



# GENDER AND INCLUSIVE SANITATION



“When we see such examples of women across all ages join the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, others are motivated to do the same. Such actions also show that the connection between Swachhata and the respect that comes with access to safe sanitation.”

*Narendra Modi*  
Prime Minister, India

The **Swachh Bharat Mission** not only aims to be inclusive to all sections of society, but to create an enabling environment to empower all genders, all age groups including senior citizens and to promote human dignity

## Guidelines under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Outline the Strategy for Inclusion:

### HANDBOOK ON ACCESSIBLE HOUSEHOLD SANITATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 2015

The handbook informs states and districts on basic accessibility principles and appropriate designs for the differently abled and elderly.

### NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT, 2015

The guidelines provide information to address taboos surrounding menstruation and also recommend means for managing menstrual product waste

### GUIDELINES FOR GENDER ISSUES IN SANITATION, 2017

The guidelines present recommendations to ensure safe and convenient access to toilets for young girls, women and the third gender.

## Women and Swachh Bharat

### Impact of Improved Sanitation on Women



Source: Data from IMF (2017)



**1.4%** increase in GDP, due to improved sanitation facilities



**10%** reduction in time spent by women on household and childcare

### Leadership Roles Played by Women in Swachh Bharat Mission



*Swachhagrahis*, the foot soldiers of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen, are the motivators for behaviour change in sanitation practices.

**Almost 50% of 450,000 *swachhagrahis* are women.**



In Swachh Shakti 2018, an event held on International Womens' Day, 8 March 2018, 8000 women *sarpanches*, 3000 women *swachhagrahis* and women champions from across the country were recognised for their outstanding contributions towards Swachh Bharat.

### Women and Livelihood Generation in SBM-G

Masons are essential to making districts open defecation free (ODF). However, in some places they are in short supply.

Jharkhand state trained a pool of 55,000 rani mistris (women masons) for those blocks that were facing an acute shortage. This was done with the help of the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society.

“Previously I earned about Rs 150 per day but now I earn Rs 400 for one day’s work” said Bhuvneswari Devi, a sense of accomplishment evident in her voice.

Sunitha trained approximately 1426 women as *rani mistris* and supported them to make 17 villages open defecation free.



### Greater Inclusiveness

The third gender can now use community/public toilets of their choice (men or women).

## Impact of Inclusive Sanitation

### Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products and Waste Management Technologies

Managing menstruation in a hygienic way not only requires access to basic sanitation facilities and soap and water, but also to menstrual absorbents. Adolescent girls and women use different types of menstrual products, not all of which are hygienic. Efforts are being made to increase access to hygienic options.

To ensure that all girl students in Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka state have access to toilets in their homes, and to provide awareness about menstrual hygiene management (MHM), the district administration launched the Understand, Sensitize, Help and Achieve (USHA) campaign.

The main objectives were to enable an equitable and decent life for every girl child in the district; to restore her rights and dignity; and to give her identity and space. USHA was an intensive campaign to ensure that no girl child was left behind.



USHA training programmes were held in Chamarajanagar, Karnataka for women, girls, teenagers, mentors, parents and students covering leadership skills, personal hygiene, decision-making, problem-solving, gender issues, budgeting and writing to the authorities.



Napkin vending machines and incinerators were installed in all residential schools, colleges and welfare hostels in Nalgonda district of Telangana. All high schools and colleges formed MHM peer clubs.



# Impact of Inclusive Sanitation

## Access to Menstrual Hygiene products and Waste Management Technologies

Apart from increasing government assistance for household toilets, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has broadened eligibility categories to include households having persons with disabilities. The SBM-G, while focusing on universal sanitation coverage, also strives to address the needs of persons with disabilities.



**4.45 million**  
differently-abled-friendly  
toilets constructed under  
the Mission



Uttara Thakur, a differently-abled *sarpanch* from Chhattisgarh was determined to improve sanitation in her village.

She went door-to-door to motivate people to use toilets. Her contagious spirit mobilized the whole village to join hands and become ODF.

## Publication at MGISC

The Swachh Bharat process of triggering behaviour change at village level led to the emergence of natural leaders: women who may not be literate or have any formal training, but who display character and confidence through their willingness to speak out.

This brochure outlines the key factors driving, enabling and hampering the emergence of women's leadership in SBM-G in three focus States – Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh – of the World Bank's technical assistance. It recommends using government policy to create safe spaces for women to exercise agency in governance systems and employing messaging that focuses on women's roles outside of the family.



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