



AN IMPERATIVE NEED FOR PUBLIC -PRIVATE - CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN SWACHATA AANDOLAN

Florin Shelomith Soans^{1*}, Hazrath Saheb Nadaf²

^{1*} Assistant Professor Department of Economics, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangalore-575003

² Research Scholar, Department of Studies and Research in Sociology, Tumkur University, Tumakuru- 572103

***Corresponding author:** Florin Shelomith Soans

*Dr Florin Shelomith Soans, Assistant Professor Department of Economics, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangalore-575003

Abstract:

Sanitation holds significant economic importance and is a vital component of sustainable development. The Swachata Aandolan, launched by the Government of India, serves as a massive grassroots campaign to promote cleanliness across the nation, aligning with Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean India. Gandhi's commitment to sanitation and decentralization underscores the pivotal role of local bodies in achieving sustainable local development. For the Swachata Aandolan to succeed, effective partnerships between local bodies, civil society organizations, and governments are essential. This paper discusses the importance of such collaborations in advancing the Swachata Aandolan. The primary objective of this research is to analyze the roles of public, private, and civil society organizations in health, sanitation, and hygiene, specifically focusing on the following objectives: (1) examining the roles of governments and local bodies in the Swachata Aandolan, (2) evaluating the contributions of civil society in the initiative, and (3) developing a model for public, private, and civil society participation in the Swachata Aandolan. This descriptive study relies on secondary data, analyzed using basic statistical tools, to understand changes over the decades and the impact of new government policies on sanitation, health, and cleanliness. The findings will shed light on the contributions of local bodies and civil society in fostering economic growth through their involvement in the Swachata Aandolan. The paper highlights the prominent roles played by both the Central and State governments in promoting the Swachata Aandolan, emphasizing the Prime Minister's efforts to mobilize public participation. By initiating cleanliness drives and encouraging citizens to take responsibility for their surroundings, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has evolved into a national movement. The participation of diverse societal segments—government officials, celebrities, and ordinary citizens—has amplified the initiative, with widespread campaigns and awareness programs contributing to the realization of Gandhi's dream of a cleaner India.

Introduction:

Sanitation has economic significance and is one of the major components in the sustainable development. Swachata Aandolan is a campaign run by the government of India as a massive mass movement to initiate the theme of cleanliness all through the India. This campaign was launched in

seeking the way to create a Clean India to complete the vision of Mahatma Gandhi who dreamt to make India a clean India and always put his hard efforts towards swachata in India.

Mahatama Gandhiji was the eminent leader who played his prominent role in the aspiration of decentralization. In the decentralised administration role of local bodies in sustainable local development is significant. Even in Swachata Aandolan for their success, there is need to network the partnership between the local bodies, civil society organisations and the governments. With this background, this paper attempts to provide discussion related to such partnership to carry on Swachhat Aandolan

Objectives:

The objective of this research paper is to provide discussion on the role played by Public, Private and Civil society organisations in health, sanitation and hygiene. The specific objectives are,

1. To analyse the role of governments and local bodies in *Swachata Aandolan*
2. To examine the role played by civil society in *Swachata Aandolan*
3. To evolve a model with 'Public, Private and civil society participation' in *Swachata Aandolan*.

Methodology:

The study is descriptive in nature and the analysis is based on secondary data and data is analysed using certain basic statistical tools to grasp the changes that has taken place over the decades and with the implementation of new government policy what has happened and how best it would result with the role played by the local bodies at grass root level and civil society participation rather than the government like Central government and state government. The data collected from local bodies here in this research paper it is computed with the data related to sanitation, health and cleanliness and to check up the role of these local bodies, civil society and government in contributing towards the growth of economy.

Role of Government in Swachata Aandolan:

In Indian economy Central government (Union) and State government is playing the prominent role in promoting for the Swachata Aandolan that is in view with the sanitation, public health and cleanliness which is bound with leading the mass movement for cleanliness, Prime Minister of India exhorted people to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India. He initiated the cleanliness drive by picking up the broom to clean the dirt, making Swachh Bharat Abhiyan a mass movement across the nation, and he added that people should neither litter, nor let others litter. He gave the mantra of 'Na gandagi karenge, Na karne denge.' Prime Minister of India also invited nine people to join the cleanliness drive and requested each of them to draw nine more into the initiative. By inviting people to participate in the drive, the Swachhta Abhiyan has turned into a National Movement. A sense of responsibility has been evoked among the people through the Clean India Movement. With citizens now becoming active participants in cleanliness activities across the nation, the dream of a 'Clean India' once seen by Mahatma Gandhi has begun to get a shape.

The Prime Minister has helped to spread the message of Swachh Bharat by urging people through his words & action. He carried out a cleanliness drive in Varanasi as well. He wielded a spade near River Ganga at Assi Ghat in Varanasi under the Clean India Mission. He was joined by a large group of local people who cooperated in the Swachhta Abhiyan. Understanding the significance of sanitation, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has simultaneously addressed the health problems that Indians families have to deal with due to lack of proper toilets in their homes.

People from different sections of the society have come forward and joined this mass movement of cleanliness. From government officials to jawans, bollywood actors to the sportspersons, industrialists to spiritual leaders, all have lined up for the noble work. Millions of people across the country have been day after day joining the cleanliness initiatives of the government departments, NGOs and local

community centres to make India clean. Organising frequent cleanliness campaigns to spreading awareness about hygiene through plays and music is also being widely carried out across the nation. There is evidence from the budget of State government (Karnataka) to look into how much fund is sanctioned under different heads is shown in the form of following tables 1,2,3 and 4.

Table -1: Consolidated fund of Karnataka – Revenue Account –Receipt (Lakhs)

Heads of A/C	A/C 2015-16	Budget 2016-17	Revised 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Sanitation	27.67	50.00	50.00	50.00
Public Health	12009.16	28817.50	20597.49	21687.00

Source: Statistical abstract of Karnataka (Computed)

Table -2: Consolidated fund of Karnataka–Revenue Account–Disbursement(Lakhs)

Heads of A/C	A/C 2015-16	Budget 2016-17	Revised 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Sanitation	52507.58	125517.17	119704.17	222716.00
Public Health	358920.95	478971.47	506271.90	488423.00

Source: Statistical abstract of Karnataka (Computed)

Table -3: Consolidated fund of Karnataka – capital Account – Receipt (Lakhs)

Heads of A/C	A/C 2015-16	Budget 2016-17	Revised 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Sanitation	0.74	-	-	-
Public Health	133.07	1.00	50.00	50.00

Source: Statistical abstract of Karnataka (Computed)

Table -4: Consolidated fund of Karnataka – capital Account –Disbursement (Lakhs)

Heads of A/C	A/C 2015-16	Budget 2016-17	Revised 2017-18	Budget 2018-19
Sanitation	38810.67	69463.25	74063.14	70565.00
Public Health	94432.11	123150.00	136150.00	46840.00

Source: Statistical abstract of Karnataka (Computed)

In India, local bodies are endowed with a comprehensive array of functions delegated by state governments through municipal legislation. These functions encompass public health, welfare, regulatory activities, public safety, infrastructure development, and other developmental initiatives. Public health responsibilities include water supply, sewerage and sanitation, and the eradication of communicable diseases. Welfare functions involve public amenities such as education and recreation. Regulatory tasks pertain to enforcing building regulations, managing encroachments on public land, and registering births and deaths. Public safety covers fire protection and street lighting, while public works involve constructing and maintaining inner-city roads. Additionally, local bodies engage in development functions like town planning and commercial market development.

State governments often assign additional responsibilities to local bodies on an agency basis, including family planning, nutrition, slum improvement, and disease and epidemic control. The Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution (Article 243W) outlines 18 functions that municipalities may undertake. Beyond traditional core functions, these include planning for economic development and social justice, urban poverty alleviation, and promoting cultural, educational, and aesthetic aspects.

However, state-level conformity legislation varies significantly. States like Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur, Punjab, and Rajasthan have incorporated all functions listed in the Twelfth Schedule into their municipal laws. In contrast, Andhra Pradesh has not made any changes to its existing municipal functions list. States such as Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh,

Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have amended their laws to include additional functions from the Twelfth Schedule.

The assignment of obligatory and discretionary functions to municipal bodies differs among states. For instance, in Maharashtra, planning for social and economic development, urban forestry, environmental protection, and promotion of ecological aspects are obligatory functions, while in Karnataka, these are discretionary.

In several states, the provision of water supply and sewerage has been taken over by the state governments or transferred to state agencies. For example, in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, these tasks are managed by state-level Public Health Engineering Departments or Water Supply and Sewerage Boards, although municipalities remain liable for loan repayments and maintenance. Additionally, City Improvement Trusts and Urban Development Authorities, like the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), have been established in many cities to handle land acquisition, development projects, and remunerative ventures such as markets and commercial complexes. Consequently, municipal bodies are often limited to garbage collection and disposal, street lighting, and road maintenance.

In terms of fiscal federalism, functions that predominantly benefit municipal jurisdictions should be considered essentially municipal functions. Conversely, functions with substantial economies of scale or national significance should not be assigned to small local bodies. Certain higher authority functions may be appropriate for municipalities to manage under principal-agent contracts, necessitating intergovernmental revenue financing. Therefore, instead of maintaining the traditional distinction between obligatory and discretionary functions, municipal responsibilities may be classified into essentially municipal, joint, and agency functions.

Local public political bodies are expected to deal with local public affairs with the exercise of local public choice. In the economic domain, they are public goods, public utilities and public works of local nature or local character. While public goods chiefly possess the characteristics of non-rivalry in joint consumption and non-excludability of any consumer in consumption of these goods like sweeping and street lighting. If all individual consumers consume the same amount of a good at the same time, then the consumption is said to be non-rival and therefore non-rival consumption is also referred to as joint consumption. Yet there are only a few pure public goods. For example, beaches on holidays, parks in fine weather and city streets during rush hours become goods of rival consumption. Non-excludability is often technical but it may be political or economic too. While technically it may be feasible to debar the consumers, who do not pay for the service, the cost of excluding them may be sometimes prohibitive. As their consumption cannot be priced to individuals all of whom are supposed to consume the same amount, they need to be financed from common pool of resources and its analysed even in finance commission.

The financial resources are financed by funding pattern for sanitation and public health schemes. The details are shown in the table 5.

Table -5: Funding pattern for sanitation and public health schemes

Category	Government grant	Loan from financial institution	Local bodies scheme
City corporation	40	50	10
City municipal council	60	30	10
Town Municipal Council	75	20	5
Town Panchayat	95	-	5

Source: Computed from different government source

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has more than doubled the grant for local bodies and recommended that nearly all of this money be spent on improving basic services. In its report, which covers the period between 2015 and 2020, the commission has fixed the grant at Rs 2.87 lakh crore - over Rs 2 lakh crore more than the Thirteenth Finance Commission's. Of this money, nearly Rs 2 lakh crore has been allotted to Panchayats, while the rest will go to municipalities. According to the central government, there are over 2.6 lakh Panchayats in India. The Finance Commission's report notes the allotted grant works to Rs 488 per capita per annum.

The commission has divided the grant into two parts: a basic part and a performance part. The performance part depends on two criteria. Firstly, the local authority must have audited accounts for the previous year. Secondly, it must demonstrate an increase in its own revenue compared to the previous year. For gram panchayats, the commission recommends an 80:20 ratio between basic and performance grants, while for municipalities, the ratio is 90:10. To enhance fund utilization, the commission suggests that grants should be directly allocated to gram panchayats and municipalities, without any allocation to other levels. Additionally, the commission urges state governments to ensure local bodies compile and audit their accounts in a timely manner. To bolster local resources, the finance commission recommends that state governments empower local governments to implement various sanitation and public health programs.

Role of civil society in Swachata Aandolan:

India is the largest democracy in the world. But without its lively NGO scene, many ills in society would continue unchallenged. Civil society derives its strength from the Gandhian tradition of volunteerism, but today, it expresses itself in many different forms of activism. Though the term NGO became popular in India only in the 1980s, the voluntary sector has an older tradition. Since independence from the British in 1947, the voluntary sector has a lot of respect in the minds of people – first, because the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi was an active participant; and second because India has always had the tradition of honouring those who have made some sacrifice to help others. In independent India, the initial role played by the voluntary organizations started by Gandhi and his disciples was to fill in the gaps left by the government in the development process.

In the third group were those volunteers who saw themselves more as activists than other NGOs did. Of course, all NGOs undertook a certain amount of activism to get their points across – they petitioned the bureaucrats, they alerted the media whenever they found something wrong and so on. But this third group of NGOs saw activism as their primary means of reaching their goals, because they did not believe they could get the authorities to move in any other way.

In December 2014, we had the landmark judgment of Mumbai High Court “Right to get water as an integral part of Right to Life under Article 21 of the Indian constitution.” Mumbai represents the urban growth model of development in India where economic development comes with denial of basic rights including water and sanitation to a majority of its people. YUVA had been fighting for the right to water and sanitation for more than a decade and had reached the situation. Securing water through any other means (PPP or privatization of water) was emerging as a alternative.

Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation has done an extensive assessment of administrative bottlenecks that impede progress in achieving higher sanitation coverage in India. District level administrative machinery and accountability is emphasized in Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Guidelines 2015. However, impediments in programme delivery for promoting improved sanitation and behavior change seem to be left to the new “Army” of Swachhata Doots to be created under SBM(G). Promoting rural sanitation has been attempted before in different central government initiatives - CRSP, the TSC, the NBA and now the SBM. Subsidy for individual household toilets was reduced under TSC and then increased under NBA. It is now further increased in SBM and the programme is delinked from the MNREGA subsidy. Resistance to building and using toilets are many, and in most instances these are related to the social context of a rural community. In a mixed village, toilets and hygiene are perceived differently by different groups. Then physical constraints of water availability and land for household toilets, varies from state to state. An ambitious sanitation and hygiene programme for the scale of India, needed a large enabling civil society framework of engagement at all levels and a funding mechanism under SBM. Perhaps on the lines of the National Watershed Development programme of the 1990s that decentralized a technical watershed development programme through NGOs.

Conclusion

“A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary in 2019,” as Swachh Bharat Mission launched at Rajpath in New Delhi. On 2nd October 2014, and it was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement. Swachtha Aandolan is big challenge for all the citizens of India. It is only possible if each and every person living in India would understand this campaign their own responsibility and try to meet hands together to make it a successful mission along with the participation by Public, Private and Civil society.

References:

1. Aisha Sultanat, Does Civil Society Matter? New Delhi, 2003
2. David Armstrong and Debora Spini (ed.) Civil Society and International Governance, 2011
3. Don Eberly, In the Name of Civil Society, Lancaster, 2008
4. James G. McGann and Richard Sabatini, Global Think Tank; Policy Network and Governance, 2011.
5. Mark Jenson, Civil Society in Liberal Democracy, 2011.
6. Mathew Lindley, Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness – Case Book, AG-CS, 2008
7. Mohanty P.K., Reforming Municipal Finances: Some suggestions in the context of India’s Decentralization Initiative, Urban India, January–June 1995.
8. Terrell Carver and Jen Bartelson (ed.) Globality, Democracy and Civil Society, 2011.
9. "74th Amendment Act of 1992". Retrieved 18 January 2009.