

# THE PERFORMANCE OF RURAL AND URBAN AREAS IN THE SWACHH SURVEKSHAN SURVEY: AN ANALYSIS

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**ABSTRACT:** *Today development is taking place at the cost of environment. The environmental impact as a result of rapid urbanisation is a matter of serious concern. Today the society has developed a consumerist culture and is apathetic to health, preservation of a clean environment and ecology. The change in living condition and influence of western throw away culture resulted in increased solid waste generation leading to environmental degradation. One of the missions of 'Swachh Bharat' was to achieve an "Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2 october 2019, the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As we are now in the year of 2019, it's the time to think how far we have achieved our mission. This year's Swachh Survekshan Survey, ranked Indian cities on the basis of their cleanliness and active implementation of swachhata mission initiatives. The result of the survey is remarkable. The country is highly satisfied with the sanitation drive adopted by many cities. Along with that, it is dissatisfied with the dismal performance of others which are at the bottom of the ladder. It calls for a great deal of introspection. It is the high time for the cities which performed poorly in the survey, to take up initiatives to implement the swachhata mission initiatives in an innovative manner. Hence, it is ideal to study the performance of rural and urban areas in the swachh survekshan survey, the world's largest cleanliness survey.*

**Key Words:** *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Swachh Survekshan Survey, Sanitation, Open Defecation Free (ODF).*

## Introduction:

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." : Mahatma Gandhi

Asking a country to choose between environment and development is like someone to choose between father and mother. What is required for humanity is both a standard of living and a standard of life simultaneously. While development provides the former, the latter rests on environment. Environmental conservation by providing better sanitation facilities is the need of the time. The concept of sanitation is a comprehensive one. Sanitation refers to the hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazards of wastes as well as the treatment and proper disposal of sewage waste water. Sanitation system aims to provide clean drinking water and adequate treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Lack of sanitation, has not only economic consequences but also some serious social consequences also. The dream of our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi for a clean India still remains unfulfilled. Mahatma Gandhi said that unless we "rid ourselves of our dirty habits and have improved latrines, swaraj can have no value for us." Throughout his public life, Gandhi led a continuous struggle for sanitation, cleanliness, and efficient management of all categories of wastes.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014, the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, announced the launch of a nation- wide cleanliness campaign on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Swachh Bharat mission aims to provide sanitation facilities to every Indian, including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village sanitation and safe and adequate drinking water supply by 2 october, 2019. As part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Swachh survekshan survey was launched. It is the world's largest cleanliness survey. Swachh Survekshan Survey is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India. The first survey was undertaken in 2016 and it's coverage was limited with 73 cities, that has gradually increased to 434 cities in 2017, 4203 in 2018 and by 2019 the survey has scaled more heights, by covering 4237 cities. The objective of the survey is to promote large scale citizen participation and to create awareness among all sections of society about the importance of working together for making the towns and cities a better place to live in. The survey also intends to foster a spirit of healthy competition among towns and cities to improve their service delivery to citizens, towards creating cleaner cities and towns. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), takes up the Swachh Survekshan in urban areas and the Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation in rural areas. The Surveys are carried out by Quality council of India.

### Swachh Survekshan Survey 2019

The Swachh Survekshan Survey 2019 shows four years of socio- economic empowerment of the country. This year's survey covered 4237 cities within a short span of time of 28 days, in a completely paperless, digital format of data collection. Indore secured the award for the cleanest city in the country. Indore gets the cleanest city tag for third row in the Swachh survekshan survey 2019. Ambikapur in Chattisgarh got the second prize. Chattisgarh has also emerged as India's top performer among states, followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra. Mysuru, secured the third position. 'Bhopal' has been declared as the cleanest capital.

### Swachh Survekshan Survey 2018

The Swachh Survekshan Survey 2018 covered 4203 cities. As per the Survey, Indore in Madhya Pradesh was the cleanest city in India. Bhopal ranked as India's second cleanest city for two years in a row. Chandigarh is the third cleanest city. Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh found a special mention as the fastest moving big city for improving it's rank to 36 from 351 in 2017. Haryana, Gujarat and Maharashtra emerged as India's top performer among states.

In order to reap the maximum developmental benefits from the survey, efforts were taken to strengthen the capacities of cities to understand the spirit of the survey. In addition to giving survey methodology, survey process and output indicators, and also clarifying their expectations from the survey.

### Swachh Survekshan survey 2017

Swachh Survekshan Survey 2017 aimed to make urban areas Open defecation Free and to improve door - to -door collection, processing and disposal of Municipal solid waste. Indore has emerged as the India's cleanest city in the Swachh Survekshan Survey 2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns. Bhopal, Vishakhapatnam, Surat, Mysuru, Tiruchirapally, Neww Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Vadodara and Chandigarh are among the Top 10 clean cities in that order.

### Swachh Survekshan Survey 2016

The Ministry of Drinking water and sanitation commissioned the First Swachh Survekshan for rural India during 2016. This survey covered a total of 20 hill districts and 53 plain areas. Each district has been judged on four distinct parameters. The parameters include:

- Households having access to safe toilets and using them ( toilet usage, water accessibility, safe disposal of waste) (40%)
- Households having no litter around (30%)
- Public places with no litter in the surrounding (10%)
- Households having no stagnant wastewater around (20%)

Mandi was judged as the cleanest district in "Hills" category and Sindhudurg as the cleanest in the plains category, with districts of Sikkim, Shimla, Nadia and Satara featuring at the top of the index.

### Indore's Sanitation Drive

Indore gets cleanest city tag for third in a row in the Swachh Survekshan Survey 2019. We cannot see any plastic bags, Haldiram packets and stray dog on the road sides of Indore. The city generates around 1,100 metric tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) a day. Collection services by municipal authorities are now on offer at almost every door at Rs. 60 a month. Commercial establishments can avail the service twice a day. A seperate collection system with bigger vehicles is being put in place for 1450 bulk waste generators. Collecting garbage from every household is one aspect. Keeping public areas and roads clean is another. Main roads are swept thrice a day . Mechanical sweepers are used every alternate day on roads. Roads are washed every nights by pressure jets with the aim to make the city dust-free. Small litter bins have now been placed and are being added for pedestrian use. 175 community and public toilets have been made operational and it is estimated that the city will need to add around 50 more as of now. Several public urinals have been constructed with working sewage lines. The combined wholehearted effort of the Mayor and the Municipal commissioner put all these into practice. A huge awareness campaign was launched across media.

After the garbage collection it is sorted and cleaned, and composting is done. The compost has been used to develop green areas and belts around the garbage dump. plastic segregated from the garbage heap is moved further to a NGO run plastic recycling centre that compresses the plastic and sells it to a road manufacturer and a cement plant. Indore has been declared plastic free and several thousands of plastic bags have been

seized from market places and shop owners. But what may save and sustain the exercise is the change in the public attitude itself.

### Suggestions

- Dispose the household waste at the source itself
- Policy makers should address the solid waste disposal by minimizing health risks to people.
- Always follow green protocol and avoid disposable
- Compost the biodegradable waste using ring composting , bio gas plants etc.
- Keep the non- bio degradable clean and dry and hand it over to the scrap dealers or local body systems.

### Major criticism levelled against the swachh survekshan survey

The majority of the cities may be visibly clean, but do not have appropriate systems for processing and disposal. They collect waste and dump it in poorly managed landfills and dumpsites. Is it a model that is capital intensive and involves door to door collection, segregation, centralised processing and disposal in landfills? or is it propagating a low-cost model, which is based on segregation, decentralised processing, recycling and reuse of waste. Major criticism is that the survey gives more importance for visible cleanliness of cities even if cities practice unsustainable waste management practices.

### Conclusion

The Swachh Survekshan Survey is the largest cleanliness survey in the world. More than that, it is the most comprehensive and ambitious framework of planned urbanisation that have been undertaken anywhere in the world. As far as the completion of physical targets of the initiative is concerned, 94% of individual toilets, five hundred thousand of community toilets have already completed. 18,329 garbage vulnerable points have been transformed, 345 landfill sites have been remediated, more than 370 cities are practicing segregation at source, 84,000 informal waste pickers have been integrated into sustainable livelihoods.

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