



## **Government of Tamilnadu**

### **Department of Employment and Training**

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# RURAL AND URBAN SANITATION

## RURAL AND URBAN SANITATION

Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and faeces. The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and waste water disposal. Nearly half of India's 1.2 billion population do not have toilets at home. 60% of India's rural population defecate in open either due to lack of toilets, lack of their Operation and Maintenance, due to absence of water or inappropriate technology with no scientific mode of digesting the waste, leading to rural men questioning the usefulness of toilets. 32% rural families in 2011 (as per census figures) and 40% (NSSO figures of 2013) have rural toilets.

Lack of adequate means of disposing waste is a growing nuisance for heavily populated areas, carrying the risk of infectious disease, particularly to vulnerable groups such as the very young, the elderly and people suffering from diseases that lower their resistance.

Poorly controlled waste also means daily exposure to an unpleasant environment. The buildup of faecal contamination in rivers and other waters is not just a human risk: other species are affected, threatening the ecological balance of the environment. Most Indians depend on on-site sanitation facilities. Recently, access to on-site sanitation has increased in both rural and urban areas.

In urban areas, a good practice is the Slum Sanitation Program in Mumbai that has provided access to sanitation for a quarter million slum dwellers. Sewerage, where available, is often in a bad state.

### Sanitation in India

#### 1. Access to improved source of water (2011)

Urban - 96%

Rural 89 %

Total - 92%

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2. Access to improved sanitation (2011)

Urban - 60%

Rural 24 %

Total - 35%

3. The government's Health Expenditure – 1% of GDP

44% of the population uses open defecation

WHO Report: 2.3 billion of the world population lacks sanitation facility?

**Rural sanitation**

Open defecation is a huge problem in rural areas. Through it has reduced but the practice has not completely vanished. Lack of priority to safe confinement and disposal of human excreta poses significant health risks manifest in the sanitation challenge facing the nation today. It is estimated that in 1 in every 10 deaths in India in villages, is linked to poor sanitation and hygiene. Diarrhoea, a preventable disease is the target killer and account for every 20<sup>th</sup> death.

**Causes and Consequences of poor sanitation:**

**Causes:**

1. Poverty - people do not have money to build toilets.
2. Illiteracy - illiterate people unaware about the consequence of poor sanitation.
3. Unavailability of water.
4. Unsanitary environment
5. Low priority to sanitation and hygiene
6. Deficient water system (piped drinking water)
7. Open defecation
8. Lack of felt need
9. Lack of co-ordination among different implementing agencies
10. In-effective planning
11. Inadequate financial resources
12. Inadequate health education
13. Lack of community participation
14. Urbanization industrialisation

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## Consequence

1. Lack of access of safe and clean drinking water
2. Spreading of diseases like diarrhoea.
3. Lack of access to safe, clean drinking water and basic sanitation as well as poor hygiene cause nearly 90% of all deaths from diarrhoea.
4. Poor sanitation shows some negative effects on national economy (poor standard of living)
5. It is a major threat to the environment which includes the degradation of the urban environment by the indiscriminate disposal of solid and liquid waste.
6. Pollution of fresh water and lakes by untreated human waste, the result being smaller, contaminated fish catches.
7. The cost of environmental damage includes discouragement of the tourist trade, reduced overseas markets and revenue from fish products.
8. Increased purchase costs for chemical and mechanical clean-up operation.
9. Poor sanitation and untidy environment hinder the growth of nation.
10. Increasing child mortality
11. School drop-outs increase especially girl children due to lack of sanitation in schools
12. Discouraging Tourism

## Challenges in Rural Sanitation

1. The issue here is poverty of the mind because not only the poor but even relatively well-off families defecate in the open. Some ways to deal with this are: In rural areas, expenditure on consumption items like beedi, gutka, pan masala, alcohol or luxury expenses, for example, on festivals or weddings, are commonplace. Therefore, the issue is not 'doesn't have the money to spend' but 'doesn't have the will to spend' because of the lack of a felt need for safe sanitation.
2. The prevalent thinking among policy makers in the early 2000s was that financial incentives were not necessary to promote rural sanitation. This was based on the limited success of the subsidy-led Central Rural Sanitation Programme, that ran between 1986 and 1998.

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3. Open defecation by migrant workers is usually a seasonal issue.
  4. Some elders may be of the opinion that a latrine is very costly, produces bad odour and creates fly nuisance, etc. However, there is a wide range of affordable technology options available which are able to control odour/fly nuisance
  5. Villagers use toilets only when convenient, for example, during night-time, rainy season, winters, hot afternoons, etc. Infants' faeces is thrown in the open.
  6. Communities have built and are using toilets even in drought-prone areas. Therefore, the issue is not availability of water but lack of a felt need for safe sanitation.
  7. The water and sanitation infrastructure, when first built, contributes to a substantial decrease in water-borne diseases in villages.
  8. Infrastructure alone is insufficient to sustain health benefits; additional efforts are needed to motivate people to adopt safe sanitation practices.

### **Challenges in Urban Sanitation**

1. Areas plagued by overcrowding and inadequate provision of sanitation services. The challenge of sanitation intervention is to keep up with the growing population.
2. Currently, the rate at which sanitation programs are being introduced to communities is far lower than the rate of overall population growth, resulting in more underserved people, despite these attempts to increase coverage.
3. Urbanites live-in low-quality shelters or other areas plagued by overcrowding and inadequate provision of sanitation services
4. In many instances, the urban poor live illegally in areas “deemed unfit for habitation,” making the residents “officially invisible”, Without permission to live on the land, they have no access to government support for sanitation or health care programs.
5. Not enough focus on urban areas – With respect to urban and rural areas there are different types of problem. This scheme focused only on rural area despite knowing that open defecation is not rural phenomenon, considering India contributes to 46 percent of global open defecation in urban areas.
6. Lack of focus on behavioural and attitudinal changes - In many areas in country despite the construction of toilets people didn't use. There was not enough focus

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on awareness campaign which could have educated people about harms caused by open defecation.

7. Lack of Effective and efficient monitoring agency – Outputs (construction) and outcomes (usage) were not monitored effectively. After construction of toilets there was no monitoring and there was not enough focus on maintenance of toilets.
8. Lack of expertise and scientific knowledge about biology and ecosystems.
9. There was no provision to ensure the water availability in the areas where toilets were constructed. As a result, toilets were built but there was no water hence toilets could not be used.

### **Measures taken for Rural/Urban Sanitation**

1. Hygiene education (hand washing after toilet use or before preparation of food.
2. It is very important to help children overcome fears and misconceptions and develop the habit of using a latrine from an early age.
3. Improved water supply (piped household water connection, public taps, protected dug wells, springs (or) rainwater collection), house hold water treatment, and safe storage.
4. Improved sanitation facilities (flush/ pour flush toilets to a confined system, improved latrines, composting toilets.)

### **Government Measures:**

1. Total Sanitation Campaign-1999
2. Nirmal Gram Puraskar-2005
3. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan-2012
4. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan-2014

Government started the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) in 1986 primarily with the objective of improving the quality of life of the rural people and also to provide privacy and dignity to women.

The concept of sanitation was expanded to include personal hygiene, home sanitation, safe water, garbage disposal, excreta disposal and waste water disposal.



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To give a fillip to the Total Sanitation Campaign, Government of India also launched the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) that sought to recognize the achievements and efforts made in ensuring full sanitation coverage.

The award gained immense popularity and contributed effectively in bringing about a movement in the community for attaining the Nirmal Status thereby significantly adding to the achievements made for increasing the sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country.

Encouraged by the success of NGP, the Total Sanitation Campaign is being renamed as “Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan” (NBA).

Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.

Develop community managed environmental sanitation systems focusing on solid & liquid waste management for overall cleanliness in the rural areas.

Sanitation access and coverage must be defined and monitored. Sanitation should be mainstreamed in Poverty Reduction Strategies

### **Total sanitation scheme**

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan from 1999 to 2012 called as Total Sanitation Campaign, or TSC was a programme following the principles of community-led total sanitation (CLTS) initiated by the Government of India in 1999.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan also known as clean India mission is a National campaign by the government of India, covering 4041 statutory cities and towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.

**Nirmal Gram Puraskar** -Launched by GoI in the year 2002 with the objective to promote rural sanitation, especially to eliminate the practice of open defecation and to reward PRIs (Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Zila Parishad), individuals and institutions for their sustained efforts towards achieving it. The incentive amount varies between RS.50, 000 to 50 lakhs depending upon the population.



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### **Current approach of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:**

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or the "Clean India Campaign" is the biggest ever cleanliness drive in the country and Prime Minister had appealed to each Indian to get involved in the mission and make it a success. The goal now is to achieve Swachh Bharat by 2019, as a tribute to the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by improving the levels of cleanliness in rural areas and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF). For this, the Swachh Bharat Mission will be launched with a new thrust to the sanitation programme, by restructuring of the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) into Swachh Bharat Mission. For proper execution of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a 19-member expert team has been formed under the chairmanship of scientist Raghunath Anant Mashelkar. The entire team will be involved to suggest the best and the most advanced technology to provide sanitation and water facilities in various states using methods that are affordable, sustainable, and scalable.

Swachh Survekshan is a ranking exercise taken up by the Government of India to assess rural and urban areas for their levels of cleanliness and active implementation of Swachhata mission initiatives in a timely and innovative manner.

The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in. Additionally, the survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities and towns.

The Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India takes up the Swachh Survekshan in urban areas and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural areas. The Quality Council of India (QCI) has been commissioned the responsibility of carrying out the assessment.

### **Swachh Survekshan - Urban**

Since the start of SBM in 2014, urban areas of 23 states / UTs have become ODF, and more than 94% cities are already ODF. Nearly 63 lakh individual household toilets (94% progress), and more than 5 lakh community / public toilet seats (more than 100% progress) have been constructed. Parallely, more than 42,000 public toilet blocks across 1400 cities have been mapped and visible on Google maps. The Google toilet

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locator also provides an option for citizens to provide their feedback after using the toilets. Waste processing has gone up to 52% (compared to a mere 18% at the start of the Mission).

Swachh Survekshan 2019 covered 4,237 cities in a record time of 28 days, in a completely paperless, digital format for data collection. Moreover, in this short span of time, assessors managed to visit nearly 73,000 wards, 21,000 commercial areas, 69,000 residential areas, 75,000 community/public toilets, and more than 3100 waste to compost plants across the country.

Indore has been awarded the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2019 (SS 2019) awards while Bhopal has been declared as the cleanest capital. Ujjain has bagged the award for being the cleanest city in the population category of 3 lakh to 10 lakh.

The top 20 cities in 2019 survey who have been the forerunners in Urban India's progress towards swachhata – from large cities such as Indore, Mysuru, Ahmedabad, Navi Mumbai, Tirupati, Rajkot, Vijayawada, Ghaziabad, Surat, to smaller towns and cities such as Mul, Ambikapur, Ujjain, NDMC, Karhad, Lonavala, Vita, Dewas, Bhilai, Shahganj, and Panhala. Ambikapur in Chattisgarh got the second prize overall and has become a role model for other towns in the state. Chhattisgarh has also emerged India's top performer among states, followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

### **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had commissioned “Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2018” (SSG 2018) through an independent survey agency to develop ranking of all districts of India on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation (Swachhata) parameters. This ranking was done based on a comprehensive set of parameters including surveys of public places like schools, Anganwadis, PHCs, Haat/ Bazaars, Panchayat and citizen's perception of Swachhata and their recommendations for improvement of the program and data.

As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6786 villages in 685 Districts across India were covered. 27,963 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/ bazaars/religious places in these 6786 villages were visited by an independent

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agency for survey. Around 182,531 citizens were interviewed for their feedback in villages on SBM-G related issues. Also, citizens were mobilised to provide feedback on sanitation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose. The collection of data from Direct Observation were based on physical observation of the sanitation status in public places by the survey agency. The survey agency used maps and simple handheld device/recording formats to record their observations and findings along with Photographs/videos, wherever necessary.

Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district as per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018. Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.

### **Questions:**

1. Explain the causes and consequences of rural sanitation.
2. What are the measures taken for urban sanitation in India?
3. Write a note on "Swachh Survekshan".

