

HUMAN MANUAL SCAVENGING – A PRACTICE OF DENIED OF RIGHTS

*Kshitij Gautam & Sarika Maurya

ABSTRACT

At the discourse of the upliftment of disadvantage people lies the question, why inhuman practice such as manual scavenging is still prevalent. Cleaning human excreta (by hands), and sewer is the work of disadvantage people, they are mainly SC and ST population. This question matters because they constitute 24.4% of India's population. Not all SC and ST population does manual scavenging, but all the people involved in this kind of work are from SC and ST population. In this paper, we have discussed kind of latrines that are being used in India, and which of them are required to be clean by manual scavengers and how much they are being paid for this job. The main objective of this paper would be to analyze the obstacles that are coming into the way of eradicating this inhuman practice, such as poverty, cast based society, lack of education, lack of technology, etc. This paper will also look into the two main mission launched by the government and their impact on the manual scavengers, or their family member. Laws which are meant for the upliftment of these people looks good only on the paper. If we would count the number of provisions and articles that are being violated by mere existence of this inhuman practice number will be above a hundred. This article will further examine the cost that the women and children had to pay being a manual scavenger, and their rehabilitation measures are only on the papers. Swachh Bharat mission is one of the obstacles in providing freedom and justice to these people because toilets that were built under this scheme demand manual scavenger to be cleaned. Existence of this practice shows the failure of the objective of the Constitution's preamble, which is there to provide economic and social equality. Providing someone 10 to 50 rupees per month is not an economic justice, instead it is economic injustice. After 1992 and 2013, progress has been done but the progress of the country is such that people cleaning dry latrines given the new job of cleaning sewer lines, septic tanks.

Keywords: Manual Scavenging, Dry latrines, Poverty, Septic Tanks.

Research Methodology: The paper depends on the strategy for study and research dependent in the gathering and investigation of information

1. INTRODUCTION

“Caste in the hands of the orthodox has been a powerful weapon for persecuting the reforms and killing all reform.”

- Dr B. R Ambedkar

India is a developing country and it is looking forward to becoming a developed country on one day. Development of the country lies in every individual. Now the question arises how a country can grow as a nation when one particular section is still deprived of, almost all of their rights, be it economic, political and social? This is just because who they are because of their birth and they are considered as untouchables. According to the 2011 census, there is 16.2% of the SC population and 8.2% of the ST population means 24.4 of the total population.¹⁷⁷¹ The 2011 census found that 2.1 million households dispose of their waste, including human excrement, in dry latrines or drains, which also are cleaned by manual scavengers.

We are living in the 21st century in the world of science and technology, we are living in a society where we have the technology for almost every household thing but we don't have separate latrines. Even though we have a separate latrine, they are not water flushed latrine, they are dry latrine which requires cleaning on daily basis or over some time, that too by human efforts. In some areas, people are still using dry latrines which have to be clean by human hands, which is again an inhumane treatment. And in India, this kind of work is the duty of lower-class people called 'Dalits'. This job of cleaning human waste is considered to be the hereditary job of these people¹⁷⁷² because they are born in the family of Dalits.

We have a plethora of legislation,¹⁷⁷³ articles of our constitution, and international treaties that we have ratified, to remove economic injustice, to abolish the caste-based society, to end Untouchability, but it seems like not a single one of them has been implemented successfully. This can be the reason why there is the existence of inhuman practice like manual scavenging is still prevalent in some parts of the country.

*Indore Institute of Law.

¹⁷⁷¹Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Available at: http://censusindia.gov.in/Census_Data_2001/India_at_glance/scst.aspx, Accessed on 22 February, 12:45 PM.

¹⁷⁷²Digvijay Singh, 'Cleaning Human Waste', (2014), Human Right Watch < <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/08/25/cleaning-human-waste/manual-scavenging-caste-and-discrimination-india>> Accessed 21 February, 2020.

¹⁷⁷³Paul Saine, 'India and Its Unwashed Reality', (2013) SSRN, < <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2272551>>, Accessed 20 February, 2020.

Our preamble talks about economic justice, and giving someone 10-15 kg of food grains annually, which barely last for a week, worn-out cloth, sometimes 2 stale pieces of bread per household, and 10 to 50 rupees per household every month¹⁷⁷⁴ for cleaning the dry latrines is not economic justice instead it is economic injustice.

In this paper, we have discussed the failure of Swachh Bharat Mission and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme referring to the people of SC and ST community, especially those who are manual scavengers and their family member are manual scavengers.

RESEARCH QUESTION

- 1) Is Swachh Bharat Mission being good for People belonging to Manual scavengers' community?
- 2) How far Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is practical and useful for the girls of manual scavenging community?
- 3) What are obstacles that are coming into the way of removing this practice?
- 4) What are all the laws that are being violated by existence of human manual scavenging?

1. OBSTACLES IN REMOVING MANUAL SCAVENGING

The manual scavengers pay their life for cleaning our latrine and the biggest problem or obstacles in removing the whole system of manual scavenging is Determination. Without determination, nobody in this world has ever achieved a thing in their life. In the year 1993, the parliament passes the act which gives the punishment of up to a year or a fine of INR 50,000 or both who violates the act. And another main point of this practice is that the offence under this act is cognizable and non-bailable. The act prohibits a person from being engaged or employed for hazardous cleaning of a sewer or a septic tank.

Even after imposing the punishment and fine, India as the biggest democracy in the world failed to overcome this taboo because of poverty. In India, poverty at some places is so much disastrous that peoples are ready to die for the sake of their livelihood. No one likes this work and as one of the leading countries, we can't also afford the person dies due to the act which is banned almost 25 year ago. At the same time, we have to find some alternatives because

¹⁷⁷⁴ Kainat Sarfaraz, Manual Scavenging in Meerut: Why are women made to carry excreta on their head for two stale rotis a day? *The Indian Express*, (Meerut and New Delhi, 13 June 2017) <<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/why-are-women-made-to-carry-excreta-on-their-head-for-two-stale-rotis-a-day/>> accessed 9 July 2020.

the scavenging is necessary work but the human manual scavenging should be stopped at the earliest from the nation.

The second obstacle for removing of manual scavenging is cast based society. Once a social activist said “every Dalit is not a manual scavenger but every manual scavenger are Dalits” so we have to find some solution. Why only they are responsible for cleaning the manual scavengers, in India poverty hits almost every caste but only Dalits chose to become manual scavengers as we know, nobody likes this job but because of some family problem or the hereditary job which is chosen by their grandfather, father and now by them, they become the manual scavengers.

The third obstacles are the lack of education, that the person chose to do manual scavenging are not aware of. Those people have already agreed that this is their job and they didn't know that this is illegal to do manual scavenging.

The fourth obstacles are lack of technology in some part of the country, it is the job of the municipal corporation to clean the public septic tanks or sewer. But due to the lack of the technology human manual scavengers are more prevalent. The people who clean the sewer and septic are mostly from lowest cast of the society as they don't get enough money from removing human excreta from every household. They are more attracted to going into this risky job by putting their life at risk. We know that women manual scavengers go each and every household in their community having dry latrines and clean. And they earn 10 to 50 rupee per month. While men they are more seen in cleaning septic tanks and sewer as they get 300 at a time. This is more than what their women get in a month. As cleaning sewer tank is very risky job no one is ready to do such kind of job that's the reason why authorities give them 300 or sometimes 500 rupee per sewer or septic tanks.

The fifth obstacles are having a smaller number of protective gears which should be given by the municipality or the authority to the person who is entering into hazardous place like public septic tank etc. But due to less in number they enter either without wearing protective gears or wear the unfitted protective gears, which don't make any sense.

And the last obstacles which are the accountability from the government side as right now the government is always on denial mode, that practice of manual scavenging is stopped but from their ministry, it is put on that in 2019 there were more than 100 people died due to this dirty practice.

So, after clearing this obstacle we can achieve as a nation which is free from any type of manual scavenging. But it is said that “Old habits die hard, they say

2. EXISTENCE OF HUMAN MANUAL SCAVENGER IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE DIRTY ASPECT OF THE SOCIETY

In the era of technological advancement, we are still living in a world where human shits are cleaned by a human. For two-time bread, these dirty jobs don't dissuade people from entering into a sewer, septic tanks, cleaning human excreta by hands.¹⁷⁷⁵ Even though the manual scavenger community is Dalit and they are still treated differently by some other Dalit who is not a manual scavenger.¹⁷⁷⁶

Vertical caste system or varna system is responsible for this situation of the people to show the sensibility. These people are lowest in the four-fold Varna system like Valmiki, Hela¹⁷⁷⁷. In some cases, it has been seen that they consider their job because they are born in that family. People blame society and bureaucracy which is not the root cause common factor that is present in both society and bureaucracy is the existence of the caste system. These people are highly living in stigma.

- Failure of Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao

We are talking about “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao”, from where the girls will get the education when they are being given the basket at the age of thirteen to remove human excreta from homes of so-called upper-class peoples, just because they are born in a family which is doing these jobs from generation to generation? From where their mother will send them to school if they are getting food from all the houses as their salary, or in some cases 300 rupees for a year?

Children are also forced to be a manual scavenger because their parents don't have enough money to send them to school. Even they are going there; they are being discriminated on the ground that they are untouchables, their parents are untouchable. Children of manual

¹⁷⁷⁵ Adila Matra, 'Step children of Swachh Bharat: How manual scavenging still thrives in Delhi', *India Today* (New Delhi 2 August 2015) <indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/step-children-of-swachh-bharat-how-manual-scavenging-continues-to-thrive-in-delhi-285952-2015-08-02>. Accessed 11 February, 2020.

¹⁷⁷⁶ Navsarjan Trust, 'Dalit children in India – victims of caste discrimination', The Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, <https://idsn.org/wpcontent/uploads/user_folder/pdf/New_files/India/Dalit_children_in_India_-_victims_of_caste_discrimination.pdf> Accessed on 24 February.

¹⁷⁷⁷ Subhojit Goswami, 'Manual scavenging: A stinking legacy of suffocation and stigma, Down To Earth', <<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/waste/manual-scavenging-a-stinking-legacy-of-suffocation-and-stigma-61586>> Accessed on 10 February.

scavenger are facing discrimination in getting an education as well,¹⁷⁷⁸ they are forced to sit at back in the classroom, not talk to upper-class children, not to participate in sports and other activities. In most of the cases, they left the school because it becomes impossible for them to tolerate the torture by upper-caste children and their teachers.

Dropout rate from school among girls of Human manual scavenger is very high due to above mention reason.

Another reason why girls of manual scavenger or girls from their family doesn't go to school or sometime drop out because their mother who are working as manual scavenger get affected by many disease and are not able to work. So to give some financial support to the family they picked up basket and broom and leave the pen and copy behind.

- **Failure of Swachh Bharat Mission**

A Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in the year 2014 on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi by the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi with the determination in the eye that no one has to pee in the open place, there should be a toilet for everyone and make India Open Defecation Free in the five years. And on the 150th Birthday of Mahatma, PM told the whole India by delivering the speech at the Red fort that we achieved almost open defecation free India, but here the twist is that many individual agencies surveyed that we have not even reached the half of what the PM claimed on 2nd October 2019.

Till 2019 according to the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry of Jal Shakti government build approximately 10 crore toilets in the Gramin area. But the problems is that most of them are septic tanks and without any sewer lines being laid out for dealing with this urine and excreta. The toilets that and were built under the swachh Bharat scheme were based on septic tank-based model, either one septic tank or two. In one septic tank, the urine and human excreta go into one pit which gets full after some time and requires human efforts to clean them. And in two septic tank-based models there are two pits one is used after one is full, which also requires human effort to clean the toilets, and this job too is given to the manual scavenger community.

¹⁷⁷⁸Navsarjan Trust, 'Dalit children in India – victims of caste discrimination', The Center for Human Rights and

GlobalJustice,<https://idsn.org/wpcontent/uploads/user_folder/pdf/New_files/India/Dalit_children_in_India_-_victims_of_caste_discrimination.pdf>Accessed on 24 February 2020.

And till now there is no budgetary allocation for the same has been done,¹⁷⁷⁹ now the government is neglecting the manual scavengers, according to their theory these septic tanks will clean automatically but on the ground zero these will clean by the Safai karma Chari because they were forced to clean that for only a few hundreds of rupees. And the only problem is not they will be a force to clean the septic tanks but according to report their children were also forced to clean the septic tanks. And they were humiliated in the schools by their classmates because of the work which is chosen by their grandfathers or father or because of the work chosen by Manu smriti according to their caste.¹⁷⁸⁰

So, if building toilets is the only scale for the achievement of the Swacch Bharat Mission then India may be succeeding in that but we as a nation failed in the upliftment of that part of the society, those who were cleaning sewer and septic tanks from the past, by building the toilets which are septic tank based.

- Failure of the Constitution

Everyday women, who are manual scavenger, wake up and start cleaning human shit by using the broom, a flat metal plate and a broom, and put the waste in the basket, and put that basket on their head and take that too far away from an area where the community is living and dispose of it. They do it for the sake of a handful of money,¹⁷⁸¹ or sometimes for the sake of 2 or 3 bread. It's been more than 70 years since India and its people got independence. And in the year 1993 ban was put on this inhuman practice of manual scavenger and even the practice of this are still prevalent. Prevalence of this practice in the 21st century shows the failure of the constitution and objective of its preamble which provides for the social and economic justice, liberty of thought, expression belief, faith and worship and equality of status and opportunity.

In India, our ministers wash the feet of the poor people, weaker section of our society, go to their home and have lunch and dinner and show this as they have so much sympathy towards those people, if they won't wish to give them some sympathy, they should do something to remove this practice.

¹⁷⁷⁹ *Supra.*

¹⁷⁸⁰ Wilson, Bezwad, and Bhasha Singh. 'The long march to eliminate manual scavenging.' [2016] India exclusion report 301.

¹⁷⁸¹ Permutt, D.Samuel, 'The Manual Scavenging Problem: A Case for the Supreme Court of India', (2011-2012) Hein

Online, <<https://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/cjic20&div=10&id=&page=>> Accessed 12 February 2020.

3. MANUAL SCAVENGING: A PRACTICE THAT VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTION, VARIOUS LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES.

a) Constitutional Provisions

It violates article 14 (provides for equality before law)¹⁷⁸², article 16(2)¹⁷⁸³, 16(4)(a)¹⁷⁸⁴ (provides for equality of opportunity in matters of public employment, reservation of seats in matter of public employment for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe, article 17¹⁷⁸⁵ (abolition of untouchability), article 19 (1) (a)¹⁷⁸⁶ (provides for freedom of speech and expression), article 19 (1) (g)¹⁷⁸⁷ (provides for right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business), article 21¹⁷⁸⁸ (provides for right to live with dignity and protection of life and liberty), article 23¹⁷⁸⁹ (provides for prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour), article 38¹⁷⁹⁰ (provides that it shall be the duty of state to promote welfare of the people by securing social, economic and political justice of the people), article 39(d)¹⁷⁹¹ (provides for equal pay for equal work), article 39(f)¹⁷⁹² (that the children should be provide opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in a condition of freedom and dignity and that childhood are protected against exploitation, article 42¹⁷⁹³ (provides for just and humane condition of work and maternity relief), article 45¹⁷⁹⁴ (provides for early childhood care and education of children below the age of six years, article 46¹⁷⁹⁵ (provides for, it shall be duty of the state to promote educational and economic interest of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and other weaker section), article 47¹⁷⁹⁶ (duty of the state to raise level of nutrition and the standard of living and to promote public health), article 338¹⁷⁹⁷ (provides for National Commission for Scheduled Caste , and the duties of the commission such as to inquire into specific complaints of violation of rights of scheduled

¹⁷⁸² Constitution Of India, Article 14.

¹⁷⁸³ Constitution of India, Article 16, Cl.2.

¹⁷⁸⁴ Constitution of India, Article 16, Cl.4. (a).

¹⁷⁸⁵ Constitution of India, Article 17.

¹⁷⁸⁶ Constitution of India, Article 19, Cl.1. (a).

¹⁷⁸⁷ Constitution of India, Article 19, Cl.1. (g).

¹⁷⁸⁸ Constitution of India, Article 21.

¹⁷⁸⁹ Constitution of India, Article 23.

¹⁷⁹⁰ Constitution of India, Article 38.

¹⁷⁹¹ Constitution of India, Article 39(d).

¹⁷⁹² Constitution of India, Article 39(f).

¹⁷⁹³ Constitution of India, Article 42.

¹⁷⁹⁴ Constitution of India, Article 45.

¹⁷⁹⁵ Constitution of India, Article 46.

¹⁷⁹⁶ Constitution of India, Article 47.

¹⁷⁹⁷ Constitution of India, Article 338.

caste, to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguard provided for the scheduled caste, to discharge the function in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of scheduled caste)

b) Legislation

The practice of manual scavenger violates various provisions of protection of civil rights act, 1955¹⁷⁹⁸, (which was enacted for betterment and development of article 17 of the Indian constitution which provides for the abolition of untouchability)¹⁷⁹⁹, SC/ST Prevention of atrocities act 1989¹⁸⁰⁰ (was enacted to end atrocities and discrimination against SC/ST), Employment of manual scavenger and construction of dry latrines (prohibition) act 1993¹⁸⁰¹, (this particular act provides for a ban on construction of dry latrines and prohibition of employment of human manual scavenger, and enforcement of fundamental right guaranteed under Fourteen, Seventeen, Twenty-one and forty-seven of the constitution of India.)¹⁸⁰² National Commission for Safai Karmachari Act 1993¹⁸⁰³ (it was set up by Parliament for development and welfare of the scavenger), Untouchability Offences Act 1955¹⁸⁰⁴, (this act prescribes the punishment for those who practice untouchability).

c) International Covenant

- CEDAW (Convention on the elimination of all kind of discrimination against women)

Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms.

Most often women clean dry toilets. People clean both excreta from open poop locales, canals and depletes. While men alone are wanted for genuinely belittling work of cleaning sewers and septic tanks. Women generally keep on function as manual scroungers due to family pressure and absence of business. Ladies are a most noticeably awful casualty of manual scroungers as they establish a large portion of the work power of manual foragers. At any rate, 80-90 per cent of India's assessed 1.8 million manual scroungers are ladies, as per a

¹⁷⁹⁸The Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955.

¹⁷⁹⁹Constitution of India, Article 17.

¹⁸⁰⁰The Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

¹⁸⁰¹Employment of manual scavenger and construction of dry latrines (prohibition) act, 1993.

¹⁸⁰²Constitution of India, Article 14,17,21,47.

¹⁸⁰³National Commission for Safai Karmachari Act 1993

¹⁸⁰⁴The Untouchability offences Act 1955.

crusade gathering of Jan Sahas, ladies work is even less paid than men. Women foragers face triple concealment of rank, class and sexual orientation.¹⁸⁰⁵

- **UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Right)**

Article One.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.¹⁸⁰⁶

Article Four.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.¹⁸⁰⁷

Article Twenty-Three.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.¹⁸⁰⁸

- **Convention on Rights of Child (1989)¹⁸⁰⁹**

India ratified this convention in 1992, as per this someone who is below 18 is a child; it gave the task to all the state parties to secure political, economic, social and cultural rights of the children.

And this practice is doing is political, economic, social and cultural injustice to the children of manual scavenger or children who are a manual scavenger. Because of this practice children are dropping out of their school. They are more prone to getting affected from the disease like Tb, skin disease.

- **ICCPR¹⁸¹⁰ (International covenant on the civil and political right) and
ICESCR¹⁸¹¹ (International covenant on economic social and cultural right)**

¹⁸⁰⁵ Maurya, Harsh, and Md Arshad. 'Manual scavenging in India: issues and challenges.' research journal of social sciences 9.9 (2018).

¹⁸⁰⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1.

¹⁸⁰⁷ The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights., Article 4.

¹⁸⁰⁸ The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights., Article 33.

¹⁸⁰⁹ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989.

¹⁸¹⁰ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

¹⁸¹¹ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

It recognizes that inherent dignity and of equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. And all these rights are driven by the inherent dignity of a human being. And India ratified ICESCR on 10 April 1979. In the modern society, everyone gets his respect from the work in which he/she belong but if in any part of the country any person is doing manual scavenging then not only he but his whole family will get disrespect from the society, his children will bully in the school or his wife will listen to taunts in the neighbour locality. As India ratifies the ICESCR then it is the duty of India as a nation that every person should get respect and dignity in the society and no one see them as an untidy.

4. STATISTICS

a) 2011 census report on the manual scavenger

According to the data published by the ministry of social justice and empowerment dry latrines has been in existence in all states and UT except Goa, Sikkim, Lakshadweep, and Chandigarh.

As per the data, there are total 1,82,505 manual scavengers in the country¹⁸¹². Out of which there are 2904 in Jammu and a Kashmir, one in HP, 11951 in Punjab, Forty-two in Haryana, 7268 in Bihar, 2526 in WB, 4153 in Jharkhand, 464 in Odisha, 3498 in Rajasthan, two in Gujarat, 65181 in Maharashtra, 388 in Andhra Pradesh, 15375 in Karnataka, 100 in Kerala, 334 in Tamilnadu, 165 in Telangana, 483 in Uttarakhand, 17388 in UP, 540 in Chhattisgarh, 23105 in Madhya Pradesh, 51 in Sikkim, 1286 in Arunachal Pradesh, 274 in Nagaland, one in Manipur, 1025 in Mizoram, 17333 inn Tripura, 113 in Meghalaya, six in NCT of Delhi, 6277 in Daman and Diu, 142 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, one in Lakshadweep, sixty-six in Pondicherry, sixty-two in Andaman and Nicobar Island.¹⁸¹³

b) Report of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment: Survey conducted on 18 states on a manual scavenger.

Government has surveyed 18 states and its 170 districts about manual scavenger and submitted its report to the government. This shows the following figure;

As per the survey, there is total 1982 manual scavenger in Andhra Pradesh, 542 in Assam, 108 in Gujarat, 201 in Jharkhand, 1754 in Karnataka, 600 in Kerala, 562 in Madhya Pradesh,

¹⁸¹²Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government Of India, Press Information Bureau, (2015), Available at <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133286> , Accessed on 24 February.

¹⁸¹³Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, Press Information Bureau, 2015, Available at <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133286>, Accessed on 24 February 2020.

7378 in Maharashtra, 142 in Punjab, 2590 in Rajasthan, sixty-two in Tamil Nadu, 18280 in Uttar Pradesh, 4787 in Uttarakhand, 637 in West Bengal¹⁸¹⁴.

c) Comparison of the 2011 and 2018 data

As per the 2011 data, there were 182505 manual scavengers and as of 2018 data, the number is 39625. However, the data published by government officials and data according to a nonprofit organization are contradictory. As per the 2018 survey on manual scavenger, there was no manual scavenger found in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The practice of manual scavenging in the twenty-First century is the bureaucratic failure and slap on society. The main obstacles that we as a countryman, as a social activist, as a manual scavenger itself is that denial of the existence of human manual scavengers, it's such a shame on the society. Existence of manual scavenger in India in 2020, it seems like the man is cheaper than a machine. The practice of this inhuman practice must abolish at all cost because this shows our traditional caste, class, segregation allegiance. After all, they are part of the society, they are not a robot, and their children who are working as a manual scavenger, abandoning their studies are mere people in making, because the progress of the country lies in every individual and it starts from their childhood, so instead of giving the child broom and basket we should give them books and pens and for that purpose proper implementation of the existing laws is the pressing priority.

By seeing the practice on manual scavenger still prevalent in India, we can presume that how caste system has divided, segregated, locked the mind of the society, crippled, and paralyzed the society.

Sc has held that India's Constitution requires state intervention to end manual scavenging and rehabilitation of all people engaging in this practice. This means not only ending practice also ending the abuses faced by the community engaged in manual scavenging.¹⁸¹⁵

1. The government should provide gloves, shoes, boots, soap, helmet, all these things should be given to urban local bodies and rural local body but not money should be given to them, because if money would be given, they may don't distribute to the people.

¹⁸¹⁴National, India's manual scavenging problem, The Hindu, February 16,2020.

¹⁸¹⁵Digvijay Singh, 'Cleaning Human Waste', (2014), Human Right Watch
< <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/08/25/cleaning-human-waste/manual-scavenging-caste-and-discrimination-india>>Accessed 21 Feburary, 2020.

2. On all the safety equipment's like gloves, shoes, soap, boots, helmet there should be a government stamp or seal so if they want to sell those things for the sake of money nobody could buy that because that would be government products not meant for sale.
3. The government should tie-up with private companies to form technology as an alternative to human manual scavengers.
4. Manual scavengers should promote to indulge in work in small and cottage industries. So, they can have an opportunity for alternative livelihood.
5. NGO's must take a step forward in creating awareness about existing laws that aim to end human manual scavengers.
6. Legislation should be more strictly followed and some amendments are the need of the hour like if anyone becomes repeated offender of the same offence then the punishment should become harsher so that no one dares to do that again.
7. In every constituency, every MP or MLA should be encouraged to spend some money {from the fund that is provided to them called MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development, Scheme) for betterment of their constituency} for giving assisting to build flush toilets, for the people who are having dry latrines in their home.
8. Municipal Authority should take accountability that no one in their area should be employed as a manual scavenger.
9. The government should make an online portal so that if any man is cleaning the septic tanks then the general public can click their photo and report in the app so that necessary action takes place.
10. From now onwards government should make bio-toilets instead of dry latrine or septic tanks.
11. Death of the manual scavenger should be added in the NCRB (National Crime Record Bureau) statistics, show that people can get to know about this practice, and try to change the situation.