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(An Official Publication of Bureau For Health & Education Status Upliftment)**

Adaptive Public/Community Toilets designed for Transit areas in Maharashtra.

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ABSTRACT:

This paper is purely a proposal for the above mentioned title and is still in process of further research.

Purpose-

The purpose of this research is to acknowledge Public Toilets as an integral part of infrastructure development by providing sustainable and economic design solutions.

Design/Methodology/Approach-

The proposal is based on extended personal experience, discussions with probable user group and review of relevant literature. This sanitary system/ facility must contain certain features such as access for all user groups, hygienic environment, required daylight and/or artificial lighting system, water closet function, bathing area, changing room function, wash basin, toiletries, security/ safety and privacy. In addition to these mandatory features additional elements such as ease in locating, Wi-Fi availability, waiting areas, vending machines for toiletries (Sanitary napkins, tissues, soap, and sanitizers, etc.) were also suggested by certain user groups. The data collected and analysed from these surveys will be utilised to further the design development process.

Findings-

- Depending on the location of the public toilets i.e. near national or state highways, railways, bus stops, or in a rural setup; the requirements, size and utility of these facilities altered fractionally.
- Efforts to implement sanitary facilities have been extensive within the city/ village limit.
- However, Transit areas especially roadways connecting cities/ villages fail to gain these benefits.
- These implementations have somehow been more like a design fetish rather than evaluated product development.
- This has led to these facilities becoming more of a hindrance and less of a valuable plug into community welfare.

Research Limitations/ Implications-

The proposed research with its design features is limited to standard problem solving research and will differ in the case of other types such as hypothesis-based research

Practical implication-

The proposed design idea/ concept will work as a useful directive and execution process for addressing the problem of insufficient sanitary facilities in Maharashtra, especially in transit areas (areas which are not a part of city or village limit). However the expanse of the solutions derived thereafter will not be limited to the State alone, and can be furthered to the whole of the Nation.

Social implications-

The research will contribute to improved lifestyle, overall awareness regarding healthcare and renew the standard of sanitation.

Originality/ Value-

This research is meant to alleviate the hardships caused by the absence of a usable sanitary facility where it is most needed in a built environment.

Key words-

Architecture, Sanitation, Urban Planning, Modular, Design.

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Website: <https://heb-nic.in/cassar>

Received on 08/06/2023

Accepted on 13/06/2023

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