

Swachh Bharat

1. Short Notes on ANY TWO of the following:

(a) Role of Women in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Women were pivotal to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's (SBA) success, especially in rural areas (SBM-G), by driving behavioral change and achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. As primary caregivers, they became powerful advocates for toilet construction and usage, leading demand from within households. Through Self-Help Groups, they spearheaded awareness campaigns and peer counseling, promoting health, safety, and dignity benefits. The mission's success was deeply tied to addressing women's safety and dignity concerns related to open defecation. Their active participation transformed SBA into a genuine people's movement.

(b) Gandhian Philosophy of Cleanliness

Mahatma Gandhi's cleanliness (Swachhata) philosophy was central to his vision of Swaraj and holistic human development. He saw cleanliness as a profound moral, spiritual, and social imperative, not just a physical act. Gandhi emphasized the inseparability of inner purity (mind, thoughts) and outer cleanliness (body, surroundings), believing a dirty environment reflected a dirty mind. He advocated for the dignity of all cleaning labor, often performing it himself to challenge caste prejudices. Recognizing the direct link between sanitation and public health, he urged individuals and communities to take collective ownership of hygiene, laying the moral groundwork for movements like SBA.

(c) Garbage Free Cities

"Garbage Free Cities" is an SBM-U 2.0 vision to transform urban India through effective solid waste management, moving beyond collection to scientific processing and disposal, minimizing landfills. Key components include 100% source segregation (wet, dry, hazardous), door-to-door collection, efficient transport, and scientific processing (composting, waste-to-energy). The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' "Star Rating Protocol" incentivizes cities to achieve higher standards. This status improves public health, reduces pollution, enhances urban aesthetics, and promotes a circular economy, signifying a shift towards sustainable urban waste management.

2. Discuss some of the main achievements of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), launched in 2014, significantly transformed India's sanitation landscape. Its main achievements, particularly in Phase I (SBM-G):

1. **Achieved Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status (Rural):** By October 2019, all Indian villages declared ODF, involving over 100 million household latrine constructions. This drastically improved public health, reduced waterborne diseases, and enhanced women's safety and dignity.
2. **Massive Toilet Construction:** The mission mobilized unprecedented toilet construction in both rural and urban areas, providing sanitation access to millions.

3. **Behavioral Change & Awareness:** Extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns promoted toilet usage, leading to a significant shift in public attitudes and fostering collective responsibility for hygiene.
4. **Focus on Sustainability:** The mission evolved (SBM-G Phase II & SBM-U 2.0) to sustain ODF status and manage solid/liquid waste (ODF Plus), shifting focus to usage, maintenance, and comprehensive waste management for long-term outcomes.
5. **Urban Sanitation Improvements:** Urban efforts focused on public toilets and improved solid waste management (door-to-door collection, processing), aiming for "Garbage Free Cities," leading to cleaner environments and better waste segregation.
6. **Economic & Social Benefits:** Studies indicate economic gains from improved sanitation (reduced healthcare costs, increased productivity) and enhanced social equity and dignity for marginalized communities.

SBA undeniably brought sanitation to the forefront, achieving remarkable progress in public hygiene and health across India.

3. How does the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's vision align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations?

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) strongly aligns with multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing India's commitment to global sustainability.

1. **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation:** SBA's core goal of universal, equitable access to safe sanitation and ending open defecation directly contributes to SDG 6 targets. Its focus on toilet construction and ODF Plus initiatives directly addresses this.
2. **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being:** Improved sanitation directly enhances health. SBA's reduction of open defecation significantly curtails waterborne diseases, leading to fewer illnesses, reduced child mortality, and better public health, thus supporting SDG 3.
3. **SDG 5: Gender Equality:** Lack of safe sanitation disproportionately affects women and girls. SBA's provision of accessible toilets improved their dignity and safety, reducing harassment risks and boosting girls' school attendance, aligning with SDG 5.
4. **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:** SBM-U's focus on urban solid waste management, door-to-door collection, scientific processing, and "Garbage Free Cities" directly contributes to making urban areas cleaner and more sustainable, as envisioned by SDG 11.
5. **SDG 1: No Poverty:** Improved health from better sanitation reduces healthcare costs for poor households, allowing savings and investment, indirectly aiding poverty reduction (SDG 1).
6. **SDG 4: Quality Education:** Access to proper school sanitation is vital for student attendance, especially for girls. SBA's construction of separate school toilets improved attendance and retention, aligning with SDG 4.

SBA is a prime example of a national initiative that accelerates progress towards interconnected global SDGs, demonstrating India's commitment to a sustainable and equitable future.

4. What is community mobilisation? What is its importance in achieving the goals of sustainable sanitation. Discuss with examples.

What is Community Mobilisation?

Community mobilisation is a process where a community identifies its needs, plans solutions, and takes collective action to achieve common goals. It empowers members to own issues, fostering participation, building local capacity, and leveraging social networks. It's a bottom-up approach, making people agents of their own change.

Importance in Achieving Sustainable Sanitation:

Community mobilisation is crucial for sustainable sanitation because it drives **behavior change, ownership, and long-term maintenance**, which are vital beyond just building infrastructure.

1. Behavioral Change & Adoption:

- **Importance:** Sanitation success depends on people *using* toilets and adopting hygiene. Top-down mandates often fail here.
- **How it helps:** Community involvement in discussing sanitation benefits (health, dignity) and open defecation impacts leads to internalized messages and peer advocacy. Collective decision-making is more effective than external persuasion.
- **Example:** In SBA (Grameen), **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)** triggered communities to recognize contamination, leading to collective decisions to become ODF, build their own toilets, and enforce usage.

2. Ownership & Maintenance:

- **Importance:** Toilets and waste systems need continuous use and maintenance. Without ownership, facilities fail.
- **How it helps:** Community participation in planning, design, and construction fosters pride and responsibility. They are more likely to maintain "their" infrastructure and establish collective maintenance mechanisms.
- **Example: Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs),** comprising local residents, oversee toilet construction, hygiene promotion, and crucial maintenance of community sanitation assets, ensuring longevity.

3. Contextualized Solutions:

- **Importance:** Sanitation needs vary by local geography, culture, and resources. One-size-fits-all solutions rarely work.
- **How it helps:** Mobilisation allows for tailored solutions integrating local knowledge, preferences, and resources, making them appropriate and sustainable.
- **Example:** Flood-prone communities might choose elevated latrines, while water-scarce areas opt for composting toilets, driven by local input.

4. Resource Mobilization:

- **Importance:** Community contributions (labor, materials, small funds) augment government support and increase commitment.
- **How it helps:** Mobilized communities pool resources, volunteer labor, and raise funds to supplement schemes, accelerating progress and fostering self-reliance.

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