

FROM CLEAN TO GREEN: UNVEILING THE EVOLUTION OF SWACCH BHARAT MISSION IN PHASE II FOR SUSTAINABLE SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

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Abstract:

The article discusses on second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission, aims to sustain open defecation-free status and manage solid and liquid waste for visual cleanliness by 2024-25. The mission, spanning both rural and urban areas, focuses on behavioral change, solid waste management, and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation. The content highlights the challenges of municipal solid waste generation and the need for effective waste disposal. Budgetary allocations, survey reports, and special features of Open Defecation Free Plus villages are discussed. The study concludes with the importance of creating a healthy, garbage-free environment with sustainable waste management infrastructure.

Key points: Swachh Bharat, green India, waste management, open defecation free, hygienic sanitation

Introduction

Clean India mission is the world's largest toilet building and behavioral change initiative. The movement aims to open defecation free sanitation system in India. Open defecation is one of the main causes of health risk and as well as a cause of child mortality. That historical movement highlighted to remove the superstitions, old myths, and misconceptions to build toilet with each and every house. Famous public figures and celebrities are engaged to promote the theme of clean India. Making green India is a worthwhile initiative to realize the dream of swachha Bharat. And phase two of swachh Bharat mission will be a strong initiative to implement green India project.

After achieving the Open defecation free status, Swachh Bharat mission, Phase II, was launched in 2020-21. The objective of Swachh Bharat Mission was, to sustain the open defecation free status of the villages and manage solid and liquid waste to bring about visual cleanliness by 2024-25. The project aims to transform all the villages from ODF to ODF Plus.

Water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for children and their families to live healthy, prosperous lives. Clean and safe water supplies reduce the time needed to collect water. This allows children to attend school and parents, particularly mothers, to have more time to generate

income for their families. Safe, private toilets and hand washing facilities with soap keep children and families free from disease.

Objective of the study

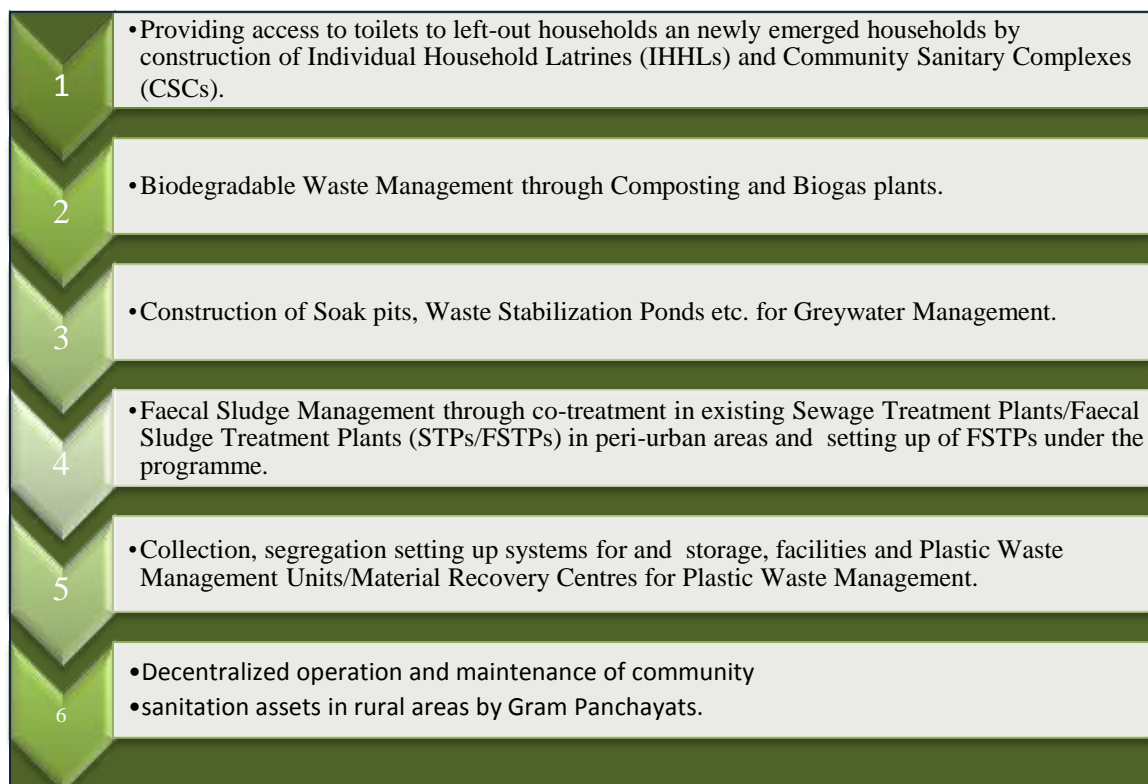
- To describe the overall picture of Swachh Bharat Mission, phase II
- To discuss on the highlighting areas of Swachh Bharat Mission, phase II

Content Analysis

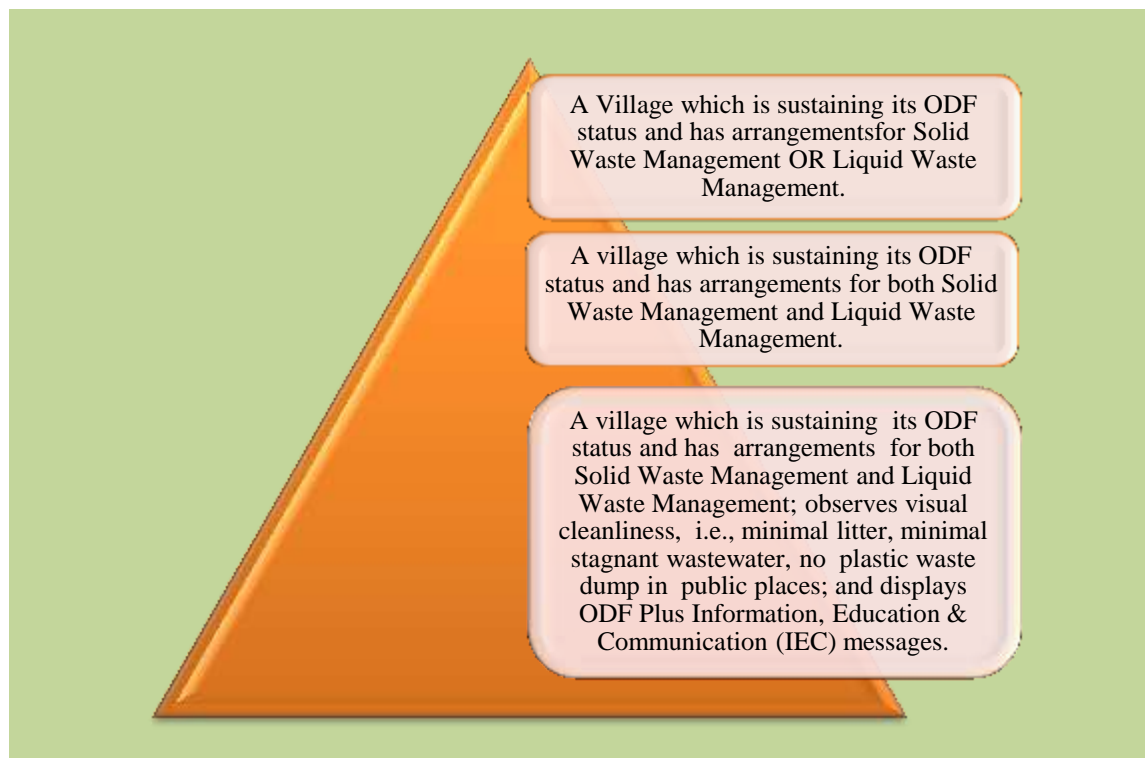
After the immense success of the first phase of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the SBM phase II project was taken up in 2020. One of the objectives of this project was to spread the ‘Swachhta Abhiyan’ to every region of India. The mission emphasizes on solid waste management along with construction of toilet in every house.

Because not only should a healthy bathroom be built, there should be adequate water supply. Every house should have clean water and water supply. At the same time, it is necessary to transfer the waste of each house to the proper place of garbage. Drainage of dirty water used in bathrooms is very important. Purification of ponds and reservoirs, are also essential.

To achieve the goal, focus is given to the following areas under the programme:



Types of ODF Plus Villages:



Government of India has approved a total outlay of Rs. 1.40 lakh crores to facilitate the transformation of villages from ODF to ODF Plus.

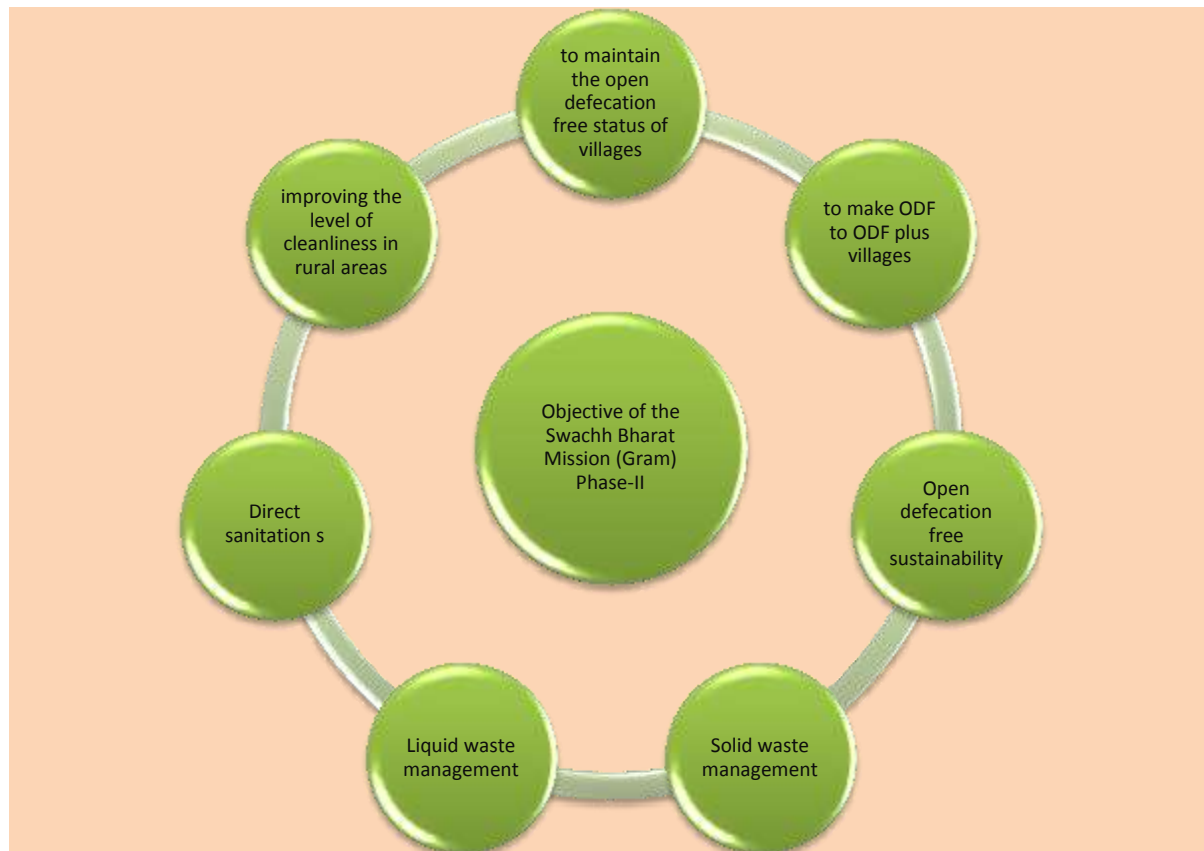
Waste management is a public health challenge. According to swachh bharat newsletter, India generates about 62 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) annually. Collection rates range from below 50% in small cities to 70%-90% in large cities and 22%-28% of waste is untreated.

For sanitation, the first phase of the government's Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) eliminated open defecation among 500 million people, alleviating the acute health risks and preventing pollution of land and water bodies. Effective solid waste management will lead to a reduction in insanitary spaces. This in turn will create a behavioral change essential to ensure toilet usage.

Hindustan Times reported (2017) that Urban India generates 151,831 metric tonnes of waste per day. If not collected, treated and disposed safely, this can cause serious environmental and health hazards.

In 2014, Rs 7,424 crore was allocated towards solid waste management (SWM), while for the construction of household and community toilets Rs 4,860 crore was allocated. But from 2014 to 2017, only Rs 1,465 crore has been sanctioned for SWM, whereas Rs 2,190 crore was sanctioned for the construction of household and community toilets.

Goals of Swachh Bharat Mission, phase 2



UNICEF said that, India had the remarkable achievement of providing toilet access at home to over 105 million additional rural households in just five years, which meant that over 500 million people across 630,000 villages had the opportunity to be pulled out of the practice of open defecation. This feat is something that all can be proud of, and UNICEF is pleased to be a partner in the effort.

Swachh Bharat advertisements now talk about the need for a toilet in every household thereby linking toilet inextricably to the idea of a clean India. The advertisements are directed towards behavioral change and may indeed aid in promoting toilet usage but the understanding that toilet construction guarantees usage is extremely presumptuous. Most importantly, the absence of proper solid waste management from this rhetoric is hugely problematic.

Salient features of the Mission

- Sustainable Sanitation
- Effective Waste Management
- Focus on Source Segregation of Waste
- Achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status

- Welfare of Informal Workers

Budgetary allocation

The Economic Survey of 2018-19 had indicated that, in the Union Budget 2019-20, the government will focus on the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, that, SBM has made a positive impact on the state of health and sanitation. After building more than 9.5 crore toilets and making 5.6 lakh villages open-defecation free under the mission, the focus will now move to technologies for turning waste into energy and plan for solid waste management in rural areas.

The Budget outlay of Rs 12,644 crore allocated for SBM (Gramin) in the current budget is around Rs 4,334 crore lower than the revised estimate of 2018-19. The expenditure budget on externally aided programme under SBM (G) has increased between 2017-18 and Financial Year 2019-20 and it is also the highest.

The Budget allocated Rs 10,000 crore for National Rural Drinking Water Mission — double than the previous year. This sharp shift is a sign of urgency in tackling constant qualitative and quantitative water issues the country faces. The Economic Survey presented by Chief Economic Advisor KV Subramanian on July 4, 2019 identified the need of water sustainability, even in toilets.

SBM G AND SBM U

Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)], will focus on sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural India. The programme will work towards ensuring that no one is left behind and everyone uses a toilet. SBM(G) Phase-II has been implemented from the year 2020-21 and will be completed in 2024-25 in a mission mode.

Oct 2, 2021, On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). He asserted that the missions were aimed at making India's cities garbage-free and water-secure. He also said that 'garbage mountains' in cities will be processed and removed and Under the new phase, it will be ensured that no untreated drain waste is discharged into any river of the country. The goal of SBM-U 2.0 is to make cities completely free of garbage. The outlay for the mission is around Rs 1.41 lakh crore.

Modern technology is also being used to expedite the development of clean cities in the country. The prime minister mentioned the recently-launched National Automobile Scrapage Policy, and pointed out that this policy strengthens the campaign for 'waste to wealth' and a circular economy.

The Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 will focus on source segregation of solid waste, utilizing the principles of 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management.

Survey Report

As part of the National Dissemination and Consultation Workshop on SBM (G) Phase-II, a survey report on the impact of the mission on convenience, safety and self respect of women in rural India was released. The report claimed 93 per cent women feel safer from assault by not going out in the open to defecate, 91 per cent women save up to one hour of their day earlier spent on walking to defecation sites and 88 per cent women are proud to own a toilet.

93 per cent women felt that they need not have to stop eating to control the urge to defecate anymore, 81 per cent women said they need not worry about privacy while changing menstrual hygiene material anymore, 93 per cent women no longer fear contracting infections by not going out in the open to defecate. The survey, done by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UNICEF during February, 2020, covered 6,993 women living in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Special features of ODF plus village

SBM-U aimed for all statutory towns to

- (i) Achieve 100% ODF status,
- (ii) Ensure 100% scientific solid waste management (SWM), and
- (iii) Promote behavior change through Jan Andolan (public movement).

The mission achieved significant levels of success against these objectives, with the massive engagement of citizens across all categories of society.

SBM-U highlighted the need for greater attention to

- (i) Managing different types of solid wastes;
- (ii) Budgetary support for disposal of legacy waste, management of plastic waste, and construction and demolition waste;
- (iii) continued investment in sanitation to prevent back-sliding;
- (iv) Sustained and adequate infrastructure;
- (v) Capacity building and skilling of all relevant stakeholders; and
- (vi) More extensive information, education, and communication (IEC) outreach.

SBM-U, SBM 2.0 was launched in 2021, committing to making all cities 'Garbage Free' by 2026, while maintaining ODF status across 4,372 urban local bodies (ULB). Asian Development Bank's (ADB) proposed support for SBM 2.0 will incorporate lessons learned from its long engagement with Ministry of housing and urban affairs(MOHUA) in national flagship missions and at state and ULB(urban local bodies) level. The interventions will also improve the urban economy through increased livability and investments.

The Economic Survey presented by Chief Economic Advisor KV Subramanian on July 4, 2019, identified the need of water sustainability, even in toilets. In Himachal Pradesh's Mandi, 4,490 women groups, comprising about 70,000 women, take turns to clean villages and sensitize people about total sanitation and water conservation.

In fact, the Self help groups of Kothi gram panchayat have innovative ways to manage waste. They collect polythene bags from households and weave those to prepare a sheet, which is then

used to line compost pits to regulate its moisture level and aid in composting. The women also prepare bin bags, which are hung from trees along trunk roads, so people do not litter roads. The incentives for SHGs as proposed under Union Budget 2019-20 is expected to further strengthen the role of women in Swachh Bharat Mission, specifically in solid waste management.

Conclusion

The second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), which has a total outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crore and is aimed at ensuring effective solid and liquid waste management in every panchayat. SBM (G) Phase-II will focus on sustaining the gains made in the first phase of the programme in the past five years in terms of toilet access and usage, and will ensure that no one is left behind.

On February 19, 2020, the cabinet approved the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The project focused on sustainability of open defecation free villages and management of solid and liquid waste. Since the launch of the mission in 2014, over 10 crore toilets have been built in rural areas. Press release, by central government, reported that, over 5.9 lakh villages in 699 districts of 35 states/UTs has declared themselves open defecation free (ODF).

Solid Waste Management (SWM) has emerged a significant development challenge for India. Due to climate conditions, microbial decomposition, land-filling processes and refuse characteristics, improper waste disposal produces several hazardous gases and leachates. Most Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) do not have the adequate infrastructure and face several strategic and institutional shortcomings such as poor institutional capability, financial limits and lack of political will in their attempt at keeping cities and towns clean. Despite the fact that many Indian ULBs get government aid, practically all of them remain financially vulnerable. Additionally, currently India has exhausted most of its available landfill sites and the responsible ULBs do not have the required resources to acquire new areas.

In the light of the above challenges the need for SBM-U 2.0 is felt now more than ever. The financial outlay for the SBM-U 2.0 is set at Rs.1,41,600 crores out of which the central government would be contributing a share of Rs.36,465 crores between the periods of 2021-22 to 2025-2026.

The main Moto of the Swachha Bharat Abhiyan, is to make a healthy life for the citizens, living in resilient and garbage-free cities with clean air, clean water and clean land. The utmost outcome of the mission is, to create healthy and hygienic Sanitation system for all; and to make solid waste management infrastructure; and also enabling environment for sustainable waste management strengthened.

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