





Taps and Toilets

Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE)  

India



Launched in 2004, Not-for-profit, Drinking Water, Sanitation, Waste Management & Disposal / Re-use, South Asia: India

Partners: CURE has strong, multi-stakeholder partnerships at all tiers of government - national, state and cities where it is working. It is also associated with various WATSAN civil society groups/networks, think tanks, academic institutions - international and national. It also works with local community organizations for the implementation of programs.

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Problem Addressed

Increasing urbanization without adequate housing has resulted in a proliferation of slums in cities. People living in slums lack access to public services. Poor quality of water and sanitation services, housing and livelihood opportunities are mainly responsible for urban poverty. CURE seeks to improve the quality of lives of slum and low-income communities by reimagining inclusive urban development in an effort to level people up and create equality. Specifically, CURE is deengineering sanitation systems to help poor people get access to better sanitation facilities.

Innovative Approach

CURE customizes solutions to slum contexts, imagines development in neighbourhood contexts, and integrates unplanned development within planned urban development to address challenges of urban poverty at city scale. Our innovation is in bringing in community contributions with clear exit strategies that include long-term O&M and sustainability. Our programme approach is comprehensive and embedded within the larger ecosystem. The solutions are simple, easy and scalable.

Program Solution

The Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) is a development NGO. It partners with slum communities and local bodies to implement processes of slum upgrading, poverty reduction and health awareness. Specifically, CURE mobilizes communities to plan and implement innovative water and sanitation solutions for in-house services and better health behaviour. CURE has implemented a broad range of solutions for improving water and sanitation services in slum communities in a sustainable way. These have included; a. localized and de-engineered (customized) home toilets networked to city's trunk infrastructure; b. decentralized options in un-served areas such as cluster (shared) septic tanks with simplified sewer lines to enable home toilets; c. water treatment plants as business enterprises for making access to safe drinking water; d. waste water treatment systems such as Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) with recycling of treated water; e. door-to-door waste collection and composting; and f. rooftop rainwater harvesting and

ground water recharging systems with a long-term vision to revive the wells and make Agra water resilient.

CURE has also supported city governments to do three things; 1) Develop through participation - spatial, qualitative and quantitative evidence with plans for making cities slum free. 2) Leverage state resources in Agra and Delhi, for additional civil works with last mile connections to trunk infrastructure. 3) Use mobile-based applications to benchmark and track service delivery, making cities accountable. 4) Nudge the city policy (and programmes) for inclusion and equity. Its livelihoods projects have helped create and rehabilitate income-generating opportunities, particularly for women and young people. Efforts have also focused on creating health awareness.