted in Barapullah settlements



The toilet was built just along the drain line. Toilet pipelines from different houses directly connecting to the drain lines

PASS (PANI AUR SWACHHTA MEIN SAJHEDARI) PROJECT

The PASS (Pani Aur Swachhta mein Sajhedari) project, supported by USAID, has focused on enhancing water-related infrastructure in select slum areas of Dharamshala, Sharnli, Ghaziabad, Shahjahanpur, and Jaipur. Central to this project is community engagement, which fosters local ownership and promotes behavioral changes in hygiene practices and water conservation. By collaborating with local governments and communities, PASS has employed innovative strategies to advance water sustainability and resilience.

A notable initiative within the project is the implementation of rainwater harvesting systems. These systems effectively manage stormwater and reduce reliance on external water sources by collecting rainwater for agricultural and domestic use. This initiative helps alleviate the strain on municipal water supplies, particularly during periods of high demand. The combination of educational programs and infrastructure improvements provides a comprehensive approach to sustainable urban water management.

PASS also prioritizes decentralized wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS) as a key component of its sanitation strategy. These systems are vital for environmental conservation and reducing health risks associated with inadequate sanitation. By ensuring clean water bodies and promoting sustainable practices, PASS tackles sanitation challenges and engages communities through its PUSH initiative (Promote Urban Sanitation Habits). PUSH equips residents with knowledge and tools to adopt better sanitation habits, fostering community ownership and resilience in low-income and slum settlements.



Individual and Community rainwater harvesting systems

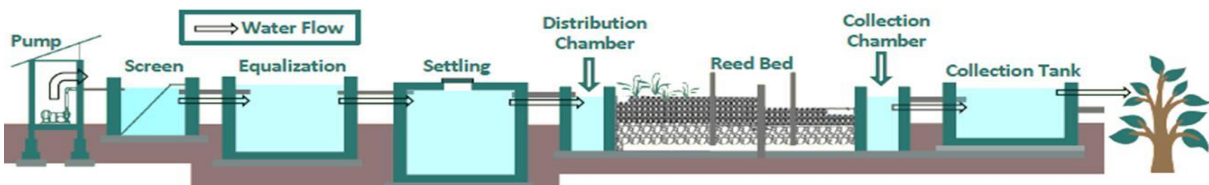
RESILIENT SCHOOL FUNDED BY FINCHAM

The Resilient Schools project, funded by FINCHAM, focused on enhancing educational environments across multiple schools, including Dayalpur School, New Ashok Nagar School, and Gurugram School. The project prioritized upgrading WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure by installing new handwashing and drinking water platforms and improving discharge systems. Creative activities, such as drawing competitions and utilizing waste to create awareness materials, were conducted throughout the year, fostering creativity and environmental awareness among students.

Rainwater harvesting systems were implemented in the schools to collect and store rainwater from rooftops and surfaces. This water is utilized for irrigation, toilet flushing, and supplementing local water resources, reducing dependence on external sources. This initiative promotes sustainable water management within the schools and the surrounding community, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship among students and residents. Additionally, groundwater recharge mechanisms were established to replenish underground aquifers, playing a critical role in maintaining sustainable groundwater levels essential for long-term water availability and ecosystem health.

The project also emphasized integrating community engagement with school improvement efforts. Parents, teachers, and local stakeholders were involved, ensuring the sustainability and ownership of the initiatives. By combining infrastructure upgrades with educational and environmental goals, the Resilient Schools project serves as a scalable model for addressing urban challenges. This approach creates resilient schools, enhances infrastructure, and improves educational opportunities, benefiting students and the broader community.

Furthermore, the Resilient Schools project focused on improving sanitation and hygiene protocols in Delhi schools. Upgraded WASH infrastructure included new handwashing stations, drinking water platforms, urinals, and restrooms. Community involvement was crucial, engaging parents and promoting environmental stewardship through group projects and creative activities like drawing, crafting from waste, and collaborative conversations between teachers and students. The initiative's blend of infrastructure improvements, educational initiatives, and community engagement fosters long-lasting positive change in school environments, serving as a model for comprehensive school and community development.



Shamli Dewat System

Ground Water Recharge



Rainwater Harvesting



Rainwater harvested (FINCHAM)



Save Water Activity with community children



Awareness programme with students about Waste segregation and composting in Delhi and Gurgaon school

THE FINE PROJECT

The Financial Innovations to Empower Women for Better Health Outcomes (FINE) project, supported by Ford Foundation, was actively addressing health disparities among women in 12 slum settlements in Delhi and 8 in Agra. The project was designed to improve health outcomes and lives of urban poor people, particularly women, through curation of innovative, sustainable, and scalable health care financing options and ecosystem-based solutions.

The initiative introduced innovative healthcare financing models like Micro Health Insurance, a Health Card or Digitally Discounted Model, and the Livelihood Linked Health Savings Model. Particularly successful, the latter organized women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), encouraged savings for emergency health needs, provided small loans, and imparted financial literacy. Livelihood development includes training in skills such as macramé, crochet, and sanitary pad production, coupled with business management training and market exposure to bolster income-generating activities. As a result, approximately 400 women in Delhi and 85 in Agra have collectively saved nearly Rs16 Lakhs over 14 months.

Health mobilization activities were undertaken to collaborate with urban health centers, community health workers, and health insurance providers to raise awareness on menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and preventive healthcare. Workshops and health camps were organized to provide essential services, fostering improved health-seeking behaviors.



Training, Strengthening, Scaling and Sustainability. (FINE)

SHRAMM

CURE collaborated with the University of Virginia, USA, on the SHRAMM project to evaluate the effectiveness of the WorkIndia digital job portal in enhancing the lives of the urban poor, particularly women, in Delhi. The project commenced with a preliminary survey on work preferences among over 50 residents from two slum areas. Subsequently, participants were enlisted on the WorkIndia platform to explore the challenges they encountered. Based on these insights, CURE developed a comprehensive training guide focused on labor rights, laws, and policies.

The SHRAMM training program was piloted in three low-income settlements in Delhi: Gokulpuri (East Delhi), Karpuri Thakur (South Delhi), and Le Meridien (Central Delhi). The initiative targeted men and women aged 18-35 to assess its impact and relevance. Key activities included conducting training sessions for 30 women and 30 men in these settlements and administering an endline survey to measure the program's effectiveness. The SHRAMM project underscores CURE's commitment to improving the livelihoods of marginalized communities through innovative digital solutions and targeted training programs. By empowering individuals with knowledge of labor rights and facilitating access to digital job opportunities, the initiative aimed to promote economic resilience and improve the quality of life in urban slum areas of Delhi.



Livelihood training and products made by community people

SUWASI

Supported by USAID, the SUWASI project enhances the implementation of SBM 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 across India, focusing on inclusion and collaboration in the WASH sector to ensure universal access to water and sanitation services. By providing technical assistance at national, state, and local levels, SUWASI accelerates these initiatives' success. This year, SUWASI's efforts in Assam involved advising and assisting in monitoring the Swachh Bharat Mission, supporting the Guwahati Municipal Corporation and Dibrugarh Municipal Board. In Karnataka, the project completed key documents and developed guidelines for sanitation projects. In Jharkhand, SUWASI aided the State Urban Development Authority in implementing SBM 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, conducting city-level analyses. In Uttar Pradesh, the project supported IEC initiatives with successful programs and campaigns promoting cleanliness and behavior change.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Plantation Drive in Gurugram School



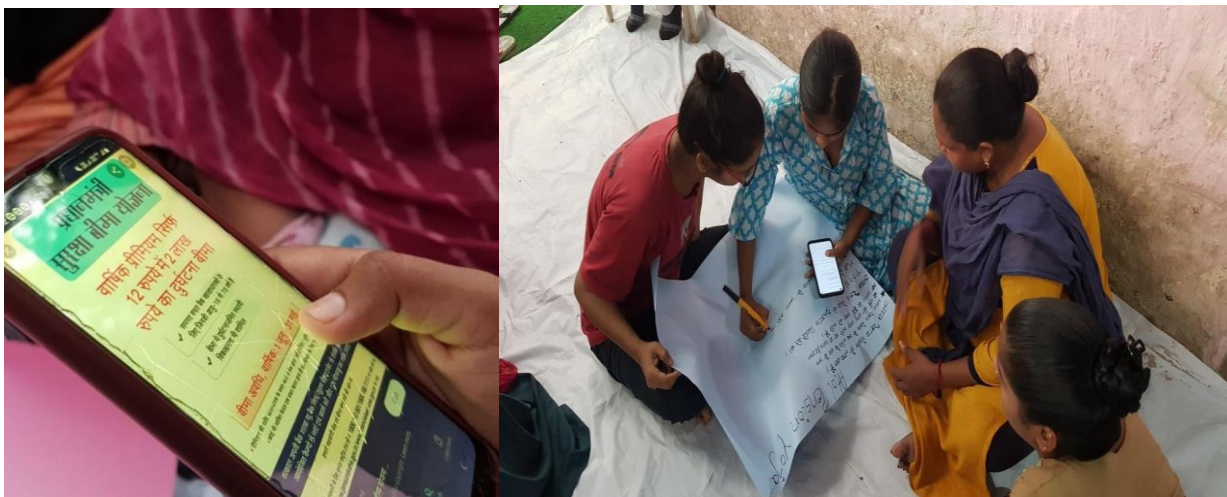
Training, Strengthening, Scaling and Sustainability. (FINE)



Addressing Gender differences in policy making by the government and at workplaces



Flash cards making for awareness for health and violence at workplace



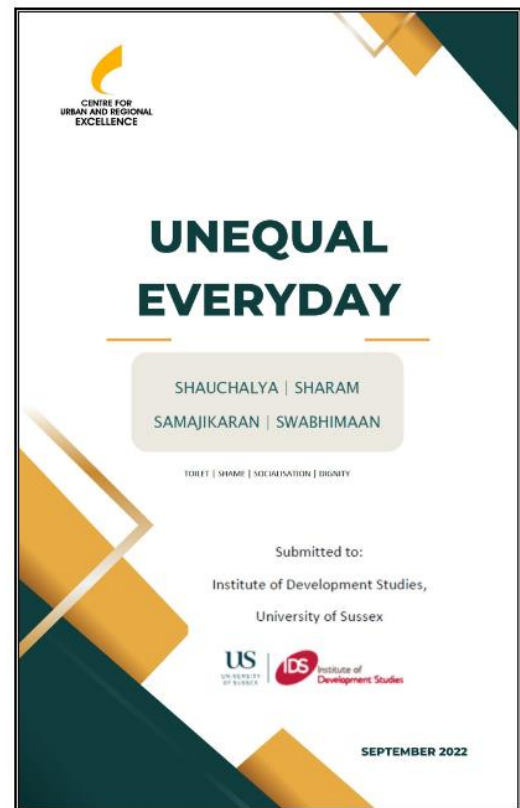
Smart Phones of Participants with internet connection

PUBLICATIONS

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

availability, access, and everydayness of sanitation. The Swachh Bharat Mission Urban in India aims to improve sanitation infrastructure and improve the experiences for the poor. However, access to sanitation for women is deeply impacted by social inequalities, particularly during menstruation. This research aims to feminize the sanitation discourse by mapping women and young girls' perspectives and socio-cultural subjectivity.

Available at: <https://cureindia.org/page85.html>



To know more about our programs and support us please visit us at:

<https://cureindia.org/>

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