



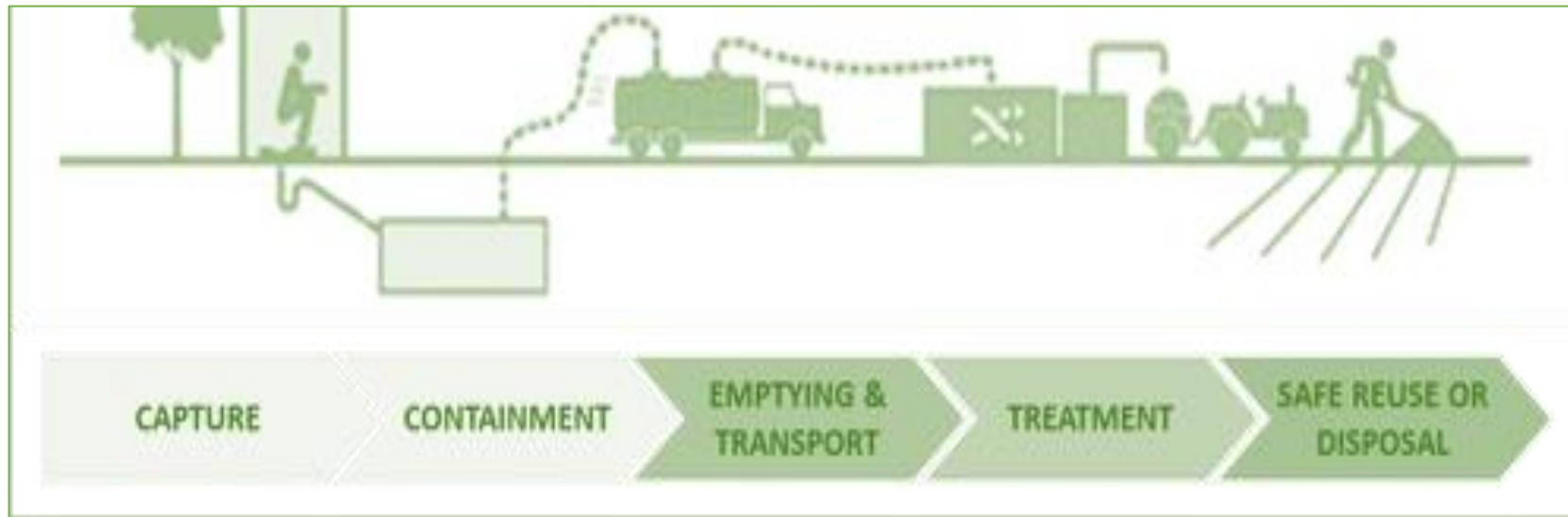
TN
TAMIL NADU

US
URBAN SANITATION

SP
SUPPORT PROGRAMME

iihs[®]
INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Sanitation Workers and Full Cycle of Sanitation



Toilet cleaners (1,008*)

De-sludging operators (111*)

De-sludging operators & sewer cleaners (1,006*)

Workers at treatment facilities (7*)

Railway track cleaners (110*)

Solid Waste Management workers (724*)

Rag pickers (260*)

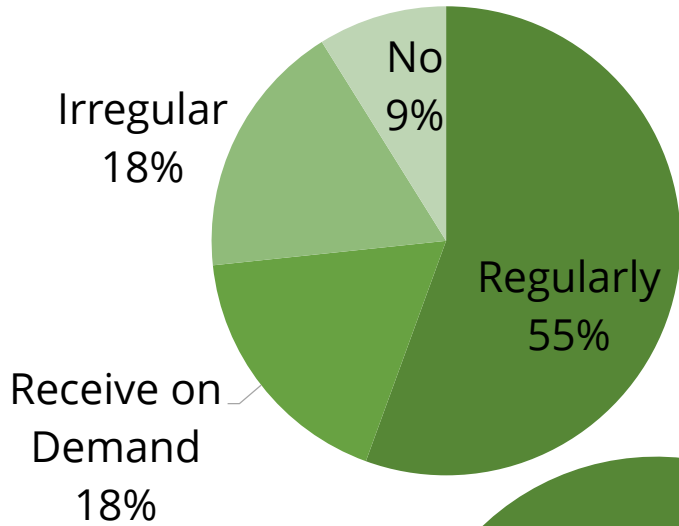
- Sanitation workers are an integral part of the full cycle of sanitation
- Workers can be categorised by:
 - Various roles in the sanitation chain (see above)
 - Contractual arrangements i.e. ULB-payroll, contracted by ULB, privately employed (e.g. sanitation workers employed by de-sludging truck operators) or independent (daily wage) workers

Work with Sanitation workers in Tamil Nadu during COVID

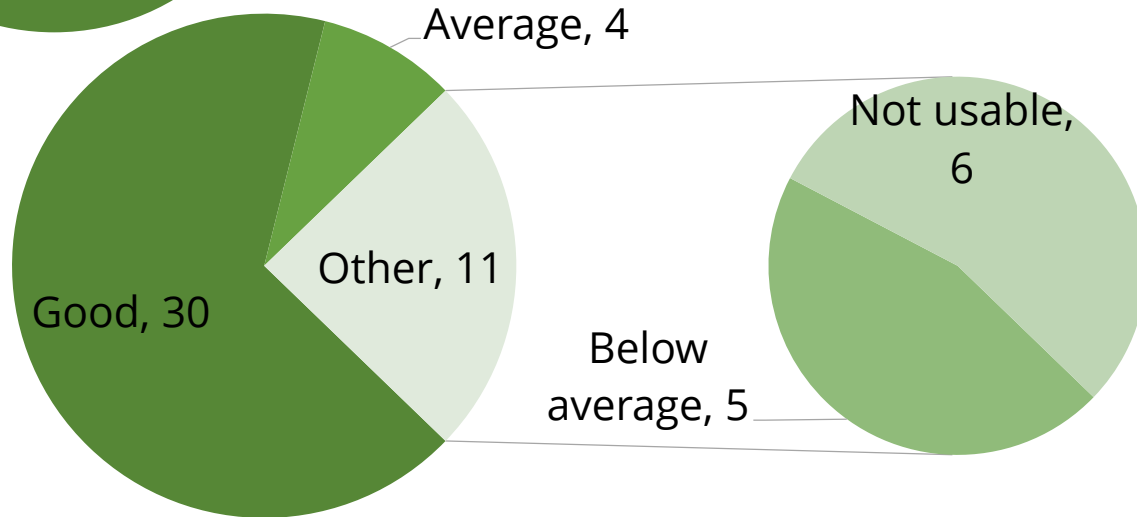
1. A **rapid assessment** of the situation with **45 sanitation workers** from **Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu**, in partnership with Praxis India
2. Distribution of PPE
3. Safety Guidelines
4. Health Camps
5. Counselling
6. Increasing access to govt. schemes

Findings - Personal Protective Equipment

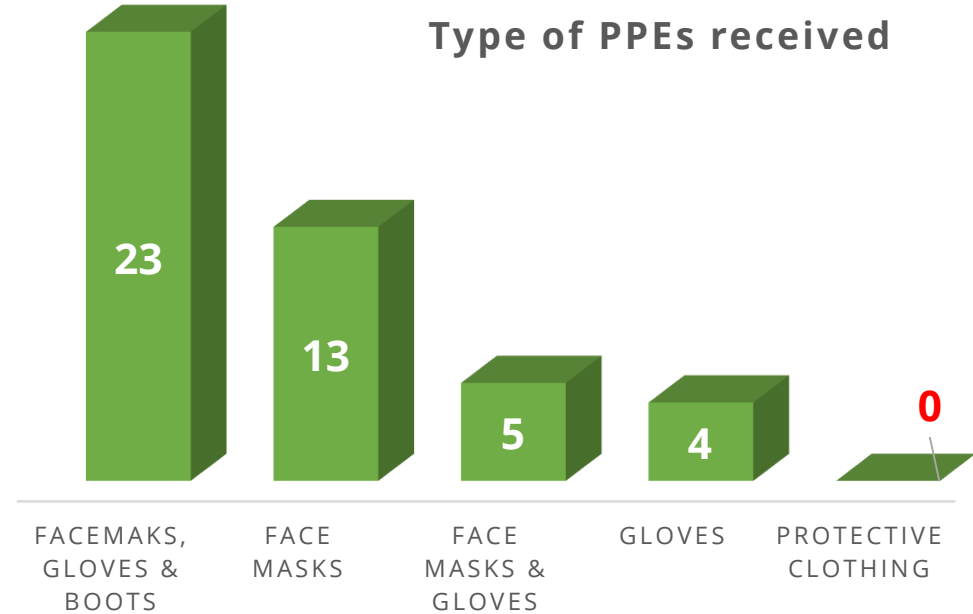
Frequency of receiving PPE supplies



Quality of PPE (N=45)



Type of PPEs received



Hand hygiene aids

- Among **45** interviewed,
 - **41** – Received Hand wash/sanitiser or both
 - **4** – Received None

Guidelines for safety of sanitation workers

1. **Risk matrix** for 15 categories of sanitation workers prepared based on the following parameters such as **exposure risk to community spread, aerosols, surface contacts, existing institutional support for mitigation.**

The following sanitation workers were prioritised as targets for illustrated guidelines:

1. CT/PT care takers/operators
2. Solid waste workers
3. De-sludging operators (DSOs) (Video as well)
4. FSTP operators

2. **Dissemination** – the mobile numbers of sanitation workers were collected from ULBs, local networks and Just Dial and sent through **WhatsApp** in local language (Tamil)

Challenges:

Duplication of numbers, numbers not being WhatsApp compatible

3. Translated in various languages including **Hindi, Tamil, Telugu & Kannada.**

4. Circulated to Govt. of TN, Govt. of Kerala, sector professionals, and wide set of NGOs.



- Bio-medical waste from households with covid related quarantined persons must be collected only by ULB authorised bio-medical waste collectors.



- While receiving fecal sludge, conduct tests with extreme caution. Wash hands and any surface which accidentally comes in contact with fecal sludge.
- Wash hands after performing any task with possible exposure to fecal sludge.

<http://tnussp.co.in/covid-19>

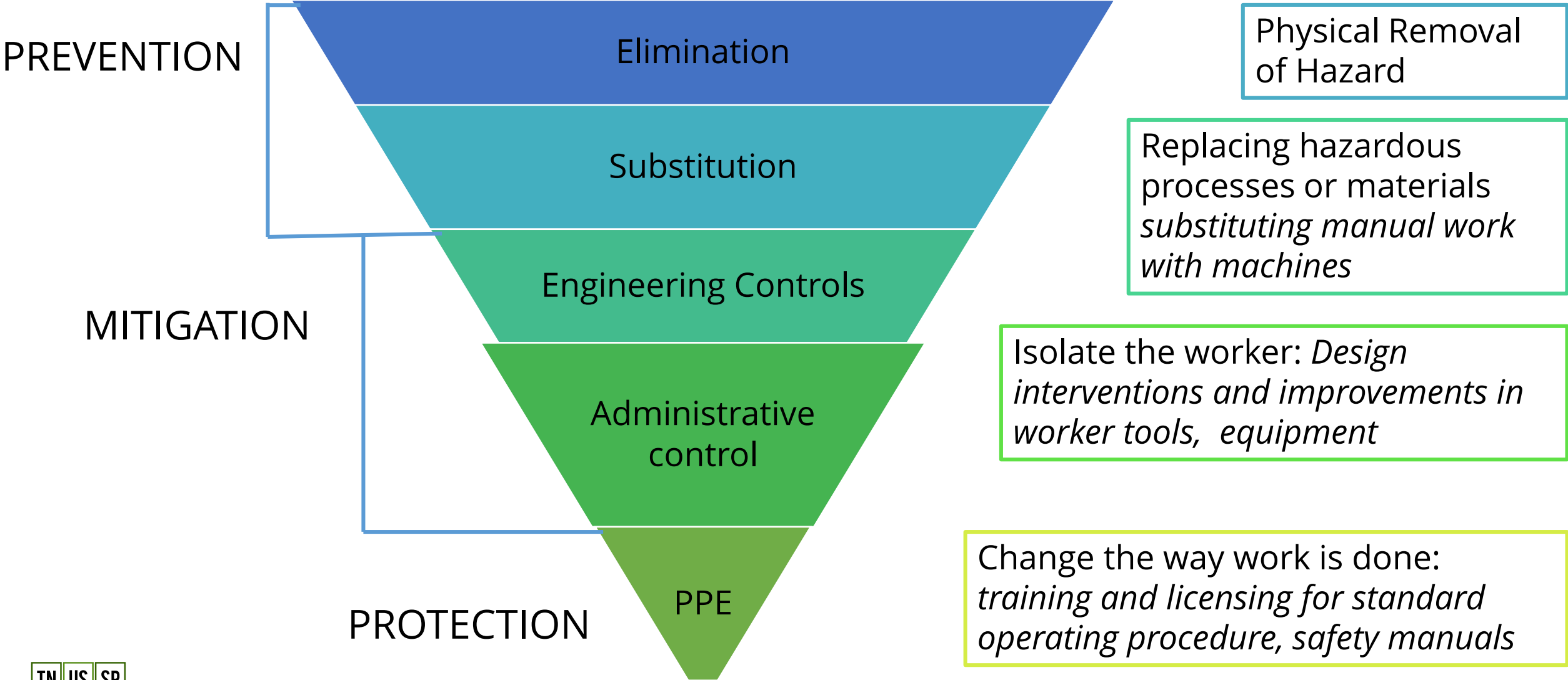
Health camps & counselling sessions

- Health screenings in small batches in Periyanaicken Palayam in collaboration with Govt. hospital
- Special counselling through video conferencing for small groups of sanitation workers from PNP- NNP, Veerapandi and Karamadai in collaboration with Mastermind

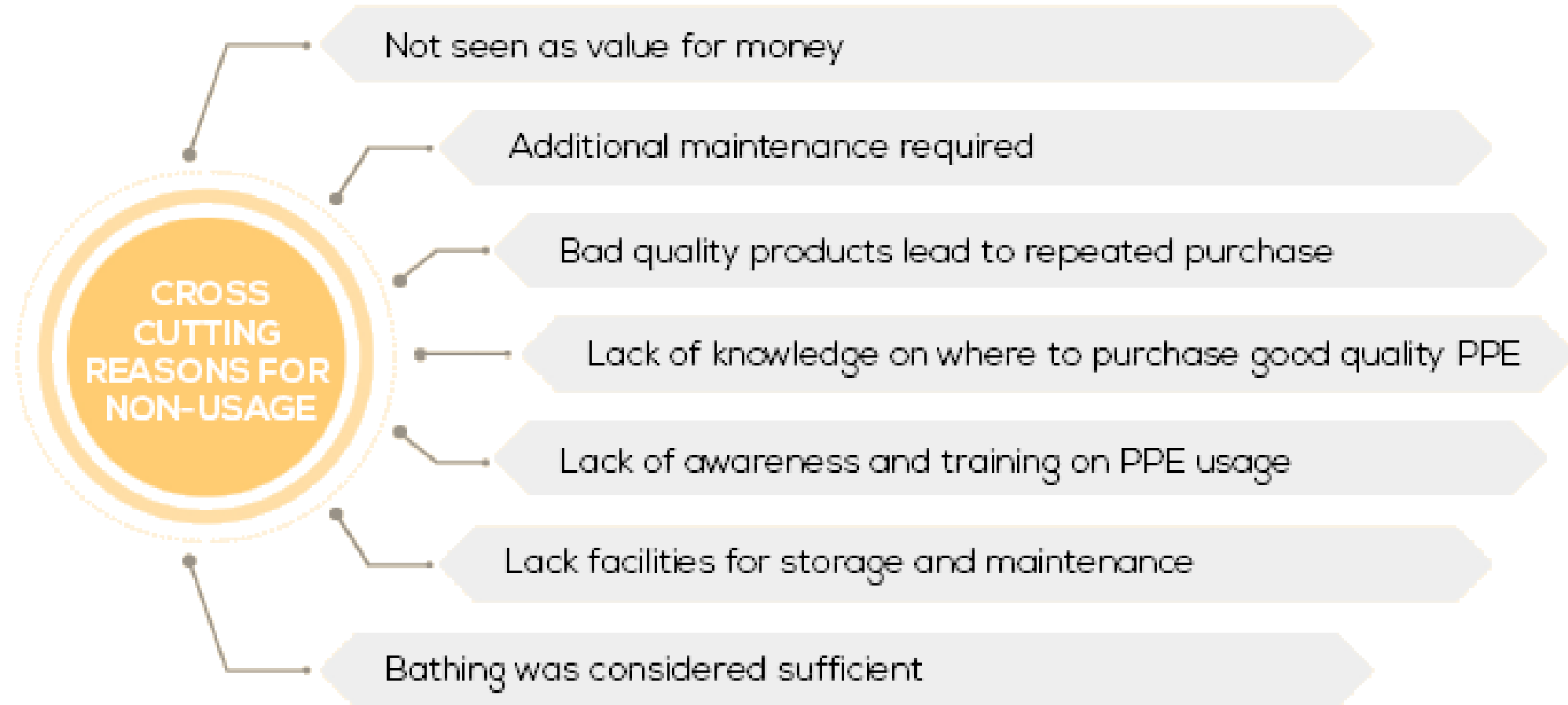



Hierarchy of Safety Controls

Emptying and De-sludging Practices
An Occupational Safety Needs Assessment Study



PPE Usage and Perception





What type of issues you foresee after lockdown

School Fees for kids will be a big problem as my husband is not going for work

Can't Predict

Income is less for CT/PT Cleaners

Repayment of loan, financial issues, No cash left in hand

Increase in price of essential items

Job opportunities will shrink

3 months EMI burden

Can manage if we get regular salary

SUMMARY

1. Safety during COVID 19 is an immediate priority, but the problem is deep-rooted, and systemic
2. PPE: not one time effort, issues of quality, ease use etc.
3. OSS is a pyramid, PPE last line of defence, other factors could potentially be more important for safety
4. Expand focus to safety AND health
5. Better communication (dialogue)
6. Locate safety in the larger context of their lives