



CENTRE FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH

# WASH

WATER SANITATION & HYGIENE



**India, one of the fastest growing economies in the world homes more than 1 billion people. The economic growth is not accompanied by an equally desirable and suitable condition of social quality of life for it's people.**

- Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is considered as a basic human right, yet many people in India are still facing problems accessing even the most basic of services related to WASH.
- Adequate provision, access and use of water and sanitation facilities can effectively bring about a significant improvement in the quality of life of many who are otherwise vulnerable to various diseases and other forms of health hazards.



**52.1%**

of rural India defecates in the open.  
Let's #WASHitAway

**Open defecation causes chronic diarrhoea that leads to stunting.**



**63 million**  
Indians do not  
have access to  
clean water.

Let's #WASHitAway

**Water and sanitation related diseases have remained one of the most important causes of death for children under five years of age.**



VULNERABLE GROUPS

The marginalized and vulnerable people and many other disadvantaged communities associated with rural and urban poverty conditions are found to be living on the margins of the society without adequate provisions of their basic rights. The availability and access to potable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are a set of complex provisions that often remain elusive for many living in the rural as well as in urban slum and fringe areas who mostly constitute the disadvantaged sections of the society.

Besides, the historical and systematic negligence of these facilities among various sections of the society has been associated with and related to reported gross exclusion of people based on religion, caste, gender, ethnicity, class, disease, capabilities and so on. It has also been often observed that there are multiple obstructions among the people to access facilities in WASH. Such obstructions are influenced by a set of multiple and complex social, cultural governance and political factors.

Certain sections of the communities, mainly identified as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, NT & DNT, differently-able, aged and so on are in a typically very difficult situation to avail, access and use various WASH facilities without any physical, socio-cultural hindrances. It is understood that along with some technical and infrastructural inadequacies, the socio, cultural and behavioural aspects of the people play a significant role in attaining basic standards in WASH provisions leading to improved quality of life.

- Today 2.5 billion people, including almost one billion children, live without even basic sanitation. Every 20 seconds, a child dies as a result of poor sanitation. That's 1.5 million preventable deaths each year.
- More than 840,000 people die each year from water-related disease.



Reference:

- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)
- Water.org. "MILLIONS LACK SAFE WATER."
- [http://www.unwater.org/statistics\\_san.html](http://www.unwater.org/statistics_san.html)