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Manual Scavenging in India: A Disgrace to the Country

By B.N. Srivastava

Concept Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., 1997. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. India is the only country in the world where a particular section of the society is traditionally responsible for keeping the habitation clean by removing the waste products of the society including the human excreta. This is a disgrace to the country, Instances are not rare even today when one can see people carrying night-soil in buckets on their heads or removing human excreta by physical touch. Who are these people? Why they are compelled to do such type of inhuman and dirty work and how long these neglected sections of society will remain under such bondage? Is there any solution to liberate them before we enter the 21st century? These are some of the complex questions which are agitating the minds of the well-meaning people in the country. The country which won freedom from the slavery of the British people 49 years ago is not able to liberate from human bondage more than one million people who are called Bhangis, Mehtars, Balmikis, etc., and are still engaged in their traditional occupation of sweeping and scavenging. Is it not a shame on us when we force a person to clean...



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