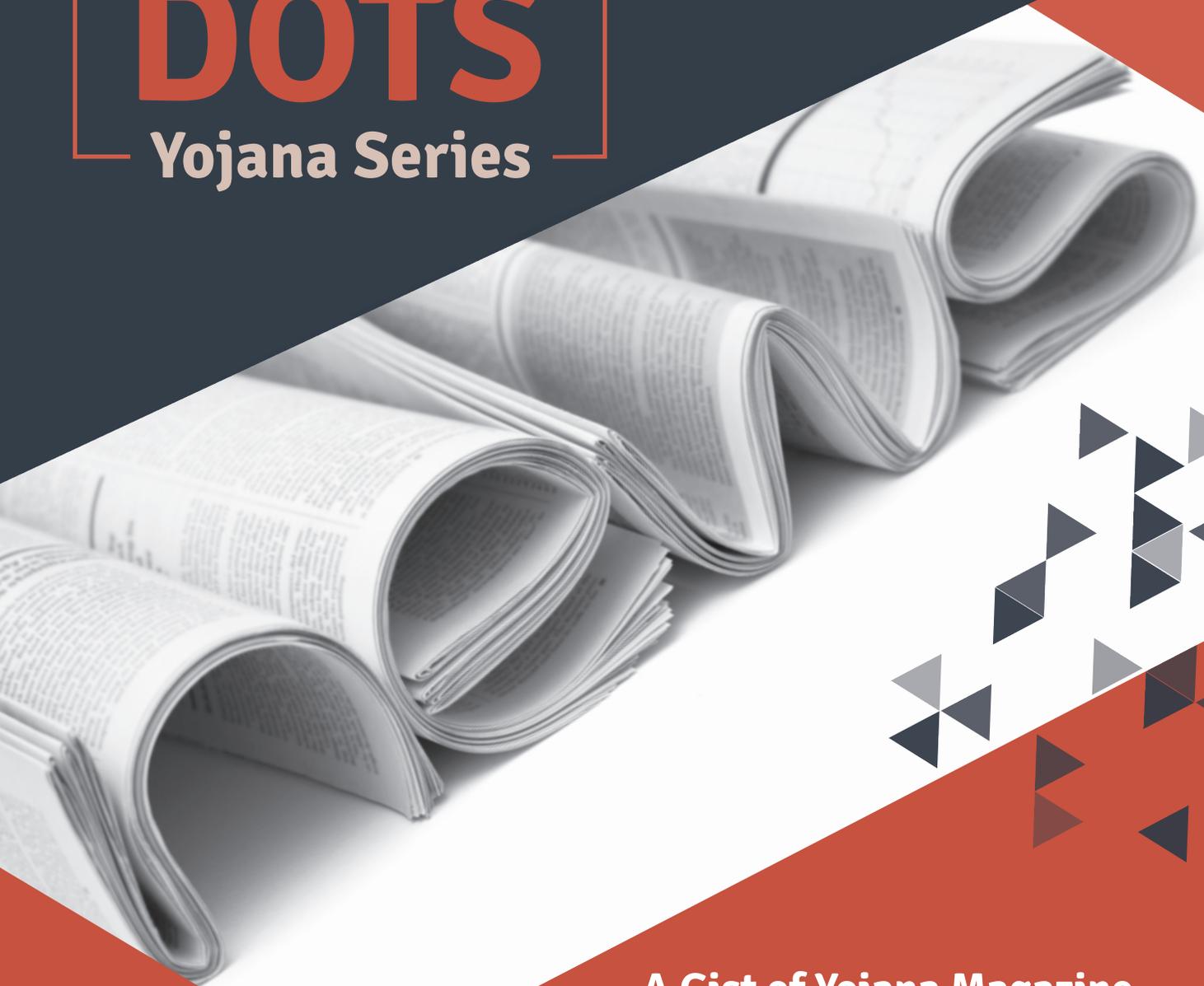


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A Gist of Yojana Magazine (November 2019 issue)

Emergence of Sanitation as an Economy

Jal Jeevan Mission

Dignity to Sanitation Workers

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Contents

1.	Sanitation for A Healthy Society.....	1
2.	Government's Initiatives Towards Sanitation.....	1
3.	Dignity to the Sanitation Workers.....	1
4.	The People's Policy.....	3
5.	Gram Panchayats: Beyond ODF Lessons That Shaped Swachh Bharat.....	3
6.	Miscellaneous.....	4
7.	Sustaining Behavioural Change.....	5
8.	Solid Waste Management: The Way Forward.....	6
9.	SWM Initiatives.....	6
10.	Swachh Bharat : A Chapter of Success.....	7

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Join the dots! Yojna Synopsis

November, 2019

Sanitation for A Healthy Society

Sanitation Economy and Dignity of The Sanitation Workers

- Sanitation economy is not just about toilets but it also includes provision of clean drinking water, elimination of waste, digitised sanitation system and health information insights.
- Sanitation, in addition to an economy in itself is also cross-cutting theme and has the potential to contribute in a big way.

Emergence of Sanitation as an Economy

- The major initiatives launched by the Government are Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in 2014, Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) and curbing single-use plastics in 2019. This aimed at providing basic sanitation to all Indians, ensuring piped water supply to all rural households and combating pollution, respectively.
- A recent report by the Toilet Board Coalition estimated the sanitation market opportunity in India alone to be at US\$ 32 billion in 2017 and doubling to US\$ 62 billion by 2021.
- It will help in improving the quality of life and ease of living of the citizens. In addition to this, the sector holds immense potential in terms of generating large number of new job opportunities for our youth.
- India's success in this sector would help in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of providing access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and ending open defecation by 2030 (SDG 6; Target 6.2).

Government's Initiatives Towards Sanitation

Swachh Bharat Mission

- This was done with a aim to accelerate sanitation coverage to achieve and Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Clean India by 2 October, 2019.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- Government launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to bring piped-water supply to all households (Har Ghar Jal) by 2024.
- A new Ministry of Jal Shakti was created in May 2019 by reorganising the existing ministries and departments.
- Like the SBM, the JJM mission target is quite ambitious and challenging given the fact that of the 18 crore rural households, only 3 crore rural households have piped drinking water.

Curbing Single-Use Plastics

- Government has taken the initiative to curb single-use plastics from 2 October, 2019.
- This will help in significant reduction in littering as about 14 million tonnes of plastic are used annually in the country.
- Individual Households with Latrine made a whopping jump of 61.3% between 2014 and 2019

Dignity to the Sanitation Workers

- Sanitation workers suffer from social stigma with respect to their work, especially the manual scavengers. The Government has taken a number of steps to effect changes in the perception of the people towards the sanitation workers.
- In 2014, the Prime Minister himself initiated a campaign to urge the public to change the way we call sanitary workers as Kudawala/Kacharawala to Safai Wala.

1. Legal Protection For Eliminating Manual Scavenging

- Sanitation workers are divided broadly into two categories: Safai Karamcharis & Manual Scavengers.

- In order to prohibit employment of manual scavengers, the Government had enacted Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

The objectives of this Act are to

- Eliminate the insanitary latrines;
- Prohibit (i) employment as manual scavengers and, (ii) hazardous manual cleaning of sewer and septic tanks survey of manual scavengers and their rehabilitation within a timebound manner.

Any contravention of the provisions is punishable with imprisonment up to 2 years and fine up to Rs.2 lakh, or both.

2. Ensuring Minimum Wages and Safe Working Conditions

- For ensuring minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all workers including the sanitary workers, Ministry of Labour and Employment has enacted the Code on Wages Bill, 2019.
- In addition to the Code on Wages, 2019 Government also introduced in the Lok Sabha the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2019.
- Efforts are currently underway to draft a Social Security Code.
- The Ministry has also introduced a pension scheme for unorganised workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old-age protection for unorganised workers, which will benefit the sanitation workers.

3. Housing, Education, Financial Assistance and Skill Development Schemes

- Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) of the Ministry of Rural Development
- Assistance of up to Rs.75,000 is provided to the eligible households.
- A provision has been made under IAY for special coverage of identified manual scavengers for providing them housing facilities in rural areas, irrespective of their BPL Status.
- Under the Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship, the children of manual scavengers, tanners and flayers, waste pickers and those engaged in hazardous cleaning are also provided scholarship between Rs. 225 to Rs. 700 per month for a period of 10 months in a year for pursuing their studies up to class 10th.
- Further, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) acts as an Apex Corporation for the all-round socio-economic upliftment of the safai Karamcharis, scavengers and their dependents by creating alternate means of livelihoods.
- It also provides financial assistance at concessional rates of interest to the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs), Regional Rural banks (RRBs), and Nationalised Banks for onward disbursement to the target group of NSKFDC.
- It also implements non-loan-based schemes in the form of imparting skill development training to the eligible members.
- Apart from these, the NSKFDC is the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) scheme.

4. Protecting Sanitation Workers Through Ayushman Bharat

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) will cover over 10.74 crore poor and deprived families providing coverage up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year (on a family floater basis) for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care hospitalisation, with no cap on family size.

Way Forward

- Maintaining ODF status is important so that villagers are not returning to the old practice of open defecation.
- We must focus on putting in place a robust monitoring mechanism to check the condition of sanitation at the district and Panchayat level.
- We must focus on circular economy for converting our waste into resources. The first step in this regard will be 100 per cent achievement in terms of waste segregation, successful disposal, and streamlining waste infrastructure.
- Despite a ban on manual scavenging, its existence is reported from time to time. Therefore, use of technology can play a key role.
- Prioritization and faster identification of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers through a time bound plan must be seriously and earnestly pursued for effective rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

The People's Policy

- The SBM became the global benchmark for participatory and transformative development by following the 4 Ps structure - Political leadership, Public financing, Partnerships and People's participation.

A. Strategic Focus

- Political Leadership: Arguably, the biggest game-changer for the SBM-G was the Prime Minister investing his personal political capital in the mission.
- Public Financing: Over Rs. 1 lakh crore was committed to ensuring universal access to sanitation. About 90 per cent of 10 crore households which received toilets were from socially and economically weaker sections of society and they received financial incentives to build and use toilets.
- Partnerships: The SBM-G Partnered with implementers and influencers alike. This "all hands on deck" approach, making sanitation everyone's business, helped to mainstream it into the national consciousness.
- People's Participation: The SBM-G trained over half a million swachhagrahis who triggered behaviour change in every village of India.

B. Administrative Focus

- Administrative disruption led to efficient on-ground implementation. It started with the Prime Minister setting a target, a sunset clause for the Mission- 2 October, 2019.
- A sunset clause brought with it a sense of urgency and accountability.
- The next important step was building a team of people who believed that the goal is achievable.
- Low-hanging fruits were targeted first-the districts with the highest sanitation coverage-to become ODF on priority.
- This created a demonstration effect for others to learn from and created belief in the system.
- The SBM-G made sanitation glamorous by engaging extensively with the media, leveraging popular culture etc.
- And lastly, the mission kept the buzz alive throughout its lifecycle through regular, large-scale events with the Prime Minister at important milestones, helping sanitation stay on top of public recall.

Conclusion

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation recently released the forward-looking 10-year Rural Sanitation Strategy to move from ODF to ODF Plus, focusing on sustaining the SBM-G gains.
- The next goal announced by the Prime Minister on August 15 this year is to ensure piped water supply to all households by 2024.
- With the programme in mission mode for the next five years, this will be an additional shot in the arm for SBM-G's sustainability efforts.

Gram Panchayats: Beyond ODF Lessons That Shaped Swachh Bharat

Structured Approach of Sbm-G

- Improving the ratio of financial investment in hardware with strong investment in software with the community-level outcomes
- Utilising the Community Approaches to Sanitation (CAS) methodology.
- Women-headed households and Scheduled and Castes and Tribes prioritised in the programme
- Through the national Gram Panchayat Development Plans, WASH investments are made to converge to existing budgetary considerations
- District-level flexibility in administering the necessary activities and campaigns to increase coverage
- Strong public and political willpower through the allocation of financial resources.

Giving Gram Panchayats The Central Role

- Rural families were more apt to pick up guidance issued by their local leaders.
- This belief has been incorporated in the efforts to transition of India, from its recent achievement of hitting its goal of reaching 100 million households with safe sanitation, to the next phase of programmes.

- To frame the new phase, in September 2019, the MoJS released a newly drafted 10-year Rural Sanitation Strategy, which lays down the steps to be taken till 2029 to ensure that sanitation access is sustained and further developed.
- India is working towards this long-term vision of ODF Plus. This is necessary for India to sustain its achievement towards Sustainable Development Goal 6, especially SDG 6.2.

What is ODF Plus?

- Sustained usage of Individual Household Latrines
- Ensuring no one is left behind and providing sanitation access to new households
- Sanitation coverage of public spaces (through public and community toilets)
- Implementation of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas including compost pits/ decentralized waste treatment facilities
- Visible cleanliness, and solid and liquid waste management
- The new framework strategically place GPs at the centre of the coordinating efforts to ensure that SLWM activities are taking place in all villages.
- This ensure that the principle of ‘subsidiarity’, which states that ‘decisions should always be taken at the lowest possible level or closest to where they will have their effect’.
- While urban areas may be able to build and utilise larger faecal sludge treatment solutions, rural communities that fall outside of the radius of off-site door-to-treatment services will have to come up with locally sustainable options that function efficiently at the GP level.
- Finally, with the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide drinking water to all households by 2024, it is important to converge sanitation programming with upcoming water supply work to ensure that water sources remain safe and uncontaminated and that sanitation services are sustained with water available.

Way Forward

- The MoJS and UNICEF are collaborating on orienting master trainers at the State and district levels who will then interact with the GP representatives across all states.
- There are still many lessons to be learned, especially when it comes to addressing critical challenges, such as menstrual waste management, safe disposal of child faeces and retro-fitting of pit-toilet models to make them functional and sustainable.
- These issues and more can only be effectively addressed if GPs are firstly given the authority because the power truly lies with them to make a lasting difference for their people.

Miscellaneous

‘Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme’ Launched

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development launched a unique initiative, the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning programme –Dhruv, which will act as a turning point in the lives of extraordinarily talented students.
- The new programme, Dhruv will act as a platform to explore the talent of outshining and meritorious students and help them achieve excellence in their specific areas of interest, may it be science, performing arts, creative writing, etc.
- It has been started to identify and encourage talented children to enrich their skills and knowledge. In centres of excellence across the country, gifted children will be mentored and nurtured by renowned experts in different areas, so that they can reach their full potential.
- To begin with, the programme will cover two areas, i.e., Science and Performing Arts. There are 60 students in all from across the country, 30 from each area. The students have been broadly chosen from classes 9 to 12, from all schools including government and private.

Ai-Enabled Mobile Application for Swachh Bharat Mission

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched an integrated waste management app and Artificial Intelligence enabled mSBM app.
- AI-enabled mSBM App, a Mobile App developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), facilitates the applicants of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) under SBM-U to know the status of their application in real-time after uploading the photograph.

- The app also helps the respective ULB nodal officer to verify and approve the application thereby significantly reducing the processing time for the applicants.

Water Heroes- Share Your Stories Contest

- The “Water Heroes- Share Your Stories” Contest is launched by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, with the objective of promoting value of water in general and for supporting country-wide efforts on water conservation and sustainable development of water resources.

Sustaining Behavioural Change

- The SBM which was launched on 2 October 2014 succeeded in construction of over 10 crore toilets by 2 October 2019. Because of these enormous efforts, about 6 lakh villages in approximately 700 districts in the country were declared open defecation free.
- A major differentiating feature of SBM from all other earlier programmes has been its demand – driven nature where the primary objective is to bring about behaviour change leading to the generation of demand for construction of toilets as well as to increase the use of toilets.

Challenges

- In most behaviour change programmes, it is observed that the adoptees, after a time interval, lapse back to their earlier habits defeating the very purpose of the programme.
- Thus, construction of toilets by itself does not ensure that the rural population will use toilets on a regular basis. There are significant cultural and behavioural factors that act as barriers to the use of toilets.
- Open defecation for many is a part of the early morning routine walk, checking on the crops, and socialising.
- For women, who go out to the fields in the dusk for open defecation, it may be the only opportunity in the day to freely socialise with other women without being supervised by elders in the family, particularly husband and in-laws.
- Apart from the behavioural factors, it is found that the design of the toilet, availability of sanitation materials, access to water, and political or social leadership account for a higher demand for construction and use of toilets.
- Many villages are not homogenous and are fragmented along the caste and religious lines.
- Collective behaviour change in a village is easier when the whole village is homogeneous but difficult when there are more conflicts.
- The challenge of behaviour change is often compounded by the diversity in Indian society, and therefore, would require more contextual understanding.

Behavioural Patterns

- It has been found that socio-political fragmentation and political brokerage impact toilet construction.
- The predominant reason for toilet construction in the household is privacy and convenience followed by peer pressure, prestige in society, spouse pressure, and persuasion of Panchayat leaders, political leaders, health and social workers.
- The quality of life of a household is an important factor concerning access to the toilet. Access to other basic services increases the chances of having access to the toilet. An exclusive toilet is more likely to be used if the household has access to a dedicated water facility.
- The economic condition of the households, captured by total expenses, has a positive impact on access and use of toilets. The chances of open defecation reduce substantially when the monthly household expenses cross Rs.1000.
- Access to information regarding Government schemes and financial assistance for toilet construction are also contributing factors for construction and use of toilet, respectively.

Recommendations

- The present programme, while widely appreciated, leaves a scope of the new adoptees to get back to their original behaviour.
- To prevent this, the programme may include the provision of more than one toilet for larger households. More emphasis may be given for information dissemination at the ground level.

- Improvement of sanitation is linked with other indicators of living conditions. Hence, it is important to have a better infrastructure at the household level as well as public services.
- At the same time, higher income of households with higher purchasing power for durable goods would lead to better living standards of living and thus sanitation practice. Also, emphasis on female literacy is imperative for better sanitation coverage.

Solid Waste Management: The Way Forward

- Solid Waste Management is a major problem in India, where urbanisation, industrialisation, and economic growth have resulted in increased municipal solid waste (MSW) generation.
- The main objective of an efficient SWM system is to maximise resource recovery and energy generation from waste in the processing facility and minimise waste disposal in landfills.

Legal Framework

- Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) notified MSW (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and the revamped Solid Waste Management Rules in 2016 to ensure proper solid waste management in India.
- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 delineate the responsibility of the different stakeholders including the MoEF&CC, MoHUA, Central pollution control Board (CPCB), State pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), state Urban Departments, Urban Local bodies, Gram panchayats, as well as waste generators.
- Whereas MoHUA, State Urban Departments and Local Bodies have mainly been entrusted with the responsibility of development of infrastructure related to waste management, MoEF&CC, CPCB, SPCB have been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the enforcement of the Rules.
- The responsibility of the waste generator lies essentially in proper segregation of the waste which is the core requirement of effective solid waste management.

Status of Solid Waste Management

- The overall solid waste generated in the country has been estimated to be 1,52,076 Tons per day (TPD) as per the Annual Report 2018-19 submitted by the SPCBs/PCCs.
- Of this, only 35% of waste is treated. 33% of waste is landfilled and 46,156 TPD of waste which is one-third of the total waste generated in the country remains unaccounted. The unaccounted waste is littered on streets up in dumpsites.
- Recently, with National Green Tribunal's intervention, biomining (a method for stabilisation of waste so as to minimise its adverse environmental impact) of these dumpsites, has been initiated in 11 states.

SWM Initiatives

1. Initiatives Taken by CPCB

- Guidelines on Legacy Waste
- Guidelines on Buffer Zone
- Guidelines for Management of Sanitary waste and
- Selection Criteria for Waste Processing Technologies.

2. Initiatives Taken by States/UTS

- Door-to door collection, waste segregation, and transportation
- Land for waste processing facilities

3. Setting Up Waste-To-Energy Plants

- Four waste-to-energy plants have been operationalized in the country of which three plants are in Delhi.
- Electricity generated by these plants is purchased by the power regulators and is fed to the national grid.

4. Development of Model Cities

- Model cities have implemented efficient methods for collection, segregation, and waste processing facilities.

5. Increased Judicial Intervention

- After the enactment of the NGT Act 2010, in past few years we have seen increasing judicial intervention in ensuring compliance with the provisions of SWM Rules.

Challenges

- Segregation of waste at source
- Lack of infrastructure for collection and transportation of waste
- Availability of land for setting up of waste collection and transportation facilities
- Budgetary provisions for (ii) & (iii)
- Techno-economically viable solutions for fresh & legacy waste
- Management of legacy waste
- Rural areas not covered in most of the States/UTs and
- Enforcement issues.

Way Forward

- Creating public awareness for involvement of different stakeholders for SWM
- Development of ULB-wise action plan for collection, segregation, transportation and processing of waste.
- Emphasising on setting up of waste processing facilities
- Giving fillip to research & development activities with focus on resource recovery from waste
- Capacity building in various regimes of SWM
- Clear allocation of responsibility to ULBs and waste generators for setting up of infrastructure and for involving informal sector in waste collection & segregation and
- Adequate technical support to ULBs for processing technology and practices in waste management.

Swachh Bharat : A Chapter of Success

- SBM stands out with women being at the centre of all interventions and also leading the march in many cases and reclaiming dignity and empowerment in the process.
- Women in rural hinterland not only ventured out for discussing sanitation and convincing rest of the folks, they moved a step ahead by staking claim in men-dominated masonry work.
- They took up the name of 'Rani Mistris' by constructing toilets, now affectionately called 'Izzat Ghar' or Dignity Home in many parts of the country.
- Children and youth volunteered in a big way by inculcating Swachhata in behaviour and volunteered for Swachhata Shramdaan in mobilisation campaigns.
- School children have been the visible change agents at many places with their demands cries of "Mujhe Shauchalay Chahiye" triggering a sense of urgency among parents and school management alike.
- The success story of Swachh Bharat Mission is not complete without mention of the Information Education and Communication (IEC) interventions which constituted the heart of the programme.
- About 4.5 lakhs swachhagrahis led the inter-personal communication across household in the village holding forth the community-level narratives on sanitation and the needs for Swachhata.
- Mass media campaigns like Darwaza Band and Shaucha Singh captured the imagination and thought process of the common people.
- Campaigns like 'Swachhata Hi Seva', 'Satyagraha se Swachhagraha', and 'Swachh Shakti' stand out as great examples of social mobilisation for the cause of sanitations.

Economic Benefits: Statistics

- A WHO 2018 study had estimated that over 3 lakh lives will be saved by 2019 when India turn ODF.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in a study conducted in 2017 reported that non-ODF areas have around 44% higher cases of diarrhoea among children.
- IMF 2017-18 Gender Equality study indicated approximately 10% reduction in time spent by women in household and child care and 1.5% increase in women participation in the workforce.



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