

to better sanitation services.

"Our lavatories bring our civilisation into discredit. We like to take an enjoyable bath, but don't mind dirtying the wells, rivers and tanks, by whose side we perform ablutions. These practices should be considered as a great vice. These are responsible for the disgraceful state of villages and the sacred bank of sacred rivers and for the diseases that spring due to lack of sanitation."

*'Our Dirty Ways' by Mahatma Gandhi in Navajivan, 13 September 1925*

In India, only 36.4% of the entire population have proper toilets, making it one of the weaker nations for sanitation point of view in the world. This means increased widespread open defecation which causes contamination of the water resources and spread of diseases transmitted through insects. In addition, in India, there are dry, or basket-type toilets, which require manual removal of feces. Currently, India has over 8 million dry toilets, requires 750,000 scavengers every day to manually remove and cart human excreta for its disposal with no protecting gear. Not only is the work inhumane, but it is highly dangerous also. The indecent removal of human waste causes these workers to be infected and thus communicate many diseases to others also. Therefore, such easily preventable diseases as diarrhoea (just a simple action of washing hands with any kind of soap and water can decrease the number of diarrhoeal disease surprisingly by one-third ), Cholera, Malaria, Hepatitis and Typhoid are main causes of mortality due to diseases in India and in other third world countries.

*Fig. 3: Water can be lethal too*















