National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), a premier research institute under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing a project called ‘Innovation Hub for Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Solutions (IHUWASH)’. The hub is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The primary aim of the initiative is to improve urban WASH sector performance through incubation and acceleration of innovative solutions, technologies, programs and service delivery models within a collaborative framework.

The IHUWASH project in association with the Udaipur Municipal Corporation (UMC) has undertaken several initiatives to improve the WASH sector of the city. One of the key initiatives has been providing the concept design for the Govardhan Vilas Public Toilet. The site is located in ward no. 17 of UMC limit and covers a total area of 2,000 square feet.

Essentially, the public toilet provides sanitation facility to all gender, age and the physically handicapped population. There are two separate sections for Male and Female users. Male section has provisions for urinals. Considering the need of elderly people, IHUWASH team has pilot tested innovative Indian toilet seat known as SquatEase. The toilet seat has unique seating arrangement that reduces the knee pain and also facilitates user while squatting. The design has provisions of unique features of baby care unit where a mother accompanied by child can change diapers of child, lactation etc. The toilet facility has also been equipped with sanitary napkin vending machine and incinerator. The incinerator would help to safely dispose the used sanitary napkins in environment friendly manner. Though currently not installed, the recommendations have been made to provide tactile tiles and braille signage for blind people to access the toilet easily.

The location is strategically selected to address the heavy footfall of the market area alongside a well-connected road of Udaipur, which sees heavy traffic each day. To meet the needs of the shopkeepers, shoppers and travelers; this Public Toilet has been constructed with State-of-the-Art facilities that is first of its kind in Udaipur.

India face challenges in Operating and Maintaining (O & M) public toilets. Considering this, IHUWASH has provided three revenue generating space in the Public Toilet complex that can help UMC generate revenue for meeting the O&M cost through either one of them. The spaces include a commercial space for advertisement, provision for water ATM and a space for the First Aid facility in the complex, where primary health facility could be made available. The space can also be used for creating awareness on health and hygiene.

Overall, IHUWASH team has made an attempt to support UMC with a Public Toilet with unique design catering to all gender and providing facility for O & M. With the success of the pilot testing of various features and provisions made, the design can be replicable in other parts of city and also in other cities of Rajasthan.
Prototype of the Public Toilet at Govardhan Vilas

Front entrance of the public toilet

Railings being constructed for the toilet ramp

Child friendly infrastructure in the public toilet

Innovative SquatEase pan incorporated for those with knee pain

A space for medical facility in the toilet complex

Sanitary napkin vending machine installed in the toilet

National Institute of Urban Affairs
1st Floor, Core 4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003, INDIA
(+91 11) 24643284/24617517, (+91 11) 24617513
E-mail: niua@niua.org, Website: www.niua.org

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