

# Urban Sanitation in India: A Journey of towards Clean Nation

## Abstract

Sanitation is an important aspect of public health. Every year the huge number of populations is dying from water-borne diseases. The total diseases burden from water-borne diseases is 40%. Only diarrhoea is the second major causes of death among children. During the independence sanitation situation was not satisfactory in India. Urban sanitation was better than rural areas but rural to urban migration is the growing urban population. It is increasing the burden on resources like water, sewerage, land etc and even creating the slum areas that had very fewer resources. It is a serious threat to urban public health. So, time to time the government introduced various policies and programs for urban sanitation. The present article is discussed about these policies and plans.

**Keywords:** Sanitation, Urban, Slums, Disease, Programs.

## Introduction

During the British period, the Sanitation status was not satisfactory in India. Mostly sanitation programs were limited to the military. So, after the independence, India had 30 crore population and less than 1% population had sanitation coverage facilities. So focused was essential. So, the Indian constitution explicitly recognized the sanitation as constitution right. The article 21 broad explanation given by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India sanitation was as recognized as a fundamental and justiciable right. Even Directive principles of state policy article 42, 47, 48(A) directly talk about sanitation facilities for public So, it was directly recognized as a constitutional right.

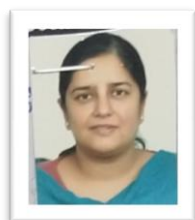
So in 1952, the Government of India established a Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. It was nodal agency for running various development programs on water, sanitation, solid waste management in urban India. Later its named changed. The presented name was Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. Even Government establishes the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) is the technical wing of Ministry was in 1954. Its main work was participated in all important sanitation programmes. It was coming in existence on the recommendations of the Environmental Hygiene Committee 1949. This organization raised under Ministry of Health later on affiliated from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

## Sanitation program and policies 1950 to 1990

It was important also showed in five years plans. So, five year plans also focused on the sanitation. Initial first three five year plans, water and sanitation were considered as sub-sector in health care. So, priority was given to the water-borne diseases, water supply and sanitary methods of excreta disposal. Even the number of health program also started as the National Malaria Control Programme was introduced in 1953. Even according to WHO Sanitation is a cornerstone of public health," said WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan."Improved sanitation contributes enormously to human health and well-being, especially for girls and women. We know that simple, achievable interventions can reduce the risk of contracting the diarrhoeal disease by a third

During the Indira Gandhi period, the Government introduced the Minimum needs Programme in the first year of the Fifth Five Year Plan. This plan main major purpose had raised the standard of living of and completing the minimum needs. Even Environmental improvement of urban slums, providing water and sanitation facilities in these slums also focused.

But still, urban sanitation condition was not too much improved so major milestone steps were taken during the sixth five years because in 1981- 90 United Nations declared as the decade of International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. India was a signatory country and



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pledged for full support in this action plan So under its compulsion in 1979 -80 Indian government launched a major program the named was Urban infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns. The aims of the plan were the improvement in urban infrastructure in towns and cities in a planned manner. This plan major objectives was Improving infrastructural facilities, improved on sanitation, water and sewerage treatment in urban areas.

Around 1980-81 another scheme launched the named was Integrated Low-Cost Sanitation Scheme. it was initially introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs. But later on, it was operated through the Ministry of Urban Development. This Scheme aim was converting dry latrines into low-cost sanitation units of two pit pour flush latrines and to construct low-cost sanitation units to EWS households who had no latrines in their household level in the urban areas. The cost-sharing was 75:15:10 between the centre, state and beneficiary respectively. The upper ceiling cost was Rs.10,000.

#### **Programs and policies 1990 to 2012**

In 1992-93 two major constitutional amendments 73rd and 74th were done. 73rd is related to Panchayati Raj and 74th belongs to urban local government. Three types of urban local government were introduced i.e. Municipal corporations, Municipal committees and Nagar panchayats. The 12th schedule mentioned the works of urban local governments So sanitation, water and sewage were under the control of local governments but they had not sufficient balances for huge amount projects. So, time to time, central governments introduced the schemes for urban infrastructure development so 1993 – 94 another central government launched a scheme for Megacities. It was applicable only Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad. Its objective was infrastructure development projects like water supply and sewerage, roads and bridges, city transport, solid waste management etc.

In 2005 this scheme was subsumed in Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM) It was also an important scheme of the ministry of urban development. This program main aims were basic Services for Urban poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). This project was based on integrated development of urban areas, through providing various facilities on shelter, basic services, sewerage, water supply, sanitation facilities. This project has divided the cities into three categories i.e. A, B, C i.e. the megacities (7), million-plus population (28) and less than million (28) respectively. Initially, this project was launched only for seven years but it was extended to two years March 2014, later on, another one year extended.

Looking the importance of sanitation so in 2008 remarkable step taken by UPA for drafted a National Urban Sanitation policy. This policy main vision was “All Indian cities and towns become totally sanitized, healthy and liveable and ensure and sustain good public health and environmental outcomes for all their citizens with a special focus on hygienic and

affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor and women.” This policy main motives were awareness generation and behaviour changes about the sanitation practices, achieving the Open defecation free cities through providing toilets facilities on individual and community level, the proper safe disposal of human excretes and liquid waste and proper maintenance utilization of sanitation facilities on the household, community and public level.

#### **Present times programs**

After the closing of JnNURM Government of India introduced another program after the observe the shortfall of JnNURM. The named was Smart city plan on 25 June 2015. Its objective was to “promote sustainable and inclusive cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of ‘Smart’ Solutions.” Smart cities focused on adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, employment, efficient public transport, affordable housing, IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance. The smart cities also focused on sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children and the elderly. The selection process of Smart Cities was Competitive manners. In January 2016, 20 smart cities were selected in Round 1 and 13 more selected in round 2. The total investment was proposed Rs.2,01,981 crore in 99 cities

Clean India was another important campaign started by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2nd October 2014 on the birthday of Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi. The main purpose of this campaign was to clean the country and providing a clean toilet to every person until the year 2019. This drive was divided into two sub-plans Swachh Bharat (rural) and Swachh Bharat (urban). Both sections had equal importance. The first target of this campaign was separate toilets for girls and boys on the school level. After that, this focused on personal and Public Conveniences. This clean India campaign had a provision that the government will not allow any school, college, bus stand to function without Public Conveniences facilities. Under this movement 2.5 lakh public and community toilets will be constructed. Solid waste management and proper awareness generation also focused.

The government of India also launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) in 2015. This mission main areas were water supply, sewerage treatment, enhancing basic amenities and increased the green belt in the cities. This project specially focused on urban poor and disadvantaged communities. This program total budget is Rs. 50,000 crore for five years from FY 2015-16 to FY 2019-20. This mission is covering 500 cities that include all cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities.

#### **Aim of the Study**

Highlights the various policies and program on urban sanitation after Independence of India

**Conclusion**

After independence, the Indian Government introduced various programs and policies for urban sanitation and still continue. But due to higher urban population growth, the problem was still not solved. The slums population were increasing day per day. Even solid waste and sewage treatment problem is increased. So the sustainable solution of urban sanitation should be used. These will be beneficiary for the long run.

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