

## About Rotary Club Amritsar Civil Lines

Rotary Club Amritsar Civil Lines (Id: 30375 ) was chartered on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1994. This club is in State of Punjab in Rotary District 3070, Region: Asia, RI Zone-4 in India having 44 members. 25% of its members are ladies.

### **Focus Area: Water and sanitation**

#### Project: Building of Toilets

This project is aligned with Rotary's focus area of Water and Sanitation as it conserves water, reduces water contamination and water borne diseases and improves sanitation.

**Background:** India is a country of vast population. Every 6<sup>th</sup> person in this world is an Indian. Though it has rapidly grown but has not been able to provide basic amenities of housing and shelter to its teeming population. As a result there is huge economic and social disparity.

The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Jan 24, 2013 say despite significant and encouraging declines in open defecation since 1990, 1.1 billion people (15 per cent of the world's population) still practice it. Governments, civil society, business and international organizations are being urged to take action to ensure that people have access to sanitation.

The call has come from UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson who launched a campaign for access to basic sanitation on the eve of World Water Day observed on 22 March, 2013. He said that of the world's seven billion people, six billion have mobile phones but only 4.5 billion have access to latrines and toilets.

Mr. Eliasson says the campaign for access to sanitation is aimed at ending open defecation by 2025. Open defecation is a fact of life for 1.1 billion people in the world who go out in the open. And by that, of course first of all can you imagine the lack of dignity around this act, this risks of being raped if you are a woman or a girl going out at night but also the health risks, both personal health and of course for the environment. And this is, of course, a very clear sign of the extreme poverty that still exists, the huge inequalities in the world.

In India nearly 40% of the population is living below poverty line i.e. earning below \$1.25 per day. They live in shelters which are not cemented and do not have money to build toilets. As a result the residents go for open defecation. This leads to health diseases and social problems. More than half of all people in the world who defecate in the open live in India. According to the 2011 Indian census, 53 per cent of households do not use any kind of toilet or latrine.

Open defecation leads to many problems. It leads to diseases and creates filthy conditions polluting the environment and water bodies. Faeces contain germs that, when released into the environment, make their way onto children's fingers and feet, into their food and water, and wherever flies take them. Exposure to these germs not only gives children diarrhoea, but over the long term, also can cause changes in the tissues of their intestines that prevent the absorption and use of nutrients in

food, even when the child does not seem sick. For women folk the situation is fraught with danger towards their dignity. Lack of privacy at times lead to sexual exploitation and rapes.

**Project identification:**

Last year we organised a multi-disciplinary medical check-up camp in a Gurdwara (Temple) located at Sultanwind. This is a semi-urban slum inhabited by poor people living in abject poverty with a scattering of middle class population. We got to interact with lots of people and discussions veered around the civic amenities. We were told that this area does not have a covered sewerage pipes and to our shock we learnt that many people do not have toilets in their houses as they could not afford to build them.

They would have to walk 1-2 Km to find barren land or fields for open defecation as increasing population has resulted in mushrooming of unplanned colonies which has reduced open areas. One particular case which really made us to think of this project was of a blind widow living with her grandchildren as she had lost all her children to disease and drugs. Her plight moved us so much that we decided to build the 1<sup>st</sup> toilet in her house. Since there is no sewerage in this locality, we went for soak toilets.

The joy and the relief on this lady's face when we built the toilet at zero cost to her strengthened our belief that this is the project which we need to undertake at a larger scale. The local people told us that they would pitch in by giving us manpower for digging the pits and building walls around the toilet.

We have during last one year constructed 20 toilets and we are regularly being approached by other people with a request to build toilets in their houses. We are very impressed with the maintenance of these toilets by the inhabitants. This has led to reduced diseases and hygienic surroundings. It is a fact much more needs to be done but we are committed to make a difference.

**RC Amritsar Civil Lines** has taken up this project in semi-urban slums and we have started providing toilets in the people's home itself.



Building twin pits and each lavatory costs us \$200. We encourage the residents to build a wall themselves so as to involve them. We also provide them education about hygiene and cleanliness. We have built till now 20 toilets but numerous people are requesting us to build more as this single act gives them human dignity and saves them from many diseases.

We plan to take this project every year and build around 150 toilets every year.

This project would cost us more than \$ 30,000/-. We feel this is a tremendous opportunity for all Rotarians to reach out to the poorest of the

poor and give them dignity.



The project aims at three things:-

1. To build toilets where none are present thus giving dignity to the residents and prevent crime against women.
2. To prevent diseases, educate residents about hygiene.
3. To save water as this system involves optimum use only.

4. To protect environment from pollution caused by open defecation. Once constructed, each household would have self-sustained lavatory system.

#### Impact

1. This project will directly benefit 150 families or between 750-1000 individuals as the normal family size is between 5-6 people.
2. It will save the amount spent on treatment for diseases caused due to open defecation which these poor people can ill afford. The amount saved will help in improving their food intake, nutrition requirement and on education of their children.
3. These soak toilets require limited water and hence help conserving water which is becoming a big concern area in India.
4. It would also reduce the soil and water pollution.

### **Project Cost**

1. Construction of toilet with Indian Seats:	Rs.7000/-
2. Pre-fabricated wall and roof	: Rs.4000/-
Cost per toilet	: Rs.11, 000/-
No.of toilets to be constructed	: 150
Total Cost	: Rs.16, 50,000/--(USD 30,000/-approx.)

### **Source of funding**

a.RC Amritsar Civil Lines	: Rs.2, 22,300/- (USD 3900/-)
b.Raminder S.Baloria Charitable Trust	: Rs.1, 20,000/- (USD 2100/-)
c.DDF from District 3070	:Rs.2, 56,500/- (USD 4500/-)
d. Matching Partner from DDF	: Rs.3, 42,000/- (USD 6000/-)
e. Rotary Foundation	: Rs.7, 69,500/- (USD 13500/-)

Total: Rs.17, 10,000/--(USD 30,000/-)

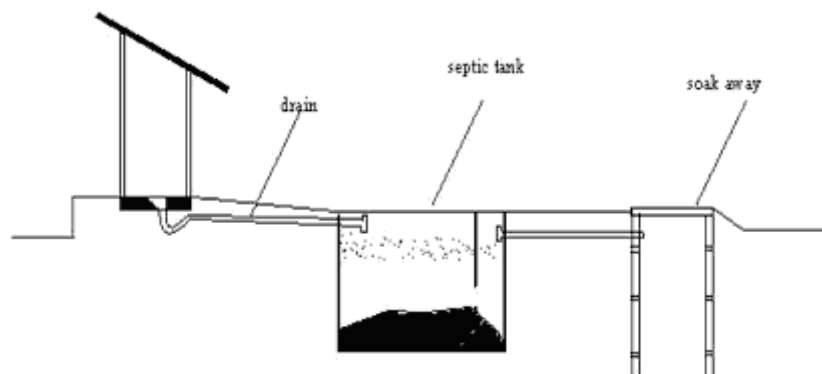
### **Measurement & monitoring**

A team of three members from RC Amritsar Civil Lines consisting of:

1. Vice-President Rtn. Ashish Sharma
2. Past President Rtn. Rajan Kapur, C.A.
3. Director,Rtn.Sandeep Bhatia

### **Pour flush toilet with 2-chamber septic tank with soak pit**

A septic tank is a watertight settling tank to which wastes are carried by water flushed down a short PVC pipe. A septic tank only helps to separate and digest the solid matter. The sludge accumulating in the tank is removed once every five to seven years, depending on number of users.The sludge is removed and used as bio-organic waste in the



agricultural fields.

In double-compartment septic tanks the first compartment is twice the volume of the second. The total volume of the tank is at least three times the average volume of water used daily. Every tank has a ventilation system to allow gases to escape. A soak pit is a pit into which the liquid effluents from the septic tank flow to be filtered. The pit is lined with pre-cast reinforced cement concrete pipes.

The soak toilet with 2-chamber septic tank with soak-pit is dug inside as the water table is around 150-200 feet. The excess water from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chamber goes into the drain.

### **Applicability**

A soak pit does not provide adequate treatment for raw *wastewater* and this technology should only be considered for discharging pre-settled *wastewater*. Soak pits are appropriate for rural and semi-urban settlements. They can be used in almost every *temperature*, although there may be problems with pooling *effluent* in areas where the ground freezes. They are not appropriate for areas that are prone to flooding or have high *ground water* tables and should be constructed in a distance of at least 30 m from *drinking water* wells in order to prevent cross-contamination. Soak pits are best suited to soils with good absorptive capacity, whereas clay soils as well as hard packed or rocky soils are not appropriate.

### **Advantages**

- Low capital cost and requires minimal operation & maintenance
- Can be built and repaired with locally available materials and by the community
- Small land area required
- Simple technique with a high acceptance
- Recharging groundwater bodies

### **Disadvantages**

- Pre-treatment (e.g. settling) of the incoming effluent is required to prevent clogging and limit health risk, although eventual clogging is inevitable
- Applicable only where soil conditions allow infiltration, the groundwater table is at least 1.5 m below the soak pit, there is no risk for flooding and any water well is in a distance of at least 30 m
- Difficult to realise in cold climates
- Should be avoided for high daily volumes of discharged effluents

**Note: In this state ,the temperature is not freezing and this area is not prone to flooding and the ground water table is very low.**

### **About Amritsar**

Amritsar city situated in northern Punjab state of north western India lies about 15 miles (25 km) east of the border with Pakistan. Amritsar is an important city in Punjab and is a major commercial, cultural, and transportation centre. It is also the centre of Sikhism and the site of the Sikh's principal place of worship. The facts and figures for Amritsar are given below:-

- In 2011, Amritsar had population of 2,490,891 of which male and female were 1,322,088 and 1,168,803 respectively. There was change of 15.48 per cent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Amritsar District recorded increase of 27.08 per cent to its population compared to 1991.
- The initial provisional data released by census India 2011, shows that density of Amritsar district for 2011 is 932 people per sq. km. In 2001, Amritsar district density was at 807 people per sq. km. Amritsar district administers 2,673 square kilometres of areas.
- Average literacy rate of Amritsar in 2011 were 77.20 compared to 70.40 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 81.20 and 72.80 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 75.10 and 65.20 in Amritsar District. Total literate in Amritsar District were 1,717,249 of which male and female were 954,526 and 762,723 respectively.
- With regards to Sex Ratio in Amritsar, it stood at 884 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 871. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. In 2011 census, child sex ratio is 824 girls per 1000 boys compared to figure of 792 girls per 1000 boys of 2001 census data.
- This child population figure of Amritsar district is 10.12 % of total urban population. Average literacy rate in Amritsar district as per census 2011 is 84.36 % of which males and females are 87.36 % and 80.94 % literates respectively. In actual number 1,015,877 people are literate in urban region of which males and females are 560,428 and 455,449 respectively.
- For any clarification, please contact

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