

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

The Clean India Mission abbreviated as SBA or SBM for "Swachh Bharat Mission" with a slogan "One step towards cleanliness" is a national campaign by the Government of India. The campaign was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleaned the road himself. It is a national level campaign run by the Indian Government covering 4041 statutory towns to make them clean. The objectives of Swachh Bharat include eliminating open defecation through the construction of household-owned and community-owned toilets and establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use. It was aimed to give a perfect tribute to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary by making India clean. It is said that cleanliness was one the most important values cherished and practiced by Mahatma Gandhi.

Background

As per 2011 census 68 million people live in slums out of which 34% have no toilets at their homes. Over 44.3% have open drainage in slums. 1,88,500 tone of waste per day and 68.8 million tones of waste per year is generated by India. Less than one third Indian have access to sanitation facilities. Only 22% of rural household have access to good sanitary facilities. Such is the condition of health and hygiene in India despite several activities taken up to ensure sanitation. A formal sanitation programme was first launched in 1954, followed by Central Rural Sanitation Programme in 1986. But the major steps were taken from 1 April 1999, when 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 as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA).

Taking it further in a mission mode on 2 October 2014, the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission, which aims to eradicate open defecation by 2019, thus restructuring the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. This campaign aims to accomplish the vision of "Clean India" by 2 October 2019, 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and is expected to cost over INR 62000 Crore. This campaign was described as "beyond politics" and "inspired by patriotism" by the government to involve all stakeholders including opposition leaders. The campaign also involved brand ambassadors from the field of art, film, sports and music.

Objectives of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan

- Construction of Individual, Cluster and Community toilets
- To eliminate or reduce open defecation. Open defecation is one of the main causes of deaths of thousands of children each year
- Public awareness to be provided about the drawbacks of open defecation and promotion of latrine use
- An accountable mechanism of monitoring toilet use
- To keep villages clean. Solid and liquid waste management through Gram Panchayat
- To lay water pipelines in all villages by ensuring water supply to all households by 2019

- Proper, dedicated ground staff to be recruited to bring about behavioral change and promotion of latrine use
- Villages to be kept clean with Solid and Liquid Waste Management, it will be done through solid and liquid waste management through gram panchayats
- To make India Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2019, by providing access to toilet facilities to all
- To provide toilets, separately for Boys and Girls in all schools by 15.8.2015.
- To provide toilets to all Anganwadis

Facts and Figures about SBA

The project cost is initially estimated to be Rs. 1, 96,009 crore. As mentioned above the project was started on 2nd October 2014 and was estimated to end on 2nd October 2019. Ministries involved in the projects are the Ministry of rural development, Ministry of urban development, Ministry of drinking water and sanitation, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), corporations, NGOs, state governments etc.

The Swachh Bharat Mission has covered all parts of the country but the urban areas and rural areas are dealt separately as the challenges and problems slightly differ. Let's understand them one by one

Urban Areas

The mission aims to cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh community toilets, 2.6 lakh public toilets, and a solid waste management facility in each town. Under the programme, community toilets will be built in residential areas where it is difficult to construct individual household toilets. Public toilets will also be constructed in designated locations such as tourist places, markets, bus stations, railway stations, etc. The programme will be implemented over a five-year period in 4,401 towns. Of the Rs. 62,009 crore likely to be spent on the programme, the Centre will pitch in Rs 14,623 crore. Of the Centre's share of Rs. 14,623 crore, Rs. 7,366 crore will be spent on solid waste management, Rs. 4,165 crore on individual household toilets, Rs.1,828 crore on public awareness and Rs. 655 crore on community toilets.

Rural areas

Under the mission, One lakh thirty four thousand crore rupees will be spent for construction of about 11 crore 11 lakh toilets in the country. Technology will be used on a large scale to convert waste into wealth in rural India in the forms of bio-fertilizer and different forms of energy. The mission is to be executed on war footing with the involvement of every Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad in the country, besides roping in large sections of rural population and school teachers and students in this endeavor. As part of the mission, for rural households, the provision for unit cost of individual household latrine has been increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 so as to provide for water availability, including for storing, hand- washing and cleaning of toilets. Central share for such latrines will be Rs 9,000 while state share will be Rs 3,000. For North Eastern states, Jammu &

Kashmir and special category states, the Central share will be 10,800 and the state share Rs 1,200. Additional contributions from other sources will be permitted

Conclusion

The SBA shall not be seen as another infrastructure development project. The pressure to meet the target from the centre has led to construction of individual household latrines in a hurried manner. Local constructors built the toilets instead of beneficiaries themselves which led to bad quality of IHHL construction. These are small in size and not durable. The usability of the latrine once constructed is under question as electricity and water is not connected. The mission started with much fanfare, attempts were made by the government to sensitize the common masses regarding the importance of cleanliness and to ensure change in attitudes towards cleanliness. The attitude is changing and use of toilets and latrines have gone up but we must not forget we have miles to go. Technology should be developed for solid waste management at the grassroots level and it should be made accessible to all. A behavioral/ attitudinal change of ensuring proper practices of waste management has to be inculcated among the minds of rural people.