

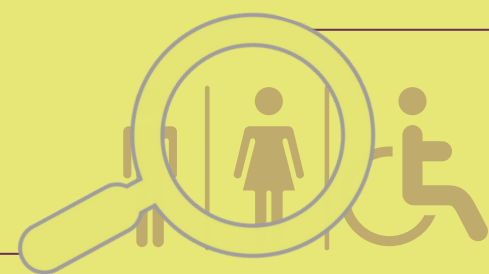
EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Status of Public Toilets for Women and Trans/ Queer People in Kolkata

Key Findings and Recommendations



Introduction



WHY IT MATTERS

Inclusive and safe sanitation is essential to improving women’s mobility and workforce participation, particularly in the informal sector.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY?



7,578
cis women

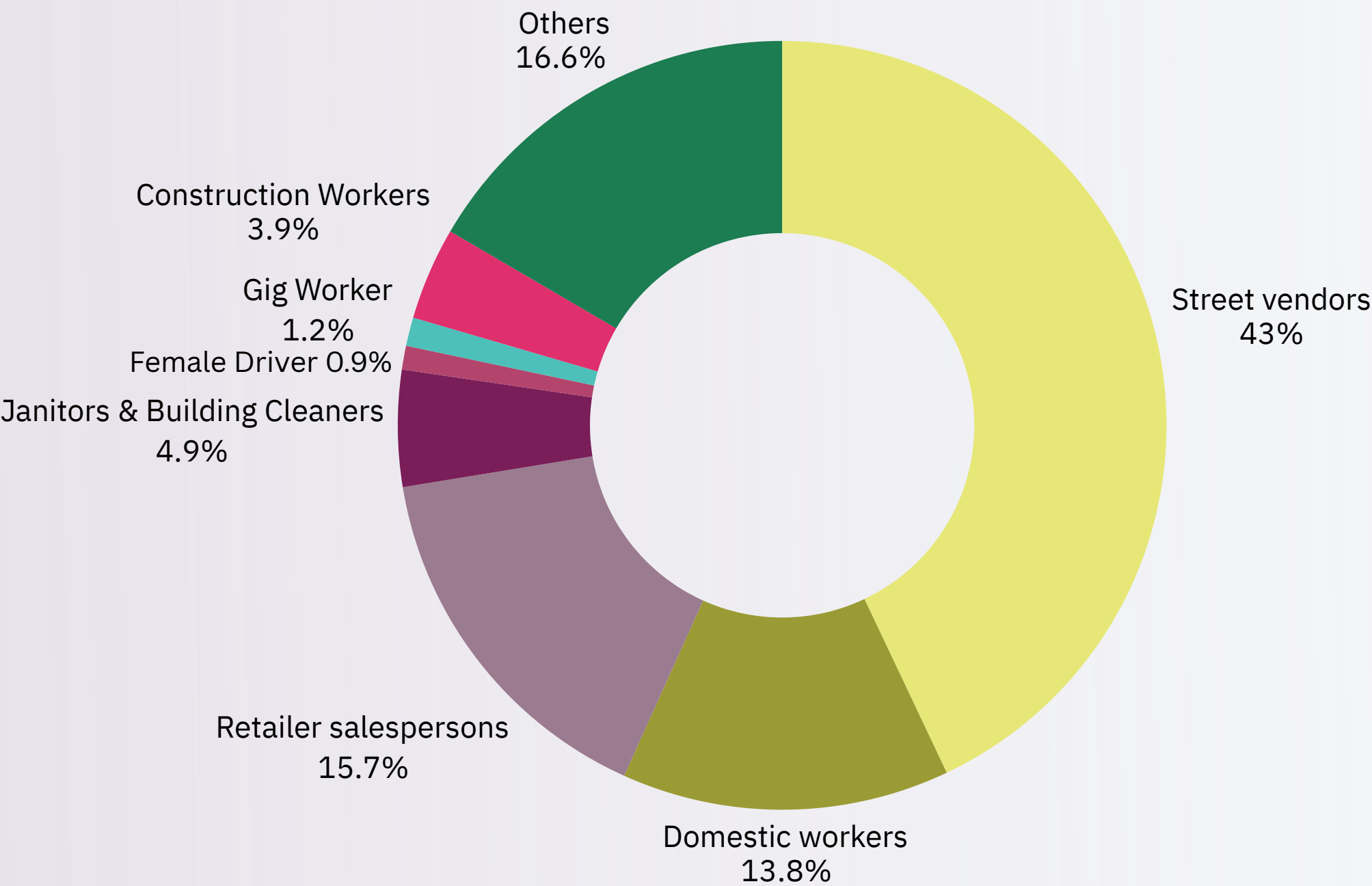


38
trans/queer
people

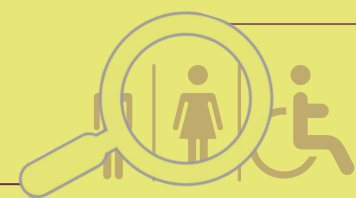


53%
women from
informal sectors

Occupational Segregation



What do the Public Toilets in Kolkata Tell Us?



1

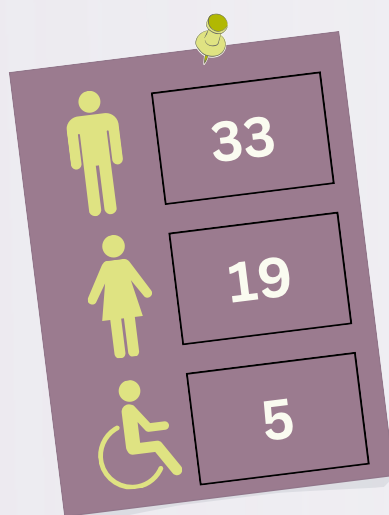
TOILETS ARE DISPROPORTIONATE TO FOOTFALL IN MAJOR STATIONS



Howrah

900,000+ transit/ day

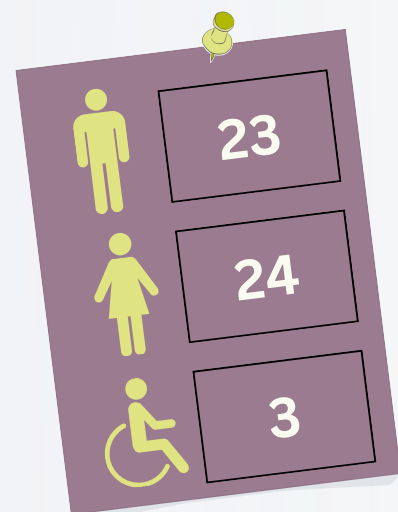
- 33 toilets for men
- 19 for women
- 5 for people with disabilities



Sealdah

1.5 M- 1.8 M transit/ day

- 23 toilets for men
- 24 for women
- 3 for people with disabilities



2

THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF USING TOILETS



72% of women pay to access public toilets

This costs them **10%** of the daily income

3

EXCLUSION BY DESIGN



62% respondents

find public toilets inaccessible to people with disabilities

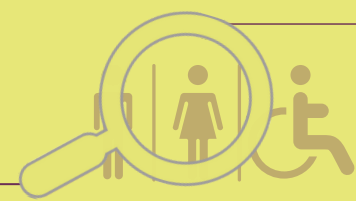


Non-Availability of

lactation points and diaper changing stations



What do the Public Toilets in Kolkata Tell Us?



4

HYGIENE LEVELS AND IMPACT ON HEALTH



Non-availability of handwash



30% have rated the toilets as “dirty” or “very dirty”



Absence of facility to dispose sanitary napkins and no vending machines



Reduced water intake by women/ queer people to avoid public toilets



5

SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS



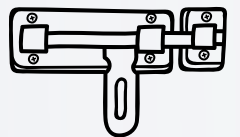
53%

feel unsafe while using public toilets



38%

reported absence of locks on doors of the toilets



52%

trans/queer people are harassed in public toilets



Insecurity

accentuated by men stationed outside the women toilets



6

OVERALL IMPACT



Restricts their mobility



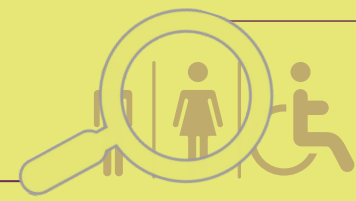
Dictates their daily schedule impacting their work hours



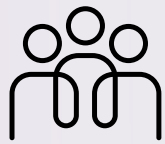
51% feel that inadequacy of inclusively designed, well-maintained public toilets impacts their ability to work outside home and their income



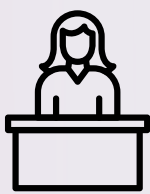
What can be done to Navigate this?



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



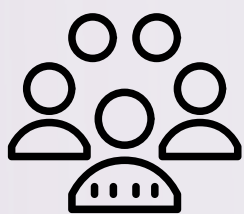
Availability of toilets based on footfall



Stationing of women staff outside public toilets for women



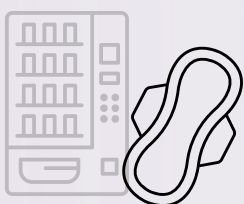
Adequate toilets for cis women and trans/queer people in proportion to their population



An independent dedicated committee to supervise cleanliness, accessibility and grading of existing public toilets



Improving the hygiene standards of toilets with basic facilities like handwash and continuous water supply



Installation of sanitary napkin vending machine



Adequate lighting in the public toilets

With committed action, Kolkata can lead the way in showing how inclusive urban planning directly contributes to dignity, safety, and improved workforce participation.

To Know More, Visit:



<https://sabarinstitute.org/>



<https://www.azadfoundation.com/>

