

# Gramin swacch Bharat Mission

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**Abstract:** To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October, 2014. The Mission Coordinator shall be Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) with two Sub-Missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), which aims to achieve Swachh Bharat by 2019, as a fitting tribute to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which in rural areas shall mean improving the levels of cleanliness in rural areas through Solid and Liquid Waste Management activities and making Gram Panchayats Open Defecation Free (ODF), clean and sanitised. The Mission shall strive for this by removing the bottlenecks that were hindering the progress, including partial funding for Individual Household Latrines from MNREGS. This paper deliberates at length on a development of our country through the clean Campaign by highlighting the objectives of swachh Bharat mission in gramian areas.

## Introduction

The rural sanitation programme in India was introduced in the year 1954 as a part of the First Five Year Plan of the Government of India. The 1981 Census revealed rural sanitation coverage was only 1%. The International Decade for Drinking water and Sanitation during 1981-90, began giving emphasis on rural sanitation. Government of India introduced 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. From 1999, a “demand driven” approach under the “Total Sanitation Campaign” (TSC) emphasized more on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Human Resource Development (HRD), Capacity Development activities to increase awareness among the rural people and generation of demand for sanitary facilities. This enhanced people’s capacity to choose appropriate options through alternate delivery mechanisms as per their economic condition. Financial incentives were provided to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households for construction and usage of individual household latrines (IHHL) in recognition of their achievements.

## Objectives of swachh Bharat Mission

- Bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- Accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of Swachh Bharat by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.
- Motivate Communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- Encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.
- Develop wherever required, Community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the rural areas.

The focus of this mission to move towards ‘Swachh Bharat’ by providing flexibility to State Governments, as Sanitation is a state subject, to decide on their implementation policy and mechanisms, taking into account State specific requirements. This is focused to enable States to develop an Implementation Framework that can utilise the provisions under the Mission effectively and maximize the impact of the interventions. The Government of India’s role would be to complement the efforts of the State Governments through the focused programme being given the status of a Mission, recognizing its dire need for the country.

## Major Highlights:

### • Start-Up Activities

The start-up activities include Updation of Base line survey - Conducting of preliminary survey to assess the status of sanitation and hygiene practices or Orientation of key personnel at the District/GP level and preparation of District Plans and Preparation of State Plan (Programme Implementation Plan – PIP).

The summary revision will be based on a transparent disposal of claims and objections in a Gram Sabha meeting. This will help in updating the status of households in relation to possession of IHHLs. Once a village obtains ODF status, the maintenance of the status will be the responsibility of the community. Any new household added to the village must have access to toilets. The State will also be given the option to make corrections in the MIS Baseline data, after approval from MDWS, where there are reasonable explanations for such changes.

### • IEC Activities

IEC (Information, Education and Communication) is a very important component of the Programme. IEC shall strive to bring about community-wide behavior change and to trigger the demand for sanitary facilities in the rural areas for households, Schools,

Anganwadis, Community Sanitary Complexes and Solid and Liquid Waste Management projects (SLWM) through provision of information and awareness generation. The activities carried out under these component will be 'area specific', 'community specific' and should also involve all sections of the rural population. IEC is not a one-time activity. IEC strategy and plan to be focused on creation of demand leading to behavior change, construction and use of toilets in a sustained manner. Initially the focus should be on triggering of community.

- **Capacity Building**

This component is for building capacities of stake holders and sanitation workers, the Swachhata Doots/Sena, members of PRIs, VWSCs, functionaries of BPMU, DWSM, ASHA, Anganwadi workers, SHG members, masons, CSOs/NGOs etc. The training is to be on various approaches of IEC promoting Behavioural change including Triggering (CLTS), SLTS, IPC and House to House communication etc., masonry work, plumbing, as well as for construction and maintenance of toilets and for Solid and Liquid Waste Management works. Central and State level Training Institutes, Resource Centers /Key Resource Centers (KRCs), District Resource Centers, and empanelled NGOs/CBOs and agencies with experience in capacity building should be engaged for such trainings.

- **Construction of Individual Household Latrines**

A duly completed household sanitary latrine shall comprise of a Toilet Unit including a substructure which is sanitary (that safely confines human faeces and eliminates the need of human handling before it is fully decomposed), a super structure, with water facility and hand wash unit for cleaning and handwashing. The Mission aims to ensure that all rural families have access to toilets. There are various models of toilets available based on safe sanitation technologies like the Twin Pit, Septic tank, Bio toilets amongst others. The Ministry encourages the development of other safe technologies and States shall disseminate information about available technologies and their costs to the beneficiary to enable him/her to make an informed choice. States can also consider the construction of 'Row' toilets and Complexes for a group of families, mainly where it is not possible to construct IHHLs. It should be ensured that the toilets constructed for Individual households meet the minimum design specifications to ensure their sustainability. Care shall be taken to ensure that these toilets are not over-designed and overconstructed i.e. building extra large pits which are not required, to keep them affordable and also to prevent problems like contamination of drinking water. States have to ensure through effective communication that such tendencies are restricted. Appropriate information has to be provided to the beneficiary regarding the maintenance of the toilets provided. The Toilets must have a superstructure acceptable to the beneficiaries, as the poor quality of toilets constructed has been one of the main complaints against earlier sanitation programmes. Various options for the Superstructure should be explored and information about the options available provided to the beneficiary for him/her to choose from.

- **Solid and Liquid Waste Management**

The objective of SBM(G) is to bring about improvement in the cleanliness, hygiene and the general quality of life in rural areas. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is one of the key components of the programme. To create clean villages, it is essential that the IEC interventions focus on Solid and Liquid Waste Management so as to create a felt need for these activities amongst the population. This must lead to the setting up of systems for the scientific disposal of waste in such a way that has a tangible impact on the population. The Community /Gram panchayat has to be motivated to come forward and demand for such a system, which they have to subsequently operate and maintain.

## **Conclusion**

The SBM(G) shall encourage suitable safe sanitation technologies for Toilets and Solid Liquid Waste Management Systems. The MDWS has a Committee for Suitable Technologies to examine technologies suitable for upscaling and implementation. The Mission already has a list of minimal acceptable technologies for which assistance under this programme will be available. This will be updated from time to time. States can decide on technologies suitable for their areas. The beneficiary/communities shall also participate in the selection of technologies to be implemented. Funding for research on all activities related to the Swachh Bharat Mission shall be available. Research Institutes, organizations and NGOs with proven track record in the areas of Sanitation and National / State level institutions involved in the research/studies related to the issue of Health, Hygiene, Water Supply and Sanitation should be involved to develop new technologies of human excreta and waste disposal systems in the rural areas. The study outcome should enable improvement of technology, making it more affordable and environmentally safe to suit the requirements of different geo-hydrological conditions. This will encourage and promote ecologically sustainable long term solution for disposal of wastes. Sustainable methods/ technologies for Solid and Liquid Waste Management in rural areas, appropriate technology to suit varying soil conditions, high water table situations, floods, water scarcity conditions, coastal areas will be priorities. Ecological sanitation / on-site waste management will be encouraged to prevent high costs of waste transportation and pollution of water bodies through discharge of untreated waste.

## **References**

<http://www.mdws.nic.in>