



Assessment of Sanitation Awareness, Hygiene Practices and Community Participation among Villagers of Kalipur Village, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh

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Sanitation and personal hygiene play an important role in improving public health and ensuring a healthy rural environment. The present study was conducted to assess sanitation awareness, hygiene practices and community participation among the villagers of Kalipur Village, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh. The study was carried out through a field survey among 100 randomly selected households using a structured interview schedule. Information regarding educational status, occupation, sanitation facilities, handwashing practices, household cleanliness and community participation was collected through personal interviews and field observations. The findings revealed that most respondents were aware of the importance of sanitation and practised basic hygiene measures such as handwashing after defecation and before meals. The implementation of sanitation programmes also contributed to increased availability of household toilet facilities in the village. However, improvement is still required in certain hygiene practices and community participation to ensure sustainable sanitation. The study concludes that continuous awareness programmes, behavioural change and active participation of the community are essential for maintaining a clean and healthy rural environment.

Keywords: Sanitation, Hygiene, Community Participation, Rural Health, Kalipur Village, Bastar, Swachh Bharat Mission.

Introduction

Sanitation and hygiene are essential components of public health and sustainable rural development. Access to safe sanitation facilities, proper waste disposal, safe drinking water and good personal hygiene practices contributes significantly to the prevention of communicable diseases and improvement in the quality of life. Poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene continue to be major public health concerns in many rural areas, leading to the spread of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Therefore, creating awareness regarding sanitation and encouraging hygienic behaviour are important for improving the health status of rural communities. The Government of India has implemented various programmes to improve sanitation in rural areas, among which the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has played an important role in promoting household toilet construction, eliminating open defecation and encouraging community participation in sanitation activities. The success of these programmes depends not only on the availability of sanitation facilities but also on people's awareness, behavioural practices and active participation in maintaining cleanliness. Kalipur Village of Bastar District represents a typical rural settlement where sanitation and hygiene practices have improved through government initiatives and community efforts. However, regular assessment of sanitation awareness and hygiene behaviour is necessary to identify existing gaps and strengthen future interventions. The

present study was therefore undertaken to assess sanitation awareness, hygiene practices and community participation among the villagers of Kalipur Village, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh. The findings of the study may be useful for planning effective sanitation awareness programmes and strengthening rural sanitation initiatives.

Materials and Methods

Study Area: The present study was conducted in Kalipur Village, situated in Jagdalpur Tehsil of Bastar District, Chhattisgarh. The village was selected to assess the level of sanitation awareness, hygiene practices, and community participation among rural households. The study area represents a rural community where government sanitation programmes have been implemented and where community participation plays an important role in maintaining environmental cleanliness.

Research Design: The study was conducted using a descriptive research design to evaluate sanitation awareness, hygiene practices, and community participation among the selected households.

Sampling Procedure: A total of 100 households were selected randomly from Kalipur Village for the study. One adult member from each household was interviewed using a structured interview schedule. Thus, the total sample size of the study comprised 100 respondents.

Data Collection: Primary data were collected through personal interviews using a structured questionnaire. Information was collected on the following aspects:

- Socio-economic profile of the respondents
- Educational status
- Occupational status
- Sanitation awareness
- Personal hygiene practices
- Household cleaning practices
- Availability and use of sanitation facilities
- Community participation in sanitation activities

In addition to interviews, field observations were made to understand the existing sanitation conditions in the village.

Variables Studied: The following variables were included in the study:

- Gender
- Educational status
- Occupation
- Handwashing practices
- Household cleanliness
- Sanitation facilities
- Community participation

These variables were selected to assess the overall sanitation awareness and hygiene behaviour of the respondents.

Statistical Analysis: The collected information was compiled, classified, and tabulated for analysis. The data were analysed using frequency and percentage to describe the sanitation awareness, hygiene practices, and community participation of the respondents. The results are presented in tabular form for easy interpretation.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic Profile of the Respondents: The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 1. Out of the 100 respondents, 52 were male and 48 were female. Regarding educational status, 72 respondents were literate, while 28 respondents were illiterate. Agriculture was the major occupation of the respondents, followed by labour, homemaking, service, and business. These observations indicate that agriculture is the principal livelihood activity in the study area and that the majority of respondents possessed basic educational qualifications.

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of respondents (n = 100)

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Male	52	52.00
Female	48	48.00
Literate	72	72.00
Illiterate	28	28.00
Agriculture	38	38.00
Labour	27	27.00
Homemaker	20	20.00
Service	8	8.00
Business	7	7.00

The results indicate that the respondents represented different occupational groups, with farming being the predominant occupation in the village. Educational status and occupation are important factors influencing sanitation awareness and hygiene practices among rural households.

Handwashing Practices of the Respondents: Handwashing is one of the most effective and economical measures for preventing communicable diseases. The handwashing practices of the respondents at different critical stages are presented in **Table 2**. The findings revealed that 96% of the respondents washed their hands after defecation, while 92% washed their hands before taking meals. Similarly, 88% of the respondents practised handwashing before cooking, whereas 84% washed their hands after handling household waste or excreta. Among households having children, 78% of the respondents reported washing their hands before feeding children. These findings indicate that most respondents followed basic hand hygiene practices, although improvement is still required in certain situations, particularly before feeding children and after handling household waste.

Table 2. Handwashing practices followed by the respondents (n = 100)

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage (%)
After defecation	96	96.00
Before meals	92	92.00
Before cooking	88	88.00
Before feeding children	78	78.00
After handling household waste/excreta	84	84.00

The observations indicate that respondents possessed satisfactory awareness regarding personal hygiene and practised handwashing during most routine household activities. However, strengthening awareness regarding handwashing before child feeding and after handling household waste would further improve household hygiene practices.

Household Cleaning Practices: Household cleanliness is an important component of environmental sanitation. Regular cleaning of different parts of the house minimizes the accumulation of dirt, dust, insects, and disease-causing microorganisms. The information presented in Table 3 shows that 90% of the respondents cleaned the floors regularly, 86% cleaned toilets, 82% cleaned kitchens, 74% cleaned doors and windows, whereas 68% reported regular cleaning of walls. The findings indicate that floor and toilet cleaning received greater attention compared to wall cleaning.

Table 3. Household cleaning practices (n = 100)

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Wall cleaning	68	68.00
Floor cleaning	90	90.00
Kitchen cleaning	82	82.00
Toilet cleaning	86	86.00
Door and window cleaning	74	74.00

The results suggest that respondents generally maintained satisfactory household cleanliness. Nevertheless, regular cleaning of walls and surrounding household areas requires greater attention to ensure a healthier living environment.

Sanitation Facilities in Kalipur Village: The availability of sanitation facilities in Kalipur Village is presented in Table 4. The data indicate that the village consisted of 484 households. Prior to the implementation of the sanitation programme, 142 households had toilet facilities. Subsequently, 342 toilets were constructed, resulting in toilet facilities for all 484 households in the village. This reflects a substantial improvement in sanitation infrastructure.

Table 4. Household sanitation facilities in Kalipur Village

Particulars	Number
Total households	484
Households having toilets before implementation	142
Toilets constructed	342
Total households with toilets	484

The findings indicate that the sanitation programme considerably improved household toilet coverage in Kalipur Village. The increased availability of toilets has strengthened sanitation infrastructure and contributed to improved sanitary conditions in the study area.

Community Participation in Sanitation Activities: Community participation is an important component for the successful implementation and sustainability of sanitation programmes. The responses collected during the survey indicated that the villagers participated in various sanitation-related activities organized at the village level. Participation was observed in cleanliness drives, awareness programmes, and maintenance of sanitation facilities. The involvement of local residents contributed to improving environmental cleanliness and promoting hygienic practices within the community. However, the level of participation varied among households, indicating the need for continuous motivation and awareness programmes to ensure active involvement of all community members. The findings suggest that community participation plays a significant role in improving sanitation behaviour. Regular awareness programmes, collective cleaning activities, and cooperation among villagers can further strengthen sanitation initiatives and ensure their long-term sustainability.

Overall Findings of the Study: The overall findings of the study revealed that the majority of the respondents were aware of the importance of sanitation and personal hygiene. Most households had access to toilet facilities and practised regular handwashing after defecation and before meals. Household cleanliness was generally satisfactory, with regular cleaning of floors, kitchens, and toilets reported by a large proportion of respondents. Community participation in sanitation activities was also observed, although further efforts are required to encourage the active involvement of all households. The study indicates that sanitation programmes have contributed to improving sanitation facilities and hygiene practices in Kalipur Village. However, sustained awareness generation, community participation, and regular monitoring remain essential for maintaining these improvements and promoting a healthy rural environment.

Conclusion

The present study assessed sanitation awareness, hygiene practices, and community participation among **100 households** of Kalipur Village, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh. The findings showed that the respondents possessed satisfactory awareness regarding sanitation and personal hygiene. The majority of households had access to sanitation facilities and followed essential hygiene practices, including regular handwashing and household cleaning. Community participation also contributed to improving environmental sanitation within the village. Despite these positive findings, the study indicates that continuous awareness programmes and active community participation are necessary to sustain sanitation improvements. Strengthening hygiene education and encouraging collective responsibility will further improve the effectiveness of sanitation programmes in rural communities. Overall, the study demonstrates that sanitation awareness, appropriate hygiene practices, and community participation together contribute to a healthier and cleaner rural environment.

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