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Status of Water and Sanitation in Some Parts of Banihal Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir India

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ABSTRACT: This paper provides an overview of the water and sanitation situation in the country, the state of Jammu and Kashmir, and the tehsil of Banihal. Providing a country's citizens with clean water to drink is of the utmost significance. The aim of this paper is to assess Status of Water and Sanitation in Some Parts of Banihal Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir India. All the data was collected from secondary sources. It was observed although Government has initiated several schemes in terms of water and sanitation, much has to be done to address the issues in Banihal Tehsil. There is a need of immediate intervention of all stake holders to improve the facilities.

Keywords: Water, Sanitation, health, improvement.

INTRODUCTION

Water is the basic necessity for all (Gupta *et al.,* 2018; Narendra *et al.,* 2021; Patel & Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya 2018). It is well-known that Jammu and Kashmir has a water shortage. But looking at the data alone, without considering its implications, paints an inaccurate image. Jammu and Kashmir is famous for its glaciers, freshwater lakes, and streams, but a recent research indicated that 50% of schools and 30% of communities there are receiving water that is polluted. An evaluation by the National Level Monitoring agency found that about two-thirds of the villagers' dwellings lacked sufficient drinkable water. Cancer and other illnesses may be worsened by water that is unsafe to drink. Researchers in India found that out of 432 occurrences of primary malignant brain tumours (excluding metastatic lesions), 389 were found in people who worked on orchards. This information was published in the Indian Journal of Medical and Paediatric Oncology in October 2010. It takes a lot of work, energy, and time to get water for the people. There were significant dropout rates since getting drinkable water was so difficult.

Understanding the backdrop of the drinking water problem in Kashmir and developing long-term strategies to alleviate it are of the utmost importance. We need to determine the availability of drinking water in order to examine and evaluate the issue better in order to comprehend the shortage of drinking water.

SANITATION ISSUES

The very definition of an exclusionary sustainable development aim is one that helps certain areas while hurting others. The primary objective of the SDGs is to achieve regional and intra-regional parity in the acquisition and distribution of resources. Additionally, any government programme that prioritizes dividing the country into urban and rural areas based on water scarcity rather than promoting water equity is certain to be exclusive and prejudicial. The primary responsibility of the state is to ensure that potable water is readily available to all citizens. The policy parameters should be guided by the goal of ensuring that treated tap water facilities are accessible and connected to rural homes. As a result, Jammu and Kashmir has to address its water issues by thoroughly researching the problem of water shortage and making a strong commitment to its solution.

Jammu and Kashmir has the poorest sanitation. Only 38.5 percent of rural homes had access to toilets in 2011, as reported by the census. According to a 2018 NDTV research, over 59% of homes in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) do not have access to a toilet, ranking the state among the poorest in India in terms of sanitation. Over two lakh (2,02,238) individual home toilets were built in rural J&K after the beginning of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in 2014, according to statistics accessible on the Swachh Bharat Mission dashboard. The state's sanitation coverage has increased somewhat over the last three years, rising from 20.38 percent in 2014 to 40.97 percent. "Six and a half percent of all villages are ODF, with only 412 out of 6694 being so." According to the Swachh Bharat Mission dashboard, just 1,851 individual toilets have been built out of an astounding 80,458 applications, indicating that the sanitation condition in the state's metropolitan regions is also not very hopeful.

In an effort to get people to quit using open defecation and start using toilets, the state is implementing an information, education, and communication (IEC) programme. However, there are instances when we are

compelled to limit our cleanliness awareness initiatives owing to matters of law and order and security concerns. Mr. Ghasi had previously informed the NDTV that the government is taking steps to guarantee the development of individual household latrines (IHHL) in the fields.

According to statistics compiled by the Swatch Bharat Mission (SBM), 1,12,500 toilets and 1,350 sanitary complexes have been built in J&K. The results, however, show that the former state's rural sanitation has not improved much in the last six years. Additionally, it has been discovered via independent studies that the majority of village residents are still using dry latrines, contradicting the information on the SBM website, which states that almost all Jammu and Kashmir villages have been classified ODF.

The SBM website states that a family might get an incentive of Rs. 12,000 to build and use a toilet. The sum is enough to build a twin pit toilet in rural regions, according to a response to a frequently asked question on the Swatch Bharat Mission website. Unfortunately, the funds were insufficient to cover the cost of building latrines. It was common for a homeowner to get payment for building a latrine but then fail to equip it with the necessary fixtures. Despite the best efforts of the Rural Sanitation Department, the ODF aim remained unfulfilled owing to inadequate financing, poor planning, and widespread public ignorance.

Despite the fact that things have changed, sanitation and waste management have remained static.

Over the last ten years, there has been a noticeable shift in the demographics of rural areas. There has been a dramatic change from the old to the new way of life. In recent decades, there has been a noticeable acceleration in the rate of population expansion. As a consequence of these changes, more people are living in rural regions, which means more people are using water and raw materials, which means more people are producing sewage and solid waste that nobody can use. In light of these changes, the government established the SLWM project for Solid Liquid Waste Management. There was no serious effort to promote SLWM; instead, attention stayed on toilet goals and ODF accomplishments. Despite the Panchayats' potential to play a pivotal role in grassroots programme implementation, this opportunity was not fully realised due to a lack of administrative support and a standard operating procedure (SOP) for grassroots programme implementation. Consequently, J&K was unable to execute the project on a local level, which led to the complete lack of facilities for disposing of solid and liquid waste in rural areas and the transformation of every corner of villages into a landfill.

The former state created the system to handle the vast volumes of manure produced by animals in rural regions, but Jammu and Kashmir never got around to implementing it.

The gramme Panchayat is not clean since locals don't understand or aren't sensitive enough. The government has squandered information education and communication projects costing crores of rupees without seeing a corresponding improvement in public behavior. Despite receiving funds to implement such projects, many NGOs ultimately failed.

METHODOLOGY

The data for the present study was collected from secondary sources only.

Reasons for Waste Management Malfunctions. Right now, the following are the main reasons why waste management in Jammu and Kashmir isn't working:

1. A rise in the overall population
2. The Panchayat institutions are weak and ineffective.
3. Administrators have a hurdle when dealing with low-income communities because they lack the necessary training in trash segregation and management.
4. The infrastructure for the waste processing unit is inadequate.

Sanitation is being disproportionately impacted by the multi-faceted issue of underdevelopment in rural regions. There is a disturbing uptick in both the amount of slops and the use of materials like polythene and plastic goods. Poor drainage systems, crumbling roads, a shortage of dust bins, and disposal facilities that do not use waste segregation techniques have stacked the odds against rural regions.

Table 1: Access to sanitation.

	Sanitation coverage					
	Urban (%)		Rural (%)		Total (%)	
	1990	2015	1990	2015	1990	2015
Access to sanitation	71	90	9	39	25	56
Improved facilities	49	63	6	28	17	40
Shared facilities	16	21	1	5	5	10
Other improvements	6	6	2	6	3	6
Open defecation	29	10	91	61	75	44

Source: SACOSAN VI, 2016

With universal access to sanitation as its primary goal, the Indian government established the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) in 1986 as a systematic plan. In an effort to raise awareness and generate demand for sanitation facilities among rural Indians, a "demand driven" strategy was initiated in 1999 as part of the "Total Sanitation Campaign" (TSC). This strategy focused on IEC, HRD, and capacity development initiatives. Despite the shift in focus, the outcomes were lacklustre. A total of 40.4% of rural households had access to a toilet in 2012, up from 21.1% in 2001—the year the TSC was implemented

(Ministry of Rural Development 2012). Nonetheless, statistics show that 20% of rural restrooms were inoperable. The government of India rebranded the TSC as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) in 2012 after making significant changes to the program's objectives, strategy, and budget. Launched on 1.4.2012, the "Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan" (NBA) sought to establish Nirmal villages and was the subsequent project to the TSC. A significant section of the rural population still lacked access to toilets, notwithstanding the effectiveness of these projects.

Physical Report for the Year: The following is the yearly physical progress report for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 (up till December 2016) of the Swachh Bharath Mission (Gramin) on the building of IHHL-BPLs, IHHL-APLs, IHHL-Total, and community sanitary complexes:

Table 2: The Swachh Bharath Mission's (Gramin) Physical Progress.

Year	IHHL-BPL	IHHL-APL	IHHL-Total	WSC
2015-16	5013160	7649564	12662724	1899
2016-17 (upto Dec 2017)	5153074	7590387	12743551	1327

Source: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, we can see the status of IHHL broken down by state.

Table 3: Jammu and Kashmir's use of groundwater.

Category	Ground water utilization	No. of blocks
Over exploited	More than 100%	138
Critical	90 to 100%	33
Semi critical	70 to 90%	67
Safe	Less than 70%	136
Poor quality		11
Total		385

It is estimated that the overall demand for water in the state, including both agricultural and non-agricultural uses, is 1893 TMC, whereas the total accessible water resources in the state are 1587 TMC. Consequently, a total of 306 TMC, or 1% of demand, remains unfulfilled. This void can only be filled by programmes that collect rainwater for later use. A decrease in the saturated water column has resulted from the indiscriminate mining of sand, which has a negative impact on sand thickness and subsurface sources. The quality of groundwater is being negatively impacted by over-extraction. Industrial effluents, agricultural runoff, and untreated residential sewage all contribute to the contamination of surface water. Of the total number of bodies of water, 70,368 are ponds and 21,609 are small irrigation tanks. The list is shown in Table 4.15 per district. Together with the Public Works Department, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has a strategy to restore the water bodies under its control to their former levels of storage capacity by removing encroachments. The goal for the next Twelfth Five Year Plan is to restore 39,000 bodies of water.

DISCUSSION

The Twelfth Five Year Plan is all on getting the people involved by forming water and sanitation committees at the district and village levels. In order to prioritise water consumption, the committees would provide inputs and participate in the "WISE" water practices. The supply of a minimal amount of potable water of basic quality is given first priority. improved water access, more equitable distribution, improved community resource management, and capacity development for all stakeholders would result from the activities suggested in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. It is crucial to have access to clean water and sanitation facilities and to use them properly in order to live a healthy life. Making sanitation a sustainable process requires more than just building infrastructure or providing amenities. In order to improve the community's health, infrastructure development should be supported with education and the adoption of appropriate behavioural patterns. The government of India's Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), now known as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), is an extensive initiative to improve rural sanitation in Jammu and Kashmir. In Banihal Tehsil, there is a water shortage for human consumption due to the excessive extraction of groundwater for agricultural uses. The water level dropped to almost a thousand feet in many locations. There has been an extreme water shortage in the Banihal, a popular tourist destination in the area. One of Banihal,s primary water supply tanks was almost empty. The water from Banihal, water had become very polluted, and hotels and restaurants began to use it. As a protest, women in the Banihal panchayat, gathered around a street tap and staged a fake funeral. With their heads covered, they sobbed in front of the tap. "Hundreds of families are suffering due to water scarcity," according to them.

Villagers in Banihal Tehsil's have been dealing with a severe water shortage. In residents went on the streets and besieged the panchayat in a demand for water supply after a month-long outage. All year long, the village's water supply had been unpredictable. A number of bore wells that were drilled in various wards using mini-power pumps became dry as a result of the groundwater table rapidly declining. A pot of water cost anything from five to twenty rupees.

Programmes to raise awareness about handwashing are therefore desperately needed in the state. Based on the regional variability in Banihal, a micro-scale policy is required to address these concerns. To further reduce the impacts of arsenic, consider using extra deep tube

wells, potable water, and rainwater collection as alternate water sources. On the other hand, public awareness campaigns and routine shallow tube well monitoring can help reduce the negative health impacts of arsenic. In order to develop effective strategies, future research should concentrate on the coverage and accessibility of WASH services at the micro level. Furthermore, because of Purulia district's low combined WASH service scores, extra attention is required.

CONCLUSION

While progress has been made in some areas, there is a continued need for sustained efforts to ensure universal access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities in Banihal Tehsil. Collaborative efforts involving local communities, government bodies, and NGOs are crucial for addressing these issues comprehensively. Consulting local authorities and recent reports would provide a clearer understanding of the current status and ongoing developments in water and sanitation infrastructure in Banihal Tehsil.

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