

WOMEN : CATALYST OF THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

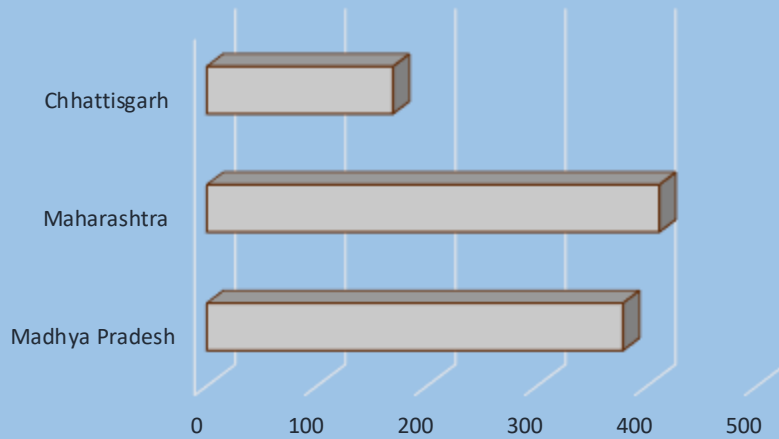
SANKHYA (संख्या)

“There cannot be a good plan for economic progress without adequate data and there cannot be adequate data without a good plan for collecting them...”

P.C Mahalanobis, Member, First Planning Commission of India & Scientist

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

Total number of Urban Local Bodies



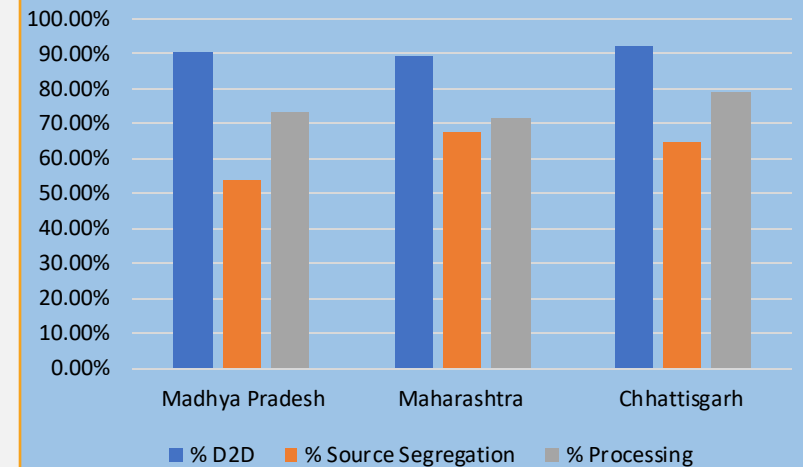
ABOUT

A national cleanliness and sanitation campaign was launched by the Central Government in the year 2014, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his vision for clean India.

Objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission:-

- To eradicate the practice of open defecation.
- To promote proper solid waste management practices.
- To raise awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene.
- To build sanitation infrastructure.
- To strengthen the capacity of local government bodies, and sanitation agencies.

Waste Management



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 SURVEKSHAN

TOP STATES

1. Maharashtra
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Chhattisgarh

THEME OF THE 2023
SURVEY -
WASTE TO WEALTH

TOP CITIES

1. Indore & Surat
2. Navi Mumbai
3. Vishakhapatnam

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

Women have been vital to the success of Swachhata Abhiyan. A prime example is Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, where IAS officer Ritu Sain revolutionised Ambikapur, transforming it from a polluted land into India's cleanest small city. Her innovative waste management strategies, including door-to-door collection, garbage clinic, and composting, revitalised the city and set a new benchmark for cleanliness and waste management nationwide, thus creating a powerful ecosystem of empowerment and success for the initiative. Key developments include:

13.37 lakh households and commercial establishments covered

8194 women engaged for collection and segregation

26.75 Lakh Twin bins distributed

980 MT of waste collected from Door to Door facility

2.05 crores earned by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from sales of treated waste/recyclables

52 lakhs earned by ULBs from the sale of compost

384 Garbage Clinics Facilities

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT

To safeguard Safai Mitras, mechanised cleaning solutions essential to reduce risks. Investing in durable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is cost-effective compared to daily expenses. Employers must ensure proper PPE provision and training, while workers need education. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) should leverage state training institutes to enhance skills. Additionally, providing sanitation infrastructure, including separate toilets, women's facilities, and emergency systems, is crucial given women's widespread involvement in waste management.

RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Waste pickers recycle over 20% of the 150 million tons of waste that is produced in India every day; they also contribute significantly to India's solid waste management efforts by ensuring that recyclable materials such as paper, metals, PET bottles do not end up in India's already overflowing landfills, according to estimates, receiving no substantial benefits in return. Thus recognising waste picking as a profession and ensuring that the rights and needs of waste pickers are addressed through legal and policy frameworks.

INTEGRATING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Women are pivotal in household waste segregation and collection, playing a key role in the waste management process. Globally, they contribute significantly to solid waste management and the circular economy. In India, women are especially active at the grassroots level, handling collection, segregation, and informal recycling. Despite low wages, their role in door-to-door collection and segregation is crucial. Therefore, involving women in decision-making is essential for enhancing their social and economic status.

SUPPORTING THE INFORMAL SECTOR

Sanitation workers face varying levels of precariousness based on their employment type, with contractual workers being the most vulnerable. Despite access to benefits like health insurance and Employee Provident Fund, poor awareness and implementation limit their effectiveness. To improve conditions, it's crucial to expand protections, enhance union involvement, raise awareness, upgrade living conditions, and strengthen monitoring mechanisms.

WANT TO SUBMIT IDEAS FOR
SANKHYA OR GIVE YOUR
VIEWS ON OUR PAST
EDITIONS?

*Share your views, analysis, ideas and
questions*

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BRIDGE
— THINK TANK —

Sankhya* is an initiative of Bridge Policy Think Tank to create interface snapshots in statistics and policy analysis while promoting critical thinking and analysis.

** Sankhya means numbers and is also a school of rationalist Indian philosophy. According to Sankhya philosophy reliable knowledge comes from only three pramanas (proofs)- pratyakṣa ('perception'), anumāṇa ('inference') and śabda (āptavacana, meaning, 'word/testimony of reliable sources').*