
Effectiveness of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in tribal areas- Possibilities and Challenges

(A Case study of Tharu prone area of Utter Pradesh)

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Abstract

India is a land of villages where various social groups are living together. Among these some are more backward and unique than others. The tribal's are one of them who are traditionally living in indigenous areas. The Government of India has been implementing numerous development programs for the development of these groups and of the country.

India is known as a young country, which will also be known for its aging pattern in future. As scientific researches show that the various health and social problems are related to the cleanliness and according to the study released on the occasion of [World Toilet Day](#) on 19 November 2015, the world's second most populous nation has 60.4% of its people without access to safe and private toilets. So Govt. of India has started Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) to clean and green India till 2019. But for the success of this Abhiyan the participation of all sections of society is necessary. In this concern the present study seeks to focus on effectiveness of SBA in tribal areas. It is a Case study of Tharu villages of Shrawasti district of Utter Pradesh which also analyses the Possibilities and Challenges in the proper implementation of this Abhiyan. It explains that among Tharus maximum families have toilet facilities but they are not utilising those toilets.

The quality of toilets is very poor and has no water facility. They don't have proper disposal facility of waste water and house waste material and maximum are dumping the house wastes within the village premises. Their awareness level regarding health, cleanliness and SBA is very low. The villages have permanent sweeper and other officials but they are not doing their work properly.

So, for success of this Abhiyan on one side we need facilities and on the other side we also need the inner urge for proper utilization of these facilities. The society and NGOs must pay proper attention to aware people and control over corruptions. The Government must concentrate over strict implementation and worker's participation in this Abhiyan and also make strict rule to control various types of corruptions.

Keywords: *Swachh Bharat Abhiya (SBA), Tharu tribe, Sanitary facilities, cleanliness, Civil society.*

Introduction

India is a land of villages where various social groups are living together. Among these some are more backward and unique than others. The tribal's are one of them who are traditionally living in indigenous areas. The Government of India has been implementing numerous programmes for the upliftment of Indian society and development of the country. Although India is a young country but it is developing country and in coming years India will face the aging problems then the health and hygiene will be the most expensive for government. The clean scenario will be helpful to protect the society. Now it is very essential for the people in India to really get the feeling of physical, mental, social and intellectual well being. To make living status advance in real means it is really very essential to eliminate the open defecation as well as making available toilets facility to everyone. Insanitary toilets should be converted into flushing toilets. The manual scavenging system must be eradicated. Now the proper waste management through the scientific processes, hygienic disposal, reuses, and recycling of the municipal solid wastes must be started. To make India a clean and green India, It is necessary to improve the sustainable sanitation practices and quality of life of people in rural areas. The behavioural changes among Indian people regarding personal hygiene and practice of healthy sanitation methods is necessary. As Mahatma Gandhi said that, "Sanitation is more important than Independence" and explained that both cleanliness and sanitation are integral parts of healthy and peaceful living. For holistic development it is necessary that India must be clean and green and to develop sanitary facilities all through the country is the demand of today. So the SBA is started by the Government of India.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) - It is a national cleanliness campaign established by the Government of India. This campaign is covering 4041 statutory towns in order to clean roads, streets, and infrastructure of the India. It is a step ahead to the Mahatma Gandhi's dream of swachh Bharat for healthy and prosperous life. The campaign was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at [Rajghat, New Delhi](#), by targeting its completeness in 2019 on 150th birth anniversary of Bapu. The Abhiyan has been implemented to cover all the rural and urban areas of the India under the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation accordingly. The first cleanliness drive (on 25th of September 2014) of this Abhiyan was started by the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi earlier to its launch. This Abhiyan has targeted to solve the sanitation problems as well as better waste management all over the India by creating sanitation facilities to all.

The program plans to construct 12 crore toilets in rural India by October 2019, at a projected cost of 1.96 [lakh crore](#) (US\$29 billion). And **For the financial assistance** Swachh Bharat Cess is introduced by the government of India which is an improvement in the service tax by .5% on all the services in India. The Abhiyan is initiated all over in India but three main levels of implementation are 1- The SBA of urban areas aims to cover almost 1.04 crore households in order to provide them 2.6 lakhs of public toilets, 2.5 lakhs of community toilets together with the solid wastes management in every town. 2- Gramin SBA is an Abhiyan implementing cleanliness programmes in the rural areas. Earlier the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (also called Total Sanitation campaign, TSC) was established by the Government of India in 1999 to make rural areas clean however now it has been restructured into the SBA (Gramin). This campaign is aimed to make rural areas free of open defecation till 2019, keeping the objective to improve quality of life of the people living in the rural areas. 3- The Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya(SBSV) campaign runs by the UMHRD having same objectives of cleanliness in the

schools. By promoting the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi the healthy cleanliness and hygiene practices are trying to inbuilt among students. To make this Abhiyan successful various cleanliness drives are going on by involving planting trees, effective waste management, plastic-free environment, rainwater harvesting etc.

Need of the study- A plan becomes successful when its fruit is reached to the lowest step of the society. That's why if we want to make India clean, it is necessary to analyze the scenario of implementation and awareness level of this Abhiyan among the tribal societies. In this concern the present study seeks to focus on the Effectiveness of SBA in tribal areas of Uttar Pradesh. It is a Case study of Tharu villages of Shrawasti district of Uttar Pradesh. It explains that for cleanliness at one side we need facilities but on the other side we also need the inner urge for implementation.

2- Study Area and group - The present study is based on Tharu villages of Shrawasti district of Uttar Pradesh. These villages are located in the northern part of the district (In tarai area) near to Nepal border. The Shrawasti District is one of the backward districts of the Uttar Pradesh. It is very spiritual land where Lord Buddha, lord Sambhavnath of Janis and Lava the son of lord Rama had performed their actions. It is a newly created district carved out from district Bahraich and part of Devipatan Division. Shrawasti shares its border with district Balrampur, Gonda and Bahraich and country Nepal. It is a plain land of terai area. The main River is Rapti which sometimes create floods during monsoon season. The Suhelwa forest range lies in the northern part of the district. It has no mineral resources, except sand of river Rapti and Bhansahi which is used for construction of buildings. The total population of the district is 114, 6154 where Male 594,318 Female 520,297 and Area is 1,948.20 Sq. Km. the Sex Ratio: 875. Literacy rate is 49.13% where Male literacy is 59.55% and Female literacy is 37.07%. The district has 2 Tehshil, 5 Blocks, 54 Naya Panchayat and 536 villages. Main Crops are Paddy, wheat, pulses & sugarcane.

The Tharu tribe- The Uttar Pradesh has unique position of being India's most popular state with small Tribal population. There are two Tribal belts in Uttar Pradesh, 1-Northern Terai, and 2- Southern Plateau, where different racial Tribes are living. The Tharu is the largest Tribe of Uttar Pradesh having 67.7 hundred populations. In 1967 the Tharu was declared as scheduled Tribe.

Tharu is little known but widely scattered agricultural Tribe inhabits in Tharuhat, the Tarai tract of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Nepal. The Tharu tribe is characterized by the presence of epicanthic fold in Eyes, flat face, and pale brown skins, stocky body, sagged Mongoloid affinity.

In spite of joint family and patriarchal system, the dominating role of women in Tharu family cannot be denied. Their main food is Bhat (rice) and Shikar, while the drink of Jad and Tharra is attached with their heart. Their hut structure, mosquito replace smoke and valued drink make them malaria proof, but now a days this habit of drink attending the role of destroyer.

They are cheated by forwarded people who occupied their land and destroyed their severity culture and family. It is poor group with main occupation of agriculture looking for the flow of development winds towards them.

3- Objective of the study - The following objectives have been outlined for the study

1. To identify the effectiveness of **SBA** among tribal society.
2. To identify the Possibilities and Challenges **SBA** among tribal society
3. To suggest the important strategies for proper implementation of **SBA** among tribal society.

4- Database and methodology-

The Present study is based on primary data collected in June 2015 which is given in table 1. The two Tharu villages-Bhachkahi and Bankati, are selected on the base of high concentration of Tharu tribe. Total 70 families were randomly selected from among which 50 were tribal families and 20 were non tribal families. They are having 376 persons; the family size is 5.37 and sex ratio is 918. The study consists a holistic analysis regarding implementation and success issues of **SBA** among Tharu families. It also analyses the level of effectiveness of this program by comparative analysis of selected Tharu families and Non Tharu families on the basis of selected indicators and statistical tools. The study also evaluates the awareness level of selected households regarding Abhiyan, problems related implementation and role of society government and NGO in the success of this Abhiyan. The study reached to conclusion on the base of average and other statistical analysis. Due to small sample the impact factor of the study may not be so vast.

Table 1- Population structure of selected families

S N	Study group	Selected villages	Selected Families	Population			Family size	Sex ratio
				Male	Female	Total		
1	Tribal families	2	50	145	138	283	5.66	952
2	Non tribal families	2	20	51	42	93	4.65	824
	Total	4	70	196	180	376	5.37	918

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015.

5-Analysis – In a democratic society, the state has the ultimate responsibility for shearing development to its citizens. In India, through the progressive interpretation of the Constitution and its laws and policies, the scope of development has been significantly broadened to include not just economic progress for citizens, but also promotion of social justice, gender equity, inclusion, citizen's awareness, empowerment and improved quality of life. To achieve this holistic vision of development, the healthy clean and green surrounding is necessary but due to variety of culture poverty and unawareness of people India is not known for cleanliness and that's why **SBA** is started. In the study we are trying to know the facility level, awareness level, problems and required efforts for the success of this program.

5.1- Education, health and economic status of the respondents – The tribals are those aboriginal people who are living in natural situation. Their whole life style is attached with nature. Traditionally they are not much aware with modern social development.

They want to live in their traditional way and in some case they also suffer. Normally their health and hygiene practices are not up to the mark and that's why in present scenario the Government is taking commendable initiative for the upliftment of the tribal as they are required to take part in the nation-building process along with the general populace of the country and participate in the decision-making process.

In the present study to understand the effectiveness of SBA among tribals, it is necessary to understand the education health and economic status of the respondents because these indicators are directly proportional to the awareness level of the society. The following table 2 explains that the literacy level among the respondent families is 65.7 percent which is 68.9 percent in males and 62.2 percent are in females. The literacy level is higher in non tribal but not with much gap this shows that Tharus are taking interest in education.

Although the 34.3 percent persons are illiterate but it is also interesting that new generation is taking higher education also (16.96 percent). Among respondents the 37.1 percent comes from below poverty line while 11.43 percent from families of better economic status.

Table 2- Literacy and education and economic status among selected families (In percent)

SN	Study group	Literacy			Education status			Economic status of selected families		
		Male	Female	Total	Illiterate	Up to secondary class	Above secondary classes	BPL	Normal	High
1	Tribal families	67.59	60.87	64.31	35.69	47.35	16.96	40.00	50.00	10.00
2	Non tribal families	72.55	66.67	69.89	30.11	48.39	21.51	30.00	55.00	15.00
	Total	68.88	62.22	65.69	34.31	47.61	18.09	37.14	51.43	11.43

Source-Primary survey conducted in 2015

5.2- Level of housing and sanitary facility among Tharus –The situation of housing and related facilities are directly proportional to sanitary awareness level and Health consciousness level.

In this concern the following Table 3 shows that in selected families 42.8 percent houses are with cemented roof, 78.57 % houses are having sanitary facility, 74.29 % houses are having fresh water facility, 35.71% houses have proper light facilities, 15.7 % have entertainment facilities and 7.14% houses have communication facilities.

The percentage of families having better housing facilities is better in Tharu families but the facility of entertainment and communication is better in non Tharus. This explains that the government facilities are reaching to Tharu families but their awareness level is not much good.

Table 3- Housing facility status among selected families _____ (In percent)

SN	Study group	Own house		Facility				
		Meteled	Non melted	Sanitary	Fresh water	Light	Entertainment	Communication
1	Tribal families	44.00	56.00	80.00	72.00	38.00	10.00	4.00
2	Non tribal Families	40.00	60.00	75.00	80.00	30.00	30.00	15.00
	Total	42.86	57.14	78.57	74.29	35.71	15.71	7.14

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

5.3- Level of Sanitary facility among Tharus – The sanitary facilities and their utilization level is most important part of this Abhiyan. It is seen that Tharus have been provided sanitary facilities but they are not utilizing properly. In this concern the following Table 4 shows that in selected families, 78.57% houses are having sanitary facilities which are 80.0% in Tharu families and 75.0% in non Tharu families. If we see the type of toilets which is most important aspect of the study no any toilet found as insanitary toilet but 94.3% toilets are not having water facility while only 5.71% toilets have proper water facility which is also explained that it is personal. The second most important aspect which table explains is toilet utilization scenario. The table explains that 74.29% toilets are not in use and only 25.7% toilets are in use. Here it is remarkable that maximum toilets which are made under subsidy or plan of Government are in very petty condition. They have no proper space and are without roof that's why maximum people are not using it as toilet, but they are putting the wood and fodder for animals in it. This explains that not only number but quality is important and for proper success this is necessary to control over corruption in implementation of this type of plans.

Table 4- Sanitary facility and there utilization pattern in the houses (In percent)

S N	Study group	House with toilet facility	Toilet type			Utilization	
			Insanitary toilet	Flushing toilet without proper water facility	Flushing toilet without proper water facility	Toilet in use	Not in use
1	Tribal families	80.00	0.00	96.00	4.00	24.00	76.00
2	Non tribal Families	75.00	0.00	90.00	10.00	30.00	70.00
	Total	78.57	0.00	94.29	5.71	25.71	74.29

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

5.4- Waste water discharge facility- The pattern of waste water disposal facilities and their utilization level is most important part of this Abhiyan. In this concern the following Table 5 shows that in the selected families only 40 % of houses are having proper waste water discharge facility which is much better in non Tharu families than Tharus. Among the selected families 41.1% families are discharging the waste water in open tanks made within the house or on the streets while 35.7 percent families are discharging in Nali (drains) and 22.86 percent families are in the open fields. In this aspect the situation of non Tharus is better than Tharu families but not much good. Explaining the causes of this scenario we gets that the condition of nail made along the street is

very poor. Drains are very thin and open. They are not cleaned regularly so they overflow and people also make open tanks for discharge of waste water.

Table 5- Waste water discharge facility in the selected houses (In Percent)

SN	Study group	House with proper water discharge facility		Place of waste water discharge		
		yes	No	Open Tank	Nali	Field
1	Tribal families	38.00	62.00	46.00	32.00	22.00
2	Non tribal Families	45.00	55.00	30.00	45.00	25.00
	Total	40.00	60.00	41.43	35.71	22.86

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

5.3.3- Waste material discharge facility- In rural areas it is seen that people dispose the waste material within the village or near to the village in open space, which creates not only pollution but also various types of diseases. In this concern the following Table 6 shows that in the selected families only 37.1% of houses are having proper house waste discharge facility which is much better in non Tharu families than Tharus. Among the selected families 35.7 % families are discharging the waste within the village, 35.7% are in open and near to outside of the village and 28.57 percent families are submitting the waste out of the village for compost. In this aspect also the situation of non Tharus is better than Tharu families but not much good. Maximum families are non familiar with decomposable and non decomposable wastes and they don't dump the house waste in proper places. Although there are government employee in the village to maintain the cleanliness in the village but they are not working so this aspect is problematic. So for the success of this Abhiyan it is necessary to aware the people regarding proper house waste disposal.

Table 6- Waste material discharge facility in the selected houses (In percent)

SN	Study group	House with proper waste discharge facility		Where the Waste material is discharged		
		Yes	No	With in the village	Out of the village	In tank for compost
1	Tribal families	32.00	68.00	42.00	34.00	24.00
2	Non tribal Families	50.00	50.00	20.00	40.00	40.00
	Total	37.14	62.86	35.71	35.71	28.57

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

5.4- Awareness level of selected families about Health, cleanliness and Swacch Bharat Abhiyan (SBA)- The success of any plan depends upon the awareness level of plan among the people. So to check the awareness level of selected families about health, cleanliness, SBA and related issues the question were asked and the views of the respondents are analysed in the table7. The following table shows that only 20 percent respondents are always in favour to use sanitary toilets which is less in tribals. 11.43 % respondents know about the diseases related to open defecation. 34.4 % respondents know about the diseases related to open waste dumping and only 38.6% respondents know about the diseases related to water lodging. Regarding health awareness only 7.14% respondents are aware for use of sanitary pads, and 48.6 percent respondent accepts that they always prefer for Delivery in hospital only. The most problematic answer is about the drug habit. 67.14 % respondents are using Gutkha/ pan masala daily and 88.57% respondent accept that they spit anywhere. And the problematic seen is this, that only 7.1% respondents know about **SBA**. In all the answers non Tharus have better awareness level than Tharus but not up to the mark. Awareness is the most important aspect for the success of this Abhiyan, and this awareness level will be increase only by door to door contact, where the role of village government officer and civil societies becomes very crucial.

Table-7 Awareness level of selected families about Health, cleanliness and Abhiyan (In Percent)

SN	Detail	Tribal families	Non tribal families	Total
1	Always try to use sanitary toilet	16.00	30.00	20.00
2	Aware about the diseases related to open defecation	8.00	20.00	11.43
3	Always through the house waste in tank out of the village	24.00	80.00	32.86
4	Know about the diseases related to open waste dumping	32.00	40.00	34.29
5	Know about the diseases related to water logging	28.00	65.00	38.57
6	Use of sanitary paid	6.00	10.00	7.14
7	Always Try for Delivery in hospital only	42.00	65.00	48.57
8	Use the Gutkh/ Pan Masala daily	64.00	75.00	67.14
9	Spit any where	90.00	85.00	88.57
10	Know about SBA	4.00	15.00	7.14

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

5.7- Efforts of governmental and non government organization- level of work problems and result-

In a democratic society; the government has ultimate responsibility for the development of citizens but the civil societies also plays mark able role in social development. To achieve this holistic vision of development, the healthy clean and green surrounding, it is necessary to involve civil societies with government efforts. In this study the impact of government schemes and efforts of civil society among

Tharu areas, regarding effectiveness of cleanliness and SBA is analysed by the views of respondents which is given in the table 8 which shows that only 45.71 percent respondents have got subsidy for sanitary toilet without any donation. 88.6 percent respondents explain that the condition of toilet made by panchayat is not usable. Only 4.29 percent respondents accept about Daily cleaning of road and Nali of the villages. The response in favour of about visit of government officials is very low. This explains the low attentiveness of government officials. So it is necessary that all the sectors should efforts to aware people and making facilities.

Table 8- Respondents view regarding level of work and efforts in tharu area (In Percent)

SN	Aspects	Tribal families	Non tribal families	Total
1	Have got subsidy for sanitary toilet without any donation	42.00	55.00	45.71
2	The condition of toilet made by punchayat is not usable	90.00	85.00	88.57
3	Daily cleaning of road and Nali	2.00	10.00	4.29
4	Daily visit of village sweeper	4.00	5.00	4.29
5	Periodically visit of doctor	6.00	10.00	7.14
6	Periodic visit of development officer	42.00	55.00	45.71

Source-Primary survey conducted in2015

6- Conclusion and suggestion – Having unity in waste diversity, India is now known as a young country, which will also be known for its aging pattern in future. As the study released on the occasion of [World Toilet Day](#) on 19 November 2015, the world's second most populous nation has 60.4% of its people without access to safe and private toilets. So Gov. of India has started Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) to clean and green India till 2019. But for the success of this Abhiyan the participation of all sections of society is necessary. In this concern the present study explains the effectiveness of SBA in tribal areas. On the basis of the views of respondents of Tharu villages of Shrawasti district of Utter Pradesh the study explains that among Tharus maximum families have toilet facilities but they are not utilising those toilets. The quality of toilets is very poor and has no water facility. They don't have proper disposal facility of waste water and house waste material. The maximum people are dumping the house wastes within the village premises. Their awareness level regarding health, cleanliness and SBA is very low. The villages have permanent sweeper and other officials but they are not doing their work properly. So for success of this Abhiyan on one side we need facilities but on the other side we also need the inner urge for proper utilization of these facilities.

The Numerous activities can be undertaken under this Abhiyan as Health development, Community development, educational and sanitary awareness programmes etc. It is necessary to make linkage and

coordination among the output and efforts of government. There should be more transparency in the function of the government, civil society so that they may garner the support and faith of the ordinary people. There is a need for closer interactions and exchange of ideas between the beneficiaries and volunteers of the project. They should explain about the Abhiyan and related facilities provided by government to the beneficiaries and involve them in aware the other people. The society and NGOs must pay proper attention to aware people and control over corruptions in providing sanitary and other facilities to the villagers. The Government must concentrate over strict implementation and worker's participation in this Abhiyan and also make strict rule to full stop over various types of corruptions.

The healthy society and country is made by the clean arena and healthy citizens so Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, is a nice welcome step to the clean and green India till 2019. As we all heard about the most famous proverb that [Cleanliness is Next to Godliness](#) we can say surely that swachh Bharat Abhiyan(SBA) will really bring godliness all over the country in few years if it is followed by the people of India in effective manner and all the group and areas are equally facilitated and aware, because, the healthy society and country is made by the clean arena and healthy citizens.

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