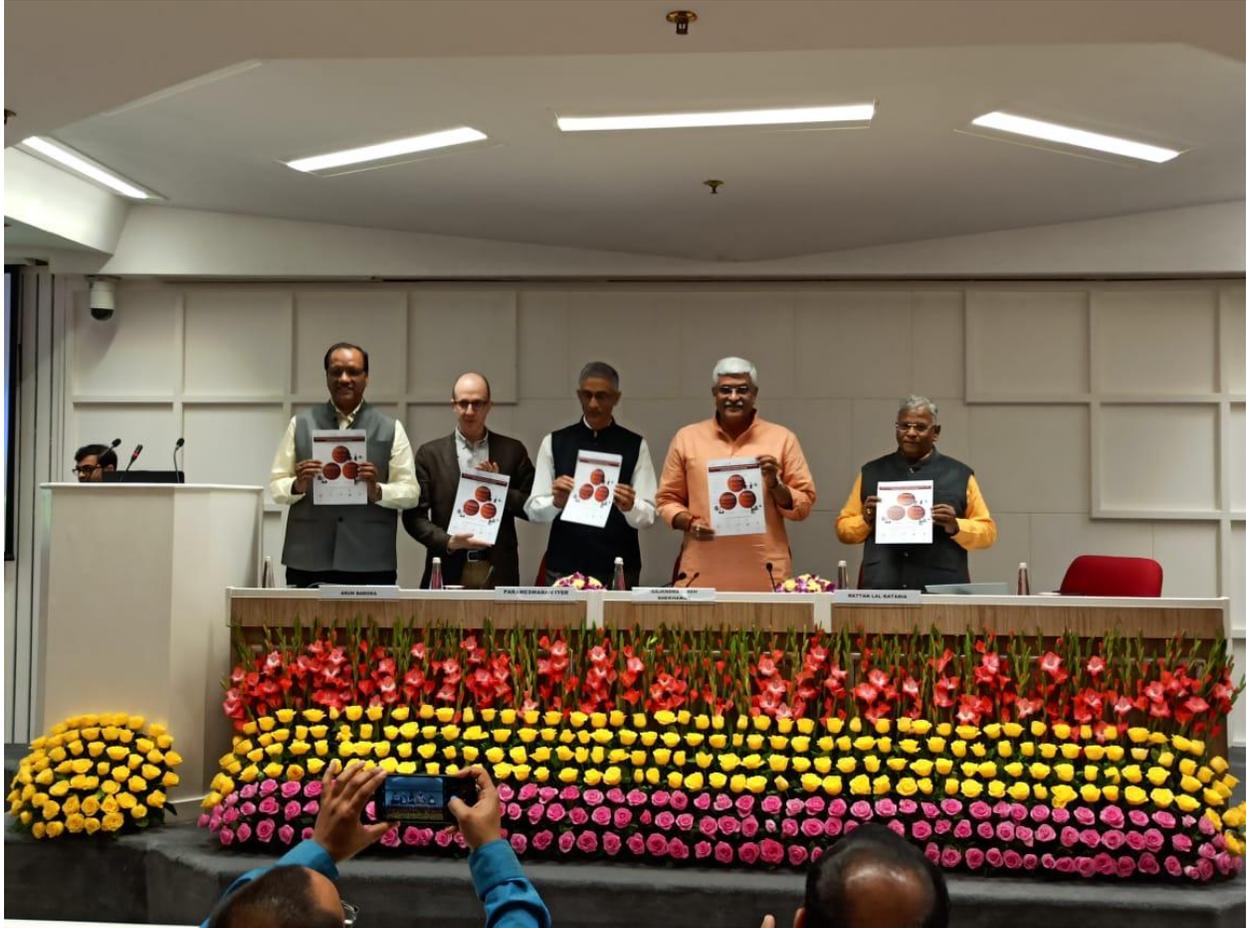


Impact of SBM-G: convenience, safety & self-respect of rural women



Increased access to household toilets has led to the improvement in the convenience, safety and self-respect of women in rural India, according to a study carried out by UNICEF and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In the run up to International Women's Day on 8th March 2020, the study was released by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat during the launch of Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) at a national dissemination and consultation workshop held on 4th March 2020.

Others at the event were Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Shri Parameswaran Iyer, Additional Secretary, DDWS, Shri Arun Baroka, Principal Secretaries/Secretaries-in-charge of Rural Sanitation, Mission Directors (SBMG) of States/UTs,

senior officials from the Ministry (Gol), and other invited state nodal officers engaged with SBM-G.

The study - Impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on the convenience, safety and self-respect of women in rural India – surveyed 6,993 women across the 5 states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, in February, 2020, and indicated that the increased access to household toilets has led to the improvement in the Suvidha (convenience), Suraksha (safety) and Swabhimaan (self-respect) of women in rural India.

Increased access to toilets has also led to reduced health risks, time saving, pride in toilet ownership, enhanced privacy and reduced stress.

Among the key findings are:

- By not going out in the open to defecate, 93% women feel safer from assault; 93% no longer fear contracting infections; and 93% no longer fear animal attacks.
- 91% women save up to one hour of their day, earlier spent on walking to defecation sites; 93% of women do not have to stop eating to control the urge to defecate anymore; and 98% of women do not have to travel up to 1 kilometer for defecation anymore.
- 88% of women are proud to own a toilet.
81% of women do not worry about privacy while changing menstrual hygiene material anymore.
77% of women are stress free about changing menstrual hygiene material