

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)  
NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION DIRECTORATE (NRCD)  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

**THE STUDY  
ON  
WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR  
GANGA RIVER  
IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**FINAL REPORT**

**VOLUME V PILOT PROJECT FOR SANITARY  
IMPROVEMENT OF MANIKARNIKA GHAT**

**JULY 2005**

**TOKYO ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS CO., LTD.  
CTI ENGINEERING INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.**

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**FINAL REPORT**  
**ON**  
**WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GANGA RIVER**  
**JULY 2005**

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**VOLUME-V**

**PILOT PROJECT FOR SANITARY IMPROVEMENT OF MANIKARNIKA GHAT**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ASI	Archaeological Survey of India
CBO	Community-based Organization
CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
GAP	Ganga Action Plan
HUDCO	Housing and Urban Development Corporation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
NRCD	National River Conservation Directorate
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
VNN	Varanasi Nagar Nigam

**CHAPTER 1**  
**INTRODUCTION**

## **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 VARANASI GHATS**

Ghat is a riverbank provided with steps or slopes leading to a river for bathing or cremation. Ritual bathing is taken in the sacred rivers such as Ganga and Yamuna. Some ghats are also used for boat transportation for carrying people from one ghat to other ghats.

Varanasi is well known as a city of ghats as well as religious and spiritual city where to liberate soul from human body to ultimate is considered very poise. Ghats in Varanasi have great religious and historical importance. However, the sanitary condition at the ghats is not very satisfactory and many old structures are deteriorated and damaged by floods and silting. It is necessary to renovate, improve and construct sanitary facilities, changing rooms, drinking water facilities, garbage boxes for disposal, etc. The improvement must also be done to abate water pollution of the river from non-point sources such as open defecation, cattle wallowing, commercial cloth washing, throwing of un-burnt and half-burnt dead bodies, etc.

Many ghats are regarded as heritage ghats as these ghats were constructed very long time ago for daily and religious bathing purposes. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India was assigned to conserve the heritage ghats in Varanasi in April 2003 and all the construction activities related to the heritage ghats will be required to get approval from ASI through a notification.

Development and renovation of the ghats are generally planned and implemented by the various Government agencies in response to the requests of the residents, NGO, etc. The ghats in Varanasi were renovated under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I to improve upon some assembly platforms, steps and walls etc. The following four river front development schemes were completed under GAP-I.

- Renovation of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat in April 1988 at a cost of 5.2 lakhs
- Protection of slopes & ghats in November 1989 at a cost of 43.94 lakhs
- Integrated development of major ghats; Trilochan Ghat to Raj Ghat in January 1992 at a cost of 296.98 lakhs
- Extension & construction of steps at various ghats in December 1989 at a cost of 52.96 lakhs

According to the Brief Note on Varanasi prepared by the U.P. Jal Nigam, the following development works of ghats are now proposed at an estimated cost of Rs.140 million.

- Improvement, construction of bridges
- Beautification of ghats
- Improvement of lanes leading to Kashi Vishwanath temple
- Provision of drainage

### **1.2 OBJECTIVES**

Ghat Improvement in Varanasi is an important component of the Study on Water Quality Management Plan of Ganga River Basin. As a first step, a Pilot Project for improvement of a selected ghat of Varanasi was to be undertaken as a part of the Study. The objective of the Pilot Project is to improve the sanitary conditions of the ghat and to abate water pollution from non-point sources such as open defecation, cattle wallowing, commercial cloth washing, throwing of un-burnt or half-burnt dead bodies, etc., In this pilot project, the construction or renovation of the facilities such as low cost sanitation, crematoria, garbage disposal, changing rooms, drinking water, etc. were to be included as Project Components. This Project was to be carried out on a pilot basis to be used as a replicable model for improvement project for other ghats subsequently.

### 1.3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

#### (1) Project Step

The following steps were taken to implement the Project in order to select appropriate components of the facility and to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance (O&M) plan.

- Step 1 Survey
- Step 2 Identification of project
- Step 3 Conceptual design
- Step 4 Basic design
- Step 5 Formulation of operation and maintenance and public awareness plan
- Step 6 Detailed design
- Step 7 Construction (Implementation)
- Step 8 Handing-over of facilities
- Step 9 Utilisation
- Step 10 Evaluation of usage and impact

#### (2) Methodology of Study

In order to understand the knowledge, attitude, practices and behavior of the people regarding the problems of ghats and make the improvement plan need-based and people-oriented, the following methodology was adopted.

- Ghat Inventory Survey
- Questionnaire Survey of Ghat Users
- Workshop
- Focus Group Discussion

##### Ghat Inventory Survey

To understand the existing situation of the 77 ghats, a Ghat Inventory Survey was carried out. The contents of the inventory include following items;

- Temples name near ghats, with crematoria
- No. of changing rooms
- Public toilets
- O&M Organization
- Regular users
- Occasional users
- Problem areas
- Renovation needs

##### Questionnaire Survey of Ghat Stakeholders

A Questionnaire Survey was carried out on the necessity of ghat improvement by hiring surveyors. The answers were obtained from 200 stakeholders such as ghat users, residents, religious leaders, NGOs, vendors, Government officials and pilgrims/tourists.

##### Workshop

Nine workshops were organized by JICA Study Team on the following themes:

1<sup>st</sup> Stage

- 1) Initial selection of ghat for pilot project (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003)
- 2) Final selection of ghat for pilot project (16<sup>th</sup> July 2003)

2<sup>nd</sup> Stage

- 3) Forming a stakeholder working group and stakeholders' need assessment (29<sup>th</sup> October 2003),
- 4) Discussion on detailed components of the project (10<sup>th</sup> November 2003)
- 5) Discussion on design alternatives (23<sup>rd</sup> December 2003)
- 6) Finalization of design and discussion on O&M and public participation plan (27<sup>th</sup> April 2004)

3<sup>rd</sup> Stage

- 7) Operation and maintenance of facilities and selection of Mural artist (24<sup>th</sup> September 2004)
- 8) Operation and maintenance of facilities (9<sup>th</sup> December, 2004) with pre-meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004)
- 9) Change of facilities design (12<sup>th</sup> January 2005)
- 10) Consultations on Takhat Hazara (10<sup>th</sup> February 2005)

Minutes of Meeting of all the workshops are attached in the Appendix of this report.

Focus Group Discussion

Several focus group discussions were held to formulate an O&M plan. It was felt that a group of stakeholders had similar expectations and requirements.

Interviews

In-depth interviews with members of the major stakeholder interest groups were conducted. Those stakeholders who were considered to be potentially important for participating in the O&M plan and the public participation and awareness programme in improving hygiene conditions were interviewed with special emphasis.

(2) Target Group

The target group for the pilot project includes:

- Varanasi Nagar Nigam, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Sathua Baba ashram, Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Dom Raja, town counsellors
- Wood sellers, shopkeepers, Tirth Purohits working on the ghats, Ghatiya priests, boatmen, pilgrims, tourists, guides, mourners, Dom community including their helpers, temple trustees, dharamshala owners, guest house owners, Nagar Nigam officers, Sulabh toilet care taker and manager

## **1.4 GHAT INVENTORY**

(1) Ghat List

According to the Department of Culture, Varanasi, there are 84 ghats along the River Ganga in Varanasi. Out of these 77 ghats are listed below.

**Table 1.1 List of Ghats along the Ganga River in Varanasi**

Sl. No.	Site Name	Sl. No.	Site Name
<b><u>Bhelupur Ward</u></b>		<b><u>Dashashwamedh Ward</u></b>	
1	Assi Ghat	29	Raja Ghat
2	Ganga Mahal Ghat	30	Babuwa Pandey Ghat
3	Reevan Ghat	31	Pandey Ghat
4	Tulsi Ghat	32	Dimpatiya Ghat
5	Bhadaini Ghat	33	Chowshahi Ghat
6	Janki Ghat	34	Raja Mahal Ghat
7	Anandi Mai Ghat	35	Munshi Ghat
8	Vachchhraj Ghat	36	Darbhangha Ghat
9	Jain Ghat	37	Ahilyabai Ghat
10	Shri Nishad Raj Ghat	38	Sheetla Ghat
11	Panch Kot Ghat	39	Prayag Ghat
12	Prabhu Ghat	40	Dashashwamedh Ghat
13	Chet Singh Ghat	41	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat
14	Niranjani Ghat	42	Maan Mandir Ghat
15	Mahainrvani Ghat	43	Tripur Bharavi Ghat
16	Shivala Ghat	44	Meer Ghat
17	Gularia Ghat	45	Lalita Ghat
18	Dandi Ghat		
19	Prachin Hanuman Ghat	<b><u>Chowk Ward</u></b>	
20	Karnatak State Ghat	46	Sindia Ghat
21	Harishchandra Ghat	47	Manikarnika Ghat
22	Lali Ghat	48	Sankta Ghat
23	Vijay Nagar Ghat	49	Gaushala Ghat
24	Kedar Ghat	50	Jalasen Ghat
25	Chowkia Ghat	51	Ganga Mahal Ghat
26	Someshwar Ghat	52	Ganesh Ghat
27	Mansarovar Ghat		
28	Narad Ghat		
		<b><u>Kotawali Ward</u></b>	
		53	Mehta Ghat
		54	Ram Ghat
		55	Jatar Ghat
		56	Raja Gwalior Ghat
		57	Bala Ghat
		58	Panch Ganga Ghat
		59	Durga Ghat
		60	Brahma Ghat
		61	Bundi Parkota Ghat
		62	Lal Ghat
		63	Shir Hnuman Gharhi Ghat
		64	Gay Ghat
		<b><u>Adampur IInd Ward</u></b>	
		65	Badrinath Ghat
		66	Trilochan Ghat
		67	Gola Ghat
		68	Mehashwar Ghat
		69	Samka Ghat
		70	Teliyana Nala Ghat
		71	Naya Ghat
		72	Nishad Ghat
		73	Prahalad Ghat
		74	Raj Ghat
		75	Bhaisasur (Raj Ghat) Ghat
		76	Khrikeya Ghat
		77	Keshav Ghat

## (2) Ghat Inventory Survey

The results of the Inventory Survey are compiled in Appendix A. The following are the findings in the Survey.

- Lack of toilet complexes and open urination  
Only 15 ghats have community toilet complexes nearby and the rest of about 65 ghats have no toilet facility. Due to absence of toilet facilities the people utilize the ghat platforms for toilet and urination needs. Hygienic condition of the ghats and toilets is not satisfactory due to lack of toilets and poor maintenance of toilets even if there are any. Toilet facilities are un-maintained and dirty.
- Solid waste  
Plastic bottles & bags, flowers are spread indiscriminately over the ghats. The shopkeepers & users at the ghats throw the plastic bags and bottles into river or on the ghats. The ghat cleaning and solid waste management is poor as sweepers clean the ghats every alternate day and only once in a day.

- Liquid waste  
Liquid waste or sewage through drains discharge directly into the river in the vicinity of the ghats.
- Cattle wallowing near the ghat
- Damaged stairs  
Stairs are broken and scratched at many places and need repair.
- Electricity and drinking water facilities.  
These are quite inadequate.
- Ghat users  
Around 25,000 people take bath in Ganga everyday. During festivals, more than 300,000 people come for the holy dip.

(3) Ghat Questionnaire Survey

The need of improvement of ghats in Varanasi was assessed through a questionnaire survey of 200 persons of the stakeholders: users, residents, religious leaders, opinion leaders, NGOs, vendors, pilgrims, tourists, etc. Through the questionnaire survey, the following demands were identified for the improvement of ghats.

**Table 1.2 Summary of Ghat Improvement Needs**

Facility measures	Non-facility measures
- Bathroom	- Daily cleaning
- Boat stand	- Ghat improvement without affecting its historical nature
- Chairs with shade, shaded seats, umbrella type chairs	- Minimize encroachment by boats at the ghat
- Changing room	- Minimize no. of shops at ghat
- Cloak/Locker room	- Monitoring of cleaning, maintenance and safety measures
- Drinking water facility	- Monitoring and restriction of solid waste disposal in the river
- Dustbin	- Police, security guard and divers for safety
- Enquiry office	- Prohibit plastic bags at ghat
- Garbage collector	- Prohibit cattle bathing
- Improve Varuna river water	- Prohibit flow of dead bodies in the river
- Light at ghats	- Prohibit flow of flowers in to the Ganga
- Plantation, beautification	- Prohibit garbage disposal in the river
- Public toilet	- Prohibit throwing ash of cremated bodies
- Railing at the ghat	- Prohibit washing of cloths at ghat
- Remove the soil/mud above the ghat platform	- Public awareness activities
- Separate place in river near the ghat for religious flowers	
- Separation at bathing ghat for ladies	
- Sewer system, wastewater treatment	
- Slope way for handicapped person	
- Solid waste management	
- Special dustbin for religious flowers	

The details of needs by percentage for facility improvement are as follows:

<u>Facility Improvement</u>	<u>Results of Questionnaire Survey</u>	
Public toilet	75	29.1%
Drinking water facility	30	11.6%
Dustbin	30	11.6%
Solid waste management	25	9.7%
Chairs with shade, umbrella type chairs.	19	7.4%
Sewer system, wastewater treatment	14	5.4%
Garbage collector	12	4.7%
Locker room, cloak room	9	3.5%
Changing room	8	3.1%
Plantation, beautification	8	3.1%
Remove soil/mud from the ghat	7	2.7%
Special dustbin for religious flowers	6	2.3%
Light at ghat	4	1.6%
Boat stand	2	0.8%
Bathroom	2	0.8%
Separation at bathing ghat for ladies	2	0.8%
Repair the ghat	2	0.8%
Enquiry office	1	0.4%
Railing at the ghat	1	0.4%
Slope way for handicapped persons	1	0.4%

In addition, signage and guide boards and lane improvement were also identified.

The followings are the needs relating to prevention of river pollution and improvement of hygienic conditions in ghat area:

- Public toilets
- Drinking water facility
- Dust bins, special dust bins for religious flowers
- Solid waste management, garbage collection
- Sewer system and wastewater treatment
- Remove soil mud from ghats

The results of the Questionnaire Survey are compiled in Appendix A.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**SELECTION OF GHAT**

## **CHAPTER 2 SELECTION OF GHAT**

### **2.1 INITIAL SELECTION OF GHATS**

The JICA Study Team organized several meetings on high priority sites and facilities to be improved in view of sanitary/hygienic improvement with the local Government officials concerned such as Varanasi Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation), Irrigation Department, Tourism Department, UP Jal Nigam, and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

It was agreed by the Government and non-Government stakeholders to select preliminarily the following eight ghats with one option of all the ghats as shown below for further study to focus on two or three ghat alternatives for final selection.

- Shitala Ghat
- Dashashwamedh Ghat
- Prayag Ghat
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat
- Manikarnika Ghat
- Sankata Ghat
- Telia Nala Ghat
- Raj Ghat
- All the ghats for small scale improvements

These eight ghats were selected based on the site inspection and discussions with the Government and non-Government stakeholders.

The local Authorities of Varanasi were requested to select the priority sites with necessary facilities to be adopted in the Pilot Project. For this, JICA Study Team made an alternative study on the proposed sites and necessary facilities based on the discussions with stakeholders such as the local authorities concerned, users, NGOs, priests, etc.

In the joint meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003 with the officials from the Varanasi Nagar Nigam, Irrigation Department, UP Jal Nigam, Tourism Department, Archaeological Survey of India and JICA Study Team under Chairmanship of District Magistrate with concurrence of Divisional Commissioner, all the participants agreed to select and request JICA for one of the following sites/scheme.

- 1) Assi Ghat
- 2) Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining ghats
- 3) Manikarnika Ghat
- 4) All the ghats for repair/renovation of steps to sustain the stability of steps
- 5) All the ghats for installation of pumps and hydrants for desilting of the ghats

Following this meeting, the local authorities of Varanasi requested JICA to adopt the sites/schemes in priority order as 1) Manikarnika Ghat, 2) Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining ghats.

### **2.2 RISK SURVEY**

A risk-identification survey was conducted in social, political and religious aspects. From interviews of the various stakeholders such as local officials, social workers, NGOs, users, opinion leaders, residents, priest, etc. no risk was reported or could be identified as long as the pilot project was limited to improve facilities from the viewpoint of sanitation/hygienic improvement and user safety. It was confirmed that the pilot project does not have any risk and the Stakeholders are willing to cooperate for the project.

## 2.3 PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF ALTERNATIVES

### (1) Concept

As agreed in the joint meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003 with the local authorities of Varanasi, the preliminary design was prepared for the sites with schemes as shown below.

- 1) Manikarnika Ghat
- 2) Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining ghats
- 3) Assi Ghat
- 4) All the ghats for repair/renovation of steps to sustain the stability of steps
- 5) All the ghats for installation of pumps and hydrants for de-silting of the ghats

The design concept of the pilot project was to improve facilities in the ghat to give better environment, to improve sanitary and hygienic conditions without changing the original shape and nature of the ghat.

### (2) Alternatives

Preliminary design and cost estimation was prepared for the five alternatives as below.

#### **Alternative –I: Manikarnika Ghat**

Present condition:

Toilet facility: One community toilet complex (operated by Sulabh International)  
 Changing room/shower: One public and several private changing rooms  
 Sanitary condition: Open urination and cattle wallowing  
 Other observations: Broken pavements, stairs, scoured platforms. Waiting room not enough.

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs.Lakhs)</b>
Waiting room with toilet	15
Changing room with shower (2 units)	10
Repair of platform for cremation (Improved crematoria x 1, conventional platform x5)	20
Renovation of steps and platforms (riverside, low level, ground level,	10
Lane improvement 1km	5
Physical Contingencies (15%)	10.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80.5</b>

#### **Alternative – II: Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining Ghats**

Present conditions:

Toilet/Urinal: One community toilet complex on the top of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat, but very low usage.  
 Changing room/shower: There are 1-2 changing rooms installed by people but not adequate.  
 Sanitary conditions: Rampant open defecation and urination, leading to unhygienic conditions.  
 Other observations: Broken stairs of the adjoining Ghats to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat. Damaged joints of the stairs

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs. Lakh)</b>
Change/lockers room, shower room	4
Portable cubical for urinal (4units)	2
Medical/Tourist information centre.	1.5
Shoes staking at entrance	0.9
Safety measures for bathing users	2
Guide boards.	1.5
Repairing of existing steps.	42
Renovation of existing toilet	7.5
Physical Contingencies (15%)	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70.6</b>

### **Alternative – III: Assi Ghat**

Present condition:

Toilet/Urinal: One community toilet complex operated by the Sulabh International  
 Changing room/shower: No changing room  
 Safety measures: The O&M of toilets is very poor and stinking badly.  
 Other observations: Damaged stairs and clips. No measures to check silt deposition

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs. Lakh)</b>
Change/locker room with showers	9
W.C & urinals at a higher level.	7
Medical/Tourist information centre.	1.5
Small physical exercise area, Yoga cum Meditation area, View point area.	15
Ramp arrangement for physically disabled people.	4.5
Shoes staking at entrance	0.9
Development of entrance	3
Safety measures for bathing users	2.5
Guide boards.	1.5
Repairing of existing steps.	20
Retaining wall to prevent siltation	7.5
Seating arrangement	2.8
Physical Contingencies (15%)	11.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86.5</b>

### **Alternative - IV: All the Ghats for repair/renovation of steps to sustain the stability of steps.**

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs. Lakh)</b>
Repair of joint	150
Renovation of steps	500
Physical Contingencies (15%)	98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>748</b>

**Alternative - V: All the ghats for installation of pumps and hydrants for de-silting of the ghats**

Recommendations	Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs. Lakh)
Pumps and Hydrants 10 x 77	770
Physical Contingencies (15%)	116
TOTAL	886

(3) Summary

Preliminary cost estimate of alternatives are summarized as follows.

Alternatives	Preliminary Cost Estimate (Rs. Lakh)
I: Manikarnika Ghat	80.5
II: Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining Ghats	70.6
III: Assi Ghat	86.5
IV: All the ghats for repair/renovation of steps to sustain the stability of steps	748
V: All the ghats for installation of pumps and hydrants for desilting of the ghats	886

## 2.4 JUSTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives were analyzed as below:

Alternative	Advantage	Disadvantage
I: Assi Ghat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road approach</li> <li>• Less encroachment</li> <li>• Religious and historical importance</li> <li>• Land availability on and around the Ghat</li> <li>• Strong request from stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> <li>• Comprehensive plan is under consideration of the Ministry of Tourism (MoT).</li> </ul>
II: Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining Ghats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High religious and historical importance</li> <li>• Very high usage</li> <li>• Strong request from stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High encroachment</li> <li>• Congested area</li> <li>• Comprehensive plan is under consideration of the MoT.</li> </ul>
III: Manikarnika Ghat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the most important religious Ghats as cremation Ghat.</li> <li>• People come from all over India all the year round.</li> <li>• Land availability on and around the Ghat</li> <li>• Strong request from stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access for construction is limited to river transportation only</li> </ul>
IV: Repair/renovation of steps to sustain the stability of steps for all the ghats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high usage</li> <li>• Strong request from stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty on construction management</li> </ul>
V: Installation of pumps and hydrants for desilting of the ghats for all the ghats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high usage</li> <li>• Strong request from stakeholders</li> </ul>	

The Alternative III, Manikarnika Ghat was more favored alternative on account of the following

factors:

<b><i>Social acceptance:</i></b>	All the alternatives were strongly requested from the stakeholders so that social acceptance is high.
<b><i>Technical viewpoint:</i></b>	All the improvement for Manikarnika Ghat could be completed by March 2004 under the condition that some technical data such as topographic map, soil mechanical data, monthly mean water level and 25 to 50 year probable flood water level of the River Ganga were made available by the end of October 2003 at latest.
<b><i>Environmental soundness:</i></b>	None the alternatives were likely to give negative impact since all the schemes were recommended for environmental improvement without any large scale construction works. However, the schemes for Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining Ghats could be stayed by the ASI because any construction within 100m was not permitted and for any new structure within 100 to 300m, approval was required.
<b><i>Economical effectiveness:</i></b>	Manikarnika Ghat was found to be having highest cost effectiveness and visibility since all the necessary improvements were proposed with the lowest investment. Although the investment for Dr. Rajendra Prasad and adjoining Ghats also could be low, visibility was not to be so high since there already were existing toilets and changing rooms.

## 2.5 REQUEST AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE

### (1) Request from Varanasi Nagar Nigam

The Varanasi Nagar Nigam requested JICA to select the Manikarnika Ghat as first priority for the Pilot Project in accordance with the consensus in the joint meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003 with the officials from the Varanasi Nagar Nigam, Irrigation Department, UP Jal Nigam, Tourism Department, Archaeological Survey of India and JICA Study Team under Chairmanship of District Magistrate which was held with concurrence of the Divisional Commissioner.

### (2) Steering Committee

The Steering Committee meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at NRCD. In this meeting, the Steering Committee agreed to the request of Varanasi Nagar Nigam to select Manikarnika Ghat as a Pilot Project.

### (3) Workshop

A workshop was held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Varanasi in which various stakeholders; ghat users, vendors/shopkeepers, religious related persons, social workers, NGOs and the concerned Government officials participated. The workshop was facilitated with following discussions on the sanitary improvement of the ghat.

- 1) Exchange opinion on appropriate facilities of ghat,
- 2) Exchange opinion on sustainable maintenance of ghat to upkeep hygienic condition.

The opinion exchanged in the workshop was duly considered in the design of the Pilot Project. The major points of panel discussion are highlighted as follows:

- It was emphasized that de-silting of ghats and its cleaning should be addressed on high priority and that a provision for improvement of facilities should be required but an adequate mechanism should be established for the operation and maintenance. (Social Worker)

- It was said that there was need for separate bathing place for males and females on the Ghats and locker facility. It was suggested that, to generate revenue, some kind of tourism development plan should be initiated on the sand dune, such as horse riding, some traditional song and dance programme etc. This would attract tourists who might be levied to pay tax/fee, which could be utilized for maintaining the ghats and facilities to reduce the pressure on Nagar Nigam. (NGO)
- It was suggested that due care should be taken to maintain the originality of ghats in Varanasi. (Government official)
- The role of Nagar Nigam in maintenance of facilities was explained by the Municipal Commissioner and he concluded the discussions by assuring the participants and JICA for full cooperation in the implementation of the Ghat Improvement Project.

After the panelists, other participants expressed their opinion and put forward many important points. The major points which emerged are summaries as follows:

- Separate arrangements for bathing of males and females were suggested by most of the participants.
- The facility of toilet was required near the Ghats so that sanitation and hygiene could be maintained.
- Drinking water and changing room were desired to be facilitated at the Ghats.
- The need of locker room was extremely emphasized to control the deviant behavior of the people.
- It was suggested that cultural ethos and the social heritage of the city should not be disturbed in the improvement process.
- Participants were of the opinion that important and famous Ghats should have an entrance gate where hawkers may be provided space for selling various religious and other items.

A consensus was made that Manikarnika Ghat should be selected as a Pilot Project to provide and improve the facilities. It was recognized that in implementation of the project, the public and community participation was essential. This would enhance accountability and sustainability of the project. The participants and representatives of different groups assured of full cooperation in the implementation of the Pilot Project.

**CHAPTER 3**  
**PLANNING AND FACILITY DESIGN**

## **CHAPTER 3 PLANNING AND FACILITY DESIGN**

### **3.1 BASIC DESIGN CONCEPT**

After the selection of the ghat for the Pilot Project, a working group was formulated consisting of about 20 members of the representatives of stakeholders of Manikarnika Ghat as follows;

- Mayor of Varanasi City
- Municipal Commissioner
- UP Jal Nigam
- Irrigation Department
- Tourism Department
- ASI of Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture
- Counsellors (city house member)
- NGOs, priests and religious leaders
- Ghat management body
- Dom Raja (cremation management body)

The working group functioned not only to discuss the facility plan in the workshop but also to create a cooperative environment on the pilot project.

Three workshops were held to discuss the facilities to be renovated or to be installed new in Manikarnika Ghat. Twelve facilities and equipment were identified for the pilot project. The concepts and specifications of facilities agreed by the stakeholders are explained as follows. The Minutes of Meeting are attached in Appendix B.

#### **(1) Construction of changing room at Janana Ghat**

The Janana Ghat caters to bathing facilities for ladies who come here for performing religious rites and taking a holy dip. It is observed that upper side of this Ghat is used for urination and wood stock since this Ghat is surrounded by a partition wall. The stakeholders agreed to provide a door written as 'Ladies Only' and construct changing rooms for ladies incorporating aesthetic and environmental improvement to prevent its misuse.

Two small changing rooms of 4 m<sup>2</sup> each were designed at both corners of the Ghat. The material for wall was proposed to be local bricks with Dhoolpur stone cladding and for the sloping roof, RCC shell clad with Mangalore tiles to enhance the aesthetics. The removal of the depository sand after floods was to be removed by the Varanasi Nagar Nigam.

#### **(2) Renovation of raised (roof) cremation platform**

A roof top cremation platform retained by an old stonewall is used for cremation mainly during flood and rainy season. The base of platform which cantilevers on four sides is supported by traditional stone brackets. The stakeholders agreed to renovate the roof floor with cremation platform and a unit of improved wood crematorium. The improved wood crematorium saves consumption of wood for burning and the burning time about half. The other seven cremation platforms would be conventional ones. This renovation would contribute prevention of the half burnt dead bodies that are thrown in to the river.

The elements like flooring, roofing, parapets and facade of the existing structure was proposed to be appropriately renovated. The structure of the raised platform was to be retained up to the existing stonewall top and the brackets while the roof to be removed. The RCC slab to be laid with the railing in MS sections supported on concrete columns.

(3) Renovation of ground cremation platform

About 150 bodies are cremated daily directly on the ground at the riverbank without cremation platform. This ground is not available during the rainy season since this area is submerged in river water. The cremation ground is formed by three different levels in elevation separated by a steel railing and becomes very congested, as people have to wait for long time to perform last rites. The ground is haphazardly occupied.

The stakeholders agreed to renovate the ground with cremation platform in three different levels in elevation. This renovation would contribute prevention of half burnt dead bodies that are released to the river.

Retaining walls were proposed to be constructed for platforms of three different height of the cremation area. It was agreed that the existing three levels of cremation platform would be retained as it is. It was also suggested that the proposed cremation platforms should be barricaded in such a way so that stray animals could not enter crematoria place.

(4) Renovation of Chakra Pushkarni Manikarnika Kund

There is an existing sacred pond, Chakra-Pushkarini Kund ("Discus Lotus-Pool") (Manikarnika Kund). It cannot be over emphasized that this component has a very great religious significance and therefore, an utmost care was needed to be taken while carrying out of any renovation work. There is a source of water beneath (Gomukh) which has at present no connectivity with the river Ganga. The original water channels need to be restored and de-silted.

The stakeholders agreed to provide proper and elegant railing and fencing for the safety of users. In addition, signage and sufficient lighting around this Kund was proposed to be provided to bring out its heritage and mythological significance.

(5) Construction of Heritage Corner

The platforms of approximately 22 m x 8 m on the lower level and 22 m x 6.5 m on the upper level are available near Chakra-Pushkarini Kund. The Varanasi Nagar Nigam was in the process of constructing a Waiting Hall at lower level. However the effort was abandoned in favour of the proposals agreed by working group members in the workshop. As there was total lack of information available on the various traditional, religious and cultural resources on the entire Ghat strip, it was considered quite appropriate to allocate a space for the development of a 'Heritage Comer' with appropriate signage to be developed along with seating and lighting.

(6) Construction of shading roof for Takhat Hazara

Takhat Hazara is a 1000 year-old platform used for the performance of "pind daan" and "shraddh" mainly amongst a gamut of various rites of Hindus. This platform has hollow spaces and temples beneath it. It has raised platforms of different heights varying from 0.19 m to 1.03 m on a total area of 15.87 m x 5.38 m.

Various alternative proposals of permanent light roofing were discussed and it was suggested that a conical / pyramidal roof type structure would be a feasible solution, as the silt will not get accumulated after the flood. However, it was imperative to analyze the feasibility of such a proposal keeping in mind the age and structural condition of the 1000 year old platform. This shading was intended to protect participants of rituals from sun and heat.

(7) Repaving of Ramlila Maidan Ground

The famous Hindu epic Ramayan contains the traditional lore of Sri Rama alongwith, moral instructions, metaphysics and folk wisdom. Kavi Tulsidas presented it to the world as Ramcharit Manas and it is the origin of the tradition of the annual thirty day Ramlila festival in the month of Ashvin (October).

The stakeholders agreed to repave the Ramlila Maidan Ground with proper slope as the Ramlila ground encounters the problem of water logging and uneven paving.

(8) Renovation of Birla Dharmshala building as waiting room with lockers

Birla Dharmshala is used by pilgrims for short stay accommodation free of charge. The balconies of the building are used by tourists for watching the progress of the last rites, or cremation of their dear ones.

The stakeholders agreed to renovate this building as the waiting room at first and second floor for the 100 people with 10 lockers mainly for visitors of cremation activities as well as pilgrims and tourists. The waiting room was proposed to be provided after appropriate retrofitting / repairing as shown below.

- Repair of floors
- Plastering of external walls, internal walls and roof
- Ornamental plaster
- Repair of parapet of balconies
- Repair of roof
- Internal and external white wash and colour wash

(9) Reconstruction of existing public toilet

It was found that only the location of existing Sulabh Complex is above high flood level and would not pose any problem of maintenance. However, the present structure was dilapidated and was recommended to reconstruct toilet facilities with better design for provision of 5 urinals, 5 seats for gents toilets and 5 seats for ladies toilets. If maintenance of the toilet was assured without any problem or bad smell, the first floor could be developed as additional waiting room / resting place for visitors. The public toilet was to be connected with the existing sewer, which carries wastewater to the sewage treatment plant. This public toilet if properly maintained could prevent river pollution from non point source of open defecation in this area.

The general practice of the Sulabh International in and around Varanasi is that the urinals are provided outside the toilets. The urinals if located outside lead to stinking smell, which is unsuitable for the surrounding residential locality and passer by visitors. The narrow congested lanes around the toilet get environmentally degraded. Therefore, it was proposed that the urinal facilities should be within the toilet. This was discussed with the senior management of Sulabh International and they in principle endorsed the decision quoting the example of similar arrangements in and around Delhi.

(10) Provision of dustbins

The stakeholders agreed to provide proper dustbins made of stone at important/key locations to prevent indiscriminate dumping of garbage on the ghat and into the river.

(11) Provision of signage boards

The stakeholders agreed to provide appropriate descriptive and directional signage in the project area as per the requirements.

(12) Provision of pump for de-silting

Most structures in the area face the problem of cyclic flooding and sedimentation by River Ganga. The silt that gathers over the submerged areas of the Ghat has to be cleaned annually. The provision of pump for this purpose was considered essential.

### 3.2 DETAILED DESIGN

The detailed design drawings of the proposed facilities were prepared by the sub contract consultants, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), as compiled in Appendix C. The bird's eye view of the proposed facilities is shown in the Figure 3.1.

### 3.3 COST ESTIMATION

The detailed cost estimation of the proposed Pilot Project was carried by HUDCO as follows. The total cost was estimated as Indian Rupees Seven Million and Four Hundred Thousand.

**Table 3.1 Cost Estimate of Pilot Project**

<b>Components</b>		<b>Cost (Rs)</b>
1	Changing Room at Janana Ghat	201631.00
2	Raised Crematation Platform	736252.00
3	Cremation Ground	2398257.00
4	Manikarnika Kund	641952.00
5	Heritage Corner	533056.00
6	Roofing on Takht Hazara	30000.00
7	Ramlila Maidan	203196.00
8	Retrofitting of Birla Dharmashala	333351.00
9	Toilet Facilities & Waiting Room	836454.00
10	Provision of 10 dust bins	34758.00
11	Installation of Signage System	100000.00
12	Pump for de-silting	50000.00
Sub-Total		6098907.00
10 % extra due to hard working conditions, difficult transport situation, retrofitting nature of work etc.		609890.7
Sub-Total 'x'		6708797.70
Contingencies @ 3% of 'x'		201263.93
Sub-Total		6910061.63
		69.10lacs
Others Items, not to be tendered		
1	Mural at Heritage Corner	5.00 lacs
Grand Total		74.10 lacs

### 3.4 IMPLEMENTATION

The improvement works started at the beginning of May, 2004 but had to be suspended from June to September because of submergence of the site by flood water. The improvement works were resumed after rainy season and completed in March 2005. The following are facilities constructed or improved through the Pilot Project. The project was implemented by grant assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

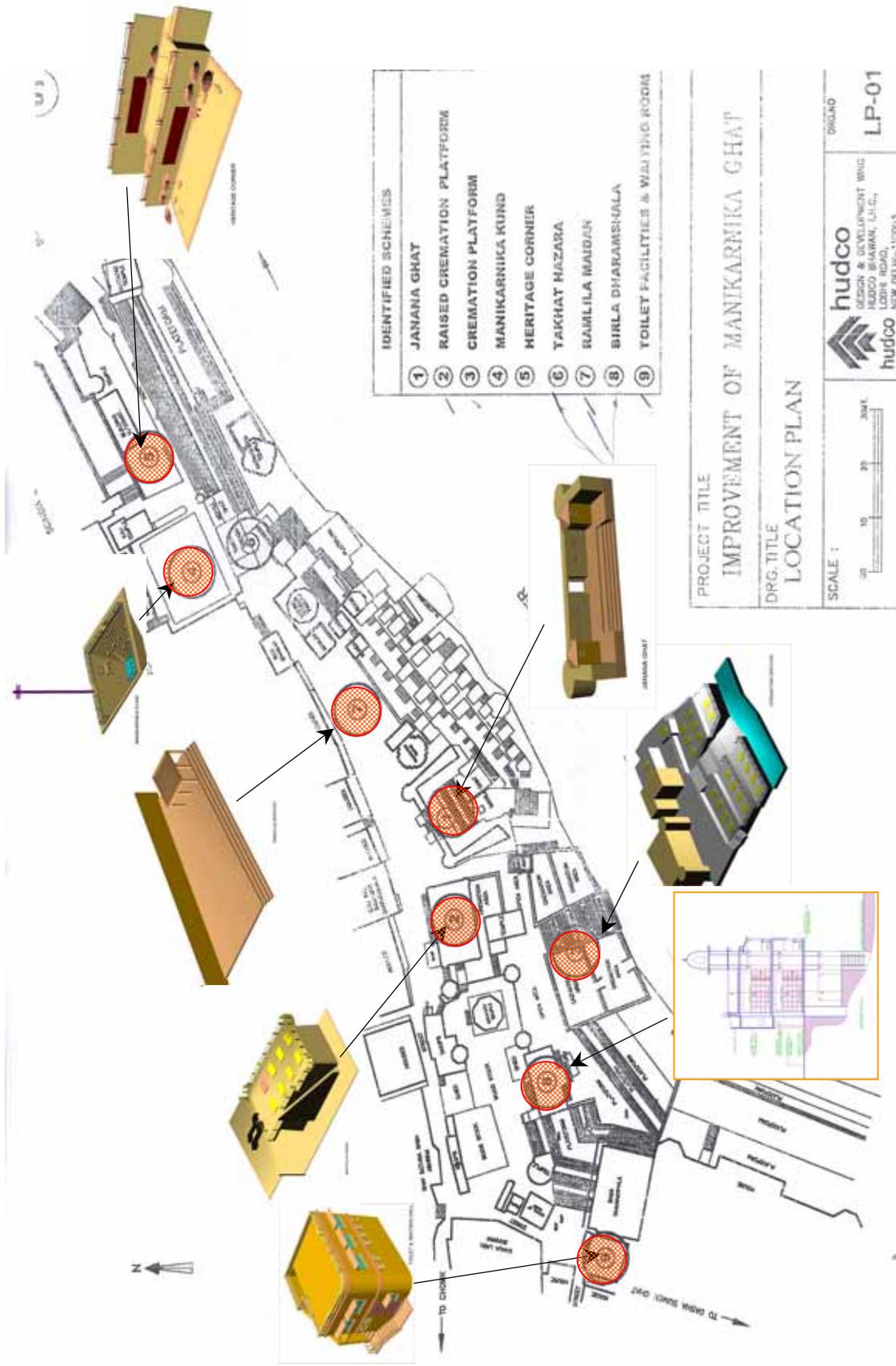


Figure 3.1 Bird's Eye View of Proposed Facilities

**CHAPTER 4**  
**OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN**

## **CHAPTER 4 OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN**

The draft report of operation & maintenance of Manikarnika Ghat prepared by a local NGO is attached in Appendix D.

### **4.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **4.1.1 Target Groups**

The target group of this plan includes local stakeholders comprising of:

(1) Relevant local Government officials:

- The Varanasi Nagar Nigam,
- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Irrigation Department
- Town counsellors

(2) Major stakeholders at the ghat

- Sathua Baba Ashram Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti
- Dom Raja (cremation manager) and its community including their helpers
- Wood sellers, boatmen and shopkeepers
- Ghatiya priests and temple trustees
- Pilgrims and mourners
- Guides, tourists
- Sulabh toilet care taker

#### **4.1.2 Current Hygiene Management and Facility Maintenance Scenario**

Nagar Nigam currently manages the overall cleaning of the ghat (with irregular washing, disinfecting, etc.), de-silting after flood season, garbage disposal through daily collections (averaging once a day), lighting of the ghat area. The Nagar Nigam is not doing major structural maintenance on the ghats.

Among the stakeholders who manage hygiene services and maintain existing facilities are the Dom community which manages specifically the cleaning and maintenance of the cremation area, the Tirth Purohit Samiti which manages and maintains the Manikarnika Kund and the Sulabh International Non Government Organization that manages the toilet complex. The stakeholders do not participate directly in the cleaning of the ghat area.

The hygiene and sanitation problems on the Manikarnika ghat are aggravated due to:

- Huge daily floating population of approx. 6,000 to 20,000 people
- Open defecation and urination
- Extensive illegal stacking of wood
- High production of garbage
- Low awareness levels among visiting population and people using the ghat
- Low public participation levels in keeping ghat area clean and monitoring Nagar Nigam services
- Irregular cleaning of the ghat infrequent disposal of garbage
- Inefficiency in services provided by Nagar Nigam
- Cattle and other animals

## **4.2 BROAD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

To address the above problems and move towards resolving them, following three ways are recommended:

- (1) By constructing and/or renovating hygiene facilities:
  - Constructing and/or renovating toilets
  - Restricting wood stacking
  - Constructing waiting and changing rooms to provide shelter
  - Repairing stone paving and ghat steps
  - Providing dust bins
  - Providing signage
  
- (2) By increasing stakeholder participation
  - Increased awareness levels of both residents and visitors
  - Increased direct involvement of the stakeholders while deciding and implementing plans for their area
  - Increased involvement of stakeholder groups to monitor and manage their community resources
  - Improved consensus-building for maintaining existing facilities
  - Stimulating financial responsibility for maintaining community services and facilities
  
- (3) By improving the efficiency and efficacy of the administration
  - Capacity building of policy makers and administrators
  - Improved monitoring and evaluation system
  - Incentive and result based human resource management
  - Stakeholder participating impact evaluation of policies and plans
  - Capacity of administration to raise funds

## **4.3 O&M PLAN OF THE ENTIRE MANIKARNIKA GHAT AREA**

### **4.3.1 O&M Plan Agreed by Stakeholders**

Three O&M plan alternatives have been studied and elaborated for the facilities being provided on the Manikarnika Ghat. These plans were presented to the stakeholders at the final workshop conducted in April 2004. The O&M plan that they finalised with the assent of the Nagar Nigam during the final workshop is the following.

- 1) CBO (Community Based Organization) will be created to discuss issues related to O&M on regular basis.
- 2) All possibilities of fund generations for O&M of proposed facilities and ghat area from user groups will be explored and worked out.
- 3) Though focus will be on community based approach of O&M, and process will be initiated in this regard, but, as long as CBO is not organized, Nagar Nigam will take full responsibility of O&M of the proposed facilities and Manikarnika Ghat area.

### **4.3.2 O&M Plan Agreed and Recommendations**

A broad consensus was made in the workshop on O&M plan by the stakeholders. The more detailed management scenario recommended by JICA Study Team is described and its advantages and disadvantages are discussed as below:

### (1) Management

A community based organization (CBO) would be formed, comprising of opinion formers of each of the major stakeholder groups. A joint working group of the CBO and the Varanasi Nagar Nigam would be created. The Varanasi Nagar Nigam and this CBO would jointly manage and monitor the hygiene and sanitation services and facility maintenance on the ghat. This joint group will be responsible for raising funds from the visitors and residents. The CBO would be renewed every two years so as to give all stakeholders a chance to participate in managing their ghat. The composition of the CBO and its answerability will follow strict legal standards. Whatever be the alternative, the Varanasi Nagar Nigam will continue to be the public body that sets and ensures hygiene standards, guarantees law enforcement, provides street lights, organises daily cleaning services, provides security and enforces law on those violating hygiene practices, polluting the river, doing illegal activities, trading without licenses, encroaching without permissions. The VNN would in this alternative also continue to take care of major structural maintenance.

### (2) Monitoring

The body responsible for monitoring the entire ghat would also be the joint working group comprising the CBO and the VNN. The VNN would facilitate the formation of such a CBO and work out the detailed by-laws such that this group formally becomes the local monitoring body and reference group for the VNN. The major stakeholders of specific facility on the ghat will monitor and give back specific feedbacks, on this facility, to the CBO which would then refer these problems to the joint working group during their regular meetings. An agreement would be worked out between the CBO and the VNN, for this purpose. The facility-specific stakeholders could lock and open the facility if required, supervise facility usage by promoting its right use and checking on its wrong use. The VNN may create a direct help line number that would be dedicated to the ghat area for receiving feedbacks of stakeholders, like complaints, emergencies, etc. The VNN would ask experts to conduct surveys for getting satisfaction levels of users and evaluating the impact of hygiene care and pollution reduction activities.

### (3) Fund Generation

A corpus fund would be created and money would be raised by taking token money from the users like pilgrims, tourists, visitors, mourners, etc. and by taking small monthly amounts from the service providers and traders. The Dom community and wood sellers, for instance, could decide in solidarity that a nominal raise would be made on what its clients pay, that this raise would finance primarily the maintenance of the cremation ghat area and platforms and also contribute to the corpus fund specifically created for the Manikarnika ghat. This fund would be managed under the observance of the Nagar Nigam so that transparency is maintained. Two offices could be created for receiving this token money, one perhaps in the Birla Dharamshala for the cremation ghat area and one near the Takht Hazara for the Manikarnika ghat or in another place decided by the CBO as easily accessible to visitors. The money could be put into sealed boxes that would be opened, counted and countersigned in the presence of two of the CBO members and then deposited by VNN staff persons of the zone appointed for the purpose. A special bank account could be created for managing this corpus fund created for the Manikarnika ghat by the VNN. The accountancy could be handled, on behalf of the CBO, by a VNN staff accountant and the disbursement would be made monthly by the VNN for the ghat area and for specific facility maintenance as and when required. Fund raising could also be done from:

- Sponsorships from industrial houses
- Sponsorships from tourism organizations or percentage of the increased tax levied by the Nagar Nigam on them

- Ashrams, i.e. all those who survive economically because of the ghat and will benefit by a clean ghat

#### (4) Fund Management

The fund would be managed jointly by the CBO and the VNN who would together decide annual budgets and priorities and monthly disbursements. This utilisation of this fund would employ a joint signatory system, whereby the CBO representative and VNN representative would jointly disburse funds. Top priority would be given to daily cleaning and regular maintenance work on the ghats like cleaning, washing, de-silting, lighting, white washing, painting, etc. The money left over after these expenditures are taken care of would be utilised for structural maintenance of the facilities.

#### (5) Advantages

The advantages of such an organizational mechanism for O&M are:

- reciprocal monitoring would improve accountability
- joint policy decisions and plan implementation would be more need-based and resource-based
- complementary management and monitoring roles distributed between the two
- reciprocal facilitation will be more since all improvement is in benefit of the residents
- close monitoring of the performance of the staff that will provide hygiene services
- even if process could tend to be slow, it is sure because it has stakeholder support
- active participation of people since they will feel that their inputs could make and modify decisions

#### (6) Disadvantages

The disadvantages of such an organizational mechanism for O&M are:

- increased number of discussions and few decisions
- conflict of interests among stakeholders as also between CBO and Nagar Nigam
- too much dependency on capacities of administrative heads to solve deadlocks
- mutual criticisms and justifications by making the other scapegoat for inefficiencies

#### (7) Other recommendations

The CBO must make by-laws and an official memorandum of understanding must be made between the CBO and the VNN for dividing clearly the responsibilities and roles for maintaining hygiene standards. There must be quarterly meetings between the CBO, the VNN and staff working on the ghat. An agreement could also be worked out between the VNN and the CBO for clearly listing out their respective duties and responsibilities.

### **4.3.3 CBOs: their composition, their functioning and by-laws**

Since the concept of CBO is new to the city, first the concept will have to be introduced and its roles and responsibilities would have to be spelt out, then the CBO will have to be constituted. The CBO for the ghat area would comprise of the opinion formers of each major stakeholder group. A statute and by-laws could be worked out together between the CBO and the VNN with the assistance of legal experts. This statute could incorporate the following fundamental elements:

- objectives
- membership rules and selection procedures
- membership renewal rules
- office bearers and their responsibilities
- meeting frequency and meeting rules

- funding sources and fund management
- fund utilization
- auditing details and how to maintain transparency
- responsibilities with regard to O&M of hygiene and sanitation facilities

In addition to the considerations elucidated above, some facilities on the ghats require specific additional recommendations for management, monitoring and fund raising. For this purpose, within the purview of each alternative, the management of the entire ghat area and its facilities could be facilitated by a sub managing committee for each facility. These sub-managing committees would comprise of the stakeholders directly responsible for a specific facility.

#### **4.3.4 Long Term O&M Plan**

The following O&M Plan alternative will be successful in the long term and should be achieved through an intense public awareness programme such that public participation increases. This alternative should be the final goal of the joint working group managing the services and facilities

##### **(1) Management**

The Nagar Nigam would decide to officially subcontract its hygiene and maintenance services to a CBO. The CBO would be totally responsible for the regular structural maintenance and cleaning of the facility. Nagar Nigam would continue to be the public body that sets and ensures hygiene standards, guarantees law enforcement, provides street lights, provides security and enforces law on those violating hygiene practices, polluting the river, doing illegal activities, trading without licenses, encroaching without permissions..

The VNN would in this alternative also monitor the management of the CBO and contribute annually for major structural maintenance. It would, furthermore, facilitate the functioning of the CBO. The VNN would, in fact, maintain its status quo as a coordination body since this is the responsibility of the Nagar Nigam but would take on more the role of a facilitator and monitor rather than a manager. The composition of the CBO and its answerability will follow strict legal standards. The VNN would continue to take care of major structural maintenance, set hygiene standards, provide street lights, manage solid waste and enforce law for those violating hygiene practices, polluting the river, doing illegal activities, trading without licenses, encroaching without permissions.

##### **(2) Monitoring**

The VNN would monitor the CBO and facilitate its functioning by coordinating regular meetings, enforcing law through stricter measures and coordinating with the other bodies of local administration to ensure that high hygiene and sanitation standards are maintained and that pollution entering the river directly is minimised. The CBO will be responsible for raising funds from visitors and residents. The corpus fund mentioned in Alternative 2 would be created under the observance of community representatives, the Nagar Nigam, the town councilors and the eminent citizens of the area. The management and maintenance of each facility will be done, where considered necessary by both the Nagar Nigam and the CBO, in accordance with the major stakeholders of that particular facility who would also monitor and give back feedbacks to the CBO which would either solve the problem or consult the Nagar Nigam during their regular meetings. The facility-specific stakeholders could lock and open the facility if required, supervise facility usage by promoting its right use and checking on its wrong use. The CBO would also give general feedbacks in quarterly meetings organised by the VNN. The VNN will also create a direct help line number that would be dedicated to the ghat area for receiving feedbacks of stakeholders, like complaints, emergencies, etc. The VNN would ask experts to conduct surveys for getting satisfaction levels of users and evaluating the impact of hygiene care and pollution reduction activities.

(3) Fund generation

CBO members would raise funds from visitors and residents as in Alternative 2. The CBO will be responsible for the structural maintenance and cleaning of the facility. The VNN will give an annual contribution to the CBO for the maintenance of the ghat and specific facilities.

(4) Fund management

CBO Committee would completely manage funds as in Alternative 3 and be absolutely transparent to the stakeholders.

(5) Advantages

The advantages of such an organizational mechanism for O&M are:

- full stakeholder involvement in managing community resources, therefore full responsibility and accountability
- close monitoring of hygiene needs and service standards and maintenance needs and standards
- close monitoring of stakeholder needs and cleaning staff needs
- regular close contact between managers and managed
- better control over staff since they are chosen by the stakeholders

(6) Disadvantages

The disadvantages of such an organizational mechanism for O&M are:

- lack of expertise may lead to mistakes
- furthering of the individual interests of stakeholder representatives
- conflict of interests may lead to deadlocks

(7) Other Recommendations

Care must be taken that the CBO is facilitated and monitored by the VNN so that it gets technical and policy support for decisions.

#### **4.4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SINGLE FACILITIES:**

(1) Sulabh Complex (Public Toilet)

In all alternatives, the management and maintenance of the Sulabh complex would remain largely autonomous. Some specific recommendations for it are the following:

- family passes or monthly passes for residents at nominal rates
- residents monitor the functionality and report to the VNN which in turn informs main Sulabh office
- if gross structural problems happen, then local administration supports with funds
- the ghat CBO and VNN zonal officer would cooperate to monitor whether the NGO is carrying out its responsibility and give feedbacks in quarterly meetings

(2) Birla Dharamshala

In all alternatives, the management body of the Birla Dharamshala could be sub contracted to a local NGO:

- the VNN would continue its responsibility to coordinate hygiene and sanitation tasks of keeping the area around the facility clean

- the VNN would give an annual contribution to support the major structural maintenance of this building
- the NGO would charge people who come to sit inside- a fixed amount or a donation and this must maintain the daily structural and hygiene needs

### (3) Cremation Ghat

Since the customary rights on the cremation ghat belong to the Dom community, they will be the principal actors of all management and monitoring initiatives on the cremation ghat. The voluntary group or CBO must be formed comprising the Dom community, the Wood sellers and shopkeepers earning from funeral rites who could together maintain the structure

So in all alternatives, the Dom community will

- monitor the ghat
- have a strong say in policies and plans for their area
- protect the facilities from vandalism

### (4) Janana Ghat, Takht Hazara and Manikarnika Kund

Since the customary rights on the Janana ghat, Takht Hazara and the Manikarnika Kund belong to the Tirth Purohits (including the Nepali priests) and the Ghatiya priests, they will be the principal actors of all management and monitoring initiatives on these ghats. So in all alternatives, this priest community through the stakeholders, the Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti and its members will:

- lock and open the facility, supervise facility usage by promoting its right use and checking on wrong use.
- monitor that the area is not used any more as a urinal
- give feedback to VNN zonal officer on performance of their staff
- have a strong say in policy decisions and plans for their area
- protect the facilities from vandalism
- store temporary structure if necessary and the VNN can give an annual contribution for this

### (5) Ramalila Maidan and Heritage Corner

In addition to the recommendations in each alternative, the priests would be the important actors of managing and maintaining these facilities along with the VNN since these facilities have been especially conceived for the general public. The priest group would:

- promote its right use and check on its wrong use.
- give feedbacks to the VNN on performance of their staff
- have a strong say in policy decisions and plans for their area
- protect the facilities from vandalism
- store temporary structure if necessary and the VNN can give an annual contribution for this

### (6) Signage, Dustbins and Pump

In addition to the recommendations in each alternative, the voluntary group or the CBO created for the Manikarnika Ghat would monitor the correct use of these facilities and protect these facilities from vandalism.

## **4.5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

The PP&PA programme elaborated has been based on the existing hygiene awareness levels and on the existing extent of public participation in maintaining and managing the existing facilities on the ghat area. The following are proposed immediate and long term awareness programmes.

(1) Immediate awareness generation through:

- 1) signage boards, largely visual, to cater to the large number of illiterate people, at the end of lanes which open to the ghat area where facility location is identified and where usage of facility is encouraged
- 2) placing signage in front of the facilities calling for correct usage and dissuading wrong usage
- 3) signage promoting practice of good hygiene and sanitation
- 4) signage indicating actions punishable by law
- 5) signage against open defecation and garbage dumping on ghat
- 6) visual show events against pollution
- 7) voluntary pressure groups (comprising aware shop keepers, priests, doms and other stakeholders) who continuously tell residents and visitors not to dirty the ghat, not to damage it and not to wrongly use the facilities
- 8) police patrolling to punish law breakers

(2) Long term awareness generation through:

- 1) Schools adopting ghats
- 2) Annual events to award those who make efforts to promote good hygiene
- 3) Annual painting events on the ghats
- 4) Annual competitions and awards for clean ghats and lanes
- 5) Clean weeks in which the administrators and legislators participate actively
- 6) Creation of awards for clean ghats and get these awards sponsored
- 7) Creation of information centres
- 8) Regular shows of street corner plays, especially during festivals

**CHAPTER 5**  
**FORMATION**  
**OF**  
**COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION FOR O&M**

## **CHAPTER 5 FORMATION OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION FOR O&M**

### **5.1 BACKGROUND**

JICA Study Team conducted a study to understand the present system of O & M at the Ghat and also to ascertain the appropriate institutional system that can adequately manage the facilities and ensure its structural maintenance besides cleanliness and hygiene status. As a result of study it was decided by JICA to establish a Community-based Organization (CBO) to look after day-to-day care of the facilities, which will work in co-ordination and collaboration with Nagar Nigam, Varanasi.

### **5.2 BASE LINE SURVEY, SITUATION ANALYSIS, IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS AND RAPPORT BUILDING**

The base line survey, situation analysis, identification of stakeholders, rapport building and in-depth analysis of its findings especially with regard to the possibilities of CBO formation and its feasibility has been done by a team of 3 Junior Research Investigators and one Senior Expert of Sociology and Social Work.

The study team spent several hours daily for two complete months on the Ghat area to provide information about the mission, objectives and the proposed facilities to be provided at Ghat by the JICA. During this period, general observations, formal-informal interviews were conducted with the stakeholders/target groups to get the maximum inputs with regard to:

- i. Hygiene and sanitation conditions at the Ghat.
- ii. Present level of public awareness and participation in maintaining hygiene and sanitation on the Ghat area.
- iii. The possibility of CBO formation.
- iv. Stakeholders and peoples' willingness to co-operate and take part in the CBO.
- v. Identifications of the effective stakeholders for CBO.
- vi. Strategy for the public participation and public awareness programmes.
- vii. Possibilities of resource generation, collection and its management, etc.

### **5.3 BASIC HYGIENE AND SANITATION CONDITIONS**

The present hygiene and sanitation conditions at the Ghat and also the present system of its maintenance are highly dissatisfactory. In other words, we can say that the environmental conditions at the Manikarnika Ghat area are deplorable.

The culture of participated planning for a common benefit is not adequately developed. It was found that the civic sense in general is poor, people are careless and there is a lack of public participation and commitment in maintaining the existing facilities.

The main problems with regard to hygiene and sanitation conditions at the Ghat are:

- Unhygienic conditions due to open defecation and urination at the Ghat area.
- Improper arrangement of cleanliness and sanitation at the Ghat area.
- Deposits of garbage and water logging at several places. Lack of proper and regular arrangements of garbage disposal.
- Continuous movements of stray cattle.
- Highly polluted cremation area.
- Improper toilet facilities.
- Dilapidated conditions of the Birla Dharamshala and illegal occupation in it.

- Encroachments (due to wood stocking, animal keeping, illegal vendors, extension of shop, etc.) at several places.
- No dustbins.
- Low awareness level with regard to sanitation and hygiene.
- Lacks of a system of supervision, monitoring and checking on regular basis.

#### **5.4 EXISTING FACILITIES AT MANIKARNIKA GHAT AND ITS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The existing facilities at ghat and its operation and maintenance are being done as under:

<b>FACILITIES/IMPORTANT PLACES</b>	<b>MAINTENANCE</b>
Manikanika Kund	Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti
Takht Hazara	Local Pandas
Ramlila Ground	Ramlila Committee
Cremation Site	Family members of Dom Raja
Public Toilets	O & M by Sulabh International
Birla Dharamshala	Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
Hygiene and Sanitation	Nagar Nigam, Varanasi

It is obvious that the present system of operation and maintenance is not effective. Therefore, for supervision and monitoring of operation and maintenance a Community Based Organization was required as JICA had already realised through a study, which was conducted earlier.

#### **5.5 TARGET GROUPS**

The facilities, which the JICA Study Team had planned to provide at the Manikarnika Ghat will be utilised by the local residents, stakeholders or the mourners and pilgrims but the Manikarnika Ghat will be a model Ghat for the entire world as the O & M shall be done by the CBO. For the effective CBO formation the role of the target group for providing inputs was very important. Therefore, we took special care in deciding the target groups.

The target groups of this study include:

1. Various stakeholders especially service providers of the ghat area like wood sellers, shopkeepers, tirth purohiths, pandas, mahapatras, boatmen, barbers, members of the Dom community.
2. Guest house owners, dharamshala owners, local school principals, temple trustees, Nagar Nigam officials especially Municipal Commissioner, Mahant of the Satua Baba Ashram, Dom Raja, etc.
3. Mourners, pilgrims, tourists — national and internationals, tourist guides.
4. Prominent people/social workers of the city, reputed NGOs and Clubs like Rotary, Lions, etc.
5. Political leaders, Corporators of Manikarnika Ghat area and other local leaders, keeping in mind the importance of political will.

Since the O & M plan and a PP & A Programme would be consensus based and built on the existing capacities of the stakeholders and the dynamisms amongst them, therefore, expectations, perceptions and suggestions and participation level closer rapport was established through regular meetings and conversations.

## **5.6 FIRST STAGE – BASE LINE SURVEY FOR STAKEHOLDERS**

We established close rapport with the stakeholders and received almost all the relevant and authentic information during the first stage of our work

The following are the stakeholders of the Manikarnika Ghat:

### **(1) Priests**

#### **(a) Tirth Purohit**

Several Tirth Purohits are there in the ghat area and they mainly belong to several important families, namely

- (i) Pt. Vijay Vhankar Dwivedi Bhau Maharaj (Tirth Purohit of Nepali people).
- (ii) Pt. Rajeev Nandan Mishra (Tirth Purohit of Maharashtra, Rajasthan people).
- (iii) Pt. Raghu Nandan Shukla (Tirth Purohit of Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand).
- (iv) Pt. Gatai Dube (Tirth Purohit of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and MP).
- (v) Pt. Channu-Mannu Lal Pathak (Tirth Purohit of Maharashtra people).
- (vi) Pt. Ram Lal Tripathi (Tirth Purohit of Bengalee people).
- (vii) Pt. Mahavir Maharaj (Tirth Purohit of H.P. and Uttaranchal people).

Earlier one more family of Pt. Triloki Maharaj was there. But after the death of Pt. Triloki Maharaj no one in his family is engaged in this profession.

The income of the Tirth Purohits is difficult to estimate.

#### **(b) Ghat Panda or Ghatia**

In the hierarchy of the Priest they are next to the Tirth Purohits. At present around 33 Ghatias are there. Except 8, rest of them are doing other works. Mainly they perform simple daily arti and put 'tika' on the forehead of the pilgrims. They charge one rupee to 11 rupees or some time rupees 51 or more.

#### **(C) Mahapatar or Mahapatra**

Their main activity is to perform Karmakanda during and after cremation. At present several mahapatras are there. They work as per their "Paari" (the day allotted to a mahapatra to work at cremation ghat of Manikarnika and also at Harish Chandra Ghat). Under a 'Paari Mahapatra' several Brahmins of the same sub-castes work and they get their share of income from him.

It is difficult to estimate their income as their income depends on the status of the mourners. Generally they get Rs.101 for a single karmakanda from an ordinary family. Most of the time they get in kinds too.

### **(2) Dom Community.**

Generally for the funeral Dom of ghat gives fire to the mourner family members who are to perform the last rites. The Dom community belong to two families, namely of late Kailash Chaudhury and of Sri Ishwar Chaudhury. Sri Jagdish Chaudhury, Sri Ranjeet Chaudhury and Sri Sanjeet Chaudhury are from late Kailash Chaudhury family, while Sri Chunnu, Sri Betu, Sri Santu and Sri Pappu Chaudhury are from Sri Ishwar Chaudhury family. Presently, Jagdish Chaudhury is known as 'Dom Raja' (Dom King).

"Paari" system (day wise) is also found amongst Doms. The family of Sri Jagdish Chaudhury and his brothers have paari for 21 days while rest of the days the other family members work on the ghat.

On an average, 40 dead bodies get cremated here every day. There is no fixed rate for ‘fire’, which a person gets from Dom for funeral. Generally they ask Rs.151 from ordinary people and for the maximum there is no limit as it depends on the status of the family. Sometime they not only get thousands of rupees in cash but they get several items in kinds like land, ornaments, etc.

### (3) Naai or Barber

In the year 1955, a Naai Committee was formed at Manikarnika Ghat with a total of 60 founder members. At present only two from them are active, namely Sri Lal Kishun Sharma and Sri Pannaru Ram. Total membership at present is 9 including two members mentioned above. Their names are Sri Dwarka Nath Sharma, Sri Sandeep Kumar, Sri Kishore Thakur, Sri Deepu Sharma, Sri Mahesh Sharma, Sri Panna Lal Sharma and Sri Paras Ram Sharma. The Naai Committee has expelled two members of their family from the profession. They can be found illegally cutting hair at the entrance point of the Shamshan Ghat Area.

It is customary to have clean head before lighting the fire at funeral pyre. Even other mourners who come along with the dead bodies they also some times prefer to have their hair cut (cleaned) and shaving on the ghat itself. Due to this belief and practice the Ghat Naai (Barbers) get good number of customers. Generally they charge Rs.20 per person. Here too we find the “paari system”. But in the system they have divided the one-day “paari” to three members together. The income earned on Saturday goes to the “Naai Committee” for its maintenance and operation.

### (4) Boat Men

The total number of boats at Manikarnika Ghat is 27 (including 4 motor boats/engine boats). The details of boats and its owners are as under:

No.	Name of the Boat Owner	No. of Boat “Naav”	No. of Motor / Engine Boat
1.	Sri Sagar Majhi	3	2
2.	Sri Badri Majhi	2	1
3.	Sri Kailash Majhi	4	-
4.	Sri Bhaganu Majhi	1	-
5.	Sri Kedar Majhi	2	-
6.	Sri Langad Majhi	1	-
7.	Sri Gopal Majhi	3	-
8.	Sri Vijay Majhi	2	-
9.	Sri Baba	3	-
10.	Sri Satua Baba Ashram	2	1
Total Number of Boats		23	4

The Satuwa Baba Ashram boat is for personal use only. Boat owners provide their boats to local boatmen (Mallah) on rent. Generally they divide their income half-half. During winters and on some religious ceremonies/festivals they get good business. Foreigners also pay good amount for boating.

### (5) Wood Stocker

At the Manikarnika Ghat the cremation takes place by wood. It is obvious that large quantity of wood is required for the cremation of several dead bodies daily. One can find wood stock everywhere at the ghat area, thereby creating alarming environment.

Three families are doing the business of wood at Manikarnika Ghat. Their details are as under:

Late Gopal Singh Family	Sri S.P. Yadav Family	Sri Chenu Saav Family
Sri Sarit Singh	Sri Bhaiya Lal Yadav	Sri Raju Saav
Sri Arun Singh	Sri Bhola Yadav	Sri Mainu Saav
	Sri Chotu Yadav	
	Sri Lalla Yadav	
	Sri Bachha Yadav	
	Sri Chote Lal S/o Sri	
	Bahadur Sardar	
SHOPS= 2	=5	=1
		=8

Some of them have license to sell wood but the land and space from where they are doing their business is mostly illegal. The allotted land size is too small for them to stock huge quantity of wood. One can see huge stock of wood on the boats and also at the nearby houses.

It is a profitable business as large quantity of wood is required (that is, on an average 200 kg to 440 kg per body) for funeral. Wood-stockers get wood at the rate of Rs.70 to Rs.100 (depending on the quality and ripeness of wood) per 40 kg and they sell it at the rate of Rs.120 per 40 kg or sometime more than that.

#### (6) Guest House Owners

There are three guest houses nearby the Manikarnika Ghat namely, (i) Scindhia Guest House, (ii) Mishra Guest House, and (iii) Sankatha Guest House. Shanti guest house is also there but it is a little bit far from the ghat. The owners of the above-mentioned guest houses are Mr. S.K. Burman, Mr. Banarasi Mishra and Mr. Raju Saav, respectively. Generally foreigners stay in these guest houses.

## 5.7 RESOURCE GENERATION

It is obvious from the above that the important stakeholders at the Manikarnika Ghat are:

1. Priests	(a) Tirth Purohits
	(b) Ghatias
	(c) Mahapatras
2. Dom Raja Family	
3. Wood Stockers	
4. Barbers	
5. Boatmen	
6. Guest House Owners	
7. Shopkeepers	

Resources can be generated from the above stakeholders. Most of them are willing to contribute in cash or kind for the betterment of the Manikarnika Ghat. During discussion it was found that majority of them are not satisfied with the present condition of the Ghat, they all are interested in the improvement in the present condition of Ghat.

The needs, professions and interests of the stakeholders are different but due to constant contact, rapport and persuasion we could successfully develop the consensus approach and vision of hygiene and sanitation amongst them. They also think that the improved hygiene and sanitation conditions and also better look of the Ghat might improve their income, as it will attract more local people and even tourists.

## 5.8 SECOND STAGE

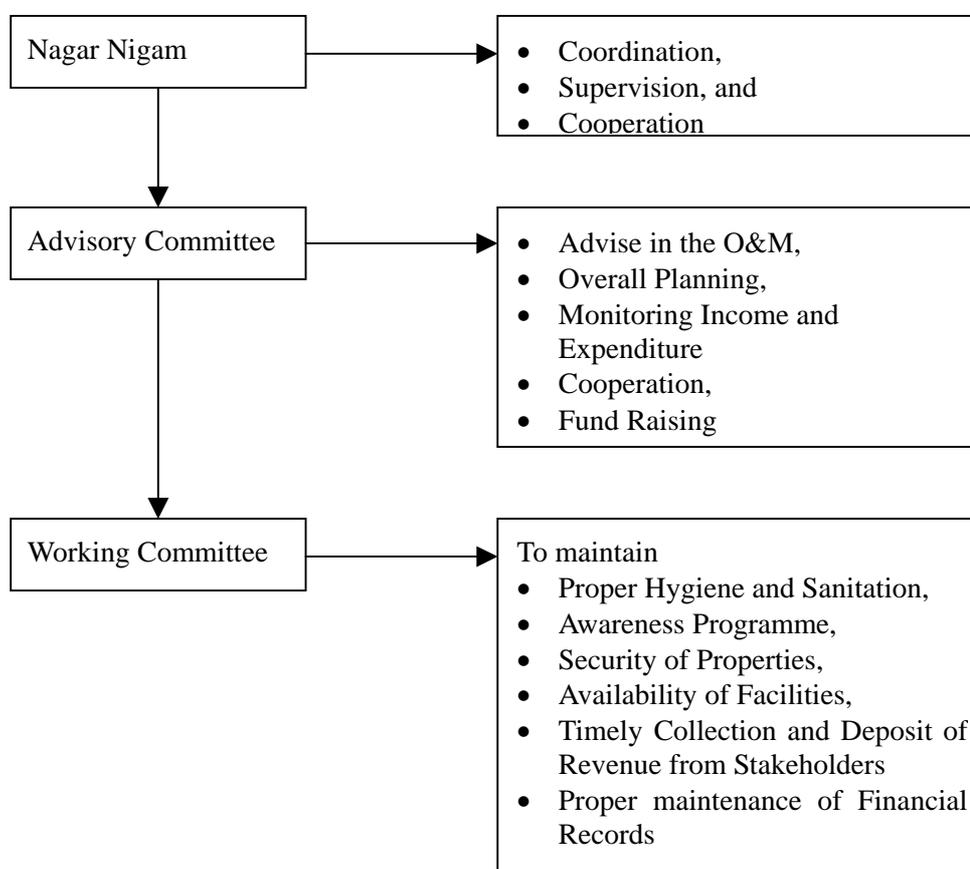
We have assessed the actual capacities of the stakeholders and their commitment to work in synergy with other persons/groups in maintaining the facilities and assets at the Ghat.

The local Corporators (especially Mr. Santosh Sharma) are also very much interested to facelift the condition of Ghat. Before the formation of the structure of the CBO we had to keep in our mind that what is the present formal or informal management situation at the Ghat. As already stated, the management of the cremation platform is with the local Dom community under the leadership of Dom Raja. Sulabh maintains the toilet complex and the famous Manikarnika Kund is managed and maintained by Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti. The Varanasi Nagar Nigam coordinates and manages the cleaning of the ghats, organises the waste disposal and does the basic maintenance of the ghats. The Birla Dharamshala is full of unauthorised occupants (though mostly aged and also of other States). This Dharamshala is under the possession of Nagar Nigam.

## 5.9 THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE CBO

In the stakeholder meeting was held on September 24, 2004 in which we proposed two possible structures of the CBO. After long exercise with regard to their feasibility we came to the conclusion that the following formal structure of the CBO shall be more viable for the Manikarnika Ghat area.

CBO to be formed in a two tier organizational system (i) The Working Committee, and (ii) The Advisory Committee. This proposed locally based institutional organization however was to be monitored and supervised overall under the Varanasi Nagar Nigam, thus, making the institutional structure three tier.



### Working Committee

In the working group there shall be at least two representations from each group. They will not be from the same family. By this we expected to get the following number of representatives.

1. Priest	Tirth Purohits	2
	Ghatia	2
	Mahapatra	1+1 (from Dom Raja family) = 2
2. Wood Stockers		2
3. Barbers		2
4. Boatmen		2
5. Guest House Owners		2
6. Shopkeepers		2
TOTAL		16

For the finalization of the CBO structure and its institutional set-up, byelaws were prepared in consultation with the stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the CBO was proposed to be:

- (i) Revenue generation and its management.
- (ii) Maintenance of the hygiene conditions and cleanliness.
- (iii) Structural maintenance of the facilities.

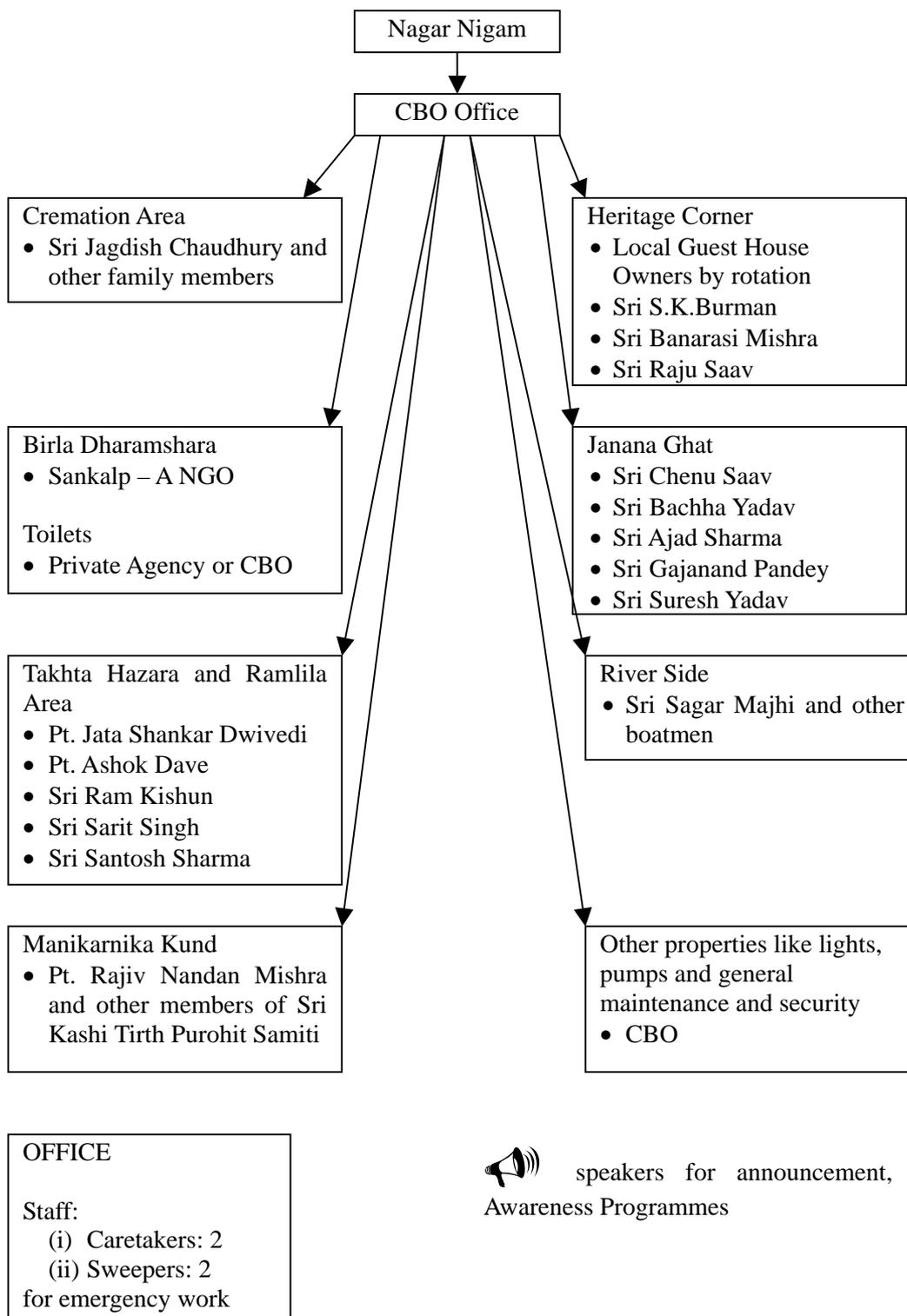
### Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee was proposed for overall monitoring and coordination. The prominent people and political leaders willing to offer their services have been put into this committee. The advisory committee shall nominate every year five members. The Advisory Committee members are to be empowered to change the working group of the Ghat on certain specified grounds. Keeping in mind the lack of public participation and commitment in maintaining the existing facilities, the Advisory Committee shall organise awareness programmes and cleanliness drive from time to time with the help of CBO.

Dual structure of authority is not possible. Therefore, we did not recommend any special powers to the Working Committee members. They will simply act as a pressure group to draw the attention of the Nagar Nigam authorities towards certain facilities.

To make the CBO financially sustainable donation box has also been put at the office of the CBO.

The following figure explains the CBO structure.



**Figure 5.1 CBO Organization Structure**

### 5.10 MAJOR AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF CBO

The aim of the CBO is to ensure effective, prompt and sustainable operation and maintenance of the facilities which have been developed along with maintenance of sanitary and hygienic conditions of the entire Ghat area.

The CBO will be a registered organization whose name will be discussed and decided in the stakeholders' meeting. The byelaws shall be prepared with the consultation at stakeholders meeting

#### **5.11 RESPONSIBILITIES OF CBO**

- Prompt and effective cleanliness round the clock.
- To arrange timely collection and disposal of solid-waste/garbage.
- Preventing the facilities from open defecation and urination.
- To stop roaming of stray animals.
- To organise awareness programmes with regard to usage of public toilets and thereby stopping open defecation and urination in the ghat area.
- Structural maintenance and effective operation of all facilities.
- Security of facilities such as temporary shaded heritage corner, high-mass light at heritage corner, murals at heritage site, water pump, office, etc.
- Timely collection of funds, proper utilisation of funds, and proper maintenance of accounts of the income and expenditure, etc.
- To ensure coordination with Nagar Nigam.
- To organise regular monthly meetings of the CBO members.

#### **5.12 MECHANISM OF FUND COLLECTION AND ITS MANAGEMENT**

It is proposed that the working committee in consultation with the advisory committee shall do the management of the CBO. Different stakeholder groups have accepted the proposal to contribute something from their earnings on daily/monthly basis as the case may be.

We have identified following persons from various groups responsible for making necessary arrangements for fund availability to CBO (through the CBO staff) who will be collecting money on their behalf.

---

1.	Boatmen	Mr. Tillu (Sri Sagar Majhi)
2.	Tirth Purohits	Pt. Jata Maharaj
3.	Woodsellors	Sri Sarit Singh and Sri Chennu Saav
4.	Dom Community	Sri Jagdish and Bettu
5.	Ghatias	Pt. Ashok Dave and Pt. Kaushal
6.	Guest Houses	Sri Banarasri Mishra
7.	Barber Community	Sri Lal Kishun Sharma
8.	Toilets	Sulabh International or the concerned agency shall directly pay to CBO

---

It is proposed that Shri Bhaiya Lal Yadav, Sri Chotte Lal Mehrotra and Sri Raju Sarin shall attend office of the CBO. They will be responsible for the fund collection with the help of the above-mentioned members of the different stakeholder groups. A register for this purpose shall be maintained and as and when they receive money it will be put on records then and there. The money will be deposited in the nearby bank on the following day.

The General Secretary and the Treasurer of the CBO will do the transaction of money jointly.

#### **5.13 ESTIMATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The financial contribution of the stakeholders shall be collected on two bases:

- (i) Daily Basis: From wood-sellers and Dom.

(ii) Monthly Basis: From rest of the stakeholders.

The collection of money from the earning of the stakeholders has been calculated as under:

1.	The Dom Community Rs.5 / body	Average cremation per day = 40 bodies Rs. 5 / body = $40 \times 5 =$ <u>Rs.200</u>
2.	Wood sellers Rs.1 / 40 kg of wood	Average wood used per day = 8000 kg Re. 1 / 40 kg = <u>Rs.200</u>
3.	The Barber Community Rs. 0.25 / hair removing and shaving.	Average hair removal per day = 50 persons Re. 0.25 / person = <u>Rs.12</u>
4.	The Mahapatras Rs.0.50 / body	Average cremation per day = 40 bodies Rs.0.50 / body = $40 \times 0.50 =$ <u>Rs.20</u>
Total Income (per day)		Rs. 432.00
I. Total of Monthly Income = Rs.432.00 × 30 days =		Rs.12960.00

Besides the rest of the stakeholder shall pay their contribution on the monthly basis because it is not very reasonable/possible to estimate their earnings.

5.	The guest house owners Rs.50 / month	Total number of nearby Guest Houses = 4 Rs. 50 per month × 4 = <u>Rs.200</u>
6.	Tirth Purohits	Monthly contribution = <u>Rs.150</u>
7.	Boatmen	Monthly contribution = <u>Rs.15</u>
8.	Ghatia/Panda	Monthly contribution = <u>Rs.100</u>
9.	Toilets	Monthly contribution = <u>Rs.1,000</u>
II. Total of monthly income		Rs.1465.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL (I+II)</b>		<b>Rs.14425.00 (Rs.12960+Rs.1465)</b>

We have discussed this with the stakeholders and they are agreeable over this.

#### **5.14 STAFF AND OFFICE REQUIREMENT**

(1) Office Required

For the effective operation and maintenance of the CBO at least one-room office at the central place was required. The room was provided by one the stakeholders. The office should also be equipped with audio system.

(2) Staff Required

Two caretakers and two sweepers on contractual basis.

(3) Monthly expenditure

(i) Two caretakers on contractual basis on the fixed salary of Rs.2500` per month	= Rs.5000
(ii) Two sweepers on contractual basis on the fixed salary of Rs.1500 per month	= Rs.3000
(iii) Other Expenses (per month)	= Rs.500
(iv) Rent for the Office (per month)	= Rs.1000
<b>Total Monthly Expenses</b>	<b>= Rs.9500</b>

Total Monthly Saving = Monthly Income – Monthly Expenditure  
= Rs.14,425.00 – Rs.9,500  
= Rs. 4,925.00

The money saved as such may be used for the providing/ improving the quality of the facilities and face lifting of Ghat area through stakeholder entrusted consensus by the CBO.

### **5.15 REQUIREMENTS**

- (i) Instructional and directional signage must be fixed at the appropriate places as soon as possible so that people may know that the open defecation and urination is not allowed and also it is not good for their own health. They will also help to locate the area where the same is to be discharged.
- (ii) Audio system is required for the announcement and to create awareness amongst the local people, visitors and also mourners to help improve sanitation around the ghat area.
- (iii) In the initial phase of CBO formation and its operation and maintenance, Nagar Nigam's special cooperation is required with regard to the removal of garbage and providing clean environment in and around the ghat and to stop re-encroachment of Dharamshala and illegal Wood-staking through routine visit.
- (iv) Training and Orientation of CBO members
- (v) Monitoring and supervision of CBO performance and activities
- (vi) Evaluation of improved facilities.

**CHAPTER 6**  
**CONCLUSION OF PILOT PROJECT**

## CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSIONS OF PILOT PROJECT

### 6.1 DESIGN MODIFICATION

Through several workshops and stakeholder interviews, the design of the proposed facilities was finally decided and agreed by the working group before the start of construction work. However, in the course of construction, the facility design was modified by incorporating further opinions and demands of the stakeholders that were finalized according to site conditions and by considering the reasonable demands of the stakeholders.

The design of the proposed facilities was finally approved by the stakeholders in the fourth workshop with some minor modifications. The Minutes of Meeting of the fourth workshop is attached in Appendix B.

Redesigning for these modifications was considered by JICA Study Team and the final design that was adopted for implementation are summarized in the following table;

**Summary of Modifications for Final Design**

	<b>Work item</b>	<b>Final design (Modification part only)</b>
1.	Construction of changing room at Janana Ghat	Same as original design.
2.	Renovation of raised cremation platform	The level of platform was further raised considering high flood level.
3.	Renovation of ground cremation platform	The lower most platform was not constructed because it was submerged and cannot be used for most of the year.
4.	Renovation of Chakra Pushkarni Manikarnika Kund	Additional railing was provided considering aesthetics.
5.	Construction of Heritage Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The upper corner was extended to the nearby unhygienic area to make the whole upper area hygienic.</li> <li>• Railing was provided for the area to avoid entering and staling of animals such as buffalos, cows, dogs and to keep the area hygienic.</li> </ul>
6.	Construction of temporary shading roof for Takhat Hazara	This scheme was dropped because some of the stakeholders demanded permanent structure, whose construction was not recommended on technical grounds according to assessment of the design consultants.
7.	Repaving of Ramlila Maidan Ground	The existing stone was used and minor improvement work was done.
8.	Renovation of Birla Dharmshala building as waiting room with lockers	Proper lighting facility for Birla Dharmshala was provided.
9.	Renovation of existing public toilet	The existing structure of toilet complex not to be demolished rather improved and renovated.
10.	Provision of dustbins	Same as original design.
11.	Provision of signage boards	Same as original design.
12.	Provision of pump for de-silting	Same as original design.
13.	Construction of Mural in Heritage Corner	An additional mural part was provided to replace the cremation part of the mural because some stakeholders are against installing it in the sacred area. The replaced mural part was installed in the cremation area.

## **6.2 PICTURES OF FACILITY**

Pictures of facilities contracted or improved through the Pilot Project are included in the Annex at the end of this section alongwith the situations before implementation of the Project.

## **6.3 HANDING OVER**

The works of the Pilot Project were successfully completed and the CBO was formed. A handing over ceremony was held by JICA together with Nagar Nigam and Manikarnika Ghat CBO members on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005 in Heritage Corner, Manikarnika Ghat. The following is programme of the handing over ceremony.

### **PROGRAMME :**

DATE: 24 March 2005

TIME: PM 5:30 – PM 9:30

VENUE: Heritage Corner, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi

<b>No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1.	Welcome of Guests / VIPs by CBO members
2.	Welcome address by Municipal Commissioner
3.	Welcome song on Ganga's theme with music
4.	Prayer (Puja) by priest community (Thirth Purohits). A puja like a Aarti that takes place on Dasaswamedh Ghat
5.	Street Play by Folk artists
6.	Cultural Program (Folk Song and Folk Dance)
7.	Magic show
8.	Handing over ceremony
9.	Speech by JICA officials (JICA advisory committee and JICA India representative)
10.	Remarks by Govt. of India
11.	Speech by CBO members
12.	Vote of Thanks and concluding remarks

At the end of the handing over ceremony, JICA representative and Municipal Commissioner signed the handover and takeover documents and exchanged with each other. Also a key of CBO office was handed over formally to its members. The handing-over letter is attached in Annex.

During the speech by CBO, a CBO member submitted a proposal for construction of permanent roofing in Takhat Hazara to JICA for consideration of further renovation work in Manikarnika Ghat.

## **6.4 EVALUATION OF PILOT PROJECT**

A rapid evaluation was conducted during and after the construction by JICA Study Team to assess the design of constructed facilities and their usage. The following table describes evaluation results and recommendations.

	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Evaluation and Recommendation</b>
1.	Changing room at Janana Ghat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be mainly used in flood season when changing rooms located in the lower area are submerged in flood season. During the visit of Study Team in dry season, nobody seemed to using the changing room.</li> <li>• Urination was still rampant in the Janana Ghat area and unhygienic condition is not so improved.</li> <li>• The usage shall be encouraged through Janana Ghat priests and CBO.</li> <li>• Awareness on improvement of hygienic condition should be raised through public awareness and participation campaign, etc.</li> </ul>
2.	Raised cremation platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be mainly used during the flood season when lower ground cremation is submerged. The visit by the Study Team was in dry season so it was not being used. However, the facility is well constructed and was not found any problem to include. It is for sure that it will be used during flood season. The Dom (cremation) community has ensured proper maintenance of the facilities.</li> </ul>
3.	Ground cremation platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ground cremation was used as it was. It seemed that maintenance of the facility was improved and the cleanliness of the cremation area was much improved. The Dom (cremation) community has ensured proper maintenance.</li> </ul>
4.	Chakra Pushkarni Manikarnika Kund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kund was well decorated when the Study Team visited and it seemed that the cleanliness has improved.</li> </ul>
5.	Construction of Heritage Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was most well constructed and attracted attention of the visitors.</li> <li>• Wondering and staling of animals in the area was stopped and the area was kept clean.</li> <li>• It seemed the corner gave a good demonstration of the heritage of Manikarnika Ghat to visitors as designed.</li> </ul>
6.	Ramlila Maidan Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not so significant improvement was done in this area because only minor improvement was finally approved by the stakeholders instead of re-pavement of stone.</li> </ul>
7.	Birla Dharmshala building as waiting room with lockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The building was well renovated and kept clean.</li> <li>• It is required that the usage of locker and waiting room shall be encouraged and managed by CBO.</li> </ul>
8.	Public toilet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The toilet was well renovated with appropriate ventilation, flushing water tank, reservoir and washing place.</li> <li>• The facility should be well maintained by Sulabh International.</li> </ul>
9.	Dustbins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dustbins were installed.</li> <li>• These should be appropriately maintained by CBO and Nagar Nigam.</li> </ul>
10.	Signage boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive and directive signage boards were installed with appropriate inscriptions and contents.</li> </ul>
11.	Pump for de-silting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pump was used for desilting after the last flood season.</li> <li>• No problem was informed.</li> </ul>
12.	Mural in Heritage Corner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The theme and design of the mural was appropriate and it attracted attention of the visitors.</li> </ul>

This is a result of the rapid evaluation of constructed facilities just after the completion of the project. The JICA Study Team felt that further evaluation may be required after they use the facilities for some time, i.e. one year or so to obtain more accumulated operation and maintenance data. Also evaluation after flood may be required to know effect of flood on the facilities and its use.

The JICA Study Team assisted to form a Community-based Organization (CBO) for operation and

maintenance of the facilities constructed. As a result, a CBO has been established for Manikarnika Ghat. However, the management of the CBO was not matured just after the completion of the facilities. Further monitoring of the CBO and assistance to it shall be considered to ensure sustainability of the facilities constructed. To form a successful organization, active involvement of CBO members and chairmanship of Nagar Nigam are indispensable.

## **6.5 SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The following are socio-environmental impacts and benefits identified, all of which are preferable impacts. These would be gradually recognized by the public some time after the completion of the project.

- The implementation of the pilot project will give a face-lift to the entire Manikarnika Ghat area, where numerous devotees and tourists from abroad visit, apart from its impact on people performing the cremation and other religious rites.
- The facilities constructed will improve the sanitary and environmental conditions and create a positive socio environmental impact on the users.
- The project will provide protection, sustainability and longevity to the area with respect to intense usage through various seasonal and behavioural conditions of the river.
- The project will beautify and revitalise the Ghat area, keeping the heritage, visual scenario and aura intact.
- The Project will help in enhancement of the archaeological and architectural values with a view to promote user friendly pilgrimage and tourism.
- The project will upgrade the existing streamline and environmental conditions for better aesthetics and ambience.
- The materials adopted for physical upliftment of spaces/buildings proposed are modern application of indigenous/locally available materials which would merge with the existing colour and texture.
- The project will help in sensitising and educating the locals, stakeholders and local bodies for taking up further improvement plans for other ghats as well.

*Annexure*

**ANNEX-1 Pictures of Facilities Contracted or Improved through Pilot Project in Manikarnika Ghat with Situation Before Implementation of the Project**



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGH MAST LIGHT</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RAISED CREMATION PLATFORM</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Renovated and strengthened appropriately</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>After Construction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Before Construction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Old structure in a dilapidated condition</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RAISED CREMATION PLATFORM</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOWER CREMATION GROUND</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Fire brick platforms</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>After Construction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Before Construction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unorganised and unregulated cremation activities</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOWER CREMATION GROUND</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOWER CREMATION GROUND</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Before Construction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>After Construction</b></p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC TOILET</b></p>  <p><b>Before Construction</b></p> <p>No proper ventilation</p>  <p><b>After Construction</b></p> <p>Proper ventilation and exhaust has been provided</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC TOILET</b></p>  <p><b>Before Construction</b></p>  <p><b>After Construction</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC TOILET</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DUST BINS</b></p>  
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HIGHWAY SIGNAGES</b></p>  	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DESCRIPTIVE SIGNAGES</b></p>  



## ANNEX-2 Handing-over Letter

### IMPROVEMENT OF MANIKARNIKA GHAT IN VARANASI (PILOT PROJECT)

#### HANDING OVER/ TAKING OVER

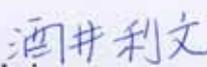
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Govt. of Japan, as a result of a bilateral agreement between Govt. of India and Govt. of Japan had undertaken the renovation of the Manikarnika Ghat as a symbolic Pilot Project. The project started from May 2004 and was successfully accomplished on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005. This Pilot Project is the part of the Technical cooperation Study “ Water Quality Management Plan of River Ganga in Republic of India

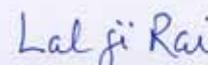
Under this project following facilities have been created and renovated

1. Heritage Corner
2. Lower cremation ground
3. Raised Cremation Platform
4. Community Toilet
5. Birla Dharmshala
6. Manikarnika Kund
7. Ramlila Ground
8. High Mast Light
9. Dustbins
10. Signage
11. Changing Rooms at Janana Ghat
12. Pump for De-silting

As per the agreement with Indian authorities, all the facilities that have been created and renovated by JICA are to be operated and maintained by Varanasi Nagar Nigam, which is to be assisted by a Community Based Organisation that JICA has facilitated to establish. The CBO is named as “*Manikarnika Tirth Vikas and Prabhandan Samity*” has its office at Manikarnika Ghat.

Keeping in view the above, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hereby **handing over all the above-mentioned facilities to Varanasi Nagar Nigam on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005** for its future Operation & Maintenance at a specially organised handing over Ceremony. The ceremony was also attended by Official of Ministry of Environment & Forests Govt. of India besides various other dignitaries from Govt. Of Japan and Indian Government.

  
**T. Sakai**  
Resident Representative  
(For and on behalf of JICA, Govt. of Japan)

  
**Lal Ji Rai**  
Municipal Commissioner  
(For & On behalf of Varanasi Nagar Nigam )

## *Appendix A*

### A.1 Results of Facility Survey of Ghats along the Ganga River

Name of Ghat	Temple name near ghat, with crematoria	No. of changing room	Public toilet	O&M Organization	Regular users		Occasional users	
				Daily Cleaning, Small repair	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	No./day (male)	No./day (female)
1 Assi Ghat	Near Shiv Mandir	Y (2)	Y	Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN)	1800	600	13000	12000
2 Ganga Mahal Ghat	Near Rewan Kothi	N	N	Varanasi Nagar Nigam (VNN)	125	75	700	700
3 Revan Ghat	Shankar, Durga and Hanuman temple in front of the ghat	N	N	VNN	40	60	1300	1800
4 Tulsi Ghat	Tulsidas Temple	Y (1)	N	VNN	100	200	1000	2000
5 Bhadeni Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	40	10	200	50
6 Janki Ghat	In front of Janki Temple	Y (2)	N	Janki Temple (Cleaning Only)	150	100	500	400
7 Annadi Mai Ghat	Anand Mai Ashram	N	N	Mata Anand Mai Ashram	150	100	1200	800
8 Vacchraj Ghat	Infront of Ganesh Temple	N	N	Ganesh Temple owner & VNN	175	125	1700	1300
9 Jain Ghat	Jain Temple	1	N	VNN	80	20	800	200
10 Shri Neshadraj Ghat	Nishad Raj Temple	N	N	VNN	60	15	700	100
11 Panch Kot Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	65	15	700	200
12 Prabhu Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	60	10	300	50
13 Chet Singh Ghat	Chet Singh Fort	N	N	VNN	50	10	250	50
14 Niranjani Ghat	Panchayati Akhara, Sri Niranjani	N	N	VNN	80	20	400	100
15 Mahanirvani Ghat	Mahadev Tempke and Akhara	1	N	VNN	-	-	-	-
16 Shivala Ghat	Radha Krishna Temple	N	N	VNN	30	30	300	400
17 Gularia Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	150	50	500	800
18 Dandi Ghat	Mahadev Temple and Mahaprabhu Auditorium	N	N	VNN	400	100	500	700
19 Prachin Hanuman Ghat	Hanuman Temple	N	Y	VNN	100	50	800	1200
20 Karnatak State Ghat	Sati Maa Temple and nearby Electric crematoria	N	Y	VNN	50	-	125	25
21 Harishchander Ghat	Near the traditional & electric crematoria	N	Y	VNN	-	-	-	-
22 Lali Ghat	Near Harishchandra Ghat	N	N	VNN	40	10	125	25
23 Vijay Nagar Ghat	In front of Kedar Baba Temple	Y (1)	N	VNN	325	125	800	400
24 Kedar Ghat	In Front of Gauri Kedareshwar Temple	Y (1)	N	Kedareshwar temple Owners & VNN	400	400	2500	2500

*Final Report on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River  
Volume V, Pilot Project for Sanitary Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat*

Name of Ghat	Temple name near ghat, with crematoria	No. of changing room	Public toilet	O&M Organization	Regular users		Occasional users		
				Daily Cleaning, Small repair	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	
25	Chowki Ghat	-	Y (1)	Y	VNN	50	25	75	50
26	Someshwar Ghat	In front of Someshwar Temple	N	N	Someshwar temple owner & VNN	70	30	300	200
27	Mansarovar Ghat	In front of Mansarovar Temple	N	N	VNN: (Alternate day Daily cleaning by local shopkeeper, public)	70	30	350	250
28	Narad Ghat	Mahadev Temple	N	N	VNN	300	100	1000	2000
29	Raja Ghat	Mahadev and Maa Annapurna Temple	1	N	Hotel Clark	500	200	3000	5000
30	Babuwa Pandey Ghat	Mahadev and Hanuman Temple in front of ghat	N	N	VNN	100	50	300	400
31	Pandey Ghat	Hanuman Temple	1	N	VNN	450	50	500	1500
32	Dimpatiya Ghat	Shri shri Kashi Ram Ashram	N	N	VNN	10	-	75	25
33	Chwshahi Ghat	Chausatti Temple	1	N	VNN	500	100	500	1500
34	Ranamahal Ghat	Made by Rana Pratap Singh, no specific temple	N	N	VNN	460	40	300	100
35	Munshi Ghat	Near Ahilyabai ghat	N	N	VNN	280	100	2800	1200
36	Darbhnga Ghat		N	N	No O&M	350	20	1500	1000
37	Ahilyabai Ghat	In front of Mahadev Temple	1	N	VNN	50	75	3000	4000
38	Sheetla Ghat	In front of sheetla Temple	1	N	low cleaning	75	100	1500	2500
39	Prayag Ghat	-	2	N	Gangotri Sewa Samiti (GSS)	125	175	2000	3000
40	Deshwamegh Ghat	Near Sheetla Temple	Y (2)	Y	Gangotri Sewa Samiti (GSS) Daily Cleaning	1500	2000	40000	60000
41	Rajender Prasad Ghat	Sri Sri Ganga Temple near the Deshwamegh Ghat	Y (2)	Y	Gangotri Sewa Samiti (GSS) Daily Cleaning	500	350	2500	6000
42	Maan Mandir Ghat	Sanwatch Jantar Mantar	1	N	VNN	300	100	2500	2500
43	Tripura Bharavi Ghat	Motipura Bhairavi	2	N	VNN	200	100	1700	1300
44	Meer Ghat	Near Alka Hotel	N	N	VNN	100	50	700	300
45	Lalita Ghat	Maa Lalita Gauri Temple	1	N	VNN	125	25	700	200
46	Sindia Ghat	-	1	Y	VNN	250	100	1500	1500
47	Manikrnika Ghat	Tedi Temple, Crematoria at the ghat	1	N	VNN	350	50	4000	1000

*Final Report on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River  
Volume V, Pilot Project for Sanitary Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat*

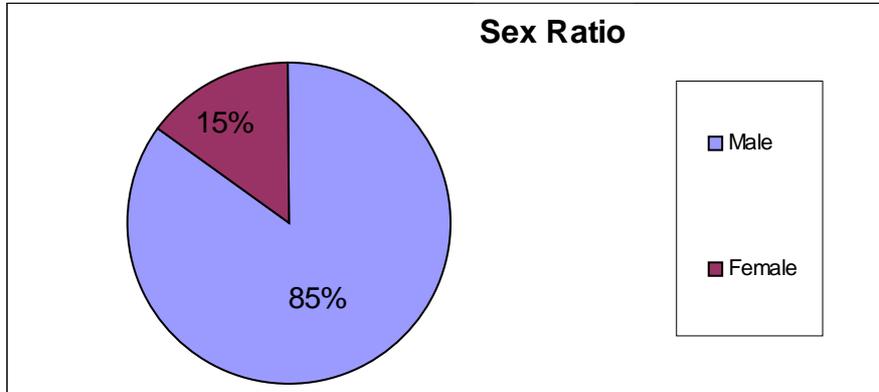
Name of Ghat	Temple name near ghat, with crematoria	No. of changing room	Public toilet	O&M Organization	Regular users		Occasional users		
				Daily Cleaning, Small repair	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	
48	Jalasen Ghat	-	1	N	VNN	60	15	400	100
49	Sanka Ghat	Sankata Temple	N	N	No	N	N	-	-
50	Jalasen Ghat	-	1	N	VNN	60	15	400	100
51	Gnagamahal Ghat	Radha Krishna Temple	N	N	No	-	-	-	-
52	Ganesh Ghat	Gaanesh Temple	N	N	VNN (But no O&M)	-	-	-	-
53	Mehta Ghat	Mehta Hospital and Bhairo Temple	N	N	VNN	175	75	400	1100
54	Ram Ghat	Ram Janki, Jagannath and Rameshwaram Temple	N	N	VNN	60	40	600	1400
55	Jatar Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	75	25	600	200
56	Raja Gwalior Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	80	20	600	200
57	Bala Ghat	Shri Radheshwar Mahadev Temple	2	N	VNN	150	50	700	300
58	Panch Ganga	Vindh Madhav Temple	10	N	VNN	250	150	2000	2000
59	Durga Ghat	Bramhcharini Temple	1	N	VNN	300	100	3000	2000
60	Brhama Ghat	Shri Kashi Math Sansthan	1	N	VNN	200	100	1200	800
61	Bundi Parkota Ghat	-	N	Y	VNN	55	15	350	150
62	Sheetla Ghat	Sheetla Temple	N	N	VNN	125	75	400	300
63	Lal Ghat	Sri Sankatharan Hanuman Temple	N	N	VNN	35	15	350	250
64	Shir Hnuman Gharhi Ghat	Famous Hanuman Temple	N	N	VNN	400	150	2500	2000
65	Cow Ghat	Laxmi temple	F-1	Y	VNN	300	200	2000	3000
66	Badrinath Ghat	Badri Narayan and Nageshwar Temple	N	Y	VNN	200	100	800	1200
67	Trilochan Ghat	Hiranya Garbheshwar Mahadev Temple	1	N	VNN	450	150	4500	3500
68	Gola Ghat	Baba Nalva Veer Temple, Gola Ghat	N	Y	VNN	400	100	600	400
69	Mehashwar Ghat	Bal Bramhachari Hanuman Temple and Nandeshwar Akhara	F-1	N	VNN	475	25	2000	3000
70	Samka Ghat	Samka Baba Temple	N	N	VNN	150	50	200	800
71	Teliyana Nala Ghat	Hanuman Temple	N	N	VNN (Poor cleaning, need reiparement of stairs)	150	75	1500	4000
72	Naya Ghat	Bramhcharini mata temple, Laxmi Narayan Temple at ghat	N	N	VNN	230	70	3000	6000

Name of Ghat	Temple name near ghat, with crematoria	No. of changing room	Public toilet	O&M Organization	Regular users		Occasional users	
				Daily Cleaning, Small repair	No./day (male)	No./day (female)	No./day (male)	No./day (female)
73 Nishad Ghat	-	N	N	VNN	15	5		
74 Prahalad Ghat	Maa Mahadevi Kalyani Temple	1	Y	VNN	450	350	3000	3500
75 Raj Ghat	Ravidas Temple	2	Y	VNN	125	75	800	1200
76 Bhaisasur (Raj Ghat) Ghat	Bhainsasur Temple	1	Y	VNN	50	10	250	50
77 Khrikeya Ghat	Near Govardhan Temple	N	N	No O&M	100	50	450	1000
78 Aadi Keshaw Ghat	Aadi Keshav Temple	N	N	No cleaning	150	40	3000	12000

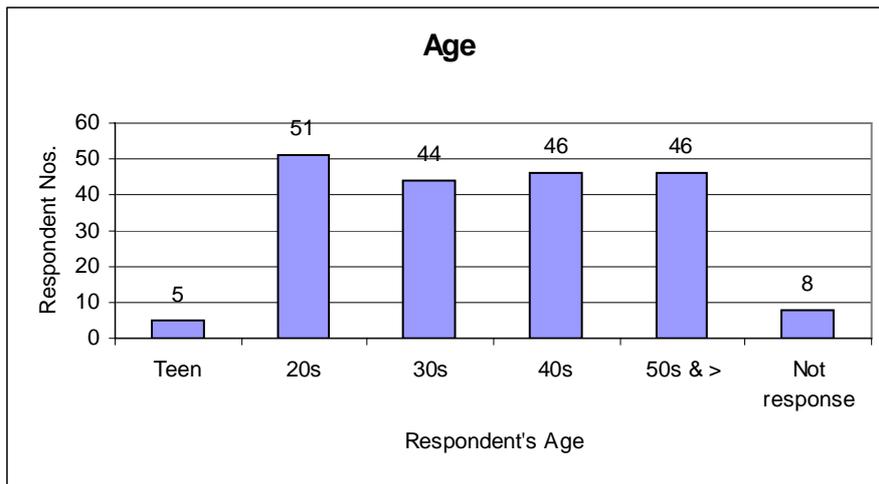
Note: The survey detail is based on the interview of users, temple owners, Sweepers, NGOs, tourists, shopkeepers & people living nearby ghat. The details are not based on the interview of Nagar Nigam.

## A.2 Results of Questionnaire Survey

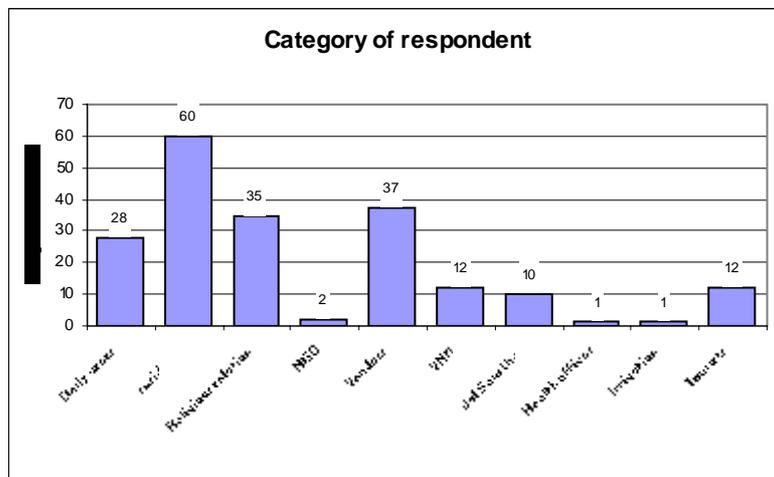
The JICA Study Team has made questionnaire survey on the necessity of Ghat improvement from 200 persons of the stakeholders such as users, residents, religious leaders, NGO, vendors, government workers and pilgrims/tourists. The followings show the results of questionnaire survey.



**Figure A.1 Sex Ratio of Respondents (Q1-2, Effective Reply=200)**



**Figure A.2 Age of Respondents (Q1-3, Effective Reply=192)**



**Figure A.3 Category of Respondents (Q1-4, Effective Reply=198)**

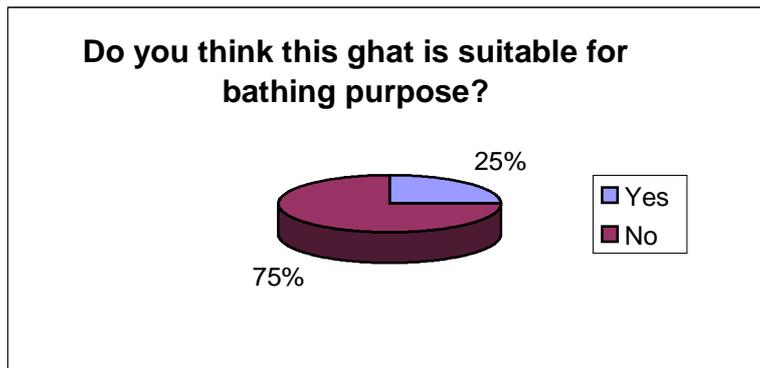


Figure A.4 Question on Suitability of Ghat for Bathing (Q2-1, Effective Reply=200)

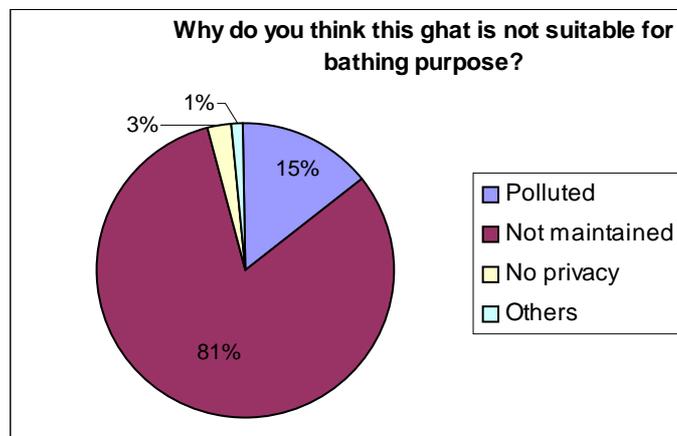


Figure A.5 Question on the Reason of No in Q2-1 (Q2-2, Effective Reply=150)

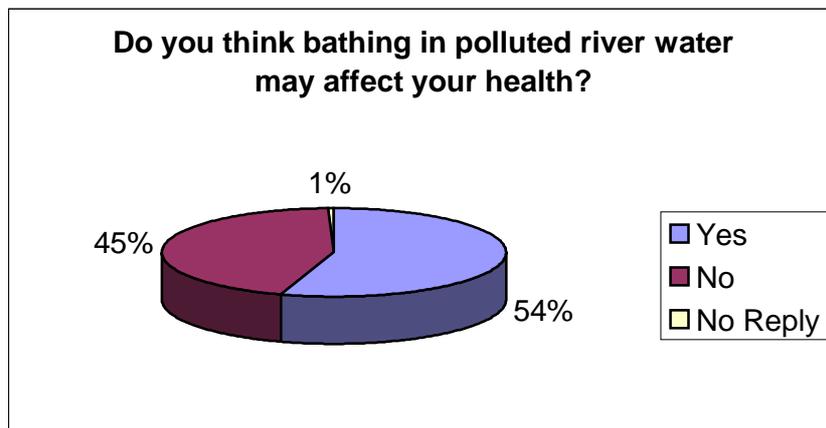


Figure A.6 Question on the Health Affect by Bathing (Q2-3, Effective Reply=200)

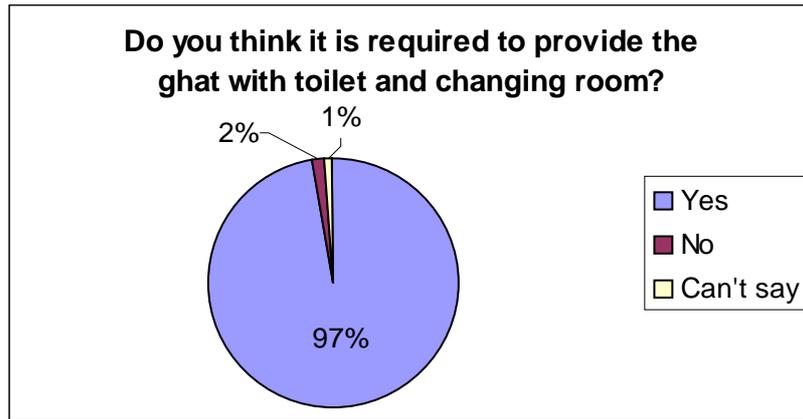


Figure A.7 Question on the Needs of Toilet/Changing Room (Q2-5, Effective Reply=200)

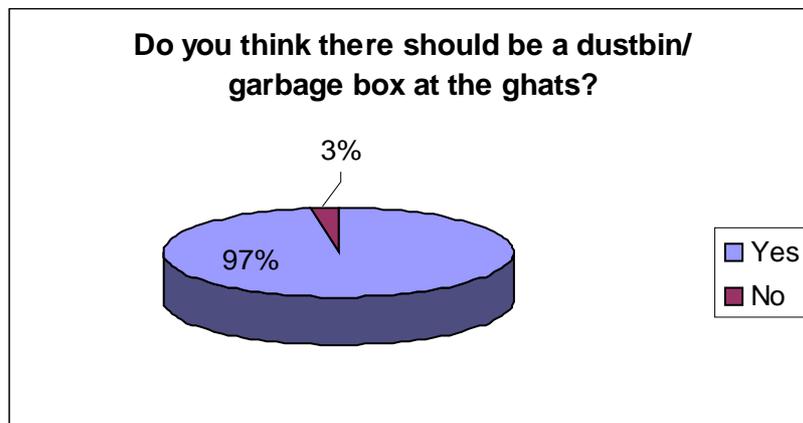


Figure A.8 Question on the Needs of Dustbin (Q2-6, Effective Reply=200)

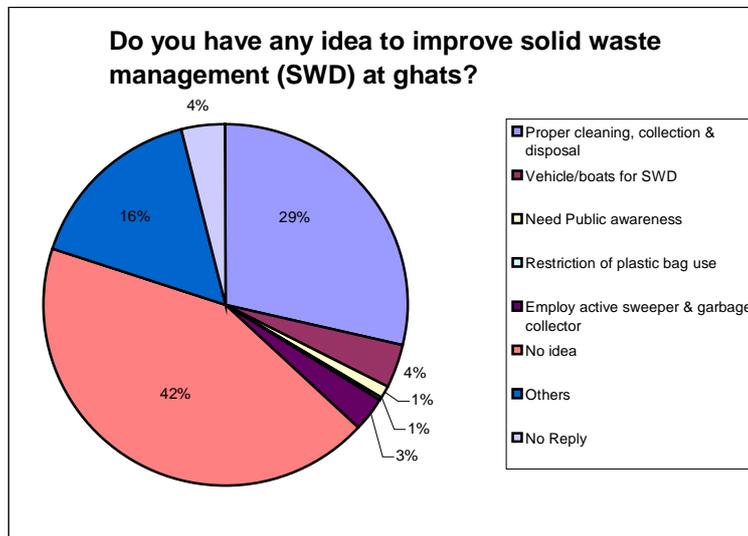


Figure A.9 Question on the Idea of Solid Waste Management (Q2-7, Effective Reply=200)

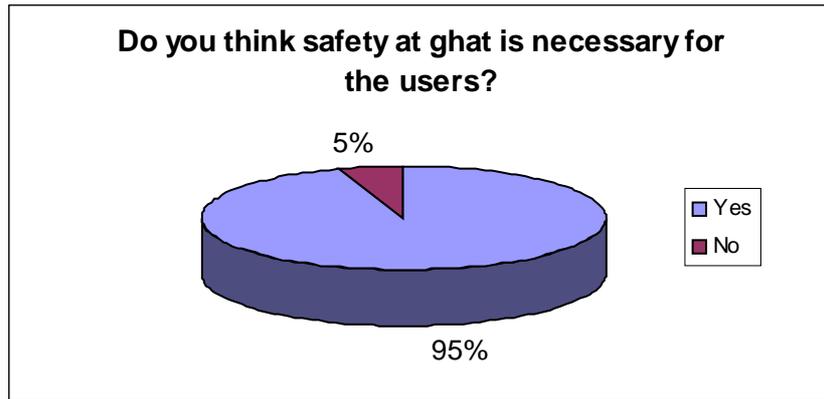


Figure A.10 Question on the Needs of Safety Measure (Q2-8, Effective Reply=200)

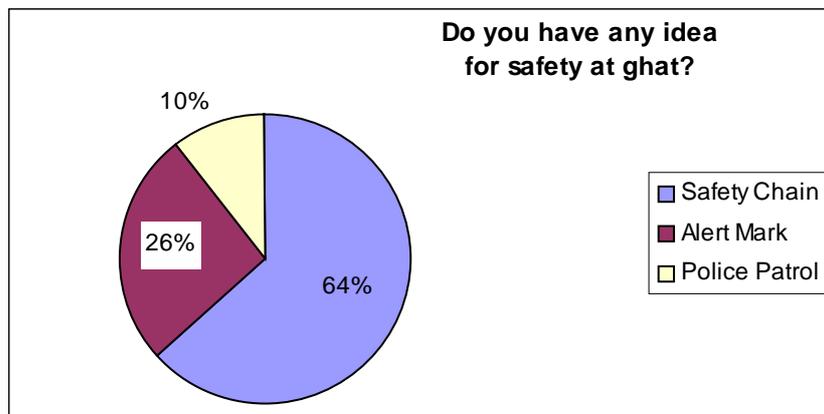


Figure A.11 Question on the Idea of Safety Measure (Q2-9, Effective Reply=182)

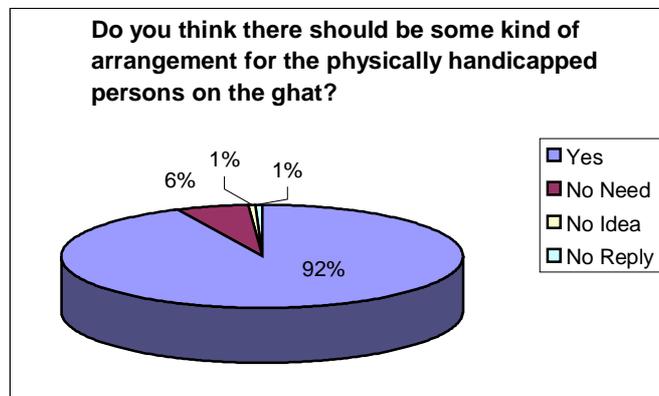


Figure A.12 Question on the Needs of Barrier Free Measure (Q2-10, Effective Reply=200)

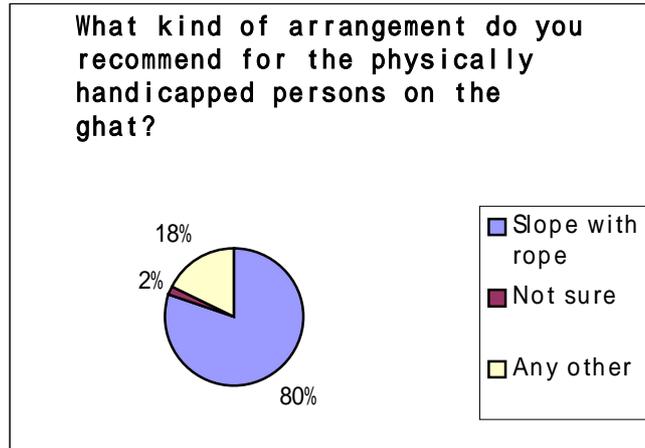


Figure A.13 Question on the Idea of Barrier Free Measure (Q2-10, Effective Reply=200)



Figure A.14 Question on the Ghat Use for Relaxation (Q2-12, Effective Reply=200)

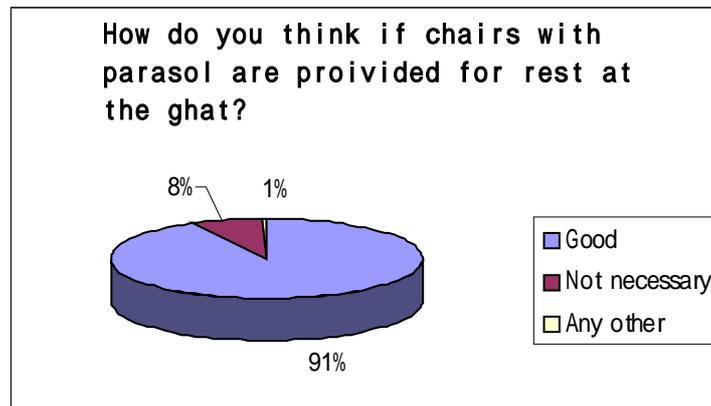


Figure A.15 Question on the Needs of Chairs with Shade (Q2-13, Effective Reply=199)

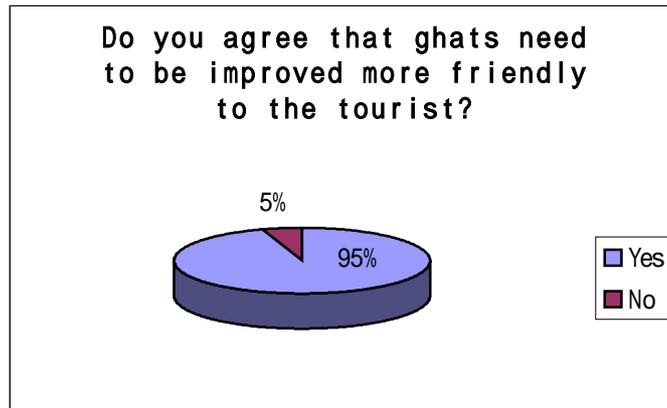


Figure A.16 Question on the Needs of Tourist Friendly Measure (Q2-14.1, Effective Reply=198)

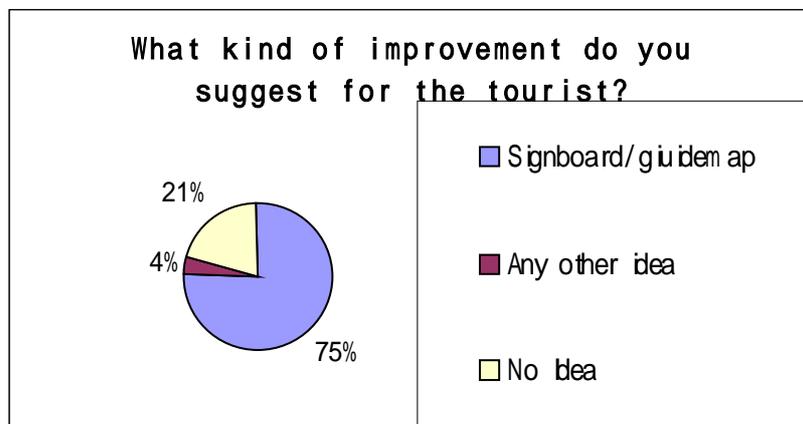


Figure A.17 Question on the Idea of Tourist Friendly Measure (Q2-14.2, Effective Reply=188)

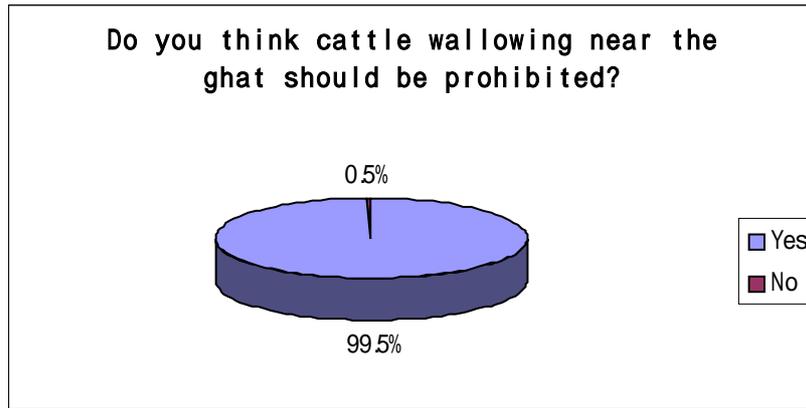


Figure A.18 Question on the Cattle Wallowing Restriction (Q2-16, Effective Reply=200)

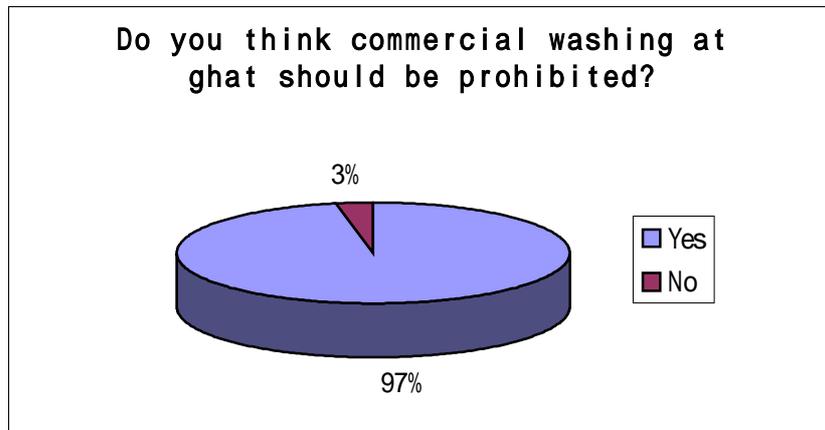


Figure A.19 Question on the Commercial Washing Restriction (Q2-17, Effective Reply=200)

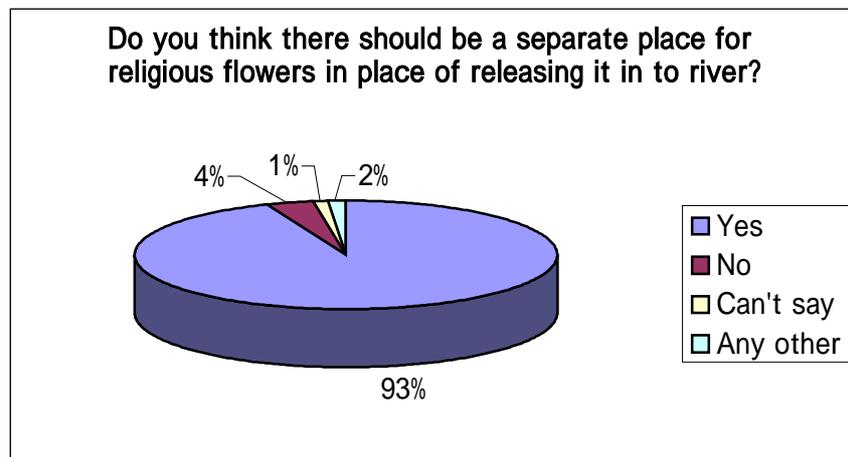
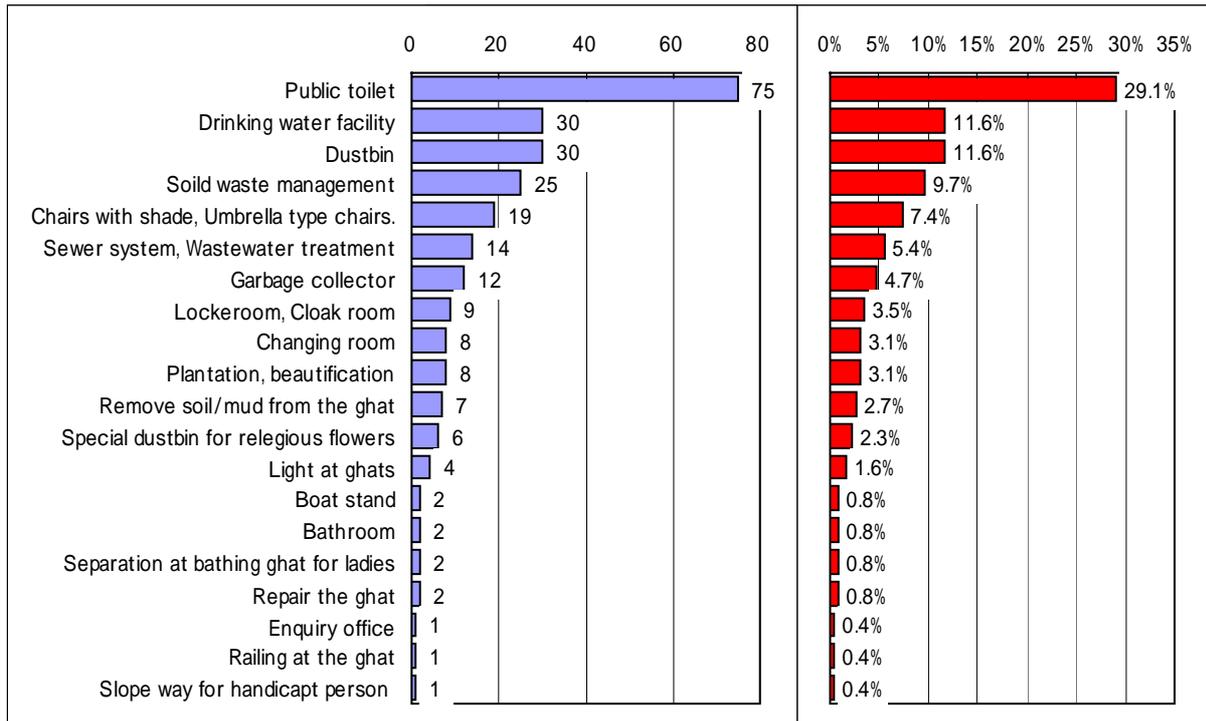


Figure A.20 Question on the Religious Flower Measure (Q2-18, Effective Reply=199)



**Figure A.21 Requirement of Ghat Improvement (Q2-19, Effective Reply=25)**

## *Appendix B*

**Minutes of 1st Workshop of the Pilot Project For Manikarnika Ghat Improvement under the  
JICA Study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River**

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2003

Venue: Mint Room, Hotel Taj Ganges, Varanasi

1. The meeting started at 11:30 am with the welcome of Shri Amar Nath Yadav, Mayor of Varanasi as chief guest and Mr Ravi Pratap Arora, Municipal Commissioner as chairman of the workshop, Nagar Nigam Varanasi.
2. List of Participants is attached as Annexure-I.
3. Mr. Mayor A. N. Yadav gave his special thanks to the participants to become the members of workgroup and also to the JICA Study Team for making a common platform for various stakeholders to give their opinions for Manikarnika Ghat improvement. He requested the workgroup not to hesitate to give opinions and suggestions for the construction of facilities at Manikarnika Ghat.
4. Each member introduced him/herself and Mr. Chairman requested Mr. Y. Oyama, JICA Study Team, to give brief description about the pilot project. He explained that the Pilot Project is to construct/renovate the facilities to improve sanitation, hygiene and environment of the Manikarnika Ghat and that the purpose of workshop is to implement the Pilot Project under the public participation. He also explained the work schedule of Pilot Project and briefed the Agenda for the workshop.

5. Re: Construction site and design specification of the facilities

Mr. Y. Oyama explained that the site for waiting/changing/locker room would be located at the same site under construction by NN. The two-story building will be constructed. Ground floor will be waiting room and 1st floor will be changing room and locker room. As this site will be submerged for 2-3 months in flood season, necessity of approach and site for public toilet will be studied in more detail.

The workgroup requested to construct the waiting room for 100 persons, changing room for ladies and locker room for 10 lockers. Public toilet is to consist of 5 urinals and 5-seat toilet for gents and 5-seat toilet for ladies.

Mr. R. N. Mishr requested that the public toilet should not be constructed at stairs or platform at some distance from the river, as it would pollute directly the river water.

6. Mr. R. P. Arora cleared that no public toilet is constructed at stairs and also all the public toilets are at some distance from the riverbank.

Mr. Y. Oyama added that the public toilet should be connected with the existing sewer, which carry wastewater to a sewerage treatment plant.

7. Dr. S.S. Gupta informed that there are three historical monuments under A.S.I control; the Raj Ghat, Dharhara Masjid and Manmandir. Manikarnika Ghat is located near the Dharhara Masjid. If it is located within the radius of 300 meter of A.S.I monuments, prior permission from Directorates (Mahanideshalay) of A.S.I., New Delhi will be required for new construction or renovation.

Mr. R. P. Arora requested A.S.I for the map to show the range of 300m distance from A.S.I monuments.

Smt. Geeta Shastri opined that all the required construction and renovation at the Ghat should be

done without affecting the historical and cultural tradition.

8. Re: Repair of cremation platform

Mr. R. N. Mishr opined that the upper platform is used in rainy-season only for one to two months when the lower crematoria platform is flooded with water and that, for this short period, the upper platform height is satisfactory. He and Mr. J. S. Dwivedi commented that it is required only to renovate the both upper and lower platform with stairs.

Dom Raja informed that there are three platforms separated by rods at lower cremation area. He requested that these should be removed and the platform should be renovated at equal level. Khatri platform (Chabutra) should be renovated at same level. He and some participants requested a solar system light at one part of the Ghat, as the electric power supply is not good in Varanasi.

9. Re: Repair of bathing ghat platform

There is very narrow part for the pilgrims to take bath at the Ghat, also the pilgrims hesitate to take bath due to the cremation near the bathing place. It is suggested to make separate approach road or construction of divider for both the places. (Mr. J. S. Dwivedi)

The improvement of the Ghat should follow traditional & cultural approach and not for tourist. He also opined that as the Kund (religious bathing pond) at the Ghat is very important from religious reason, it needs repair and the Ghat should be improved as pilgrim place. Permanent shadow should be arranged at Takht Hazara. (Mr. R. N. Mishr)

The facilities at the Ghat should be improved for both cremation and pilgrim purpose so that the both group can get benefit. (Dr. S.S. Gupta)

Improvement of the Ramleela ground at Tarkeshwar Temple is required including the shadow. There should be a hording to explain the importance of the place in Hindi and English, so that every one can understand the importance of historical and religious place. (Mr. S. Sharma)

10. It was requested that the pump for di-siltaion should be fixed on the Manikarnika Ghat.

11. The place of wood stock should be fixed as there are many unauthorized wood keepers and many problems arise due to them while going to cremation area. (Mr. J. S. Dwivedi)

The flowers, coal and wood stock should be made at one side. (Smt. Geeta Shastri)

12. The ancient name of the Manikarnika Ghat was Jal Sai Ghat so it should be called/written as the same as Jal Sai Ghat. (Mr. R. N. Mishr)

13. Many participants requested the dustbins made of concrete in place of tin to keep the Ghat clean and to remove garbage by the Nagar Nigam. Dom Raja told that he would take responsibility for cleaning the Ghat platform and stairs and to put garbage in the dustbins.

14. All the participants agreed to submit their suggestions and ideas discussed in the workshop in written format in the next workshop. It will be helpful for the JICA Study Team in the design and construction of the Ghat improvement facilities.

All the participants also agreed to hold the workshop weekly in principle. The next workshop will be held at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

15. The workshop ended at 13:30 with vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Annexure-I: List of the Participants of Workshop for Pilot Project under JICA  
Study held on 29th of October, 2003**

1. Shri Amar Nath Yadav, Mayor, Varanasi
2. Mr. Ravi Prakash Arora, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
3. Mr. D. Adhikari, Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
4. Mr. A. K. Viswas, General Manger, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, Jal Nigam, Varanasi
5. Mr. J. P. Mani, Project Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, Jal Nigam, Varanasi
6. Dr. S. S. Gupta, A. S. Archaeologist, A.S.I., Sarnath, Varanasi
7. Mr. Santosh Sharma, Councillor
8. Smt. Geeta Shastri, Councillor, Vard No. 89, Varanasi
9. Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, ex-Councillor, Varanasi
10. Mahant Shri Jamuna Das Ji Maharaj, Shri Satuababa Ashram, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
11. Rajeev Nandan Mishr (Advocate), President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
12. Shri Jata Shankar Dwivedi, Tirth Purohit-Nepalimohariya (Nepal Rashtra), Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
13. Mr. Jagdeesh Chaudhary, Dom Raja, Varanasi
14. Shri Narayan Guru, Mahan Mangla Gauri Mandir, Varanasi
15. Mr. Vageesh Dutt Mishra, Social Worker, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Kashi
16. Mr. Y. Oyama, River Environment Engineer, JICA Study Team
17. Arvind Pandey, Assistant Coordinator, JICA Study Team

**Minutes of 2nd Workshop of the Pilot Project For Manikarnika Ghat Improvement under the  
JICA Study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River**

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003

Venue: Varna, Hotel Taj Ganges, Varanasi

1. The meeting started at 11:30 am with the welcome of Mr Ravi Pratap Arora, Municipal Commissioner as chairman of the workshop, Nagar Nigam Varanasi.
2. List of Participants is attached as Annexure-I.
3. Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop held on October 29, 2003 was delivered and confirmed.
4. Mr. R. N. Mishr and Mr. J. P. Mani have submitted their suggestions. Mr. R. N. Mishr has detailed their suggestions to the participants followed by Mr. J.P Mani.
5. Re: Waiting Room

Mr. V. D. Mishra suggested that the old 3 Dharmshala buildings (Birla, Gangamukti, etc.), which are under Nagar Nigam, could be used for waiting room after some renovation.

Mr. R.N. Mishr asked for whom the waiting room would be provided for pilgrims or participants of cremation. Mr. R. P. Arora informed that the waiting room would be mainly for people who come to participate in cremation activities.

In response to the comment of Mr. V. D. Mishra to consider the waiting room for ladies, Mr. R. P. Arora suggested that separate waiting room or partition could be constructed for ladies. As the participants of cremation were mainly gents, waiting room for ladies should be less capacity compared with that for gents.

Mr. R. P. Arora suggested that the waiting room should be plain floor made of marble without sitting arrangement for easy cleaning and maintenance. He also responded to the item II of Agenda on number and capacity of existing room that there was no waiting room.

6. Re: Changing/Locker Room

Mr. R. P. Arora requested Mr. R. Jain to give suggestion on the best site for the changing room and locker room after visiting the Ghat.

7. Re: Public Toilet

The participants disagreed on the construction site Alternative-1 attached in the Agenda for public toilet as many objections and problems would arise. Most of the participants agreed on renovation of the existing toilet site i.e. Alternative-2. It was agreed to expand the site for required specification.

Mr. R. P. Arora commented that there should not be any new construction in flood area.

8. Re: Crematoria Platform

The lower crematoria platform should be renovated without changing its level and slope. The firebricks should be used for the better use of the cremation platform. (Mr. J. P. Mani)

For the better use and less wood consumption, improved wood crematoria can be installed. (Mr. V. D. Mishra, Mr. R. N. Mishr, Mr. J. P. Mani)

The bathing site at Lalita Ghat and Ghora Ghat should be provided for the people who came for cremation. The site for cremation should be named as 'Jal Sai Ghat', as it was the old name. Also the people can understand the difference between Cremation Ghat and Manikarnika Ghat.

9. Re: Bathing Ghat Platform

'Takhat Hazara' is the platform where people come from all India to give 'Pinddan' and 'Shraddh' to their oldies. Permanent shadow is highly required at Takhat Hazara to protect the people from hot sunshine during summer season. (Mr. R. N. Mishr)

Improvement of Vishnu Kund is also highly required as it is very holistic and religious place and people come to take bath during festival season. (Mr. R. N. Mishr)

10. The place for keeping woods, coal and flowers should be fixed at one side so that people could not be troubled. (Mr. V. D. Mishra)

11. As A.S.I. has not confirmed the distance between the Manikarnika Ghat and Dharhara Masjid, Mr. D. Adhikari, Nagar Nigam was requested to provide the map of the same.

12. The next workshop will be held at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003.  
The workshop ended at 13:30 with vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Annexure-I: List of the Participants of Workshop for Pilot Project under JICA  
Study held on 10th of November, 2003**

1. Mr. Ravi Prakash Arora, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
2. Mr. D. Adhikari, Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
3. Mr. A. K. Viswas, General Manger, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, Jal Nigam, Varanasi
4. Mr. J. P. Mani, Project Engineer, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, Jal Nigam, Varanasi
5. Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Social Worker, Varanasi
6. Shri Rajeev Nandan Mishr (Advocate), President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
7. Mr. Vageesh Dutt Mishra, Social Worker, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Kashi
8. Mr. Devendra Nath Shukla, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
9. Mr. V. K. Mishra, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
10. Mr. Ashok Kumar Pandey, Media Prabhari, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
11. Ms. Mudita Agrawal, Architect, Varanasi Architect Associates, Varanasi
12. Mr. Y. Oyama, River Environment Engineer, JICA Study Team
13. Arvind Pandey, Assistant Coordinator, JICA Study Team

**Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of the Pilot Project For Environmental Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat under the JICA Study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River**

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2003

**Venue:** Nadesar Hall, Hotel Taj Ganges, Varanasi

1. At the outset, Mr. Oyama introduced Mr. R. K. Safaya, Chief Design and Development, HUDCO as a consultant on the Pilot Project for Environmental Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat and requested him to make a presentation of the basic design.
2. List of participants is attached as Annexure – I.
3. Mr. Safaya briefed the agenda to the participants. The first item pertains to Department of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) which was represented by Dr. S. S. Gupta, Archeologist. A query was put up to the official of ASI to clarify the distance of Manikarnika Ghat from ASI Monuments like Manmandir Ghat and Dharhara Mosque. Dr. Gupta clarified that both these monuments are more than 300 meter away from Manikarnika Ghat. Mr. Oyama reiterated the written confirmation of the same from ASI.
4. Mr. Safaya presented a brief presentation of existing scenario of Manikarnika Ghat area as well as the various proposals pertaining to the pilot project. It was asserted that the participation of the local people is necessary for the better implementation of all the projects. All the advantages and disadvantages of the various proposals were put up to the participants.
5. After seeing the presentation one of the participants raised the question of availability of funds which will finally be provided by JICA. (Mr. Sandeep Agrawal)

It was clarified that the priorities would be fixed as per the outcome of today's discussions and suggestions. The participants were requested to finalise the location out of several alternatives shown to them.

An open discussion was held with the participants and one by one several proposals were freeze. The details of the same are as under:

**6. Waiting Room for 100 persons**

The three alternative sites for waiting room were proposed such as existing Baba Dharmshala, existing Birla Dharmshala and new construction at Nagar Nigam site.

During the discussion Mr. R. N. Mishr classified the waiting space into three categories

- i.) Waiting Space for Pilgrims,
- ii.) Waiting space for the relatives and friends who come for the cremation activities
- iii.) Waiting Space for Tourists

A question was posed by Mr. Mishr for the requirement of all the three types of separate waiting spaces. It was clarified by Mr. R. P. Arora, Municipal Commissioner that the creation of waiting space is mainly for the cremation purposes.

Keeping in view all the pros and cons of the available buildings/sites, it was finally decided that the waiting room for the 100 people with 10 lockers could be provided at first and second floor of Birla Dharmshala after appropriate retrofitting/repairing. Mr. R. P. Arora clarified that the building is under the possession of Nagar Nigam and the same would be provided as and when asked for.

**7. Cremation Platform**

Participating in the discussion the Mr. Jagdeesh Chaudhary, Dom Raja suggested that there is a need of a flat cremation platform at the level of existing Khatri Platform. Intervening the suggestion, Prof Rana P.B. Singh explained that the existing different level of the cremation platforms is best suited as per the technical and scientific reasons. It was agreed that the existing three levels of cremation platform would be retained as it is and the same will be renovated as per the final proposal.

It was also suggested by the Dom Raja that the proposed cremation platforms should be barricaded in such a way so that the wild animals could not enter crematoria place. Further Dom Raja also gave a suggestion that the boats in which wood for the cremation purposes is transported should be restricted on the western side of Smashan Ghat i.e. near Lalita Ghat.

A suggestion was made for installing an Improved Wood Crematoria (one no.) on the upper raised platform which will be used for cremating people of economically weaker background. This suggestion was unanimously accepted. The issue pertaining to the renovation of upper cremation platform was also discussed in detail. Finally it was decided that the structural elements like flooring of the roofing, parapets and facade of the building would be appropriately renovated as per the final design.

Mr. Oyama put up a question to Dom Raja about the number of dead bodies which are being cremated at the Smashan Ghat every day. Answering the query, Mr. Jata Shanker Dwivedi, Nepali Rastra Purohit informed to the participants that 50 to 150 dead bodies are being cremated per day. Further a query was also posed to Dom Raja that at a given time how many maximum bodies are being cremated. The answer was 30 nos. Dom Raja was also requested to provide the JICA Team the data of no. of bodies that are being cremated per day. Dom raja assured to provide the one week's data on daily basis.

#### **8. Public Toilet**

Three alternative location proposals were discussed in detail. It was observed that out of all three locations, the location of existing Sulabh Complex is above high flood level and would not pose any problem of maintenance. The toilet if proposed to be located along with waiting room at the Nagar Nigam site, shall have to be located at the upper platform level which will be an intrusion to the sky-line of the Manikarnika Ghat.

The toilet if located in Janana Ghat, will again be difficult to maintain because of periodical floods, in addition to difficulty in disposal.

There was a broad consensus that the existing Sulabh Complex may be remodeled with the provision of five Urinals, 5 seats for Gents Toilets and 5 seats for Ladies Toilets; if funds are available the first floor can be developed as additional Waiting Room / Resting Place for visitors.

It was also decided to provide changing rooms with proper signage and lighting at the Janana Ghat which would finally be maintained by Nagar Nigam. (Mr. R. P. Arora)

#### **9. Chakra Pushpkarni Manikarnika Kund**

During the discussion it was emphasized that this component has a very great religious significance and therefore utmost care needs to be taken while carrying of any renovation work. The scholars are of the opinion that there is a source of water beneath (Gomukh) and has no connectivity with the river Ganges. Shri Rana P.B. Singh and Shri R.N. Mishr emphasized these original water channels needs to be restored and protected and the steps which are generally submerged in water within the Kund should require repair. In addition to this it is necessary to provide proper and elegant railing / fencing, signage and solar lighting around this Kund. Finally it was decided that appropriate details and drawings should be developed. Mr. Oyama emphasized that the silt shall be removed by the Trust/ Nagar Nigam so that the entire area could be thoroughly examined / surveyed.

#### **10. Takhat Hazara**

Various alternative proposals of permanent light roofing were discussed. Shri R. N. Mishr and Prof. Rana suggested that a conical / pyramidal roof type structure would be a feasible solution, as the silt will not get accumulated after the flood. All the stakeholders were agreed on the suggestions.

#### **11. Ramleela Ground**

It was decided and agreed that the existing stone pavement shall be remodeled with proper slope and ambience.

#### **12. Garbage collection bins**

It was also suggested that proper garbage bins made of permanent materials like stone may be provided at important / key locations.

#### **13. Heritage Corner**

All the members were of the opinion that there is total lack of information available on the various traditional / Religious / Cultural resources as exist on the entire Ghat strips up to project area. It would be quite appropriate to devote a space for the development of a 'Heritage Corner'. Shri R. P. Arora agreed to air-mark the space available near the kund where the construction has already been stopped by the Nagar Nigam.

This appropriate signage would be developed along with the seating and lighting.

#### **14. General Sinages**

Appropriate descriptive and directional sinages will be provided in the different project areas as per the requirements.

Finally the participants were of the view that they have given their final acceptance on all the proposals and expressed the early implementation of the scheme.

The workshop ended at 14:00 with vote of thanks to the Chair.

#### **Annexure - I List of Participants**

1. Mr. R. P. Arora, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam
2. Mr. D. Adhikari, Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam
3. Dr. S. S. Gupta, Asst. Supt. Archeologist, ASI, Varanasi
4. Prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Prof. Of Geography, B.H.U (President – Indo Japanese Friendship Association, (IJFAS), Varanasi
5. Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Social Worker, Varanasi
6. Mr. Santosh Sharma, Corporator, Nagar Nigam
7. Smt. Geeata Shastri, Corporator, Vard No. 89, Assi Ghat, Varanasi
8. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishr, President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
9. Shri Onkar Das, Shri Satua Baba Ashram, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
10. Pandit Narayan Guru, Mangla Gauri Founder / President, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
11. Mr. Vageesh Dutt Mishra, (Social worker) Mahamantri, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
12. Mr. Raja Kishore Chandra, Spokesman, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
13. Mr. J. N. Dubey, Tirth Purohit, Varanasi
14. Mr. Jagdeesh Chaudhary, Dom Raja, Varanasi
15. Mr. Ram Darshan, Rajmandir, Varanasi
16. Mrs. Vrinda Dar, General Secretary, Kautilya Society, Varanasi
17. Mr. Prabha Shanker Tiwari, Advocate, Andhra Pul, Varanasi
18. Mr. Kashi Prasad, Businessman, Varanasi
19. Mr. Y. Oyama, River Environment Engineer, JICA Study Team
20. Mr. R. K. Safaya, Chief Design & Development, HUDCO, New Delhi
21. Mr. Sunil Talwar, SPAO, HUDCO, New Delhi
22. Mr. Arvind Pandey, Asst. Coordinator & Administrator, JICA Study Team

**Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> workshop for discussing and finalizing the facilities being provided by JICA  
and their O&M plan**

**Venue: Radisson Hotel, Varanasi**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2004**

JICA Study Team organized a workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2004, to present the designs of the facilities that were identified for construction and improvement at the Manikarnika Ghat in consultation with stakeholders and also to discuss the feasible operation & maintenance plan for the sustainability of these facilities which was formulated by JICA Study Team in association with a locally based NGO called Kautilya Society. This workshop was the final exercise for the finalization of proposed facilities and its design as well as the plan/system of operation and maintenance. The Workshop was attended by all major stakeholders that included priest community, Doms & Dom Raja, wood stackers, boatmen, social workers, NGOs, community leaders and senior officials from the Nagar Nigam, and ASI. The Hon'ble Mayor of Varanasi, Mr. Amarnath Yadav presided over the meeting as a Chief Guest.

The agenda of the discussion in the Workshop is specified as follows;

1. Proposed & desired facilities at the Manikarnika Ghat
2. Feasibility on the proposed & desired facilities and recommendation
3. Discussion & finalization of the facilities to be undertaken
4. O&M Plan (different alternatives)
5. Discussion & finalisation of O&M Plan

The workshop started with welcome note by the Kautilya Society, and Mr. Hirotaka SATO, Deputy Team Leader of JICA Study Team that was followed up with a brief introduction of JICA Study and pilot project by Mr. Ajay Singh, the project coordinator of JICA Study Team. In his welcome remarks, Mr. Sato briefly recapitulated the importance of the Manikarnika ghat and hoped that this project would become a model project for providing and maintaining facilities for improving the Manikarnika ghat environment.

The technical session started with the presentation of designs and Bird Eye view of the proposed facilities by Mr. Niraj Sethi, HUDCO. He presented and explained the design and main features of each facility: the Sulabh toilet complex, the Birla Dharamshala, the Janana ghat, the Manikarnika Kund, cremation platforms, Takht Hazara, Ramalila Maidan, Heritage Corner, dustbins and signage. During the description of the facilities, Prof. Rana Singh constantly added information on various features of the facilities that he, on behalf of Kautilya Society, had identified in various meetings with the stakeholders. Mr. Sethi also explained the technical feasibility problems in some of the modifications that had been proposed by the stakeholders especially at "Takht Hazara" and "Heritage Corner" wherein some stakeholders had desired for a permanent shed instead of temporary structures.

After presentation of the designs of the facilities, the operation & maintenance plan of the proposed facilities and the entire Ghat area was presented by Ms. Vrinda Dhar of the Kautilya Society, which has been formulated by the JICA Study Team with a view to ensure the effective maintenance of the facilities that are proposed to be undertaken/ improved under the pilot project and are based on the analysis of the existing situations and were felt to be potentially feasible and need based. The O&M plan presented by Ms. Dhar emphasized on working out together with the stakeholders. The O&M plan also described the existing mechanism of ghat maintenance and management, wherein the Varanasi Nagar Nigam coordinates and manage the cleaning of the ghats, organized the waste disposal and does the basic maintenance of the ghat. She explained that among the facilities identified for construction and/or renovation by JICA, the cremation platform was being managed and cleaned by the Dom community, the toilet complex was being maintained by the Sulabh non-government organization and the Manikarnika kund was being maintained by Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, and NGO. Ms. Dhar explained how the environmental and hygiene problems on the Manikarnika ghat

were aggravated by a large floating population, large amount of garbage produced, excess wood stacking, open urination and defecation, insufficient sweeping and cleaning. Thereafter, three different alternatives identified to address the environmental and hygiene problems of Manikarnika Ghat and maintenance of the proposed facilities were broadly outlined. These are (i) that the management remains with the Varanasi Nagar Nigam and that the community monitor and give regular feedbacks to Nagar Nigam; (ii) that the management, coordination and monitoring be done by a joint working group comprising a community based organization (composed of one member each of the various stakeholder groups) and the Varanasi Nagar Nigam together; (iii) that the management, coordination and monitoring be done by a community based organization only. She explained the need for increasing revenue generation from the ghats and the various alternatives for raising funds to maintain the hygiene services and structural maintenance of the facilities on the Manikarnika ghat. These include asking donations from visitors, pay & use of the facilities, fixing token money to be given by visitors to visit the ghat, asking residents, business community, asking Nagar Nigam to give a special annual contribution. The importance of increasing public awareness and participation in management and maintenance of community resources was also stressed out in the presentation for an effective and sustainable maintenance of the facilities.

After the presentation by the respective experts, the discussion and question-answer session started in which all the issues related to design, location and O&M were discussed at length among the stakeholders. The discussion in the said workshop was concluded finally as follows.

- (1) All stakeholders broadly agreed and appreciated the design and features proposed by JICA for the different facilities. However, some suggestions came for arranging the lights facility in Birla Dharmasala, JICA Study Team accepted this to consider. Regarding toilet, after discussion, it was concluded that the existing toilet will be renovated and modified and after the technical feasibility it is felt viable to enhance the capacity of the existing toilet it may be considered. So there was full agreement on not demolish the existing structure rather to improve it.
- (2) The participants / stakeholders emphasised on creating CBO (Community Based Organisation), involving local beneficiary priest, wood sellers, Dom Raja, local NGO, etc. under the chairmanship of Municipal Commissioner, Varanasi Nagar Nigam. The Municipal Commissioner shall initiate process in this regards, and will organize monthly meeting with stakeholders to discuss issues related to O&M on regular basis.
- (3) There was a broad consensus that all possibilities of fund generations for O&M of proposed facilities and ghat area from user groups, and stakeholders contribution will be explored and worked out. The funds, so generated, will be managed by CBO, under the overall control and leadership of Municipal Commissioner.
- (4) It was also decided, that though focus will be on community based approach of O&M, and process will be initiated in this regard immediately, but, as long CBO is not organized, Nagar Nigam will take full responsibility of O&M of the proposed facilities and Manikarnika Ghat area. This includes institutional and financial support for the O&M. The Municipal Commissioner and Hon'ble Mayor accepted this proposal and expressed Nagar Nigams commitment for this.
- (5) All stakeholders finally agreed to provide their full support to JICA proposal and requested start the construction work immediately without any further delay. All Stakeholders appreciated JICA initiatives for improvement of Manikarnika ghat and expressed their gratitude for taking up the project in Varanasi.

Finally, Shri Arora, the Municipal Commissioner, made the concluding address and thanked everyone for their cooperation and stressed the need for immediate action for starting the construction works. He also thanked JICA for organizing the workshop and was extremely appreciative of the new direction of stakeholder participated decision-making and implementation that was being initiated for the pilot

project of JICA.

**List of Participants**

1. Mr. Amar Nath Yadav, Mayor, Varanasi
2. Mr. R. P. Arora, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
3. Mr. K. P. Tripathi, Addl. Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
4. Mr. Ziauddin, Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
5. Mr. R. K. Baghwani, Asst. Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
6. Dr. S. S. Gupta, Asst. Supt. Archeologist, ASI, Varanasi
7. Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Social Worker, Varanasi
8. Mr. Santosh Sharma, Corporator, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
9. Mr. H.S. Chaurasia, Advisor, Sulabh International, New Delhi
10. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishr, President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Samiti, Varanasi
11. Mr. Narayan Guru, Mangla Gauri Founder / President, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
12. Mr. Vageesh Dutt Mishra, (Social worker) Mahamantri, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
13. Mr. Raja Kishore Chandra, Spokesman, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
14. Mr. Jayendra Nath Dubey, Tirth Purohit, Varanasi
15. Mr. Devendra Nath Shukla, Noukul Sardar, Varanasi
16. Mr. Virendra Kumar, Kashi Purohit Sabha Sadasya, Varanasi
17. Jata Shanker Dwivedi, Nepali Lal Mohariya, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
18. Mr. Ghanshyam Singh, Dev Deepavali Samiti, Varanasi
19. Mr. Ashok Dubey, Tirth Purohit Ghtiya, Varanasi
20. Mr. Vishwanath Chaudhary, Dom Raja, Varanasi
21. Mr. Ram Darshan Chaudhari, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
22. Mr. Jagdeesh Chaudhary, Mandir Ghat, Varanasi
23. Mr. Lalu Chaudhary, Mandir Ghat, Varanasi
24. Mr. Rajendra Chaudhary, Meerghat, Varanasi
25. Mr. Sadanand, Resident, Varanasi
26. Mr. Bhaiya Lal Yadav, Resident, Varanasi
27. Mr. Suresh Prasad Yadav, Varanasi
28. Mr. Chaubey, Sankatha Ghat, Varanasi
29. Mr. Ramesh Majhi, Boatman, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
30. Mr. Bhola Nath Yadav, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
31. Mr. Chote Lal, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
32. Mr. Anurag Diwedi, Varanasi
33. Mr. K. S. Dubey, Varanasi
34. Mr. S. K. Singh, Varanasi
35. Mr. H. Sato, Deputy Team Leader, JICA Study Team
36. Mr. Ajay Singh, Programme Coordinator, JICA Study Team
37. Prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Prof. Of Geography, B.H.U (President – Indo Japanese Friendship Association, (IJFAS), Varanasi
38. Mrs. Vrinda Dar, General Secretary, Kautilya Society, Varanasi
39. Mr. Neeraj Sethi, Asst. SPAO, HUDCO, New Delhi
40. Mr. Arvind Pandey, Asst. Coordinator & Administrator, JICA Study Team

## Environmental Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat (Pilot Project) – Minutes of Stakeholders Meeting

JICA Study Team organised a meeting with stakeholders on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004 on Environmental Improvement of Manikarnika Ghat (pilot project) at Parararkar Bhawan in Varanasi. The meeting was held to review and discuss the progress of the pilot project and to present proposed future course of action.

The participants included all major stakeholders such as officials from Varanasi Nagar Nigam, UP Jal Nigam – Varanasi, Corporators, Societies, NGOs, Dom Raja, Wood stackers, Boatmen, Priest & Purohits, Social Workers, Local residents etc. The Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi, Mr. Lal Ji Rai presided over the meeting as a Chief Guest.

The agenda of the workshop/ meeting that were broadly presented and discussed are specified as follows:

1. Progress on the first phase works of the construction
2. Designs and construction schedule of the facilities proposed in phase -II
3. Present State of Operation and Maintenance and proposed plan based on CBO
4. Financial/ Resource generation and its management for the O&M
5. Mural Designs presentation and selection of artist

Workshop proceedings may be elaborated herein;

1. The Workshop started with the welcome note of Mr. Hirotaka Sato, Deputy Team Leader, JICA Study Team. Dr. Arvind Joshi facilitated the workshop meeting and presented the introduction of the objectives of workshop/ meeting.

2. Followed by this, Sr. Programme Officer, JICA Study Team, Mr. Ajay Singh presented the progress of phase – I construction works that was started before flood. Mr. Singh outlined the progress of Heritage Corner, Manikarnika Kund, High Mast Light, Janana Ghat and Takhat Hazara that were taken in the first phase (Before Flood). Mr. Ajay Singh informed to the participants that the roofing work at Takhat Hazara could not be started due to raised water level in the river during first phase of construction and it would now be taken up in the current period.

3. Mr. Sanjay Varshney, Appraisal Officer, HUDCO, presented designs of Phase – II facilities that are to be renovated from October 2004 which includes Ramleela Ground, Cremation Area, Raised Cremation Area, Sulabh Toilet, Birla Dharmshala, types of dustbins and their locations and gave details regarding the signage boards.

4. After presentation of facilities, Mr. Ajay Singh presented the existing problems at the ghat related to its Operation & Maintenance and proposed Operation and Maintenance Plan of facilities. He also presented the need of Community Based Organisation (CBO) to sustain the ghat's properties and facilities. He explained the work procedure of CBO under Nagar Nigam for proper O&M activities through two alternate and also presented the alternatives of revenue resources for proper management of CBO.

  
Hirotaka Sato

Lal Ji Rai

JICA STUDY TEAM 10th Oct 2004

5. After the presentation on Manikarnika Ghat Development, the process for the selection of Artist regarding the preparation of Murals started. Before presentation of Artists, Dr. Arvind Joshi, Facilitator told the evaluation procedure of Mural design at Heritage Corner. The artists' designs were evaluated by representatives of major stakeholders including JICA Study Team, Varanasi Nagar Nigam, Priests, Corporator, Social Worker etc. Mural Designs were presented by five artists one by one viz. Mr. Madan Lal, Mr. Krishn Kumar Yadav, Mr. Upendra Gaur, Mr. Anil Singh and Mr. Vinod Singh; Mr. Krishn Kumar Yadav was not present, so his briefing sheet and design for the mural were presented by Dr. Arvind Joshi to the participants. After the finalisation of evaluation sheet, Mr. Arun Singh has score highest followed by Mr. Krishn Kumar Yadav, Mr. Virendra Singh, Mr. Madan Lal and Mr. Upendra Gaur. So evaluators selected Mr. Arun Singh and his design for the Mural at the heritage corner. However, it was suggested and agreed that Mr. Arun Singh will make further improvements in his design, before finalising the same for construction, in consultation with stakeholders. Mr. Arun Singh assured that he will discuss the design with the major Stakeholders and would take their agreement before the finalisation of the design.

6. After the presentation by experts and before finalisation of the evaluation of the Artists' design for Murals, Question-Answer session started in which stakeholders shared their viewpoints and also raised queries.

- **Mr. Raja Singh of Ahilyabai Charity Trust** raised the query that JICA Study Team would be required to take permission for constructions and renovations at the Manikarnika Ghat from the concerned bodies or societies at the Ghat or not, as while construction at Janana Ghat they had not taken permission with the Ahilyabai Charity Trust. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishr replied that Ghats are public property and it may not be for one's own property. So only permission through concerned body is enough. Mr. Mishr praised about the pilot project plan and the working procedure of JICA Study Team, but he requested to the team for the quality work for construction and renovation so that the facilities can sustain for a long time.
- **Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishra** appreciated the pilot project plan and their work procedure. He requested to JICA Study Team to provide the railing on the part at Manikarnika Kund proposed by him. He also requested that the old facilities which were constructed by the Indian Kings or other social persons should be provided with the signage board including their names so that the general people or visitors can know the facility providers. He informed that Mural design for Heritage Corner should be understandable to general public and also it should contain the cultural and historical points.
- **Mr. Amit Singh, Social Worker** raised his query that who will maintain Manikarnika Ghat? Where the local purohit (Priest) union have to dominate? They should also be used in operation and maintenance contribution.
- **Mr. Vaghees Dutt Mishra** requested to all participants that if there is some development activities for Varanasi are going on, so we all should cooperate with our full strength. He suggested that the presented Mural designs of sculpture and Artist need more improvement. They should work more and they can take help from the major stakeholders who have deep knowledge about Manikarnika Ghat. He said that Nagar Nigam is responsible for cleaning and light arrangement, which is poor and they should monitor it and make sure for the

proper operation of the same. He requested to JICA Study Team not to provide any monuments of goddess because this is providing just to stop the urination and open defecation activities. But on the other hand it hurts the public feeling and emotions, as urination or open defecation activities can happen.

- **Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Social Worker** told that JICA and their team have good approach for their work and appreciated the team for trying to invite the representative of all the stakeholder and no doubt all the work of the pilot project are going on with the full public participation. He told that he feels that people are satisfied with the JICA procedure of work. He assured that as JICA is providing such great task so they have their own responsibility to maintain the same. Also JICA Team is helping to make plan for operation and maintenance, which is appreciable, and when and how if we require, cooperate with the JICA Study Team. He also said that the facilities after construction or renovation should be taken care and maintained same and in proper use. There should be no encroachment as always happen and for this Nagar Nigam has to take strict actions. He again requested to Varanasi Municipal Commissioner to concentrate on facilities of Manikarnika Ghat for proper light arrangement, cleaning activities should be adequate and all these should be abundantly monitored. There should be no encroachment. The wood should not be stacked so much. Only few stacked are sufficient and they should be stored some other places.
- **Mr. Santosh Sharma, Corporator** praised the working procedure of JICA Study Team and appealed to all stakeholders to fully cooperate with the project.

**Mr. Ajay Singh** Replied the queries raised by the stakeholders which are as follows:

- Mr. Singh said that JICA Study Team was not aware of Ahilyabai Trust so they could not invite them but when the team came to know they were invited. Also they have had no knowledge about the property of Ahilyabai Trust but JICA Team is working with the understanding of Government. Here JICA Team is developing the facilities with the full cooperation and participation of stakeholder and also they expect the same with the Ahilyabai Trust.
- JICA Study Team is also constructing and renovating the facilities with the quality work. He gave the example of Heritage Corner Railing that when they found that railing strength is poor as compared to the flood and sediments load then he changed the installed railing and provided new strength one.
- He also informed and clarified on the query, how Kautilya Society connected with JICA, that this NGO had studied on operation and maintenance plan, which was the proposal of JICA. He informed the participants that this NGO is not related to any kind of work presently.
- He replied on the suggestion of not installing the goddess sculpture that this suggestion to provide the same there was also from the stakeholder and if they are not agree now then this will be removed from the plan.

**Mr. Lal Ji Rai, Municipal Commissioner, Varanasi**

Mr. Lal 'Ji' Rai said that Govt. of India in collaboration of Govt. of Japan is making a study through association of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the Water Quality Management of River Ganga. In addition to this, it is improving the Manikarnika ghat.

He clarified that the study and improvement of Manikarnika Ghat is totally a grant and Varanasi people don't have to pay any tax or pay it back in any manner. He requested to the people not be in any confusion regarding. He asked stakeholder for cooperation with the project for its success. He said, that he is quite confident that project will be accomplished successfully as per the plan with cooperation and support of all stakeholders. He thanked to people for their valuable inputs and time in this meeting.

Followed by this, Chief Engineer, VNN gave the vote of thanks and meeting was concluded.

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## **Participants' List**

1. Mr. Lal 'Ji' Rai, Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
2. Mr. S. K. Srivastava, Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
3. Mr. L.K. Jain, Executive Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
4. Mr. A. K. Singh, Asst. Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
5. Mr. L. N. Prasad, Project Manager, Ganga Pollution Prevention Unit, UP Jal Nigam, Varanasi
6. Mr. G.P. Khare, Project Engineer, Ganga Pollution Prevention Unit, UP Jal Nigam, Varanasi
7. Mr. S. C. Nigam, Executive Engineer, Varanasi Development Authority, Varanasi
  
8. Pandit Narayan Guru, President, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Mahasamiti, Varanasi
9. Mr. Vageesh Dutt Mishra, Social Worker, Kendriya Dev Deepawali Samiti, Varanasi
10. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishra, President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Mahasamiti, Varanasi
11. Mr. Rajkumar Mishra, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Mahasamiti, Varanasi
12. Mr. Santosh Sharma, Corporator, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
13. Mr. Jata Shanker Dwivedi, Social Worker & Businessman, Garhwasi Tola, Chauk, Varanasi
14. Mr. Sandip Agrawal, Social Worker & Silk Business, Saudiya, Varanasi
15. Mr. Raja Singh, Manager, Ahilyabai Holker Charity Trust, Dasaswamedh Ghat, Varanasi
16. Mr. Vedas Marhar, Ahilyabai Trust, Dasaswamedh Ghat, Varanasi
17. Mr. Vinod Dubey, Priest, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
18. Mr. Jagdeesh Chaudhary, Dom Representative, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
19. Mrs. Vrinda Dar, General Secretary, Kautilya Society, D-20/21, Munshi Ghat, Varanasi
  
20. Dr. Mahesh Gupt, Sub-Editor, Aaj Hindi Newspaper, Sant Kabir Marg, Varanasi
21. Mr. Amar Nath Srivastava, Sahara Samay, Weekly Newspaper, Varanasi
22. Mr. Rajendra Kumar Dubey, Editor, Link News Service, Varanasi
23. Reporter, Dainik Jagran (Hindi Newspaper), Varanasi
24. Reporter, Amar Ujala (Hindi Newspaper), Varanasi
25. Reporter, Hindustan Times, Varanasi
  
26. Mr. Baccha Yadav, Wood Stacker, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
27. Mr. Chote Lal Yadav, Wood Stacker, Garhwasi Tola, Thana – Chauk, Varanasi
28. Mr. Ajay Kumar Jha, Wood worker, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi

29. Mr. Pintu Yadav, Wood Seller, Garhwasi Tola, Chauk, Varanasi
30. Mr. Bhaiya al Yadav, Wood Seller, Garhwasi Tola, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
31. Mr. Lalla Prasad Yadav, Wood Seller, Garhwasi Tola, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
  
32. Mr. Dwarika Nath Sharma, Barber, Naain Committee, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
33. Mr. Kishan Thakur, Barber, Naain Committee, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
34. Mr. Lal Kishnu Sharma, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
35. Mr. Parashuram Sharma, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
36. Mr. Sandip Sharma, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
37. Mr. Panna Lal Sharma, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
38. Mr. Satya Narayan, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
39. Mr. Shyam Babu Sharma, Barber, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
  
40. Mr. Suresh Prasad Yadav, Goods of cremation activities shop, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
41. Mr. Ashutosh Khatri, Businessman, Garhwali Tola, Varanasi
42. Mr. Lalit Malviya, Social Worker, Varanasi Nagarik Samaj, Jagatganj
43. Mr. Nand Lal, Social Worker, Varanasi
44. Mr. Sunil Prasad, Businessman, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
45. Mr. Bihari Lal Gupta, Businessman, Chauk, Varanasi
46. Mr. Sarit Kumar Singh, Bramhnal Chauk, Varanasi
47. Mr. Suresh Kumar Solanki, Siddhweswari Chauk, Varanasi
48. Mr. Sheetal Prasad, Matrukund Samiti, Lallapura, Varanasi
49. Mr. Hari Prasad Agrawal, Vice President, Silk Head Association, Varanasi
50. Mr. Amit Singh, Businessman, F/6, Pishach Mochan, Varanasi
51. Mr. Jitendra Mohan Tiwari, Businessman, Jagatganj, Varanasi
52. Mr. Anil Kumar, "Sankalp", Varanasi
53. Mr. Anod Kumar Agrawal, Businessman, Golaghar, Varanasi
54. Mr. Ashok Kumar Dubey, Ghatiya Tirth Purohit, Lalita Ghat, Varanasi
55. Mr. Praveen Kumar Tripathi, Varanasi Nagrik Samaj, Pisch Mochan Colony, Varanasi
56. Mr. E. L. Vijay, Varanasi Nagrik Samaj, Pisch Mochan Colony, Varanasi
57. Mr. Tullu, Boatman, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
58. Mr. Sharad Kumar Sharma, Hotel Owner, Sindhia Guest House
59. Mr. Chainu Prasad Gupta, Guest House Owner, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi

60. Mr. Raj Kishor Chandra Agrwal, Businessman, Ghat Lane, Varanasi
61. Mr. Bablu, Serviceman, Chauk, Rajmandir Ghat, Varanasi
  
62. Mr. Upendra Nath Gaur, Stone Cutter and business, Chunar, Mirzapur
63. Mr. Arun Singh, Artist, S-1/123-C, Surya Nagar, Varanasi
64. Mr. Vinod Singh, Lecturer, Sculptor, BHU, Varanasi
65. Mr. Madan Lal, Sculptor, BHU, Varanasi
  
66. Mr. Hirotaka Sato, Deputy Team Leader, JICA Study Team
67. Mr. Ajay Singh, Sr. Programme Officer, JICA Study Team
68. Dr. Arvind Kumar Joshi, Reader, Sociology Department, Benares Hindu University
69. Mr. Sanjay Varshney, Appraisal Officer, HUDCO
70. Mr. Niraj Sethi, Asst. Appraisal Officer, HUDCO
71. Mr. Arvind Kr. Pandey, Asst. Coordinator and Administrator, JICA Study Team
72. Mr. Lalit Gupta, Director, Gupta Constructions (P) Ltd., Orderly Bazar, Varanasi
73. Md. Shahid Fahimi, Project Engineer, M/s Gupta Constructions (P) Ltd., Orderly Bazar, Varanasi
74. Mr. Amar Singh, (Volunteer) Student, MA-Sociology, BHU, Varanasi
75. Mr. Samir Ghosh, (Volunteer) Student, M.S.W., BHU, Varanasi
76. Mr. Arun Kumar Dubey, (Volunteer) Research Scholar, BHU, Varanasi
77. Mr. Rahul Rai, (Volunteer) Student, MA-Sociology, BHU, Varanasi

### MoM of Pre Meeting for CBO at Manikarnika Ghat

**Venue: Mishra Guest House, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi**

**Date: 27 November 2004**

JICA Study Team has conducted a pre meeting to discuss with the stakeholders on CBO formulisation and its work procedure. The meeting was organised for the preparation of the final workshop for CBO formulisation on the second week of December 2004. *(In the meeting a few Stakeholders could participate due to the pre-occupation at marriage ceremony and some could not come due to their busy schedule in some religious and marriage ceremonies).*

The meeting was started at 4.00 pm in Mishra Guest House at Manikarnika Ghat in presence of representative of Society, Wood Stackers, Tirth Purohit, BHU and Kashividya Peeth and Guest House owners.

Dr. Arvind Joshi welcomed all participants and thanked them for the participation for the pre-meeting. Dr. Joshi informed the participants that this is just a preparatory meeting for the next coming Pilot Project Stakeholders meeting in which the CBO told the participants about the construction and renovation of the identified and proposed facilities at Manikarnika Ghat. He clarified the need of the Community Based Organisation to make the operation and maintenance activities more effective. He gave the reference of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Stakeholder Workshop in which two alternatives of the community based organisation (CBO) was proposed and one of them was found feasible which was detailed by Dr. Joshi to the participants in pre-meeting. He told that this CBO would work under Nagar Nigam, Advisory Committee and Working Committee. The CBO work procedure was also discussed and participants have been provided handouts related to the Management of CBO, its revenue generation and expenditure. He suggested that the other resources of revenue generation would be identified by CBO members.

Dr. Joshi briefed the work procedure of CBO and informed the participants about the advisory committee and working committee. He also informed the name of members who showed their interest when JICA Study Team visited and discussed with the local Stakeholders. He informed that the members were selected after the discussions with many stakeholders and also they agreed for their membership. Dr. Joshi told the participants that the advisory and working committee members, which they are proposing, is not the final one but it will be the stakeholders' responsibility to include members for the better management of CBO at Manikarnika Ghat.

He also briefed the revenue generation for CBO management and for the O&M of Manikarnika Ghat. He also explained the requirement of CBO office and its staff as Caretaker and Staff related to cleaning activities. He told that the CBO office would be required for the management of all activities and requirement of three staffs as for Caretaker, Cleaning Workers etc.

Dr. Joshi informed that bylaws preparation for the CBO is going on and the CBO will work according to its principle. While making the bylaws, concerned & experienced stakeholders would be involved for their suggestions & recommendation.

After the briefing of Dr. Joshi, participants of the pre-meeting gave their comments as follows:

- **Shri R.N. Mishr** Told that principles and rules for bylaws is required but the necessity on its practicality is also very important, which will strengthen the CBO working and its management. He suggested that some responsible and able person should be involved in the committee who can take responsibility on themselves if and when required regarding to revenue. In this case, they will be helpful if other stakeholders will not be able to provide money which would be targeted for collection. He appreciated JICA Study Team efforts and for all the guidelines and involving the stakeholders at every step either finalising the procedure of CBO or construction works. He assured that the pilot project and CBO would be successful and it will be a model for the other projects.

- **Shri Jata Shanker Dwivedi** requested that the Advisory Committee should not have so many members and suggested to put only some responsible and active person. There should be a member group for supporting CBO's work procedure and can participate in all activities. He also appreciated JICA Team work and was satisfied with the work. For revenue generation, he suggested to involve annual revenue association through Brajpal Das Ramadevi Trust and like such other can be involved who can donate some amount for the better management of Manikarnika Ghat properties and its operation and maintenance.

- **Shri Banarasi Mishr** assured to give full cooperation from Guest House facilitators.

- **Dr. Ashutosh Khatri** strongly recommended for the accountability of financial matter and the stakeholders' devotion is must for CBO success. He suggested to having a coordination committee so that the different type of work and committees under CBO can be properly coordinated. The coordination committee should involve such persons who are desired to work, devotee and respectable to all. He also suggested some names for different committees under CBO, which were accepted for further discussion to involve them.

Dr. Joshi suggested to increase CBO's importance with launching its Web Site so that all the activities and awareness programmes could be make available through this site to public and other interested persons. Through the Web Site the awareness can be increased in all-over the world. All the stakeholders were agree with Dr. Joshi's suggestion and requested to Mr. Arvind Pandey, JICA Study Team representative for the Web Site development.

Mr. Arvind Pandey said that launching of Web Site would be beneficial for showing the activities at Manikarnika Ghat, spreading the knowledge and its importance and in creating awareness. He told that this would be decided after the proper discussion and can be launched after the CBO work start.

He told to put the final meeting would be on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 which was denied by the participants as they told that due to the festivals and marriages parties they would not be able to attend and requested to organise it on second week of December 2004. Which was accepted then by JICA Study Team Representative. Mr. Pandey Told that as the Date will be decided, the stakeholders would be informed.

Mr. Arvind Pandey gave then vote of thank to participants for giving their valuable remarks for CBO office and its preparation. He told that the Stakeholders have their own responsibility to operate and maintain the facility through Community Based Organisation and he is sure about its success.

**List of Participants**

1. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishr, President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Mahasamiti, Varanasi
2. Mr. Ashok Kumar Dabye, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
3. Mr. Virendra Kumar Mishra, Manikarnika Ghat Varanasi
4. Mr. Banarasi Mishra
5. Mr. Jata Shankar Dwivedi, Tirth Purohit, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
6. Mr. Bhaiyalal Yadav, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
7. Mr. Rahul Kumar, Volunteer, BHU, Varanasi
8. Mr. Amar Singh, Volunteer, BHU, Varanasi
9. Dr. Arvind Joshi, Reader, Department of Sociology, BHU, Varanasi
10. Mr. Arvind Pandey, Asst. Coordinator and Administrator, JICA Study Team, Varanasi

### Stakeholders Meeting – Minutes of Meeting

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organised a meeting involving various segments of the stakeholder groups concerning with Manikarnika Ghat on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004 at Pararkar Bhawan, Town Hall, Varanasi.

The meeting was organised to discuss the plan of Operation and Maintenance of the facilities that have been undertaken for improvement and construction at Manikarnika Ghat as pilot project under the ongoing "Water Quality Management Plan of river Ganga" being carried out by Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) with Indian Governments.

The meeting was attended by almost all major stakeholder groups comprising of the members from priest community, wood sellers, dom community, boat men, guest house owners and shopkeepers, corporators, social workers, NGOs and others, besides various media groups. Mr. Hirotaka SATO, Deputy Team Leader, JICA Study Team chaired the meeting and Mr. Ajay Singh, Sr. Programme Officer carried out the technical session. The programme was facilitated by Dr. Arvind Joshi, a sociologist from Benaras Hindu University.

In the meeting, primarily the issues related to O&M of the facilities were presented and discussed. It is to be noted that in the stakeholders meetings dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2004 and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004, it was decided that for an effective and prompt O&M of the facilities and entire Ghat area, a locally based organisation should be established which should be governed and managed by the local stakeholder groups only and this organisation in association with Varanasi Nagar Nigam would monitor the cleanliness and maintenance activities on day-to-day basis. Further to this, JICA Study Team carried out a detailed study so as to assess and understand the existing conditions and group dynamics and based on the inputs and suggestions from various stakeholder groups in the process of study an **Institutional Plan** in the form of **Community Based Organisation (CBO)** was developed along with the various sources of fund generation and its operating mechanisms.

Mr. Ajay Singh of JICA Study Team presented the proposed plan of CBO before the stakeholders, which was followed with discussion and question answer. The main features of the proposed CBO are as follows

1. The CBO will be run by a group of local stakeholders which will be managed by an advisory committee and working group under the overall coordination and supervision of Varanasi Nagar Nigam.
2. The role of advisory committee would be to oversee and supervise the overall activities concerning with O&M will also play more of an advisory role. Where as the working group will be responsible for day-to-day activities and will coordinate and facilitate the daily cleanliness, solid waste management and other

  
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activities. This will also coordinate with VNN staff and work as a pressure group to VNN ensuring the prompt services from VNN side.

3. There will be four office bearers for the official purposes out of which two will be from the Advisory Committee and two from the Working group. The Chairman /president will be from the Advisory group, Secretary will be from the Working group, similarly vice chairman will be from the advisory group and Treasurer from the working group respectively.
4. Both, the advisory committee and working groups will select their representatives / office bearers with consensus themselves and will intimate to JICA Study Team within 15 days so as to enable it to finalise the by-laws and rules and regulations. JICA Study team will not take responsibility of the selection of office bearers and it has to be done entirely by the stakeholders.
5. The CBO will be operated as per the rules and regulations as specified in the by-laws and will take all measures to ensure the effective O&M of the facilities.
6. The CBO will recruit the necessary staff which will include an office attended, two sweepers initially and may increase the strength of staff if necessary in the future. The cost towards the daily O&M activities will be borne by CBO only, which will be generated through contribution from among the various stakeholders groups on monthly basis. However, CBO in future shall also make efforts to raise some corpus fund through voluntary donations and other fund raising activities if required for some major O&M and Development works at Manikarnika Ghat.
7. Each Stakeholder group shall nominate one person from its group and will make him responsible to collect the contribution as fixed by CBO from each members of its group and he will deposit the money/ contribution to CBO office every month on behalf of the entire group.
8. The CBO shall maintain the account of all receipts of funds and expenditure and same shall be brought before each members every month. The responsibility of fund collection and expenditure account shall remain with Treasurer who in turn will share the information and will seek advice from the other office bearers also.
9. An office will be opened at the Manikarnika Ghat itself and stakeholders shall make the space available for this purpose. The office shall be equipped with necessary furniture and a Public Address system, which will have a centralised command in the office and will be connected with entire area including the heritage corner, cremation area and Birla Dharmshala.
10. The JICA Study Team proposed four names to the CBO i). *Manikarnika Ghat Rakh-Rakhav evam Sudhar Samiti* (Manikarnika Ghat O&M and Improvement Society), ii). *Manikarnika Ghat Prabandhan Samiti* (Manikarnika Ghat

Management Society), iii). *Manikarnika Ghat Dekh-Rekh Samiti* (Manikarnika Ghat O&M Society), iv). *Manikarnika Ghat Sudhar evam Vikas Samiti* (manikarnika Ghat Improvement & Development Society).

After the presentation, discussion and question –answer session started. All the stakeholders unanimously supported and endorsed the institutional plan and mechanisms of fund generation and its operation as suggested and prepared by JICA Study Team. However, stakeholders suggested some modifications and changes as follows after discussion with consensus

1. The name of CBO should be “Manikarnika Tirth Vikas and Prabandhan Samity” as the word “Tirth” is more appropriate in terms of Manikarnika Ghat as it is one of the most significant holy places in the country and thousand of people visit this place every day knowing its religious significance. Every body endorsed and supported this name.
2. The CBO should be registered with registrar of society to give a legal value to its entity.
3. The governing body meeting should be held after three months, as it is difficult to organise it every month.
4. JICA Study Team should facilitate the orientation and training of CBO after it is established and sensitise it in various aspects of management such as accounting, documentation, organising community awareness programmes etc for some time.

The meeting ended with vote of thank to Chair and all participants with a resolve that CBO shall function adequately and sincerely to ensure the prompt operation & maintenance of the facilities at pilot project to make it sustainable.

#### Annexure

1. List of participants
2. Presentation material



### List of Participants

1. Mr. Hirotaka Sato, Deputy Team Leader, JICA Study Team, Varanasi
2. Mr. Ajay Singh, Sr. Programme Officer, JICA Study Team, Varanasi
3. Mr. R. C. Gupta, Project Manager, Ganga Pollution Control Unit, UP Jal Nigam, Varanasi
4. Mr. Rajiv Nandan Mishr, President, Shri Kashi Tirth Purohit Mahasamiti, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
5. Mr. Santosh Sharma, Corporator, Varanasi Nagar Nigam, Varanasi
6. Mr. Jata Shankar Dwiwedi, Nepal Tirth Purohit, Garwasi Tola, Varanasi
7. Mr. Vagheesh Dutt Mishra, General Minister, Kendriya Dev Deepavali Samiti, Varanasi
8. Mr. Sandeep Agrawal, Socialist and businessman, Golghar, Varanasi
9. Mr. Ashok Dabye, Ghatiya, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
10. Mr. Anand Kumar Maurya, Reporter, Aaj (Hindi Newspaper), Varanasi
11. Mr. Satish Kumar Dubey, Reporter, Nai Duniya, Bhopal
12. Mr. Bhaiya Lal Yadav, Manikarnika Ghat, Varanasi
13. Mr. Rajkumar Pandey (Rajju Bhaiya), Gai Ghat, Varanasi
14. Mr. Kallu Chaubey, Gai Ghat, Varanasi
15. Mr. Jai Prakash Pandey, Patan Darwaja, Varanasi
16. Mr. Manoj Khemkar, Varanasi
17. Mr. Rajkumar, Bhosla Mandir, Bhosla Ghat, Varanasi
18. Mr. Narsingh Chaubey, Trilochan Ghat, Varanasi
19. Mr. Kailash Pandey, Gai Ghat, Varanasi
20. Mr. Sadashiv Tiwari, Trilochan Ghat, Varanasi
21. Mr. Alok Sharma, Shahara TV, Varanasi
22. Mr. B. Singh, Varanasi
23. Mr. Gokul, Varanasi
24. Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh, Gautam Electronics, Varanasi
25. Mr. Ganga Singh, Beniya Bag, Varanasi
26. Mr. Rahul Kumar, Volunteer (Student), Sociology, BHU
27. Mr. Amar Singh, Volunteer (Student), Sociology, BHU
28. Mr. Amad Agrawal, Golghar, Varanasi
29. Mr. Neeraj Singh, Volunteer (Student), Sociology, BHU
30. Mr. Sharad Kumar, Siddheswari, Varanasi
31. Mr. C. Patel, Citi Channel, Varanasi
32. Dr. Arvind Kumar Joshi, Reader, Department of Sociology, BHU, Varanasi
33. Mr. Neeraj Sethi, Habitat Engineer, HUDCO, Varanasi
34. Mr. Arvind Pandey, Asst. Coordinator & Administrator, JICA Study Team, Varanasi

Stakeholders Meeting on Pilot Project – Minutes of Meeting

Japan International Cooperation Agency Study Team held a meeting with some prominent stakeholders of Manikarnika Ghat on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005. The meeting was called after the objections by few persons regarding the renovation of Ramlila ground facility area and removal of existing stones.

JICA Study Team, represented by Mr. Hirotaka Sato, Deputy Team Leader along with various Sr. officials of Varanasi Nagar Nigam took note of points raised by stakeholders most of them were from the priest community.

The major points raised by some of the members of priest community regarding the ongoing construction works are as follows;

1. The existing stones of Ramlila ground area are very old and very strong. It should be replaced with equally strong peaces of stones if at all need to be removed otherwise should be left as it is. The problem of water getting stagnant over this area should be addressed without changing the or removing the existing stones.
2. JICA Study Team explained the two alternatives of modifications that can be carried out without removing the existing stones.
  - A. Stone paving can be done over the existing stones and proposed slope can be maintained.
  - B. Only stones from the area which is suppressed and where water get accumulated can be removed and a pipe can be laid beneath to drain the water from this area.

The stakeholders agreed to option B and so it was decided to proceed accordingly. It was also decided that some of the stone which are broken and dilapidated may be replaced with new stones.

3. Priest community raised the issues of proposed temporary roofing of Takht Hazara and all of them again demanded to provide the permanent shade over it. When JICA study Team drawn their attention about the study of HUDCO and its findings that no permanent structure can be provided over it because there is a hollow space beneath it and the platform can not take load of permanent structure, priest community opposed it and insisted for its demand. Responding to this, JICA Study Team said it may not commit it however, it will again consult its technical consultant HUDCO and get back to the stakeholders.
4. Some of the stakeholders demanded the urinal facility, responding to this VNN informed that already urinal has been sanctioned by Varanasi Nagar Nigam. Besides this, some stakeholders also demanded for the safe drinking water at ghat area, to which VNN assured that it will be done.

Meeting ended with thanks to all.

  
Hirotaka Sato

JICA Study Team

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15th Jan 2005