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AN ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER SWACH BHARAT ABHIYAAN IN URBAN AREAS

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ABSTRACT: The Indian Government started one of the major financial program on sanitation in 2014 namely- 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan' with the objective of eradicating open defecation completely and maintaining the needed behavior of sanitation for healthy living of life in society. Sufficient public fund has been allocated for the program. No previous government has ever tried to resolve the problem of sanitation with this much financial commitment. The most important objective of the research paper is to know about the sufficiency rate of financial assistance given under the program and to review the effectiveness and efficiency in allocation and utilization of fund while keeping in mind its objectives. Achievement of objectives under the program is not equal in large country like India because some states need more funds as well as attention for attaining its stated objectives. Allocating public finance is not enough to get the result. There should be optimum utilization of the funds for achieving sustainable results. The study has been conducted in the Gohana city of Sonapat district. Data has been collected through simple random sampling method with the sample size of 80 respondents using interview schedule and interview study tools.

KEYWORDS:- Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Sanitation, Financial Assistance.

1) INTRODUCTION: Adequate sanitation facilities, hygienic behavior of people and proper disposal of waste are some of the traits of a civilized society. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. It safeguards the human dignity of an individual in efficient manner. Sanitation has been a key priority area in India from the very beginning. Focus on sanitation and hygiene was defined as one of the foremost priorities in Vedic scriptures also. Ancient civilizations like the Indus Valley were also known for taking sanitation as their priority, because in the historical sites remnants of toilets have been found. Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation, declared sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness as most important part of living. One of the major goals of his life was complete sanitation for everyone. Keeping in mind the importance of sanitation in mind, former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said that- "the day when each of us get toilet for usage, I shall come to know that India has reached the pinnacle of growth".

In developing and under developed countries, maintaining sanitation has always been a big challenge for the governments and civil society both. Open defecation, inadequate hand-washing, inadequate sanitation and lack of safe drinking water facilities together are responsible to about 58 percent of total diarrhea deaths. In children younger than five years, through proper and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene, 5.6 percent of deaths occurring from these reasons, could be saved. A number of political,

economic, cultural and social issues are connected with poor sanitation. According to Water and Sanitation's Report, "inadequate sanitation resulted in loss of 53.8 billion US dollar which accounts for reduction of 6.4 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2006".

In India, approximately more than 50 percent of population defecates in open areas which are seriously shocking as well as unfavorable for the development of any country. As per Census 2011, out of total 246.6 million homes, only 46.9 percent had toilet constructed and 3.2 percent went to public toilets and the rest, 49 percent practised open defecation. Approx 40 percent of the Indian population reside in these five states- Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh in which there are close to 45 percent of homes without any toilet facility as per 2011 Census. Out of total population in the world who defecate openly, 30 percent of open defecators belong to these five states.

Sanitation was one of the most important parameter of development for Indian Government from the beginning of five year plan. With an objective of improving the quality of life and health of rural people and also to give privacy and respect to women, Government of India launched its first sanitation program, 'Central Rural Sanitation Program (CRSP)' in 1986. This program was mainly focused on giving subsidies for availing sanitation facilities to people. In order to know the effectiveness of the program, Government of India undertook a study in 1996-97 in which it was found that mere distribution of subsidies for toilets construction will not change the behavior of people but there is strong need of generating awareness, giving education to people at large about the importance of practicing sanitation in daily routine for desired results of program. On April 1, 1999 this program (Central Rural Sanitation Program) was redesigned into a new program called – 'Total Sanitation Campaign'. This program was majorly emphasized upon Human Resource Development, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) and capacity enhancement practices with the aim of generation of awareness and demand among rural people for sanitary facilities and made a positive shift based on 'community led' and 'people centered' approach as a whole. This program was also not successful in bringing fruitful results because of difference between theory and practice, defective monitoring procedure, unattractive career inducements, large scale corruption and resistance for any kind of change in process. Total Sanitation Campaign was further renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyaan (NBA) in 2012 with an objective of accelerating the scope of sanitation in rural areas of the country which will cover rural community as a whole. Its aim is to achieve the vision of "Nirmal Bharat" by 2022 through innovative and saturation approach and to create "Nirmal Gram Panchayat". This Abhiyaan also has its drawbacks in terms of poor funding, no emphasis on urban areas and defaulting monitoring agency.

After independence, various programs have been started by Indian Government in the field of sanitation in which Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan is one of the most popular program all over the world. Swachh Bharat Mission started from the vision and insight from the address of the president of India in his special address in the joint session of Parliament on June 09, 2014: "we must not tolerate the indignity of people without the facility of toilets and public spaces overburdened with garbage. A "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan" will be launched for ensuring sanitation, hygiene and waste management across the nation. This will be an appropriate tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary which will be celebrated in 2019". On September 24, 2014, Union Cabinet chaired by Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, gave its approval for reconstruction of "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyaan" into a new program named- "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan" and launched this program on October 02, 2014. It was developed as a new thrust to the sanitation campaign which is majorly focused on critical issues related to sanitation and removes hurdles that are deteriorating the desired results. This program has been setup in order to speed up the pace of efforts for achieving vision of universal sanitation coverage and putting its emphasis majorly on sanitation. It includes improving the degree of sanitation in rural areas by activities of solid and waste management & making gram panchayat Open Defecation Free and clean to live. Implementation of this mission is done through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and through the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for urban and rural India respectively. There are two other ministries also namely- Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development which will be responsible for the construction of school and anganwadi toilets. Department of School Education and Literacy will be specifically fulfilled this objective. First phase of the mission was started for five years started from 02 October, 2014 till 02 October, 2019.

1.1) PATTERN OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MISSION

Based on the unit and per capita cost for the various components of the mission, the anticipated cost of implementation is Rs. 62,009 Crores. The government of India will share amounts to Rs.14,623 Crores. as per approved funding pattern. A minimum amount equivalent to 25 percent of government of India funding that means Rs.4,874 Crores. will be shared by the States as State/Urban Local Body's portion additionally. Swachh Bharat Cess of 0.5 percent has been created on all the taxable items in India in order to collect fund from November 15, 2015. The balanced amounts will be collected through various other means/source of fund which includes:

- ✓ Participation of Private Sector
- ✓ State Government/Urban Local Body additional resources
- ✓ Beneficiary Share
- ✓ User Charges
- ✓ Leveraging of Land
- ✓ Inventive Revenue Field
- ✓ Swachh Bharat Kosh setup on November 24, 2014
- ✓ Corporate Social Responsibility
- ✓ Borrow from the market
- ✓ External Help, Any other source of fund can be used for the aforesaid purpose. There are not strictly limitations for only these means.

Swachh Bharat Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme in which major share of expenditure is contributed by Centre and rest of the amount is contributed by State. There is also provision of sharing through public Private Partnership.

Table 1.1
Funding pattern for Individual household toilet

Places where expenditure is to incurred	Centre's share of expenditure(Rs.)	State's share of expenditure(Rs.)
Normal states of India	4000(75%)	2667(25%)
Union Territory with Legislature	4000(80%)	1333(20%)
Union Territory without Legislature	5333(100%)	Nil
North Eastern and Himalayan States	10800(90%)	1200(10%)

Table 1.1 shows the pattern of financial assistance distributed among centre and state. For the construction of individual household toilets in normal states of India, state's share will be minimum of 25 percent (Rs. 2667) of the amount contributed by the centre's share which is Rs. 4000 per toilet (75 percent of the estimated cost). Total unit cost can range from Rs. 16,000-20,000 depending upon the circumstances. Per unit cost of individual household toilet is Rs. 5333 for the Union Territories. Centre's contribution will be Rs. 4000 (80 percent of the total cost) and the contribution of union territories will be Rs. 1333 (20 percent of the total cost) for the construction of toilets in Union Territories with legislature but whole contribution will be of centre (Rs. 5333) for the toilet construction in case of Union Territories without legislature. For the North Eastern and Himalayan states, the funding pattern is slightly different. Centre will contribute 90 percent of the total cost (Rs 12000) which is Rs. 10,800 and states will contribute remaining 10 percent of the total cost which is Rs. 1200.

Objective of the Study:

- Every study has some objectives on which they are focused upon. So the objectives of the study are:
1. To examine the procedure of Fund allotment to the beneficiary.
 2. To find out the problems faced by the respondents while receiving grant from authorities under the scheme.

Research Methodology:

Gohana is a city in Sonapat district of state of Haryana. As per purposive non probability sampling method, this city has been selected for the present study. During 2014-2019, 500 application for the construction of the household toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission has been received but final installments was paid to only 320 beneficiaries who uploaded the picture of constructed toilets on Management Information System of the mission portal. Rest of the beneficiaries did not upload the picture of constructed toilet so authorities did not release them their second installment and notice has been sent to concerned beneficiaries for clarification of why picture has not been uploaded on the portal. In order to draw a suitable and effective sample size, numbers of constructed toilets was written down on a page. Out of this total universe, sample of 80 beneficiaries has been selected by using fixed interval method by choosing every 4th number in the list.

Interview Schedule and interview method has been used for collection of primary data. One interview schedule was prepared in order to extract information from beneficiaries. One interview schedule and interview method was used to collect information from official authorities operating under the Mission. Secondary data for the study was collected from concerned Project officer (Executive officer in the Municipal Council) of Gohana city, research articles, concerned books, journals, newspapers and magazines. Collected data was then processed and made presentable by using different forms of tables and processed data was presented using different diagrams, graphs, pie-charts. Collected data is analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

2) DATA ANALYSIS:

This section is basically related with the data analysis and the interpretation of the collected data. This is considered as one of the important stage of complete research study because after collection of data, it is important to test the hypothesis with the help of various tools and techniques in order to arrive at the practical solution for the problem studied. For effective analysis, the researcher has divided all the respondents into four categories namely, illiterate, studied upto primary, upto matric and above matric level. They were asked questions regarding their awareness and perception about Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan Scheme. All the responses of the respondents have been presented with the help of tables. In this chapter, two sections have been developed- first belongs to the socio-economic background of the respondents and second belongs to the awareness and perception level of respondents about the scheme.

2.1) Socio-economic background of the beneficiaries

There are various types of researches in social science research. The explanation of socio-economic background of individuals is very important because social science research revolves around the behavior, opinions, activities and attitudes of individuals.

2.1.1) Monthly income

Respondents have been categorized into three group such as: earning upto Rs.5000, upto 10000 and above 10000. The income of the respondents has been presented in the given table in table 2.1.1:

Table-2.1.1
Monthly income of the respondents N-80

Category	Respondents	Upto Rs.5,000	UptoRs. 10,000	Above 10,000
Illiterate	30(100%)	13(43.33%)	17(56.67%)	0(0.00%)
Upto Primary	8(100%)	2(25%)	5(62.5%)	1(12.5%)
Upto Matric	39(100%)	4(10.26%)	34(87.18%)	1(2.56%)
Above Matric	3(100%)	0(0.00%)	2(66.67%)	1(33.33%)
Total	80(100%)	19(23.75%)	58(72.5%)	3(3.75%)

Source-
Primary
Data

Table 2.1.1 reveals that close to one fourth (23.75 percent) of the respondents are earning upto Rs. 5,000, close to three fourth (72.5 percent) of the respondents are earning upto Rs. 10,000 and remaining three percent (3.75 percent) are earning above Rs. 10,000. It is obvious that there is not even a single respondent belonging to illiterate category who has monthly income above Rs. 10,000. Vast majority of the total respondents have monthly income upto Rs. 10,000 only.

2.1.2) Occupation

Occupation of an individual is one of the significant factor to understand the socio-economic background because occupation will describe the standard of living, capabilities, skills of an individual. For the purpose, respondents have been categorized into four groups namely- labour, pension-holders, housewife and private job which has been presented with the help of given table 2.1.2:

Table-2.1.2
Occupation of the respondents **N-80**

Category	Respondent	Labour	Pension-holder	Housewife	Private job
Illiterate	35(100%)	24(68.57%)	5(14.29%)	4(11.43%)	2(5.71%)
Upto Primary	8(100%)	5(62.5%)	0(0.00%)	2(25%)	1(12.5%)
Upto Matric	34(100%)	25(73.53%)	0(0.00%)	6(17.65%)	3(8.82%)
Above Matric	3(100%)	2(66.67%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	1(33.33%)
Total	80(100%)	56(70%)	5(6.25%)	12(15%)	7(8.75%)

Source- Primary Data

Table 2.1.2 reveals that close to three forth(70 percent) of the respondents are labors, approx six percent(6.25 percent) respondents are pension- holders, twelve percent respondents are housewives while remaining respondents(8.75 percent) are pursuing private jobs. It is also noted that the respondents who are educated up to primary and above matric level, no one is pension holder. So far as the persons concerned who are educated above matric level, no one is housewife.

2.2) Perception of the respondents regarding their experience

Once the socio-economic background of the respondents has been known, next stage is to know about the perception of the respondents about the Swach Bharat Scheme. For the present study, respondents have been categorized into four groups on the basis of their educational qualification namely- illiterate, upto primary, upto matric and above matric. Their responses have been illustrated in the following tables.

2.2.1) Installments for grant

The researcher made an effort to examine that how many installments of grants are being allotted to them. The number of installments being made to them are dividing it into three groups namely respondents receiving- zero, one and two installments. Along with this, total amount received under the scheme is also examined by categorizing this into three groups named respondents receiving - zero, Rs.5000, Rs.10000 amount under the present study. Responses of the respondents have been presented using the given table below:

Table-2.2.1
Installments for grant **N-80**

Category	Respondent	In how many installments beneficiaries received the grant?			The total grant allocated for the construction of the toilet?		
		Zero	One	Two	Zero	Rs. 5000	Rs. 9000
Illiterate	35(100%)	2(5.71%)	5(14.29%)	28(80%)	2(5.71%)	5(14.29%)	28(80%)
Upto Primary	8(100%)	0(0.00%)	2(25%)	6(75%)	0(0.00%)	2(25%)	6(75%)
Upto Matric	33(100%)	2(6.06%)	5(18.18%)	26(75.76%)	2(6.06%)	5(18.18%)	26(75.76%)
Above Matric	4(100%)	0(0.00%)	2(50%)	2(50%)	0(0.00%)	2(50%)	2(50%)
Total	80(100%)	4(5%)	15(18.75%)	61(76.25%)	4(5%)	15(18.75%)	61(76.25%)

Source- Primary Data

Table 2.2.1 reveals that from the total respondents, close to three fourth of the respondents (76.25 percent) received two installments, approximately eighteen percent (18.75 percent) respondents received only one installment and remaining respondents (5 percent) did not receive a single installment. From the same table it is observed that most of the illiterate respondents (80 percent) received the amount between Rs. 9000 and only five percent (5.71 percent) illiterate respondents did not receive any single penny. Overall, close to three fourth of the respondents (76.25 percent) receive an amount of Rs. 9000 approximately eighteen percent(18.75 percent) respondents receive an amount of Rs. 5000 and remaining respondents(5 percent) did not any amount.

2.2.2) Grant disbursements

Grant is allocated to approve beneficiaries under the scheme for the construction of the individual toilets. Thus it is examined by the researcher whether grant disbursement to beneficiaries is done on time or not. Respondents are asked to give their responses regarding the grant disbursement and same is presented using the given table below:

**Table- 2.2.2
Grant disbursement N-80**

Category	Respondent	Is grant disbursement on time?	
		Yes	No
Illiterate	36(100%)	29(80.56%)	7(19.44%)
Upto Primary	8(100%)	6(75%)	2(25%)
Upto Matric	34(100%)	28(82.35%)	6(17.65%)
Above Matric	2(100%)	2(100%)	0
Total	80(100%)	65(81.25%)	15(18.75%)

Source- Primary Data

Table 2.2.2 reveals that out of the total respondents, close to three fourth of the respondents (81.25 percent) received the grant on time. They are found satisfied with the timing of grant disbursement under the scheme. But remaining (18.75 percent) respondents did not receive grant on time. They faced problems regarding the disbursement of grant.

2.2.3) Problems faced during grant disbursement

The sampled beneficiaries have also been probed with regard to the problems faced by them during grant disbursement. The researcher tried to examine whether the respondents received the grant on time or not and if not, then what type of problems were faced by them regarding the disbursement process. For this purpose, two groups have been created namely- red-tapism and documentation related problems. Responses of the respondents have been presented with the help of given table below;

**Table-2.2.3
Problems Faced during disbursement N-80**

Category	Respondent	Did beneficiary faced any kind of problem at the time of grant disbursement		If yes, what kinds of problems are faced at the time of grant disbursement?	
		Yes	No	Red-tapism	Documentation
Illiterate	36(100%)	7(19.44%)	29(80.56%)	5(71.43%)	2(28.57%)
Upto Primary	8(100%)	2(25%)	6(75%)	1(50%)	1(50%)
Upto Matric	34(100%)	6(17.65%)	28(82.35%)	2(33.33%)	4(66.67%)
Above Matric	2(100%)	0(0.00%)	2(100%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	80(100%)	15(18.75%)	65(81.25%)	8(53.33%)	7(46.67%)

Source-Primary Data

Table 2.2.3 reveals that out of the total respondents, close to one fifth(18.75 percent) respondents faced problem during the time of grant disbursement whereas remaining (81.25 percent) respondents did not experience any problem while this process of grant disbursement. It should be note here that respondent who are educated above matric, did not any single problem while this process. It is also revealed from the table that out of the total respondents who faced problem during the time of grant disbursement, half (53.33 percent) of the total respondents faced the problem of red tapism while receiving the grant under the scheme whereas remaining half (46.67 percent) of the respondents faced the documentation related problem while receiving the grant.

SUGGESTIONS: Following suggestions may help in effective implementation of the scheme in a better way:

- Amount of grant given to beneficiaries for the construction of individual household toilets under the scheme is not sufficient if consider at the current inflation rate. The amount of grant must be increased after calculating the basic amount needed for the construction of the toilets in reasonable price.
- There should be transparent and effective system for the disbursement of the grant provided under the scheme. Periodical monitoring with reporting system to higher authorities can be initiated in order to check whether amount of grant has been utilized appropriately or not by the official bearers and beneficiaries.
- There is no provision of vigilance system under the scheme after the construction of individual household toilets. No checking is pursued by the authorities whether people are actually using the toilets or not. Some people are using the space of constructed toilets for commercial purpose and going outside for defecating which is destroying the basic objectives of the scheme to make city open defecation free. So there is urgent need for introduction of robust monitoring measures to be taken and implemented for effective accomplishment of the objectives under the scheme.
- There should be active participation of corporate sector in the field of sanitation. Ministry should provide effective incentive in the form of subsidy or tax relaxation etc. to the businessmen for their partnership with government in these projects (eg. Public Private Partnership). Subject of sanitation can be added as the corporate social responsibility making it helpful for the businessmen for gaining goodwill in the society.
- There should be convergence with the related schemes also like NRHM (National Rural Health Mission), PMAY(Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) for successful implementation of the all related scheme which will develop the society in a better way. Those beneficiaries who have been selected under PM Awas Yojana, do not allowed to receive any grant under Swachh Bharat Mission for the construction of the toilets.
- There should be transparent, people-friendly and robust grievances redressal system in the Municipality for acknowledging the genuine complain of the common people and efforts must be done to solve the problems as soon as possible. For this, a complain box can be placed at the public dealing area of Municipality which should be handled by a responsible authority for its speedy resolution.

CONCLUSION: Government of India has made significant efforts in order to improve the situation of sanitation in India over the last decade. The program namely- ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ is the most ambitious sanitation program with the aim of making India open defecation free. Financial assistance provided under the program so far is more than the previous sanitation programs. Sufficient funds have been allocated by the central government for the program. State government receives the funds under the program in timely manner against their annual plans. The method namely ‘Direct Transfer Benefit’ has been adopted under the program for increasing utilization of funds more effectively and timely. But the research shows that there is further need to study the funding related provisions of the scheme. Keeping in mind the diversities in the country like India, there should be system with more flexible approach for accomplishing the objectives. Finance should be allocated according to the requirement and condition of the specific area under consideration.

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