

# BUNDU'S SANITATION SUCCESS

TWIN PILLARS OF COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Bundu, a sub-divisional town nestled within Ranchi district, stretches across 18 square kilometers and is divided into 13 administrative wards. The Bundu Nagar Panchayat is responsible for ensuring essential civic services like clean water, sanitation, etc. Bundu's current sanitation system primarily relies on on-site solutions, which previously resulted in the disposal of untreated sewage disposal near the source of generation, culminating in polluted water bodies surrounding the town.

## BUNDU'S NATURE BASED APPROACH TO SANITATION



Faecal Sludge Treated (KLD)

In 2022, Bundu took a major step towards ensuring safe sanitation with the inauguration of a state-funded **6 KLD Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP)**. The facility utilizes **nature-based technology**, offering a **cost-effective** and **environmentally friendly alternative** to traditional methods. Compared to electromechanical options, the FSTP boasts lower capital and operational expenses while also minimizing its carbon footprint.

The FSTP caters to over **4,200 households** and has already treated **1,239 KLD of fecal sludge** since December 2022, serving over **350 households**. To ensure smooth operation, a private contractor manages the plant under a 5-year contract, with regular monitoring by technical experts for optimal performance.

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- Treated **1,239 KLD of fecal sludge**
- 350 households** desludged

## FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACTION: BUILDING CITIZEN DEMAND FOR SANITATION SERVICE

While building treatment infrastructure is crucial, it is only part of the equation. Bundu's success lies in its **two-pronged approach to enabling infrastructure to provide effective sanitation services**. The Nagar Panchayat provides **efficient desludging services at an affordable cost of ₹ 1,000** while simultaneously **engaging citizens through information campaigns**. This ensures residents understand the importance of proper sanitation practices, fostering an "organic demand" for these services. By making sanitation accessible and educational, Bundu promotes responsible behavior for a healthier community.



Bundu's innovative IEC & BCC campaign, launched in March 2024, reached over **10,000 residents** through engaging activities like **street plays, interactive workshops, and eye-catching wall art**. The engagement actively involved **children and youth, communities residing in low-income areas, women, and Self-Help Group (SHG) members** to generate awareness regarding the desludging of septic tanks, understand sanitation challenges at the community level, and promote safe sanitation practices.



SENSITIZATION  
DRIVES



● NUKKAD  
NATAK



DOOR-TO-DOOR  
DIALOGUE WITH  
SHGS



● SCHOOL  
PROGRAMS



SWACHHATA  
RATH



### BUNDU'S TOLL-FREE HELPLINE: MAKING DESLUDGING ACCESSIBLE



A dedicated toll-free helpline (+91 6530 299 922) empowers citizens to take charge of their sanitation needs. Managed by Nagar Panchayat officials, this user-friendly service simplifies the process of scheduling septic tank desludging. Residents can easily connect and arrange for septic tank cleaning services.

## CHAMPIONING SANITATION WORKER WELL-BEING

Bundu's 30 sanitation workers are the backbone of the city's sanitation system, ensuring safe disposal and treatment of human waste. Recognizing the hazardous nature of their work, the Bundu Nagar Panchayat prioritizes their health, safety, and well-being.



### SAFETY FIRST

Capacity building workshops are conducted to equip ULB officials with proper PPE usage and workplace safety protocols. Targeted sessions are also organized to train sanitation workers on occupational safety measures, introduce them to schemes such as NAMASTE which promotes mechanized desludging services to minimize health risks.



### INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE

Bi-annual health camps, launched in June 2023, offer free checkups to sanitation workers for skin diseases, blood pressure, blood sugar, and more, along with free medication. Additionally, Bundu facilitates access to health insurance schemes for sanitation workers.

## NAMASTE SCHEME

The NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme is a collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs adopting a human-centric approach preventing manual handling of any hazardous tasks of sewer and septic tank cleaning. This scheme provides social security benefits and entitlements for Sewer and Septic tank Workers (SSWs), such as access to PPE kits and safety devices, occupational safety training, health insurance schemes, livelihood opportunities in the sanitation sector through subsidized sanitation machinery, and vehicles.

By strategically combining robust infrastructure, with thoughtful community engagement through IEC & BCC campaigns, Bundu has significantly raised citizen awareness and safe sanitation practices, allowing a transformation of Bundu's sanitation landscape. Going forward, an urban-rural convergence approach is envisaged, where the rural regions within the periphery of Bundu get to avail the benefits of these services. The initiative aims to develop a sustainable model for the provision of FSSM services, enhancing the well-being of the community.



70%  
capacity utilization of the ESTP has precluded the open dumping of sludge.



59.1%  
respondents surveyed now pay affordable rates for desludging through licensed operators.



78.8%  
citizens use licensed operators for septic tank emptying, reducing reliance on individual sanitation workers to just 19%.



37.5%  
containment units desludged in the past 3 years.



71.83%  
citizens regularly desludge their septic tanks.



Bundu Nagar Panchayat was felicitated with the shield for excellent work in the cleanliness campaign under Swachh Survekshan 2022.

Data from Unicef endline and baseline assessments undertaken for their IEC and BCC campaigns in Bundu.

## LAKHICHARAN'S JOURNEY: SUPPORTING A FAMILY OF 13 AS A DEDICATED SANITATION WORKER IN BUNDU

Lakhicharan, the sole breadwinner for his family of 13, faced significant challenges in securing a stable income. As a daily wage labourer in Bundu, he earned a meager INR 200-250 per day, which was neither assured nor stable. To supplement his earnings, he also worked as a driver. Despite his efforts, he was not able to be financially stable. After his interaction with Mangal Oraon, a sanitation worker at the Bundu Nagar Panchayat, he applied for the position of sanitation worker cum driver. Though he faced years of stigma associated with sanitation work, Lakhicharan embraced his new role with pride and dedication. The involvement of Lakhicharan and other sanitation workers is an integral part of Bundu's sanitation success. Lakhicharan and two other sanitation workers were felicitated by Shri. C. P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Jharkhand, during the inauguration ceremony of the PM National Suraj Portal on March 13, 2024, for their contribution to Bundu's sanitation.

