

WASH AS AN ADAPTATION STRATEGY TO CLIMATE CHANGE- ROLE OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

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• WASH???

- Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all
- End open defecation,
- paying special attention to the needs of women and girls, and to those in vulnerable situations

- **#Global goal for sustainable development#.**

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a crucial resilience measure for climate change adaptation both as a **long term** and an **emergency response** to an extreme weather event or a disaster.

WASH~ USERS VS PROVIDERS...

- WASH~
 - is an important reactive strategy for disaster response and
 - a proactive measure for the reduction of disaster risks,
- has the potential to be a key adaptation strategy to climate change.

However,

- while there are commitments that-
 - populations should have resilient basic services of water and sanitation in place
 - as essential building blocks for recovery from loss to livelihoods due to climate change,
 - **the concern for those providing the services is remarkably absent from the policy environment both globally and locally.**

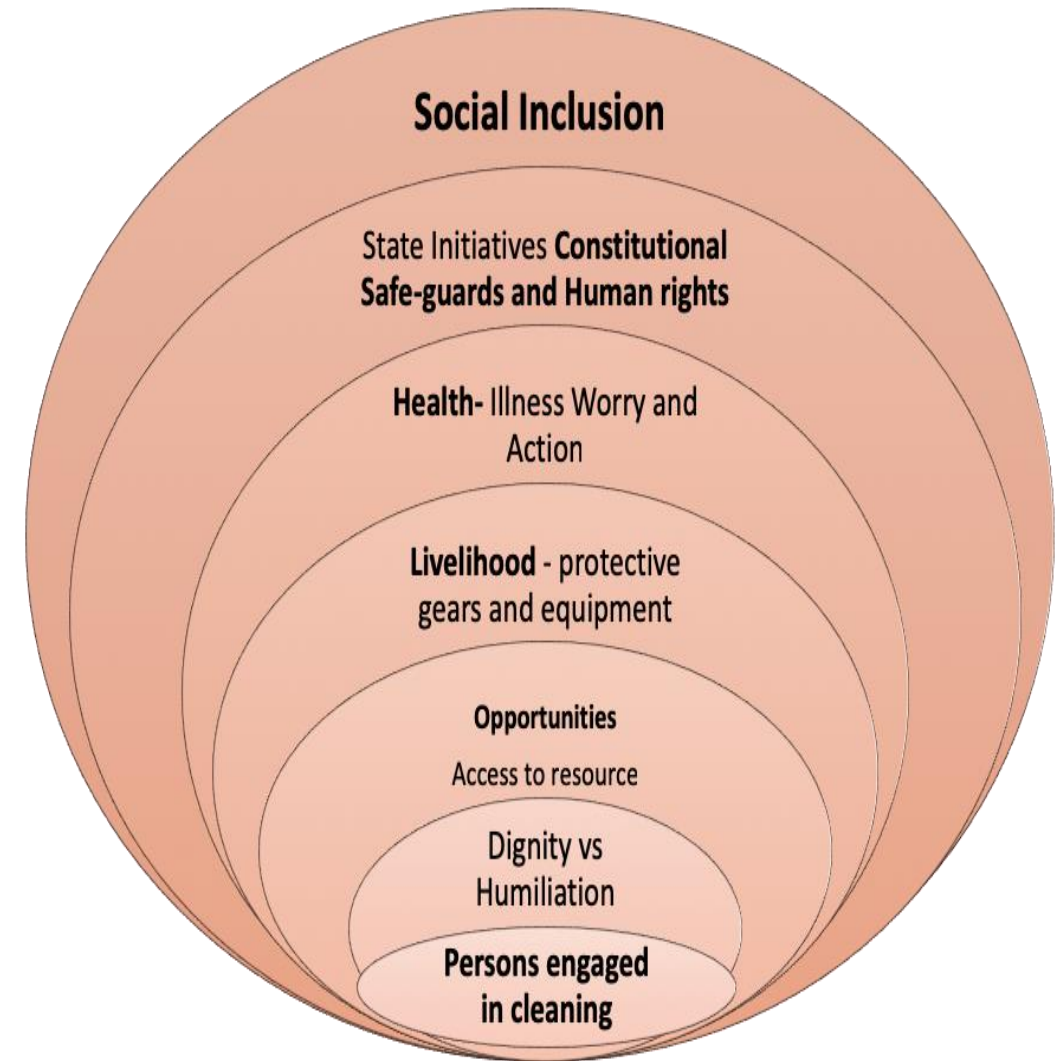
PROBLEMATISING...

It therefore, becomes imperative-

- to engage with the current discourse and
- create the space for recognising the contribution of the WASH service providers in the adaptation strategy to climate change.
- In the process of ensuring provisioning of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygienic spaces, especially in urban areas, **wash workers endanger their health in crusading for environmental cleanliness.**

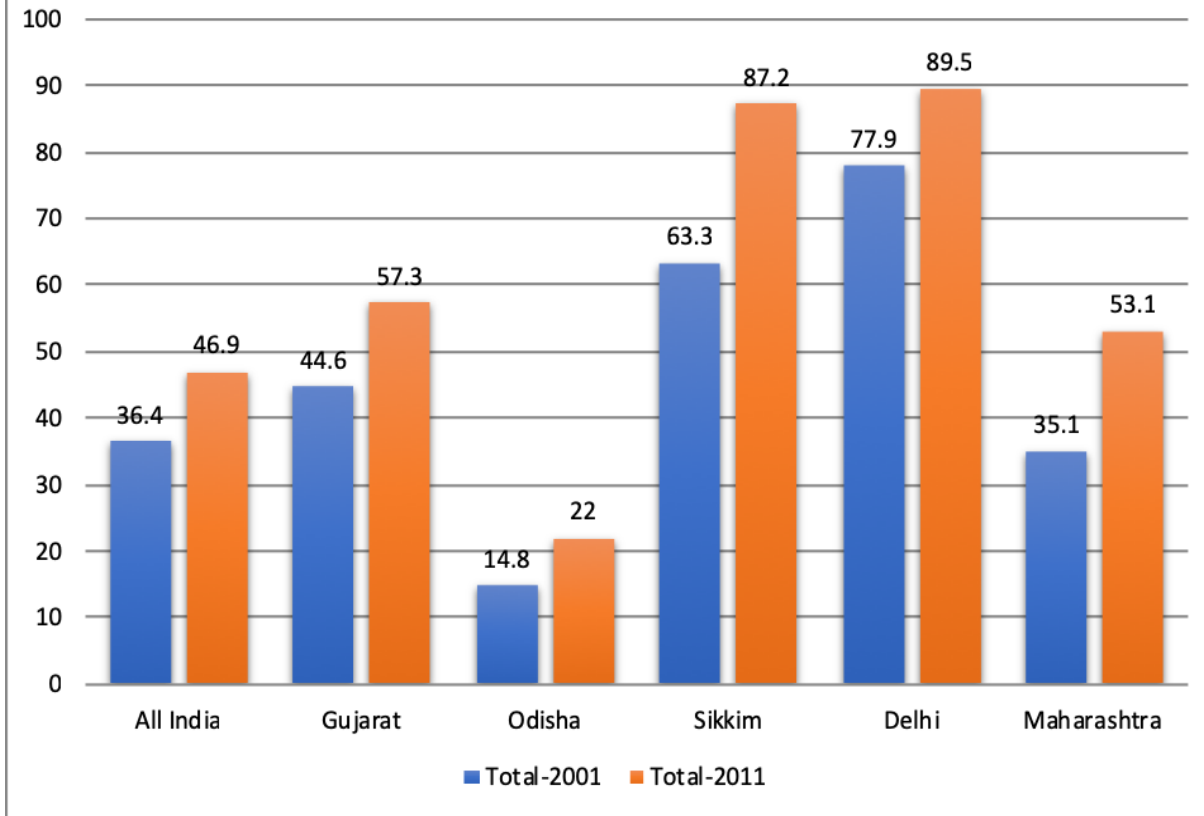
Who are the providers, WHAT are factors which perpetuate their engagement in such jobs?

WHAT ARE the available alternatives and state/non-state initiatives for them?



TOILETS..... RURAL-URBAN

Figure 3.1-Total Households Having Toilet Facilities (%)



Source: Census 2001 & 2011 RGI

Figure 3.2- Distribution of Urban Households Having Toilet Facilities (%)

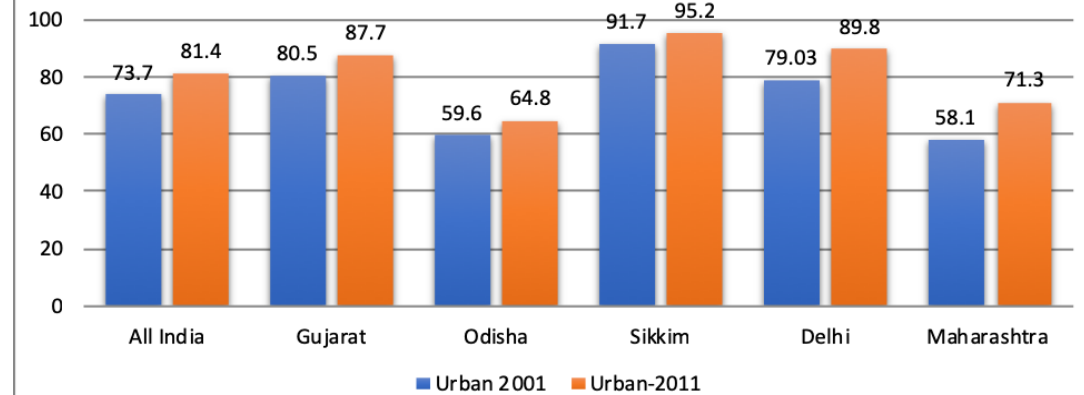
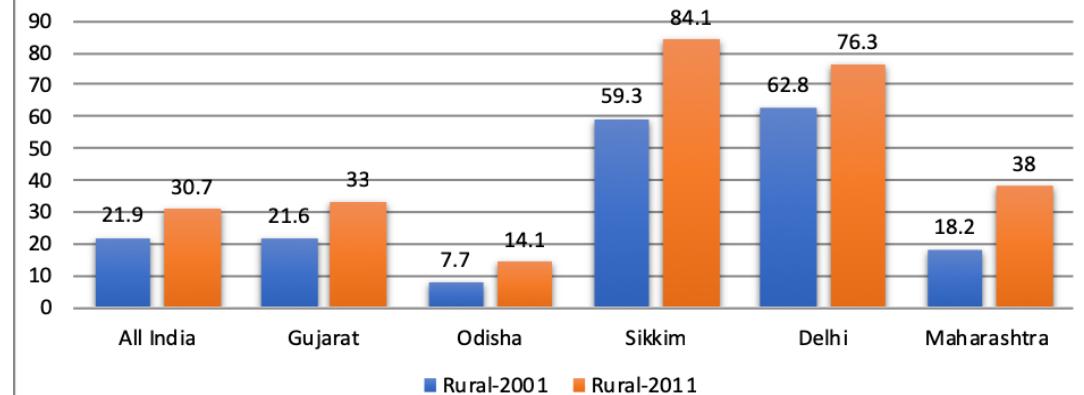
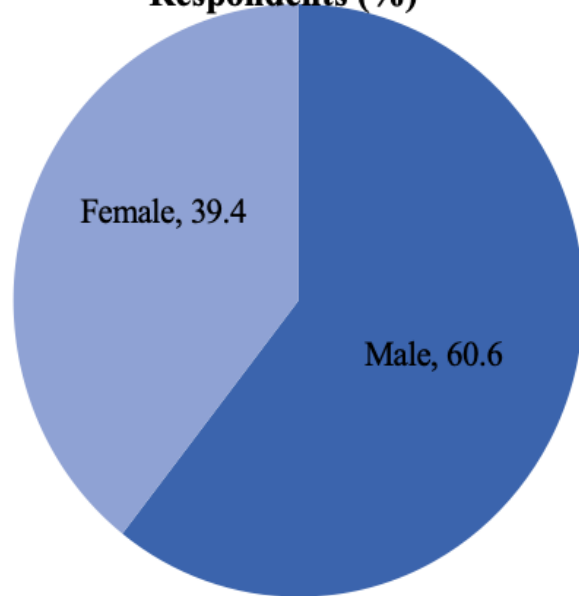


Figure 3.3 Distribution of Rural Households Having Toilet Facilities (%)



COMPOSITION OF WOMEN WORKERS

Figure 4.2 -Gender Composition of the Respondents (%)



Caste Composition of the Respondents across states

City	Distribution of Social Categories (in %)				Total
	Others	OBC	SC	ST	
Ahmedabad	6.3	1.6	85.0	7.1	100
Bhubneswar	0	0	98.3	1.7	100
Delhi	0.02	0.01	99.1	00	100
Gangtok	5.20	00	89.1	5.7	100
Nagpur	3.5	4.8	80.2	11.5	100
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Educational Attainment of Women

Educational Level	Bhubaneswar	Delhi	Gangtok	Nagpur	Ahmedabad
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
No Education	58.1	51.3	39.9	16.6	37.3
Primary	15.4	18.3	38.1	32.2	31.6
Secondary	26.4	24.6	15.8	44.7	27.1
Higher Secondary	2.86	5.8	6.17	6.54	4.1
Total All	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	(100.0)	100.0)

Awareness and utilization of SCHEMES for Family

Aware of benefits for the family	Percent
Total Women Aware	17.85
Total Young Women (15-35years) Aware	20.49
Total aware and have used for-	100
Medical check-up	24.27
Education of children/self	21.65
Housing	21.65
Soap, oil etc	13.88
Financial help	8.54
More than one benefit	10.00

SOURCE- FIELD DATA

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

'... most of us usually come to work after using the toilet... (and perhaps praying that we do not have to go during the work hours). We try to drink less water so that the need to go to the washroom is less.... Yes I know we should drink lots of water. In fact I do feel thirsty while working- especially when the sun is up. But I avoid drinking water until I see a community toilet in the vicinity. It does not happen always. It depends upon the place where you are doing your duty. There may or may not be a toilet... No, no, toilets in the people's house from where some of us collect the garbage are not open to us. Even the toilets in housing complexes we clean are restricted for our use. The Watchmen resist and do not let us use.'

-Srimanta, (pseudonym) 31 years, Employed by Surat Municipal Corporation as Safai Kamgar. She cleans the roads and streets.

**WATER WATER
EVERY WHERE
NOT A DROP TO
DRINK**

PERSONAL HYGIENE ...NATURE'S CALL

THE MALE GAZE

'... sometimes the watchmen of the housing societies allow you to use the toilets which are meant for Resident Welfare Association Office bearers and caretaker. These toilets are also used by the watchmen and sometime are they are 'benevolent' in allowing us to us, albeit at a cost- which may range from a sexist comment to brushing across so that the body is touched 'accidentally' often followed by profuse 'apologies' with sneer on the face- telling loud and clear that it was a purposefully created accident to ensure that the bodies touch!. So sometimes, it gets difficult for us to figure out the real intent... sometimes I feel may be I am too sensitive... do not know... but certainly feel uncomfortable when I have to use this toilet in the 'X' housing society in Zone 13.' (identifiers withheld for ethical reasons).

LIFE STLYE HABITS... NECESSITY...

'... I drink and smoke. I also take 'khaini'. I have to. Else I will not be able to work in the garbage dumping site which stinks from a mile away...!. I started drinking when I was 17 years old and got the work of cleaning the drains before monsoons as daily wage earner in the Municipal Corporation of South Delhi... '

Atiq, M26, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Employee.

'... I chew tobacco since I was 20. While on work, because of tobacco, I do not feel thirsty and do not need to use the washroom! It also helps me control the hunger.... '

Maheer, F32, Nagpur Municipal Corporation Employee.

'... Tobacco helps me overcome the giddiness which I feel while cleaning the toilets. Especially when people leave them filthy. I also chew paan to help me overcome the smell...

'Teeka Bai, F 29, Nagpur. Employed with the Railways.

HEALTH...

'... I know that drinking water is good for health and we should keep ourselves hydrated, but there is no place where I can go to relieve myself when I am at work. Drains by the roadside are the only option, of course when there is no passerby... or an abandoned park. I am old and experienced so I do not feel 'shy' in telling the 'Chief Saheb' about this. But the younger women face the brunt, especially when they are menstruating' .

Mehram Devi, 53, MCD, Delhi

+	No pain, no illness	+
Fulfill routine everyday life	Healthy Person	Able to do regular work
+	Food, Clothes and Shelter	+

Continuance in Cleaning Occupations among Women

Reasons	Percent
Low educational attainment	88.67
No training	96.92
Poor awareness about existing opportunity	73.66
Poor economic condition to get better training/education	72.61
Got the job as compensation due to death of a parent /accident induced disability at work	3.88
This is my traditional work	2.02
To get this work, I do not have to face much competition	12.87
Don't Know*	11.97
Total	100.00

Note-73 respondents 'did not know' and out of 586 respondents 207 has chosen multiple reasons for this question. Highest rated reason was used.

ILLNESS AND TREATMENT SEEKING ACROSS GENDER

Men		Women	
Nature of Illness	Treatment Seeking	Nature of Illness	Treatment Seeking
Recent Illness			
Chest Pain Body ache/headache Tiredness/lethargy Cough and cols Leg pain Redness in the eyes Giddiness	Over the counter medicines Drink alcohol before work to prevent onset of illness Drink alcohol after work for chest pain, tiredness and aches. Wash minor wounds with alcohol	*Swelling in the legs * Backache Cramps in the legs and stomach *Chest pain *Body ache *Fever *Sneezing	Pharmacy Private Doctor Home remedies
Continuing Illness			
Injuries at work place chest pain, backache/ neckache Lingering pain in legs Discomfort in lower abdomen Persistent cough, sneezing ,cold, Fever	Chemist Shop Private Doctor Government Hospital	Repetitive episodes of cough and cold; sneezing; aches; fever; headache.	Chemist Shop Local Healer Government Hospital

WAY FORWARD...

occupational hazards, informal sector, minimal support in terms of protective gears and experience of discrimination, the WAY FORWARD:

- Engineering, medical and legislative measures where the engineering measures should focus on making the process more mechanistic;
- Establishment of occupational health services, which can include pre-placement and periodic health monitoring;
- Effective implementation of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993, TOWARDS abolition of manual scavenging;
- Regular awareness programs to impart education regarding safer work procedures and use of personal protective devices; AND
- Sensitisation modules on media, in the curriculum and the other sources **towards** the persons engaging in cleaning occupations.

Thank You

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