Assessment of the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Policies Program and Guidelines of Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City, Nepal

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Introduction

With 62% of Nepal's population now residing in urban areas, there's an increasing demand for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services. Despite ongoing efforts, the local government faces challenges in meeting these demands due to limited resources. This policy assessment examines the current state of WASH-related policies in Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City, Bagmati province, Nepal. It aims to assess the effectiveness of existing policies, proposing recommendations for improvement considering the city's diverse geography and socio-economic challenges. The review utilizes a multi-dimensional analysis, covering policy frameworks, infrastructure development, community engagement, and public health impacts

Methodology

Literature Review: The methodology was initiated with a review of existing , reports, and studies related to WASH policies, programs, and guidelines of sub metropolitan city. Particular attention was given to matters of equity and inclusivity within the context of safely managed sanitation service /Citywide Inclusive Sanitation. It also served as a means to identify notable gaps and areas demanding enhancement.

Stakeholder Engagement: The approach entailed active engagement with various stakeholders, including community representatives, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs),Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and advocacy groups. Through these engagements, their perspectives, insights, and recommendations regarding WASH policies and practices were captured.

Draft Review Report: Subsequently, the existing acts, policies, regulations and procedures regarding water supply, sanitation and hygiene were thoroughly analysed. This analysis shed light on the strengths and weaknesses inherent in the sub-metropolitan's WASH initiatives from the inclusiveness perspective. It also enabled the gauge of the degree of equity and inclusivity embedded within these initiatives. Moreover, it pinpointed specific areas where enhancement and refinement are imperative.

Findings

- **The Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City Health and Sanitation Service Act of 2075** for Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City, despite being titled as a "Sanitation Service Act," focuses solely on environmental cleanliness. Regrettably, it lacks provisions related to toilet and fecal sludge management .Also ,the Act falls short in providing substantial content for individual citizens, particularly in addressing sanitation concerns.
- Provisions for hospitals are outlined, but the Act remains silent on GESI-friendly infrastructure and WASH services.
- **The Hetauda Sub-metropolitan City Water Use Procedure of 2077** focuses on drinking water quality but lacks concessions for disadvantaged households and GESI-responsive infrastructure.
- The procedure is limited to the quality of drinking water, fecal sludge handling, sewerage, and greywater management, lacking inclusivity in design considerations
- Gaps include the absence of stipulations for concessions to disadvantaged households, GESI-responsive infrastructure, and detailed data on water resource utilization
- **The Sanitation Management Procedure of 2079** covers wastewater treatment but lacks technology guidance, septic tank design, and provisions for financial assistance and GESI infrastructure.

Limitations

- The study exclusively focused on sub-metropolitan city WASH policies, providing only a brief overview of national policies.
- Effectiveness of policies and law enforcement outcomes were not assesse

Recommendations

The Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City requires comprehensive WASH legislation recognizing citizens' rights to safe water, and sanitation. Expanding the Water Resource Use Procedure is crucial, incorporating water quality, fecal sludge, and inclusive infrastructure. Safely Managed sanitation should include technology, financial aid, and measures for underprivileged households, emphasizing gender equality and socially inclusive infrastructure.

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