

# Gender Needs List for Tirupathi & Shimla Sanitation Projects

**For GIZ**

Prepared By



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Women are the most severely affected by the lack of clean and accessible toilets in urban areas, especially in slum localities. In this situation, they often have to wait until dark and walk to open areas outside the community which makes them vulnerable to sexual assault and even possible rape, infections and diseases. They are also exposed to risks such as snake and scorpion bites.

Though there are sanitation facilities in most localities, they are in such a bad condition, that women do not want to use them. Toilets lack qualified staff, have irregular electricity and water supply for cleaning because public sanitation systems for community toilets do not have an efficient monitoring mechanism.

Gender considerations are not taken into account either in the design or maintenance of toilets. However, many a time, women and girls feel forced to use these badly maintained unhygienic facilities rather than go to open defecation areas.

Access to toilets designed for and by women is vital because of their specific needs including privacy and dignity, security, and menstrual hygiene. Awareness regarding these issues needs to be generated among all stakeholders particularly women, local leaders, ULBs and the general public.

Maintenance of toilets is a very important factor. In the needs assessment conducted in Shimla, women reported that they perceived female caretakers and cleaners to be better at maintenance. Women also reported a willingness to pay more indicating the importance of better maintenance for women.

Listed below are possible activities related to broad gender need heads:

Gender Needs	Possible activities
Access to toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New toilet complexes should be located in safe and highly visible places.</li> <li>• Toilets should be located within reasonable walking distance.</li> <li>• Toilets should be operational 24 hours.</li> <li>• User charges to be displayed at the entrance at all times.</li> <li>• Entrance to the toilet complex should be in good condition. The steps should not be broken or damaged to enable access for women who are pregnant, old or differently-abled.</li> <li>• Adequate space in waiting area for women to stand in queue.</li> </ul>
Privacy and dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New toilet complexes should be located in safe and highly visible places.</li> <li>• Working door locks, latches (on the inside) and hooks on toilet doors.</li> <li>• Toilets should be operational 24 hours.</li> <li>• Separate entrances for men and women.</li> <li>• Provision of bins (in each cubicle) for sanitary napkins.</li> <li>• Female caretakers for maintenance of toilets for women.</li> <li>• Toilet windows (including ventilators) and roofs should not compromise women's privacy.</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrances should be highly visible and have adequate lighting on the approach road as also inside the toilet.</li> <li>• 24-hours/day supply of electricity. In case it is irregular, there should be an alternate source.</li> <li>• Latches on the inside of toilets should be in working condition.</li> <li>• Doors should be in good condition (not damaged and weather proofed).</li> <li>• Toilets should be located within reasonable walking distance.</li> <li>• The toilets should be operational 24 hours.</li> <li>• Separate entrances for men and women.</li> <li>• Help line for women and children should be set up (if not existing already).</li> <li>• Contact number for complaints and help-line to be displayed.</li> <li>• Female caretakers for maintenance and surveillance of toilets for women.</li> </ul>
Menstrual hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The toilets should be operational 24 hours.</li> <li>• Continuous supply of water for toilets and wash basins.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is enough water for usage and cleaning in toilets.</li> <li>• Provision of bins (in each cubicle) and a proper disposal mechanism for sanitary napkins.</li> <li>• Standards have to be established (a regular maintenance and cleaning regime) and monitored to assure women that the toilets are hygienic.</li> <li>• Female caretakers for maintenance of toilets for women.</li> </ul>
Maintenance of toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that there is enough water for users and cleaning the toilets.</li> <li>• Women should be involved in shaping and making the institutional arrangements (such as selection of sites).</li> <li>• Ensure running water for toilets and basins, working flush systems, working mechanical ventilation doors are in place.</li> <li>• Standards have to be established (a regular maintenance and cleaning regime/checklist e.g. cubicles cleaned, trash bins emptied, floor cleaned, supplies refilled) and monitored to assure women that the toilets are hygienic.</li> <li>• Female caretakers for maintenance of toilets for women.</li> <li>• Contact number for complaints and help-line to be displayed.</li> </ul>
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public-education campaigns by the Municipality and toilet education material (IEC) to be displayed inside toilets.</li> <li>• Women should be involved in shaping and making institutional arrangements.</li> <li>• User charges to be displayed at the entrance at all times.</li> <li>• Contact number for complaints and help-line to be displayed.</li> </ul>