



*International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies (IJHSSS)*  
*A Peer-Reviewed Bi-monthly Bi-lingual Research Journal*  
*ISSN: 2349-6959 (Online), ISSN: 2349-6711 (Print)*  
*Volume-III, Issue-IV, January 2017, Page No. 271-281*  
*Published by Scholar Publications, Karimganj, Assam, India, 788711*  
*Website: <http://www.ijhsss.com>*

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## **Role of Sanitation workers in Swachh Bharat**

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### **Abstract**

*The paper discusses about the swachh bharat campaign recently launched by India. It also called clean Indian programme which is introduced to overcome the sanitation problems. The estimated cost of implementation of SBM (Urban) based on unit and per capita costs for its various components is Rs. 62,009 Crore. The Government of India share as per approved funding pattern amounts to Rs. 14,623 Crore. In addition, a minimum additional amount equivalent to 25% of GoI funding, amounting to Rs. 4,874 Crore shall be contributed by the States as State/ULB share. The government appointed the famous personalities as ambassadors in respective states, but they have neglected and failed to provide minimum safeguards ro these people.*

*The first part of the paper discusses with the swachh bharat and its implementation at different levels. The second part discusses the role of sanitation workers in keeping India as a clean and green country and also explains the problems faced by sanitation workers in the country.*

***Key words: Swachh bharat missions, sanitation, eradication, open defecation, community toilets, public awareness.***

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**Introduction:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is also called as the Clean India Mission or Clean India drive or Swachh Bharat Campaign. It is a national level campaign run by the Indian Government to cover all the backward statutory towns to make them clean. This campaign involves the construction of latrines, promoting sanitation programmes in the rural areas, cleaning streets, roads and changing the infrastructure of the country to lead the country ahead.

“A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary in 2019,” said Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Swachh Bharat Mission at Rajpath in New Delhi. On 2nd October 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement.

## **Historical background of Swachh Bharath:**

**Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** Clean India Mission and abbreviated as SBA or SBM for "Swachh Bharat Mission" is a national campaign by the Government of India, covering 4,041 statutory cities and towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.

The campaign was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself cleaned the road. It was performed in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi's words. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive and 3 million government employees and school and college students of India participated in this event.

With effect from 1 April 1999, the Government of India restructured the Comprehensive Rural Sanitation Programme and launched the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which was later (on 1 April 2012) renamed Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA).

On 2 October 2014<sup>1</sup>, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission, which aims to eradicate open defecation by 2019, thus restructuring the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan.

## **What do we mean by "sanitation"?**

The first challenge for countries seeking to solve the problem of access to sanitation is to define what "sanitation" really means. The second challenge is to decide what aspects are the most important. In other words, what aspect of the problem is going to be dealt with as a priority? This problem is not simple one and many professionals confuse the two steps. With respect to defining sanitation most professionals would agree that "sanitation" as a whole is a "big idea" which covers:

- Safe collection, storage, treatment and disposal/re-use/recycling of human excreta (faeces and urine);
- Management/re use/recycling of solid wastes (trash or rubbish);
- Drainage and disposal/re-use/recycling of household wastewater (often referred to as sullage or grey water);
- Drainage of storm water; • treatment and disposal/re-use/recycling of sewage effluents;
- Collection and management of industrial waste products; and
- Management of hazardous wastes (including hospital wastes, and chemical/radioactive and other dangerous substances).

**Implementation of Swachh Bharath in India:** According to Census 2011, India's urban population is 377 million or 31% of the total population. These numbers are expected to increase to 600 million by 2031. The Census 2011 also showed that in 4,041 statutory towns, close to eight million households do not have access to toilets and defecate in the open (7.90 million). Weak sanitation has significant health costs and untreated sewage from cities is the single biggest source of water resource pollution in India. This indicates both

the scale of the challenge ahead of the Indian cities and the huge costs incurred from not addressing them.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) emanates from the vision of the Government articulated in the address of The President of India in his address to the Joint Session of Parliament on 9th June 2014:

“We must not tolerate the indignity of homes without toilets and public spaces littered with garbage. For ensuring hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation, a “*Swachh Bharat Mission*” will be launched. This will be our tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2019”. SBM is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development (M/o UD) and by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (M/o DWS) for urban and rural areas respectively.

**Mission Objectives:**

1. Elimination of open defecation
2. Eradication of Manual Scavenging<sup>2</sup>
3. Modern and Scientific Municipal Solid Waste Management
4. To effect behavioral change regarding healthy sanitation practices
5. Generate awareness about sanitation and its linkage with public health
6. Capacity Augmentation for ULB’s
7. To create an enabling environment for private sector participation in Capex (Capital expenditure) and Opex (operation and maintenance)

**Mission components:**

**The Mission has the following components:**

1. Household toilets, including conversion of insanitary latrines into pour-flush latrines;
2. Community toilets
3. Public toilets
4. Solid waste management
5. IEC & Public Awareness
6. Capacity building and Administrative & Office Expenses (A&OE)

By Public Toilets, it is implied that these are to be provided for the floating population/ general public in places such as markets, train stations, tourist places, near office complexes, or other public areas where there are considerable number of people passing by. By Community toilets, it is implied that a shared facility provided by and for a group of residents or an entire settlement. Community toilet blocks are used primarily in low-income and/or informal settlements / slums, where space and/or land are constraints in providing a household toilet. These are for a more or less fixed user group.

**Duration of the mission:** The Mission will be in force till 2nd October 2019

**Annual Targets under Swachh Bharat Mission:**

Sl. No.	Components	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Overall Target
1	Individual Household Toilets	25,00,000	35,00,000	35,00,000	9,00,000	1.04 crore Units
2	Community and Public Toilets	1,00,000	2,04,000	2,04,000	—	5.08 lakh Units
3	Solid Waste Management i) Achievement of 100% collection & transportation &	1,000	1,500	1,500	41	To achieve Scientific Solid Waste Management in 4041 cities/ towns for 30.6 crore persons
	ii) Achievement of 100% processing & disposal (No. of Cities)	100	100	1000	1941	

**Mission Outlay:** The estimated cost of implementation of SBM (Urban) based on unit and per capita costs for its various components is Rs. 62,009 Crore. The Government of India share as per approved funding pattern amounts to Rs. 14,623 Crore. In addition, a minimum additional amount equivalent to 25% of GoI funding, amounting to Rs. 4,874 Crore shall be contributed by the States as State/ULB share. The balance funds are proposed to be generated through various other sources of fund which are, but not limited to:

- a. Private Sector Participation
- b. Additional Resources from State Government/ULB
- c. Beneficiary Share
- d. User Charges
- e. Land Leveraging
- f. Innovative revenue streams
- g. Swachh Bharat Kosh
- h. Corporate Social Responsibility

Mission Management Structure Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) will have a three-tier mission management structure as follows:

**1 National Level:**

1. A National Advisory and Review Committee (NARC) headed by the Secretary, M/o UD, and comprising representatives of relevant line ministries will be notified by the M/o UD.

NARC will meet as per the requirements, but will meet at least once in three months. The functions of

**NARC will be:**

- i. Overall monitoring and supervision of SBM (Urban)
  - ii. Advise the States / UTs to explore avenues for innovative resource mobilization of private financing and leveraging land for PPP in sanitation projects.
  - iii. Approve installments and release of installment of funds for states / UTs by Central Government under the mission.
  - iv. Develop and modify performance matrix and criteria for the release of performance grants to States / UTs as specified in paragraph 10.3.3.
  - v. Monitor outcomes and performance of projects sanctioned under SBM
  - vi. NARC may delegate, as it considers appropriate, some of the functions within prescribed limits, to the National Mission Director (NMD) of the SBM National Mission Directorate to ensure speedy implementation of the mission
  - vii. Any other issue which may be referred to it by the Government
2. The SBM National Mission Directorate will be headed by a National Mission Director (NMD) who will not be below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.
- i. The NMD will be the overall in-charge of all activities related to SBM .NMD will be supported by a suitable team of officers at the National Mission Directorate and will be Member-Secretary of NARC for all matters.
  - ii. The Mission Directorate shall be supported by a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) with 10-12 experts and support staff mainly on an outsourced basis. The PMU shall cover 4 verticals – Programme management, IEC & Media, Information Technology, and Monitoring & Evaluation.
  - iii. The SBM National Mission Directorate will formulate a framework for support structure for the State Mission Directorates and issue appropriate guidelines / advisories to states from time-to-time.

**2. State level:**

1. A High Powered Committee (HPC) under the chairpersonship of the State's Chief Secretary, and with members drawn from concerned departments (including a MoUD representative) shall be responsible for the management of SBM (Urban) at the State / UT level. The functions of the SLMRC will include:

- i. Preparation, approval, and online publishing of the State Sanitation Strategy (SSS) for the respective state and City Sanitation Plan (CSP) for all cities covered under SBM (Urban), if not already done.
- ii. Finalization of the Concept Note on the Urban Sanitation Situation before submission to the SBM National Mission Directorate
- iii. Empanel consultants of repute and experience for:
  - a. Preparation of DPRs under SBM

- b. Conducting independent review and monitoring during execution of projects
- iv. Empanel reputed Institutes like IITs, NIT's, State Technical Universities etc. for appraisal of DPRs.
- v. Sanction projects relating to Solid Waste Management recommended by the ULBs.
- vi. Plan for additional resource mobilization.
- vii. Plan for fund flow in the short, medium and long term
- viii. Recommend proposals for release of installments of funds for projects under the mission
- ix. Monitor outcome and O&M arrangements of projects sanctioned and completed under the mission
- x. Review the progress of Capacity Building, IEC, and Public Awareness activities under the mission and approve their annual action plan.
- xi. Address violation of norms and conditions
- xii. Ensure convergence of action for sanitation in the state and bring about inter-departmental coordination for this purpose as and when required.
- xiii. Ensure timely audits of funds released and review the "Action Taken Reports" on various Audit reports of the mission and other similar reports
- xiv. Review legal issues, if any
- xv. Take up any other matter relevant for the efficient implementation of the mission, or matters referred to it by the SBM National Mission

**Directorate:**

2. The *SBM State Mission Directorate* will be located within the Urban Development Department (UDD) in the State / UT.

- i. The SBM State Mission Directorate will be headed by a State Mission Director (SMD) of appropriate seniority. The SMD will also function as Member-Secretary to the State Level HPC.
- ii. The SMD will create / notify a uniform structure across the state for the planning, designing, project preparation, appraisal, sanction and implementation of sanctioned projects under the mission at the ULB level. This shall be done keeping in mind the advisories issued by the National Mission Directorate from time-to-time.
- iii. The Mission Directorate shall be supported by a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) on an outsourced basis.

**Monitoring & Evaluation (M & E):**

1. States / UTs will be required to send in Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) / Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) in prescribed formats with regard to targets and achievements. Apart from these, the Mission Directorate may prescribe other reports that may be considered appropriate from time to time. Given the scale of the mission, a comprehensive and robust IT enabled MIS will be established for tracking of targets

and achievements. States / UTs will be required to submit progress reports online once this MIS is operational.

2. Monitoring activities will include, but not be limited to, third party evaluation, impact evaluation studies, etc. The evaluation of the mission will be undertaken during the course of its implementation to effect mid-term correction and align the mission to achieve its objectives
3. District Level Review and Monitoring Committee<sup>3</sup> (DLRMC) will be constituted with a view to fulfill the objective of ensuring satisfactory monitoring of projects under the Chairpersonship of a Member of Parliament. Detailed guidelines for this purpose will be issued separately by the SBM National Mission Directorate.

**Sanitation workers and swachh Bharath:** An estimated 1.3 million Dalits (the lowest group in the Hindu caste hierarchy) in India eke out a living through the most degrading practice of manual scavenging, an occupation which involves cleaning open toilets and dry latrines and carrying human excreta with bare hands. In cities and towns, Dalit workers are often employed in the maintenance of sewer systems, sweeping of roads and collection of garbage. Apart from being employed to clean toilets in individual households, they are also engaged in cleaning community dry latrines, roadside open toilets, railway stations, government hospitals and other public places.

In spite of a strong provision like the "The Employment of Manual Scavenging<sup>4</sup> and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993", which prohibits manual scavenging, the practice is widespread in India and the task of eradicating it has not been easy.

In her much-publicized address to the joint session of the parliament the President of India, Pratibha Patil, recently declared her government's intention to introduce legislation in the monsoon session of the parliament banning manual cleaning of dry latrines, soak pits and sewers. The President's announcement comes in the wake of a flurry of court orders directing local governments in India to provide safe working conditions for sanitation workers, particularly sewage workers.

The announcement has been widely welcomed by activists and reformers as a much-needed (and long-delayed) 'social justice' measure to ameliorate the abysmal living and working conditions of *dalit* sanitation workers who occupy the bottom of the complex class and caste hierarchy in India. Activists in turn have called for greater mechanization, modernization and extension of sanitation infrastructure in order to ensure that the very condition of possibility of the deployment of manual labor in such 'degrading' and 'inhuman' activities is eradicated.

### **Role of Sanitation workers to make swachh India:**

- a. About 0.1 million tonnes of municipal solid waste is generated in India every day. That is approximately 36.5 million tonnes annually.
- b. Per capita waste generation in major Indian cities ranges from 0.2 Kg to 0.6 Kg.

- c. Difference in per capita waste generation between lower and higher income groups range between 180 to 800 gm per day.
- d. The urban local bodies spend approximately Rs.500 to Rs.1500 per tonne on solid waste for collection, transportation, treatment and disposal. About 60-70% of this amount is spent on collection, 20-30% on transportation and less than 5% on final disposal.
- e. Calorific value of Indian solid waste is between 600 and 800 Kcal/Kg and the density of waste is between 330 and 560 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- f. Waste collection efficiency in Indian cities ranges from 50% to 90%.
- g. Out of the total municipal waste collected, on an average 94% is dumped on land and 5% is composted.
- h. Between 2000 and 2025 the waste composition of Indian garbage will undergo the following changes:

*Organic* Waste will go up from 40 percent to 60 percent

*Plastic* will rise from 4% to 6%

*Metal* will escalate from 1% to 4%

*Glass* will increase from 2% to 3%

*Paper* will climb from 5% to 15%

*Others* (ash, sand, grit) will decrease from 47% to 12%

#### State wide generation and collection of garbage in India:

Sate name	Quantity generated (TPD)	Quantity collected (TPD)	Treated (TPD)
UTTAR PRADESH	19,180	14,900	4300
MAHARASTRA	17,000	14,900	4700
TAMILNADU	14,532	14,532	1607
UNITED ANDHRA PRADESH	11,500	10,656	9,418
KARNATAKA	9,500	5,700	2000
WEST BENGAL	8,674	7,196	1415
GUJARATH	8,336	7,378	116
DELHI	7,500	4,500	2500
MADHYA PRADESH	5,079	4,298	802
RAJASTHAN	5,037	2,491	490
JHARKAND	4,450	1,889	71
PUNJAB	3,853	3,853	365
HARYANA	3,490	3,440	570

Source: PIB; \*TPD – Tonnes per Day. The data above has been collected by the Central Pollution Control Board through State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees on quantity of garbage generation, collection and treatment<sup>5</sup>.

**Private contract in sanitation:** For the thousands of conservancy or sanitation workers in India who are illegally employed by government bodies through private contractors, the fight for basic rights is an endless cycle of filing cases in industrial courts<sup>6</sup>. For every fresh batch of contract workers joining the field and enrolling in a union, a fresh case must be filed to demand permanent jobs, minimum wages, medical expenses or even protective gear.

The Industrial Disputes Act of 1947: Allows all contract workers the right to demand a permanent position if they have worked continuously in a particular job for 240 days. Meanwhile, the Contract Labour Act of 1970, which specifically provides labour rights to contract workers, is applicable only to establishments that employ more than 20 workmen.

*“Workers are often given contracts for just seven months – 210 days – after which they are made to sign new contracts under a different company name, while the work remains the same,” said Milind Ranade, general secretary of Kachra Vahtuk Shramik Sangh<sup>7</sup>, the union that was fighting the case of the 2,700 workers for the past seven years. “This is done just to ensure that workers do not complete 240 days of service.”*

**The Sanitation act of 1993:** 19 years old Sanitation Act had been amended. President of National Sanitation Workers Commission Kamla Gurjar said that a new Act had been prepared.

Addressing a meeting here, Gurjar said that there were several facilities for sanitation workers in the new Act<sup>8</sup>. A proposal had been sent to urban development ministry and Minister Kumari Shailja had assured to give houses to sanitation workers in the first phase.

Talking to reporters, she said that sanitation workers were facing several problems. The Sanitation Act was promulgated in 1993 and since then things had changed a lot. Several facilities had been included for Sanitation workers in the amended act.

She stated that commission and other functions must be represented by the officials and public representatives of dalits and other exploited groups. She also stated that employment to castes other than Valmiki Samaj was wrong. Instead of performing sanitation work, the workers of other castes entice the men of Valmiki Samaj to execute the work. She said that the Sanitation Commission would take steps in those cases where sanitation workers were being exploited and action would take against one who exploit them.

### **Findings of the study:**

1. We are not receiving the salaries on time
2. We are not receiving the sufficient salary which is the basic requirement of a worker.
3. Should increase the salary from 8000 to 15000
4. We are working hardly from 8 to 10 hours. Should reduce the working hours. Because it would be difficult to us during the summer season
5. Should provide health care facilities to us, because we are working on roads
6. Should allot the work at near place

7. Sanitation workers from greater municipalities are facing problems with less remuneration and lack of proper facilities for cleaning
8. Political leaders and Celebrities participated in Swachh Bharat mission to make India clean but neglecting the daily workers
9. Should establish zone wise hospitals

### **Findings from newspapers:**

#### **Example from Delhi:**

The Indian express on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016<sup>9</sup> published issues regarding the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) as follows:

It, the striking unions of municipal corporation sanitation workers were divided over calling off their stir following their appearance in the High Court on Monday demanding to release their salaries.

“All the 38 unions of the workers who are part of the Swatantra Mazdoor Vikas Sanyukt Morcha have decided to continue the stir even as the High Court asked them to think about ending it,” said Sanjay Gehlot, president of the Sanyukt Morcha.

**Examples from GHMC:** On 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2015<sup>10</sup> The Hindu published the issue related to GHMC workers as follows: A majority of the 30,000 workers involved in garbage collection, anti-malaria drive and street cleanliness in the GHMC kept away from work along with thousands of workers from across the State.

The demands of the unions include increasing the minimum wages of contract workers to Rs.14,170 and Rs.17,380 for permanent employees. The other demands include issuing PF, health cards and housing for the workers.

**Example of GWMC workers:** On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 The Hindu<sup>11</sup> published as follows:

The Telangana Municipal Workers & Employees Union (TMWEU) under the aegis of CITU led the agitation with their demands such as increase the wage, provision of PF and ESI among others. Over 1,000 workers employed in sanitation, water supply and electricity wings of Municipal Corporation squatted on the road in front of the gate for over two hours shouting slogans.

CITU leader R Ramesh said that the government has to promise, to regularize the services of contract and outsourcing employees and enhance the wages of workers employed in villages that were merged with the corporation, sanction weekly off and provide PF and ESI schemes from April 1.

“With regard to minimum wage of Rs 14,170 per month, it was said it was under the jurisdiction of State government and he said that corporation would write to the government seeking its approval.

**Conclusion:** The Acts are passed by the government is being neglected by every government in the central and state level. Contrast to this the sanitation workers have been

expressing their democratic rights against the governments to regularize or improve their living standards. But every government has failed to provide the basic facilities to the sanitation workers; they are unable to meet their minimum requirements.

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