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**City to City Partnerships:
Officials from Odisha and Rajasthan learn from Pearland and Houston**

City to City partnerships are based on the idea that local governments worldwide face similar governance issues and exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience aids development of solutions. UMC believes that a change is easier to bring when there is learning through experience sharing, backed by handholding support of someone who has experience of having handled a similar situation. UMC with support of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has fostered partnerships between cities of Jodhpur, Sambalpur and Ahmedabad with City of Pearland, Texas.

Building on the knowledge exchanges, a delegation from Jodhpur and Sambalpur Municipal Corporations along with Directorate of Local Bodies (DLB), Government of Rajasthan and the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) of the Government of Odisha visited city of Pearland, Texas in September 2019.



MISAAL team along with City officials from Jaipur, Jodhpur and Sambalpur in the city of Pearland

The Indian city officials learned about the various municipal initiatives of Pearland ranging from water quality monitoring, flood mapping, sanitary sewers maintenance, septage management, health and sanitation inspections at public areas, parks and gardens, waste management, traffic management, emergency services and most importantly, use of GIS in planning and operations of all municipal utilities.

The teams also got an opportunity to visit ICMA's 105th national conference in Nashville. The team anchored a one-hour session titled 'Mission Impossible- Serving the under-served in India' where Mr. G Mathivathanan, Principal Secretary, HUDD and Mr. Sangramjit Nayak, Director, Municipal Administration, Odisha jointly presented about the Odisha Liveable Habitat Mission (known as 'JAGA' Mission) and Anurag Anthony presented on sanitation mapping in MISAAL cities.

Based on the learning experience teams have prepared specific work plans and themes to collaborate on.

SHG Members launch 'Cheli' sanitary pads in Warangal

UMC is piloting convergence of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission in four cities across India (Bhubaneswar, Paradeep and Dhenkanal in Odisha and Warangal in Telangana). UMC is supporting SHGs to start their own enterprises. One of the

areas that SHGs had evinced interest was in production of sanitary pads. Earlier in July, UMC had brought interested SHG members from Odisha and Warangal to learn from Ahmedabad SHGs who run a sanitary pad manufacturing enterprise. Following up, 3 SHG members from Warangal have started their own enterprise in Warangal. The pad has been named “Cheli” which means a female companion in Telegu and the packet comprises of 6 pads and 6 envelopes for disposal as well.

Nine SHG women from Chamundeshwari SHG are involved in everyday operations of the unit. They produce close to 450 pads every day and with the help of Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) and Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) they have begun receiving orders for sanitary napkins. The members also regularly visit local stores to sell in retail. Gradually, based on the demand SHGs will increase the production.



Urban entrepreneurs supported under DAY-NULM, Self Employment Program

UMC provided handholding support in identifying the appropriate machines, process, training the members, designing and branding of the product, in ensuring quality control processes and in working out a profitable business plan.

UMC continues to support groups in Odisha to set up similar enterprises as well.

As a core belief, UMC continues to invest in its team and encourage them to continuously learn over the course of their careers. This year, UMC's teams travelled to Sri Lanka and Malaysia to learn about Faecal Sludge and Septage Management practices and community engagement practices.

In Malaysia, with support of the Indah Water Konsortium (IWK), the team immersed into a blended course of class room trainings as well as site visits to FSTPs and desludging activities in Kuala Lumpur and Melaka.



In Sri Lanka, with support of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA), the team visited urban councils of Dompe Pradeshiya, Kurnegala, and Kandy.



UMC team in Malaysia (above) and Sri Lanka (below)

Sustaining ODF in Grameen Gujarat

Under UNICEF supported Solid Liquid Resource Management program in collaboration with Commissionerate of Rural Development (CRD), UMC supported in conducting a workshop on ODF-S and ODF+ in Himmatnagar, Gujarat. The Workshop emphasised on the role of Swachhagrahis in monitoring of solid and liquid waste value chain and steps that need to be taken towards achieving ODF +, improving performance in Swachhata Darpan Phase III, performance in Swachh Survekshan 2019 and progress of IEC and IPC activities. The workshop was attended by district and block officials that included district coordinators, engineers, SLWM consultants, HRD consultants, IEC consultants, block coordinators, cluster coordinators etc.



ODF sustenance workshop for grameen Gujarat by UNICEF, CRD facilitated by UMC

U-Learn (Urban Livelihoods E-learning and Resource Network)

In the [episode 5](#), 'Saalgirah,' Ramila, Sushila and Gul with other SHG members are able to negotiate for improved water quality in their basti after which they conduct annual general meeting.

Watch this episode to participate in their year long journey of them individually struggling to make ends meet to them coming together, receiving access to banking facilities, initiating regular savings and getting connected to the ALF.



You can follow the journey of Sushila, Gul and Ramila from struggling to save money to becoming entrepreneurs on U-LEARN, a mobile and desktop application.

Follow the link below:

You can now access the portal at <https://www.u-learn.in/>

[On Android app at U-LEARN NULM](#)

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