Sanitation Progress

Sanitation Coverage Trends, India 1990-2008

- Natural sanitation trends
- Rural sanitation trends
- Urban sanitation trends

Open defecation
- A significant number of people continue to defecate in public areas, posing health risks.
- Facilities to collect human excreta include dry pits, septic tanks, or shallow wells.

Unimproved facilities
- Facilities are considered improved if they are not open defecation or facilities with piped water and sewerage connections.

Improved facilities
- Facilities with piped water and sewers or latrines, not open defecation, are considered improved.

132 million more people use improved sanitation in rural areas

Worldwide, four out of ten people who have gained access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2008 live in India and China.

Global versus the Indian situation

- Globally, 1.5 million annual diarrhoeal deaths occur among children under five years of age. India tops the list.

Improved sanitation usage needs to increase from 31% to 59% to meet the MDG target on sanitation by 2015

WASH interventions critical for child survival

- Diarrhoea and pneumonia, account for one third of all child deaths globally.
- Infant mortality is 28 times higher for children without access to basic amenities.

81% of 1.1 billion people defecating in the open worldwide live in 10 countries

- Major progress in the use of improved sanitation is underway by population growth.

- Diarrhoea worldwide is higher in areas without basic sanitation and clean water.
- Investing in water and sanitation makes sound economic sense as each $1 invested means an average of up to $3 in return due to reduced health expenditure.

Nitrocellulose food and good health services are necessary but not enough for ensuring good health of our citizens. We also need cleanliness and good sanitation in our villages, towns and cities. There are many diseases which will be difficult to prevent elsewhere. The risk is that our country may be pulled behind in this area. I consider it to be my responsibility to ensure that all our citizens to maintain cleanliness and hygiene around them. I would like us to be the best in the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in schools from the very beginning under a campaign for a Clean India. I appeal to the State Governments, Panchayat Raj institutions, civil society groups and common citizens to make this campaign a success.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India (Independence Day Speech, 15th August, 2007)