

Changing Practices of Local State wrt Sanitation

Affirming Equity and Justice?

Amita Bhide

Local State

- Critical to provision of sanitation
- Historically structured around 'public health'
- Sweeping, collection of waste from public areas/streets, transport and disposal of waste, sewage and drainage networks
- Part of revenue expenditure, largely on human power

Exclusion through Services

- Non universal citizenship of non propertied inhabitants
- Exclusion of 'encroachments' 'illegals'
- Extension of infrastructure on 'humanitarian' basis in the 1970s at 'public' points
- 'Maintenance' an unresolved issue, few waste collection points, very infrequent collection
- Creates a situation where those who generate the least waste are forced to live with waste, and bear the maximum impacts

Inclusion Through Workers?

- Invitation to workers of particular caste groups
- Incentive in the form of housing
- Opportunity to 'future' generations while perpetuating forms of waste work
- Expanding work force in the organised sector while at the lowest rung
- Opportunity to mobilise
- A ladder where employees of local state at higher levels with controls over those unable to access the same

Expanding Reach of Services?

- Are contemporary schemes about universal access?
- Is sanitation seen as a right?
- Who is excluded? Why are they excluded?
- What is the level/quality of services being extended?
- Who extends the services?
- Does this change the relationship with the state?

MAHARASHTRA NAGAR



SANITATION IN TRANSIT CAMP MAHARASHTRA NAGAR



TRANSIT CAMP OF MAHARASHTRA NAGAR



Emerging Work Practices

- Changes in basic work definitions by state
- Restrictions on total quantum of employment
- Threats to housing and other benefits to organised employees
- Emergent sites served through varied forms of non state employers- NGOs, contractors, CBOs
- Working conditions, wages of these workers
- Race to bottom?

On innovation

- Brought in new actors , new thoughts and models
- BUT
- Highly limited by own interests and positions
- AND
- Cumulatively resulted in undermining universality of citizenship and work culture

Some Imperatives

- Complex and contradictory nature of waste work
- improvement of working terms, conditions across the board a non negotiable
- Universal service model a must
- A renegotiation of responsibilities of all citizens -generator does not just pay but also has a duty to recycle and scientific disposal; recyclers benefit