



## Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Through the Eyes of Slum Dwellers

Shahaji Tidke, Priya Warbhe\*, AK Jawarkar and VD Khanande

Department of Community Medicine, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Memorial Medical College,  
Amravati, Maharashtra, India

\*Corresponding e-mail: [priyawarbhe@gmail.com](mailto:priyawarbhe@gmail.com)

**Received:** 05-January-2023, Manuscript No. IJMRHS-23-85551; **Editor assigned:** 09-January-2023, Pre QC No. IJMRHS-23-85551 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 23-January-2023, QC No. IJMRHS-23-85551; **Revised:** 20-March-2023, Manuscript No. IJMRHS-23-85551 (R);  
**Published:** 27-March-2023

### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) was launched on October 2, 2014. Sanitation is an important determinant of health. Sanitation and health related conditions like acute gastroenteritis cause about 13% under 5 mortality in India. As per 2015 wash watch report, only 44% of the population has access to basic sanitation services. Assessment of sanitary practices like hand washing, sewage/solid waste disposal etc. and continuous health education among slum dwellers will help to achieve the goal of SBA.

**Objectives:** To assess awareness of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and evaluate practices of sanitation and hygiene in selected households of urban slums (Amravati city).

**Methodology:** A cross sectional, descriptive study was done over 2 months from May-June 2022. Simple random sampling was used to choose households from urban slums of Belpura (Amravati). Predesigned structured questionnaire was used to collect data from adults of selected households. A total of 162 households were surveyed.

**Results:** Out of 162 participants interviewed, 120 (74.1%) were found to be aware of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Educational status was found to be significantly associated with awareness of SBA and sanitary practices ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Majority of the people were aware of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and educational status played a very significant role in sanitary practices (hand hygiene, water filtration, garbage disposal). Cleanliness should be made a way of life through continuous health education.

**Keywords:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA), Slums, Hand washing, Sanitary practices, Cleanliness

### INTRODUCTION

A slum is defined as a residential area where dwellings are unfit for human habitation due to overcrowding, faulty arrangements and designs of buildings, sanitation facilities or a combination of these factors which are detrimental to the safety and health. Sanitation and hygiene is critical to health, survival and development. The risk of spreading diarrheal and waterborne diseases gets compounded by the lack of regular hand washing and microbial contamination of water in the homes and communities [1].

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) performance index 2015 developed by the water institute at the university of North Carolina, India was a bottom performer and was ranked 93 [2]. To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 [3]. It was a nationwide campaign for the period of 2014 to 2019 to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation and cleanliness of towns, cities and rural areas. Other activities included national real time monitoring and updates from non-governmental organizations such as the ugly Indian, waste warriors and SWACH Pune (Solid Waste Collection and Handling) [4]. As per the latest report of WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply and sanitation (JMP), the SBM garnered \$25 billion from government, the private sector and civil society [5].

### Objectives

- To assess the awareness of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in selected households of urban slums of Amravati.
- To evaluate the practices of sanitation and hygiene amongst them.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study setting:** Slum at Belpura (field practicing area of UHTC, Dr. PDMMC, Amravati).

**Study design:** Cross sectional, descriptive study.

**Study duration:** Two months (May-June 2022).

**Sample size:** 162 (considering SBA participation as 75.7%-95% CI and 7% precision with 10% non-response).

**Sampling technique:** Simple random sampling was used to collect data from households. One adult was randomly selected from each house.

**Inclusion criteria:** Age 18 years and above, both genders, residing in the slum for at least one year, willing to participate in study.

**Exclusion criteria:** House locked, unwilling to participate in the study.

**Research tool:** A predesigned, prevalidated, structured questionnaire was used to collect the data and face to face interviews were conducted. The questionnaire consisted of questions on demographic details of the people, sanitary practices and awareness of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

**Statistical analysis:** Data was entered into MS Excel and analysis was done using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software for Windows version 20.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

**Operational definition:** A slum is defined as a residential area where dwellings are unfit for human habitation due to overcrowding, faulty arrangements and designs of buildings, sanitation facilities or a combination of these factors which are detrimental to the safety and health.

### RESULTS

A total 162 patients were included in the current study. Table 1 shows the distribution of demographic variables in the study participants. Majority of the study population (56.2%) were of the ages 41 and above. It was a predominantly a male population (57%). Caste wise distribution shows that 32% belonged to other backward castes which formed the majority. Educational status of the participants reveals that 45.7% of them were between the ranges of class 6 to class 10 of education status while only 10.5% were illiterate (Table 2) [6].

**Table 1 Distribution of demographic variables in study participants.**

| Study variables | Categories   | Frequency N=162 | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Age             | 18-40        | 71              | 43.8       |
|                 | 41 and above | 91              | 56.2       |





