



Prioritising Rural Sanitation Indispensable for Sustainability in India

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Abstract

Since 2000, the UN member-countries under the Millennium Development Goals have been implementing policy and programs for improving access to safe toilets by 2015 which has, however, not been fulfilled. Against this background, this article briefly highlights the significance of the sanitation, Indian scenario, performance under programs initiated by the Government and suggests specific measures to achieve the SDG-6 by 2030.

India will, therefore, need to have a long-term planning to provide sustainable improved sanitation as defined by the UN-WHO Joint Monitoring Programme for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation (2008, 2010) which describes an "improved" sanitation facility includes facilities that flush or pour-flush into a piped sewer system, septic tanks, or pit latrines, as well as ventilated improved pit latrines. Program for providing toilet facilities to all by 2019 under SWA needs to be implemented on a missionary zeal fully supported, by following critical elements in accomplishing its strategy.

It is prerequisite to install an effective monitoring and management information system to monitor the progress of implementation village-wise monthly at Block level, Block-wise quarterly at district level, district-wise half-yearly at state level and state-wise annually at national level. Independent evaluation State-wise once in two years and discussion in State Assemblies and both Houses of Parliament is a must. Elected representatives at grass root level, print and electronic media have a critical role.

Keywords: Indian Scenario, Sustainable, Sanitation, Sanitary facilities

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Introduction

Since 2000, the UN member-countries under the Millennium Development Goals have been implementing policy and programs for improving access to safe toilets by 2015 which has, however, not been fulfilled. Now with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)