

## SWACHH BHARATH ABHIYAAN: SOME EFFORTS OF GRAMA PANCHAYATHS IN DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA

*Purushothama K V*

*Associate Professor of Economics, Pompei College, Aikala, Talipady, Karnataka, India*

**Received: 22 May 2019**

**Accepted: 30 May 2019**

**Published: 18 Jun 2019**

### **ABSTRACT**

*In adequate sanitation and unscientific management of wastes created serious issues like poor health, the spread of epidemic diseases, ecological imbalance, and a threat to biodiversity, pollutions and many other local and global environmental problems. According to the World Bank (Yojana, November 2018), India loses 6.4 percent of GDP annually because of this particular reason. The clean and healthy environment only keeps our body and soul clean. In order to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India since independence so many programmes have been launched Honorable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharath Mission on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014, from the ramparts of the Red Fort and set a target to build a clean and open defecation free India by 2019, the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi, as a befitting tribute. The objective of Swachh Bharat Mission, launched by Prime Minister on October 2, 2014, is to make human life cleaner, healthier and dignified. Cleanliness is not only a life-force but also the cornerstone of human development. No community and society can be successful until it is clean. The goals related to education, health, poverty alleviation, human development, etc. cannot be achieved in the absence of cleanliness. As we have completed nearly five years of the scheme, 39 percent rural sanitation coverage has increased to a phenomenal 92 percent. This involved a behavioral change of the people. To achieve the goal both rural and urban local governments have to take the initiatives. In this background, this research article analyses the efforts of Grama Panchayaths in Dakshina Kannada District to manage solid waste.*

**KEYWORDS:** Sanitation, Governments, Panchayaths

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The present study has the following objectives:

- To study the efforts of Grama Panchayaths in "Swachh Bharath Abhiyaan".
- To analyze the waste management methods of Grama Panchayaths in Dakshina Kannada District.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study is conducted in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State. This coastal district has five taluks (except newly formed Moodbidri and Kadaba, which were in Mangalore and Puttur taluk respectively) Mangalore, Bantwal, Belthangady, Puttur, and Sullia. It has 232-gram panchayats (GPs). Out of which 21 GPs are randomly selected for the study.

Primary information has been collected from 200 respondents of rural areas through direct questionnaire method. Stratified random sampling method has been adopted to select the respondents in rural areas. Secondary data is obtained from books, Journals, News Papers, reports as well as internet sources.

### Limitations

- It focuses only on solid waste management and excluded liquid, gaseous waste and other types of wastes such as industrial hospital, commercial, hazardous, etc.
- Stratified random sampling method has been adopted to select the 200 Respondents. The simple average method had been applied to analyze the data.

### Significance of the Study

This study mainly concentrated on the management of solid wastes at Grama Panchayath Level in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka State. This study analyses the solid waste management methods adopted by some selected grama panchayaths in Dakshina Kannada, which are model to other rural local governments. In my study, I found that most of the waste related problems can be solved through a regular collection of wastes and segregation of wastes at various stages i.e, from the primary sources to storage sites. This study tries to create awareness of the management of solid wastes among the rural local governments as well as rural people.

### Post-Independence Efforts by the Government for Sanitation

After independence, Central government set up a number of committees/ commissions such as Barve Committee (1949), Backward Classes Commission (1955), Malkani Committees (1957, &, 1966), Pandya Committee (1968-69). Some states too set up similar committees. However, all these had the limited purpose of improving living and working condition of scavengers. While the first three decades also saw the launching of several national disease control programs, the first National Health Policy came only in 1983

The Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) initiated by Government of India in 1986 interpreted sanitation as covering construction of household toilets and focused on a single model (double-pit pour-flush) through hardware subsidies. Its effect remained very limited. Government of India then launched its 'Total Sanitation Campaign' (TSC) in 1999 aiming at universal rural sanitation (access to toilets) by 2012, the responsibility resting with the Panchayat Raj Institutions and the state and central governments acting as facilitators. It covered also health education, sanitary facilities in schools and *anganwadis* and use of appropriate technology for sustainable community-managed systems focused on solid and liquid wastes. Then, 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' (NGP) scheme was started in 2003 in order to push the TSC. According to the Government report, 'A Decade of TSC: Rapid Assessment of Processes and Outcomes' (vol.1), the sanitation coverage had grown (from 2001 to 2011) from 21% to over 65% and over 22,000 Gram Panchayats had won NGP for total sanitation. It does accept that preventing open defecation remained the biggest challenge. TSC has been one of the flagship programs of the government. Its annual budget had grown from Rs.202 crores in 2003-4 to Rs.1500 crores in 2011-12. Government of India had launched the National Rural Health Mission in 2005. It converges sanitation and hygiene activities, household toilets and school sanitation programs. Under it, Village Health and Sanitation Committee should be formed in all the 6.38 lakh villages, guided by the District Health Missions.

### Swachh Bharath Abhiyaan since October 2014

On 2nd October 2014, honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, launched a nation-wide cleanliness campaign on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. The concept of **Swachh Bharat** is to provide sanitation facilities to every family, including toilets, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, village cleanliness, and safe and adequate drinking water supply. Modi said that the Swachh Bharat mission is beyond politics, inspired by patriotism and not politics. He also asked people to pledge 'na main gandagikaroonga, na main gandagikarnedoonga' (I shall not litter and won't allow anyone to do so). This turned the people's thoughts to Gandhi's idea of cleanliness. Mahatma Gandhi had realized early in his life that the prevalent poor state of sanitation and cleanliness in India and particularly the lack of adequate toilets, in the then largely rural India, needed as much attention as was being devoted toward attainment of Swaraj. He said that unless we "rid ourselves of our dirty habits and have improved latrines, Swaraj can have no value for us." He defined 'waste' as a resource out of place and would not accept avoidable wastage of any resource-even a scrap of paper, a drop of water, a single grain, or a pinch of salt.

### Data Analysis

The Details of Data Collection are Given in the Following Tables

**Table 1: List of Rural Local Self-Governments Selected for Study in Dakshina Kannada District**

Sl.No	Belthangady (43)	Bantwal (47)	Mangalore (49)	Puttur (37)	Sullia (27)
1	Ujire	Maani	Mennabettu	Kabaka	Subramanya
2	Hosangadi	Thumbe	Kemral	Kadaba	Bellare
3	Laila	Vittal	Bajpe	Uppinangady	Panja
4	Madantyar	Sangabettu	Gurupura	Kaniyooru	-
5	-	Manchi	Haleyangady	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

Note: In brackets total panchayaths of the taluk.

**Table 2: Details of Rural Respondents in Dakshina Kannada District**

Sl.No	Taluk	Name of the Panchayat	No. of Total Respondents
1	Belthangady	Ujire	40
2	Bantwal	Vittal	40
3	Mangalore	Kemral	40
4	Puttur	Kadaba	40
5	Sullia	Subramanya	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>200</b>

The following table shows the data of segregation of wastes at various stages by the local self-government.

**Table 3: Local Govts. Who Segregate Wastes at Various Stages in Dakshina Kannada District**

Response	Rural	Percentage	Urban	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Yes	16	55	6	21	22	76
No	5	17	2	7	7	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

The above data shows that out of 21 randomly selected GramaPanchayaths 16 are insisting to segregate waste at source. Only 5 i.e 24 percent collect wastes without sorting. Total 76 percent of local governments segregate wastes at various levels.

Degradable wastes can be used to produce organic compost/vermin compost so that degradable wastes can be converted into a resource. It will bring income to the local governments also. The following table shows data related to local governments who have their own compost producing units.

**Table 4: Local Govts., Who Produce Compost from Degradable Wastes**

Response	Rural	%	Urban	%	Total	%
Yes	13	45	4	14	17	59
No	8	27	4	14	12	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that out of 21 randomly selected panchayaths 13 i.e 62 percent have their own compost producing unit. Remained 8 panchayaths do not insist segregation of waste and dispose at landfill sites.

In Dakshina Kannada district some rural and urban local governments have provided waste bins to the households in order to encourage them for segregating waste at source. The table 5 shows whether people expect the free supply of waste bins from the Local Governments or not?

**Table 5: Respondents Who Expect Free Supply of Waste Bins from the Local Governments in Dakshina Kannada District**

Response	Rural	%	Urban	%	Total	Total %
Yes	84	42	113	54	197	48
No	116	58	97	46	213	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Out of 200 rural respondents, 84 (42%) are expecting free waste bins from the panchayaths to segregate the waste. But out of 210 urban respondents, 113 (54%) are expecting waste bins from their local governments. Some people refuse waste bins because waste collectors not collecting wet wastes daily. They expect a daily collection of waste particularly wet wastes. Waste collectors can create more awareness among the people for segregating wastes. It is found that some local governments collect only segregated wastes and refuse to collect mixed wastes.

The Table 6 shows the respondents feedback on waste collectors who insist/do not insist to segregate waste at the household level.

**Table 6: Respondents Feedback on Waste Collectors Who Insist/Do not Insist to Segregate Waste at Household Level**

Response	Rural	%	Urban	%	Total	Total %
Yes	94	47	92	44	186	72
No	4	2	68	33	72	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Among the 200 percent rural respondents 98 i.e. 49 percent are getting door-to-door waste collection service. In an urban area, it is 76 percent. The above data shows that out of 98 rural respondents only 4 (4%) say that their waste collectors do not insist to segregate waste at source. Among 160 urban respondents only 92 i.e. 57.5 percent only say that their waste collectors insist to segregate waste at source.

### **Findings**

- Both rural and urban local self-government give equal priority for segregation of wastes. Those who don't have either their own storage/landfill sites or small sites are not segregating wastes at any stage
- Compare to rural respondents number of urban respondents expect the free supply of waste bins from the local bodies.
- Grama Panchayaths did not give much priority for Door-to-door waste collection service compared to ULBs. But compare to the ULGs waste collectors at Panchayath level give more priority for waste segregation at the primary level.
- Panchayaths who have their own compost producing unit are only insisting segregation of wastes at source and at collection centers.

### **Suggestions**

- Grama Panchayaths should insist householders and others to segregate wastes at source, similarly waste collectors also should collect separately from them as degradable (Wet waste) and non-degradable (Dry Waste) waste.
- Panchayaths should have their own land to store, manage and dispose of wastes.
- Segregation of wastes at source must be made compulsory
- More plastic collecting Centre's (Plastic Soudha) must be constructed. All the Panchayaths should open e-waste collection Centers at their premises.
- Local governance has to conduct more awareness programmes to the public, elected representatives, local clubs and associations, educational institutions and other govt. institutions.
- Grama Panchayaths should have their own storage/landfill sites. Priority must be given at primary level to segregate waste.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

In India, there are multiple institutional systems, including departments and municipal/panchayaths and medical systems, meant to look after the 'sanitation'. NGOs, teachers and students role is very important to create awareness on cleanliness. Mass media also plays an important role to create awareness among the people and inculcate a feeling of nationality among them. All the citizens of the country should actively participate in Swachh Bharath mission to fulfill the dream of Mahatma Gandhi for the protection of the environment, for our safety, for a healthy future and to save planet earth.

**REFERENCES**

1. AnandSubash, 'recycling of solid waste materials', Singh Jagbir and Ramanathan R (Ed.), *Solid Waste Management-Present and Future Challenges*, Bangalore: I.K. International Publishing House, 2010.
2. Pothimamaka J (2008); " Community learning process: A model of Solid Waste reduction and separation, " *Environment Asia*.(www.tshe.org/EA) PP 43-48.
3. Purushothama K V ( 2015) " Plastic a Cancer in Nature: trends problems and policies in India" *Research Journal of Humanities and social Sciences*. Volume 06, Issue 03, July-September 2015. P. No. 209-212.
4. Purushothama K V (2018) " Implementation of Solid waste Management by the Local Governments: A Study in Dakshina Kannada District, *International Journal of Social Science and economic Research*, Volume:03, Issue:11, Nov.2018, P.No.6468-6478.
5. Raja Gopalan, R (2005): "Solid Waste Management.: Environmental studies from crisis to cure". Oxford University Press. New Delhi; pp-202-216
6. Ramachandra T.V., *Management of Municipal Solid Waste*, New Delhi: Capital Publishing Company, 2006.
7. SinhaUdayaprakash, *Economics of Social sector and environment*, New Delhi: Concept publishing company, 2007.