
Swachh Bharath - Swachh Vidhyalaya: A Collective Social Responsibility

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Abstract:

Swachh Bharath - Swachh Vidhyalaya is the national campaign driving "Clean India: Clean Schools". A key feature of the campaign is to ensure that every school in India has a set of functioning and well maintained water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in schools refer to a combination of technical and human development components that are necessary to produce a healthy school environment and to develop or support appropriate health and hygiene behaviours. It improves children health, school enrolment, attendance and retention and paves the way for new generation of healthy children.

Introduction:

Swachh Bharath Abhiyan is started by the Government to make India a completely clean India. Clean India was a dream seen by the Mahatma Gandhi regarding his time he said that, "Sanitation is more important than Independence". During his time he was well aware of the poor and dirty condition of the country that's why he made various efforts to complete his dream however could not be successful. As he dreamt of clean India a day, he said that both cleanliness and sanitation are integral parts of healthy and peaceful living. Unfortunately, India became lack of cleanliness and sanitation even after 67 years of Independence. According to the statistics, it has seen that only few percentage of total population have access to the toilets. It is programmes run by the government to seriously work to fulfil the vision of Father of Nation by calling the people from all walks of life to make it successful globally.

Swach Bharath Abhiyan:

Swachh Bharath Abhiyan (clean Indian Mission) is a national level campaign by the Government of India. Swachh Bharath Abhiyan was announced by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on Independence Day and launched on 2nd oct 2014, Gandhi Jayanti. On this day, Modi addressed the citizens of India in a public gathering held at Rajghat, New Delhi, India and asked everyone to join this campaign. Later on this day, Modi himself swept a parking area at Mandir Marg police station followed by pavement in Valmiki Basti a colony of sanitation workers, at Mandir Marg, near Connaught place New Delhi.

India president Pranab Mukharjee asked every Indian to spend 100 hours annually in this drive. This campaign is supported by the India Army, Boarder Security Force, and Indian Air Force.

This mission has to be completed by 150 birth anniversary of Bapu 2nd Oct, 2019 in the next five years from the launch date. There are various important phases such as planning phase, implementation phase and sustainability phase.

Objectives of Swachh Bharath Abhiyan:

- Construct Individual, Cluster and community toilets.
- Eliminate or reduce open defecation. Open defecation is one of the main causes of deaths of thousands of children each year.
- Construct latrines and works towards establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring latrine use.
- Create public awareness about the drawbacks of open defecation and promotion of latrine use.
- To lay water pipelines in all villages, ensuring water supply to all households by 2019.
- To make Indian open defecation free India by 2019, by providing access to toilet facilities to all.
- Villages to be kept clean with solid and liquid waste management.
- To provide toilets ,separately for boys and girls in all schools by 15.08.2015

Swachh Bharath – Swachh Vidhyalaya:

The Swachh Bharat-Swachh Vidyalaya campaign began on 25th September, 2014 and will last for a month till 31st October 2014 in Kendriya Vidhyalaya and Navodaya Vidhyalaya Sangathans. During the period many activities were organised with regard to cleaning, sanitation and hygiene. Children's cabinets were constituted to supervise and monitor cleanliness drive. Talk in the school assembly by a few children on different aspects of cleanliness every day was also conducted. The schools organised film, shows, model activities on hygiene, essay, painting and other competitions, role plays etc. to reiterate the message of introduce half an hour cleaning campaign twice a week in the school involving students, teachers, parents and community members.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools:

Water, sanitation and hygiene education in schools provides safe drinking water, improves access to clean sanitation facilities and promotes lifelong health. A good hygiene practice in schools enhances the well-being of children and their families, and paves the way for new generations of healthy children. Proper sanitation and drinking water facilities in schools significantly reduce hygiene-related disease; increase student attendance and learning achievements; and contributes to dignity, inclusion and equity. These attributes serve as a base for on-going development and economic growth.

Key Commitments for Swachh Vidhyalaya:

In Indian Constitution "Free and Compulsory Education" to all children in the age group of 6-14 years as a fundamental right is provided through Article 21A. India's strong commitment and

hygiene facilities is supported by legislation and is championed by the Honourable Prime Minister and supported by the Right to Education Act-2009 which necessities ensuring drinking water and sanitation facilities in schools. The national flagship programmes, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Nirmal Gram Puraskar, the policies and programmes like Mid-Day Meal Programme, Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidhyalaya (KGBV) also support this requirement. The ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) national sanitation guidelines provide for additional sanitation facilities in schools, including incinerators for menstrual hygiene management through the NGP incentive.

Swachh Vidhyalaya - Essential elements:

Every school in the country must have a set of essential interventions that relate to both technical and human development aspects of a good Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme.

1. Sanitation

- Separate toilets for boys and girls, with one unit generally having one toilet plus 3 urinals. The ratio to be maintained is preferably one unit for every 40 students.
- Menstrual hygiene management facilities including soap, adequate and private space for changing, adequate water for cloth washing and disposal facilities for menstrual waste, including an incinerator and dust bins.

2. Daily Hand Washing with soap before Mid-Day Meal

- Sufficient group hand washing facilities allowing groups of 10-12 students to wash hands at the same time.
- The hand washing station should be simple, scalable and sustainable, relying on usage of minimum water.
- These hand washing facilities can be developed using local materials.

3. Drinking Water

- Daily provision of child friendly and sustainable safe drinking water and adequate water for hand washing. In addition water for school cleaning and also food preparation and cooking. Safe handling and storage of drinking water should be practiced throughout the school.

4. Operation and Maintenance

- All water, sanitation and hand washing facilities need to be clean, functional and well maintained to ensure that the intended results are achieved and capital investments made in installing these systems are not lost.
- Annual Maintenance Contracts can be issued, which will include regular maintenance of facilities, regular supply of cleaning materials, consumables like soap, disinfectants, brooms,

brushes, buckets etc. The AMC may include identification of repair tasks and arrangement for repair facilities.

- Alternatively some local arrangements can be made, which can include appointment of local sweepers/cleaners, appointed by the school/district, who are provided with a regular supply of consumables. Regular/daily inspection of water and sanitation facilities by an appropriate group of persons as appointed by the SMC.

5. Behaviour Change Activities

- Water, sanitation and hygiene behaviour change communication activities should be part of the daily routine of all children. Hygiene messages may be integrated into the textbook curriculum or may be imparted through supplementary reading materials, activity based learning methodologies or even during the morning assembly sessions.
- Girls must be taught menstrual hygiene management by female teachers in a sensitive and supportive manner and also take steps to encourage and support girls during menstruation so they do not miss school.
- This involves menstrual hygiene education sessions at school, along with steps to ensure that girls have a private place to wash and change their clothes. Existing facilities will be used in some cases; in other situations, a new facility will need to be constructed. Other steps that can be taken to support girls include stockpiling extra sanitary pads and clothes (such as school uniforms) for emergencies, along with enhanced training programmes for teachers

6. Enhanced Capacities

- It is essential that capacities are improved at various levels within the sector, to develop the right mix of skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate, finance, manage and monitor water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in schools effectively. For example teachers need to understand ways of ensuring equitable use and maintenance of facilities, making sure hygiene is adequately promoted and that monitoring of these elements takes place regularly at the school level.
- Furthermore, new learning need to be infused in the sector, along with newer ways of programming and implementing a water, sanitation and hygiene programme in schools.

The benefits of water sanitation and hygiene to school children:

- The provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in school secures a healthy school environment and protects children from illness and exclusion. It is a first step towards a healthy physical learning environment, benefiting both learning and health.
- Children who are healthy and well-nourished can fully participate in school and get the most from the education.

- Hygiene education in schools helps promote those practices that would prevent water and sanitation related diseases as well as encourage healthy behaviour in future generations of adults.
- Girls are particularly vulnerable to dropping out of school, partly because many are reluctant to continue their education when toilets and washing facilities are not private, not safe or simply not available. Basic facilities that provide for good hygiene and privacy, along with sensitive health promotion assist girls to stay in school and complete their education.
- Hygiene in school also supports school nutrition. The simple act of washing hands with soap before eating the school mid-day meal assists to break disease transmission routes.
- Children with disabilities are also vulnerable to dropping out of school. Accessible school facilities are a key to school attendance for children with disabilities. An effective water, sanitation and hygiene programmes seeks to remove barriers by promoting inclusive design – user friendly, child friendly facilities that benefit all users, including adolescent girls, small children and children who are sick or disabled.
- Having a clean school fosters a child's pride in his or her school and community. It enables every child become an agent of change for improving water, sanitation and hygiene practices in their families and within their community.
- School water and sanitation clubs encourage students to participate in taking care of latrines and hand washing stations, and in providing safe water where necessary. Club members create rotating lists of responsibilities, sharing sanitation and water related chores among both boys and girls.

A Minimum Swachh Vidhyalaya Package:

Every school must have Swachh Vidhyalaya Package i.e.

- Drinking Water
- Toilets
- Hand wash and sanitation
- Operation and Maintenance
- Capacity Building

School Maintenance Schedule

Some members of the SMC as well as school teachers will have to take responsibility for maintaining the school Operation and Maintenance (O&M) schedule. A general checklist of maintenance schedule is as follows:

Daily maintenance

- General cleaning of indoor floors of the entire school complex including toilet and kitchen.
- Cleaning of any water-logging in the entire school premises.
- Dusting of general storage, desks and benches and toy/book storage for children.

Weekly maintenance

- Check for all leaky taps, valves, flushing cisterns etc.
- Check for any blockage in the drains, sewage pipes and waste water pipes.
- Check for loose locks and shutters of all the doors, windows and almirah etc.

Fortnightly maintenance

- Cleaning of dust from all appliances and walls etc.
- Remove dumped rubble/debris/building waste from the premises.
- Observe any water logging in open areas.
- Check for clogged drains on the ground, courtyard, and water outlets from courtyards.

Monthly maintenance

- Check for any damp marks on the walls, ceilings, and floor.
- Check for any termites in the building.
- Check for any cracks and proper hardware operation of all doors, windows and almirahs.
- Check if main water storage tank cover and outlets are leaking and the stored water is clean.
- Levelling and cleaning of open school ground.
- Thorough checking of electrical lines and earthing (if applicable).

Annual maintenance

- General repair and maintenance work during the vacation.
- Structural repair and plaster work.
- Associated painting work.

Children as Change Agents:

Schools are an established entry point for learning. They present an opportunity to engage parents and community in general, either through knowledge dissemination via children or through direct engagement and demonstration at the school. Children are fast learners and adapt their behaviours more easily than adults. Children are also effective role models. They may question existing practices in their households and choose to demonstrate good hygiene. What they learn at school is likely to be passed on to their peers and siblings, and to their own children if they become parents. Curricula also should not be limited to just formal course instruction. Student groups, such as school health clubs, are often in need of fun and exciting activities for spreading health and hygiene messages to other students and the broader community. Child cabinets or 'Bal Sansads' are often established, where members play leadership roles in ensuring cleanliness and hygiene in schools. Assisted by the entire student body, the Bal Sansad generally takes on the responsibility to maintain the school facilities as well as track and sustain healthy behaviours and sanitation practices.

This includes ensuring cleanliness of the school environment, checking on students' personal hygiene practices, following up on absentees, and supervising the lending of books and other materials from the school library that reinforce healthy behaviour and habits.

Conclusion:

We can say Swachh Bharath – Swachh Vidhyalaya campaign, a nice welcome step to the Clean India: Clean Schools till 2019. As we all heard about the most famous proverb that Cleanliness is next to Godliness, we can say surely that clean India Campaign (Swachh Bharath Abhiyan) will really bring godliness all over the country in few years if it is followed by the people of India in effective manner. A healthy country and a health society need its citizens to be healthy and clean in every walk of life.

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