



India



Community-Led Total Sanitation

CLTS Foundation  

CLTS Foundation supports universal sanitation, through building local capacity, providing technical support, and influencing national sanitation policies towards greater local empowerment, specifically through Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Launched in 1999, Not-for-profit , Sanitation , South Asia: India

Partners: International and national NGOs; Government bodies.






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Problem Addressed

The CLTS Foundation was formed to meet the growing demand for a common global platform for practitioners, trainers and users of CLTS. The CLTS Foundation works closely with associates and practitioners of CLTS in different countries, bridging the gaps between the various development actors who have taken up CLTS in the last decade.

Innovative Approach

CLTS Foundation does away traditional approaches that focus on hardware and subsidies, counting not toilets, but open defecation-free communities. When communities understand that open defecation affects their health and well being, they can take steps on their own through the CLTS approach, instead of waiting for a matching donor.

When CLTS was founded, it was merely about triggering communities at the grassroots level to change their behavior, but the Foundation now expanded their approach to include governments and donors on the institutional level, who also need to change their approach to improving sanitation where they work.

CLTS is also innovative in that it creates momentum for other development interventions, such as early childhood development. When a community starts seeing that it has issues with sanitation but can solve them, the community recognizes there are other problems they can solve as well.

Program Solution

The CLTS Foundation enhances access to safe sanitation through strong and nuanced policy and programs along with a vibrant and informed civil society to promote CLTS on the ground. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is an innovative approach for empowering communities to completely eliminate open defecation (OD). It focuses on collective hygiene behaviour change stimulated by facilitators from within or outside the community. CLTS involves no hardware subsidy and does not prescribe latrine models.

The Foundation also provides technical support in the fields of sanitation, livelihood, and environmental sustainability.