

A Review of National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) Towards Swachh Water and Sanitation

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Abstract

Swachh water and sanitation are very important for the growth and development of a country. Cleanliness makes the people of a country healthy which in turn helps in the economy of the country. Rural population forms the major part of any country thus initiatives should be taken to provide them with safe drinking water and proper sanitation. National Rural Drinking Water Program is one such initiative which helps in the development of environment both through finances and infrastructure to provide safe water and sanitation in the rural India. The program has been successful from the time of its launch and now Swachh Bharat Mission has also been added to it to further strengthen its performance.

Keywords: National Rural Drinking Water Program, NRDWP, Swachh, Water, Sanitation, Women, SDGs, SHGs, Self Help Group.

Introduction

Pure drinking water, clean sanitation and hygiene are the basic needs of a good and healthy human life. Safe drinking water and proper sanitation helps to create a strong foundation of the society and the country. But, today around 1.8 billion people globally consume drinking water which is not good for health. Nearly, 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services (<http://www.un.org>). Contaminated water and unhygienic sanitation not only lead to many diseases but economically also it affects the economy. Poor health conditions lead to increase in the number of deaths which in turn affects the biodiversity and ecosystem resilience of the economy. The World Bank estimates that India losses nearly 6.4 per cent of its GDP due to costs of inadequate sanitation.

WASH("Water, Sanitation and Hygiene") an initiative by UNICEF's under the UN-Millennium Development Goals aims to ensure safe and good quality water, availability of basic toilets and nurturing good hygiene practice. Continuing the trend of success of the Millennium Development Goals and keeping them as base the United Nations further set Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25 September 2015. The SDGs defined 17 goals of socio and economic nature through which the sustainable development can be achieved by the year 2030. In order to achieve these goals, 169 associated targets were also identified. The Sixth SDG goal sets target to 'Ensure access to water and sanitation for all'.

In India nearly 70% of the population lives in rural areas. The Government of India from the first five year plan took initiatives towards providing safe drinking water and sanitation in the rural India. Addressing the importance of safe drinking water and sanitation in today's scenario National Rural Water Development was initiated which has been further strengthened by the Swachh Bharat Mission which involves taking progressive initiatives towards cleanliness at regular intervals. To make Swachh Bharat Mission a lead program in making India better both socially and economically it has been made an integral part of various departments like Women and Child Welfare, Human resource Department, Gram Sabhas, Anganwadi's and similar department.

This paper makes an attempt to review the GOI initiative 'National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP)' towards safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation in the Rural Areas of

the country. Attempt is also made to understand the role of women and SHG in realizing these goals.

Objectives of the Study

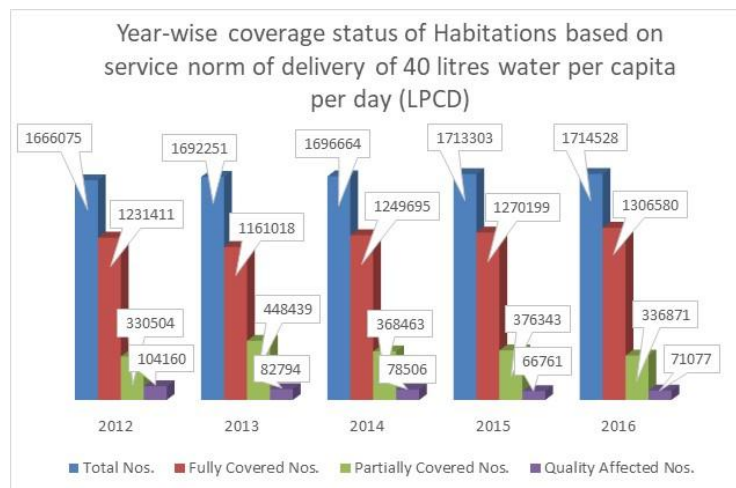
1. To understand the effectiveness of National Rural Drinking Water Program in providing swachh water and sanitation.
2. To evaluate the grants and expenditure in the NRDWP.
3. To substantiate the initiatives of women in attaining safe drinking water and sanitation.

Methodology

Secondary data has been used for the study. The data and relevant information was collected from the various reports of the NRDWP from year 2010-11 to 2016-17. MS - Excel was used as tool to prepare graphs, calculate average and percentage for the analysis.

Analysis

The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) was the first major intervention in the water sector, started in 1972-1973. Subsequently, after various phases of growth of this sector on 13th July, 2011 the GoI announced the formation of separate Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Ministry initiated the National Rural Drinking Water Programme to provide safe drinking water and proper sanitation in rural areas. The NRDWP scheme is a part of Bharat Nirman mission and focused on providing resources and infrastructure to providing safe drinking water. The GoI in 1990 started the "Total Sanitation Campaign" which later in 2012 it was transformed to the "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" (NBA) in 2012, that aimed at creating Nirmal villages. Later in 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) was launched. Under NRDWP the ministry has a vision of 'Safe and adequate drinking water and access to improved sanitation for all, at all times in rural India'. The main objective of the ministry under NRDWP is (i) to provide every person and household with adequate safe water for drinking and available at reasonable distance (ii) attain a clean and Open Defecation Free India by 2nd October 2019. The current status of provision of drinking water in rural areas as measured by the percentage of rural habitations where the population is fully covered with adequate (40 lpcd) and safe drinking water. The total number of habitants covered has shown an upward trend by 2.9% between 2012 and 2016. Habitants fully covered has increased by 6.10% while partially covered increased by

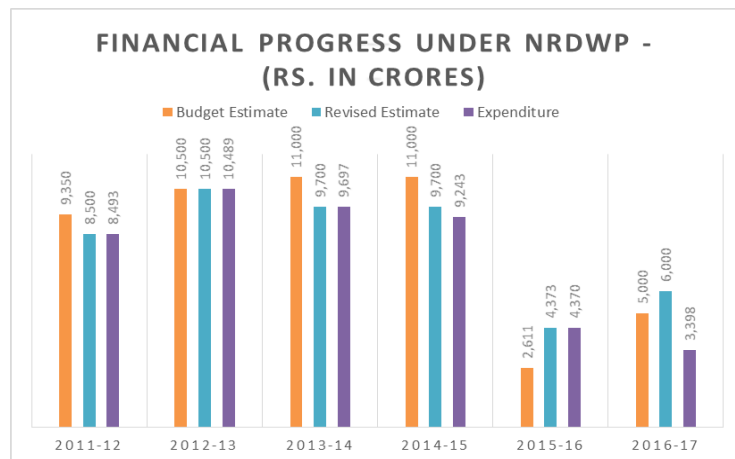


Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2016-17

1.92% between 2012 and 2016. The numbers of habitants affected by the quality of the water has shown a downward trend by 31.76% between 2012 and 2016.

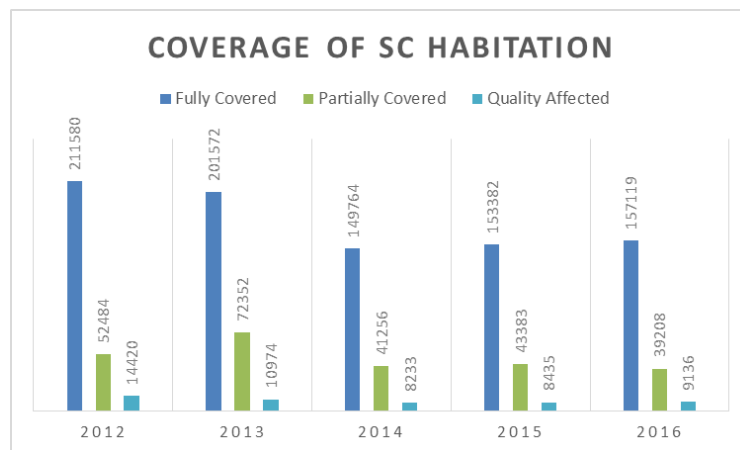
The growth trend is weak due to various reasons like depletion in ground water levels, rainwater not being preserved, increase in the consumption pattern of the habitants and

regular droughts. But habitants getting affected by quality of water has decreased, this shows that the program is able to make its mark in the safe drinking water program.

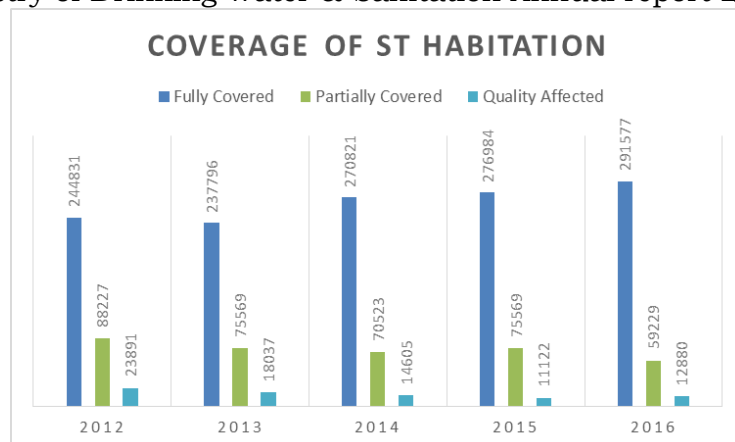


Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

Analyzing the budget estimates an upward trend was noticed till 2013-14 where the increase was 17.64% between 2011-12 and 2013-14 but later 2015 saw a drastic fall to 2611 crores which improved by 2016-17 to 5000 crores. Expenditure also increased in the initial year from 2011-12 but then slowly saw a downward trend. This showed that the funds were utilized for the various activities towards water quality monitoring and support activities.



Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

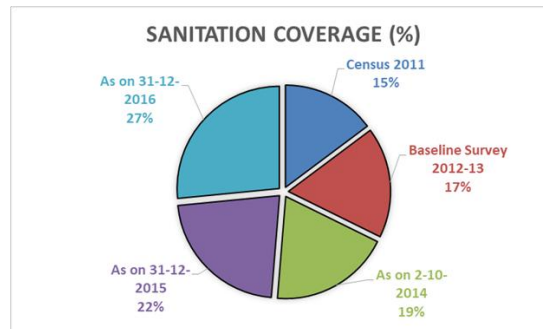


Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

Analyzing the portable water supply coverage of SC category habitants the fully covered sanitation saw a drop of 25.74%, partially covered fell by 25.29% and quality affected decreased by 36.64% between 2012 and 2016.

The ST habitation portable water supply coverage showed an increase in fully covered by 19.09% while partially covered decreased by 32.86% between 2012 and 2016. The number of quality affected habitants decreased by 46.08% between 2012 and 2016.

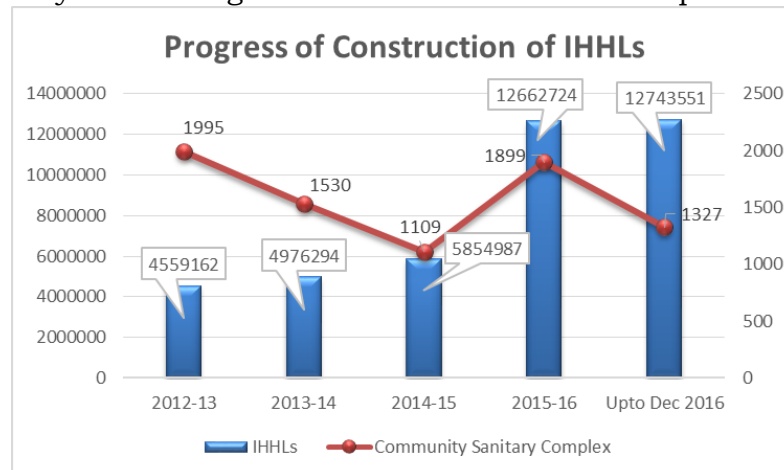
The overall sanitation coverage of the country showed an improvement of 12% from 2011 to 2016. The states namely Sikkim, Kerala & Himachal Pradesh shows 100% sanitation coverage.



Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

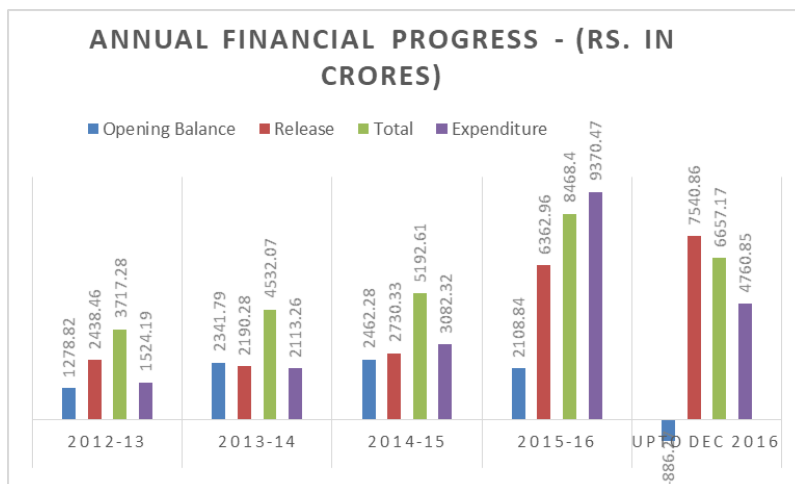
State/UT-wise Sanitation Coverage (%)					
Year/States	2015	2016	Year/States	2015	2016
Odisha	20.36	37.58	Maharashtra	60.03	70.84
Bihar	23.59	26.14	Goa	60.72	76.08
J&K	31.05	35.74	Arunachal Pradesh	60.79	75.83
Jharkhand	34.84	46.27	Nagaland	63.57	66.75
Telangana	35.71	44.66	Gujarat	64.99	87.76
M.P	40.59	50.37	Tripura	69.66	77.43
U.P	41.29	45.91	W.B	72.21	85.5
A.P	41.64	49.97	Manipur	74.23	84.05
Chattisgarh	45.53	66.88	Meghalaya	76.26	86.76
Rural India	49.02	58.75	Punjab	76.74	79.93
Rajasthan	49.39	70.03	Mizoram	79.05	85.42
Pudducherry	50.01	51.54	Uttrakhand	79.09	99.27
Assam	52.17	62.22	Haryana	85.21	87.88
Andaman& Nicobar	53.77	55.83	H.P	94.12	100
Karnataka	54.17	62.18	Kerala	96.31	100
T.N	57.17	66.17	Sikkim	99.33	100

Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17



Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

The progress of construction of Individual household toilets (latrines) showed a positive trend. Year 2015-16 showed improvement by 116.27% from 2014-15 and percentage increase between 2012-13 and up to Dec. was 179.51%. Community sanitary complex reduced by 33.48% between 2012-13 and up to Dec. 2016.



Source: GoI Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Annual report 2011-12 to 2016-17

Analyzing the annual financial progress saw a negative opening balance in the year 2016. Release of funds saw a substantial increase of 133% between 2014-15 and 2015-16 and between 2012-13 and up to December 2016 it was 209%. The expenditure saw a tremendous increase between 2014-15 and 2015-16 of 204% while between 2012-13 and up to December 2016 it was increase of 212.25%.

Role of Women

a) Sudadharo Moti village - Sudadharo Moti village in Kutch has women in the majority in the Pani Samiti which is a part of village Panchayat. Since water is major problem in this area women took initiative to be part of main stream administration but away from politics. Their work efficiency is remarkable hence villagers are also very happy.

b) Mamsa village – In Mamsa village all responsible works was given to the men. Babyben of Mamsa village with the help of Water and Sanitation Management Organization's (WASMO) brought a change. It provided them training and conducted awareness sessions for these women. Today, women monitor even the construction work of water supply structures apart from being active in all meetings and decision making."

c) Aanda village– Jamnagar Women Pani Samiti members of Aanda village of Jodiya taluka, Jamnagar, have always been active participants in all the programs of village development. Noteworthy is that not only members but all women in the village work actively.

d) Alang village - Bhavnagar Alang village of Bhavnagar district is a small coastal village and also known as Asia's largest ship breaking yard. It faced problems of water scarcity and salinity for several years. The inhabitants had to spend long hours on the road and wait for the tankers.

Although Alang was covered under the Ghogha project, but could not start and men of village were reluctant. The women took initiative and a women who had come as a bride in the village took first step and she saw many women joining her. They raised funds from the village and were able to collect sufficient amount to pay for the project. Thus were able to solve the problem in the SHG way.

Findings

1. The number of habitants covered under the program for safe drinking water increased and the habitants affected by the quality of water also reduced.
2. Budget allocation and expenditures towards the program increased over a period of time.
3. SC/ST category were taken due care by the program in terms of providing portable water.

4. Sanitation facilities and coverage increased and certain states were able to provide 100% clean sanitation (Kerala, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh)
5. Fund allocation and expenditures towards sanitation also improved.
6. Women's contribution and SHG methodology towards mission achievement is noteworthy.

Conclusion

Overall impact of the NRDWP initiative has been fruitful. The scheme has been able to reach the rural areas of the country. In case of improvement in sanitation certain States has shown an achievement of 100% which is appreciable. The scheme can be improved by proper monitoring and bringing accountability of the officials associated with the scheme.

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