

## **Progress on Grey Water Management in Sonbhadra District**

### **1. Grey Water Management under SBM (Gramin) Phase-II**

Grey-water management (GWM) is a key part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II, aimed at sustainable sanitation and liquid waste management in rural India. This includes simple household-level solutions such as soak pits, leach pits and magic pits, and community-level decentralized systems where needed, financed through centrally supported funds. Across Uttar Pradesh, a large number of villages have been reported to have arrangements for GWM under this mission. Specifically for Sonbhadra, data from the state's sanitation dashboard (as of mid-2023) shows that almost all villages in the district (1386 ) reported having some form of grey-water management arrangement under SBM(G), reflecting a high degree of coverage. Total 17582 handpump and community soak pit constructed.

### **2. Solid & Liquid Waste Management Implementation**

To strengthen on-ground liquid and grey wastewater handling, authorities in Sonbhadra had earlier identified 144 revenue villages for focused solid and liquid waste management activities including soak pits and other waste disposal mechanisms. Implementation in these villages began with allocated funds to construct infrastructure like soak pits to manage household liquid waste and prevent open discharge.

### **3. Local Challenges Still Being Addressed**

Despite these programme initiatives, local reporting from some villages indicates that on-the-ground drainage systems are still inadequate in many rural settlements, with household wastewater flowing into streets and causing sanitation problems. This underscores that while planning and village selection have progressed, infrastructure execution and coverage quality are still works in progress at the village level.

### **4. Integration with Other Water & Sanitation Efforts**

Grey water management is part of broader sanitation and water efforts in Sonbhadra: Water supply improvements under the Jal Jeevan Mission are increasing household water access, which in turn increases grey-water volumes that must be managed sustainably. Progress in connecting villages and households to reliable water supplies is ongoing (e.g., dozens of villages have begun receiving piped water, with storage tanks erected and further rollout planned). Rainwater harvesting and water conservation projects (such as drum check dams and rainwater harvesting structures) support overall water health in the district, indirectly aiding wastewater and grey water considerations as groundwater recharges and local water tables stabilize.

### **5. Way Forward**

To achieve sustainable grey water management across village in Sonbhadra, continued focus is required on:

Completing installation of soak pits and decentralized treatment solutions in all villages.

Ensuring on-ground construction and maintenance of drainage systems and liquid waste infrastructure.

Strengthening community awareness and behaviour change around wastewater practices.

Integrating grey water planning with broader water supply and sanitation programmes for environmental and public health benefits.