

Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) in District Sonbhadra, based on the latest available data and field reporting:

1. Overview of O&M Arrangements for CSCs in Sonbhadra

Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) are public sanitation facilities aimed at providing shared toilet, bathing, and related hygiene services in areas where household toilets are infeasible or to serve large numbers of people at public venues (e.g., market places, bus stops, etc.). Proper O&M is essential to ensure these complexes remain usable, clean, and sustainable over time. In district 621 CSC are constructed.

a) Institutional Management Structure

Gram Panchayats and Village Committees: In rural contexts across Sonbhadra, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) or Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) are designated responsible bodies for CSC oversight.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs): A major share of CSC operations is entrusted to women-led SHGs or community organizations to manage daily upkeep and minor operations — including cleaning, supervising use, and ensuring basic maintenance.

Pay-and-Use / Financial Models: Some complexes may function under a nominal fee-based model or receive funds from government schemes like the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) or CSR contributions.

b) Financial & Support Mechanisms

Government Funding: Grants from SBM and other sanitation programs cover a share of maintenance costs.

User/Community Contributions: Villagers sometimes contribute nominal user fees or community support for cleaning supplies and utilities.

SHG Remuneration: In Sonbhadra, a structured stipend model exists where SHGs supervising CSCs receive monthly funds (~₹9,000 per CSC) to cover cleaning wages, repairs, utilities, and hygiene materials.

c) Daily Maintenance Responsibilities

Cleaning & Hygiene: Regular sweeping, disinfection, emptying of bins, and replenishment of consumables like soap.

Water & Waste Infrastructure: Ensuring continuous water supply, functioning handwash stations, working doors, lighting, and effective drainage.

Monitoring & Accountability: Ideally, CSCs are expected to have caretaker supervision and public display of contact details for grievance redressal, although this is unevenly implemented.

2. Functionality Status of CSCs in Sonbhadra

Despite structured O&M guidelines, ground realities in Sonbhadra show a mixed and often concerning picture in terms of actual functionality and usability of CSCs:

a) Functional but Operational Challenges

SHG Involvement: Around 508 CSCs in the district are actively maintained by women's SHGs, with financial support for regular cleaning and modest repairs — a positive step towards community empowerment and ensuring usage.

b) Non-Functional or Poorly Maintained Facilities

However, multiple field reports reveal significant gaps:

Lack of Water Supply: In places like Barwatola village, CSCs built at considerable cost remain unused because water supply infrastructure was never put in place or maintained, rendering toilets unusable.

Closure & Disrepair: At Bardia in Chopan block, a public sanitary facility has been closed for years due to clogged pipelines and lack of maintenance, forcing residents, especially women, back to open defecation.