

# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION SURVEY

## BESIDES ILLITERACY, WHY DO YOU THINK INDIA LAGS BEHIND IN TERMS OF SANITATION?

We asked this question to people from various sectors and localities, and found some interesting answers:

- "Self respect and self realization of what they are doing wrong! Indians don't care about sanitization unless it is their house, that is dirty. This needs to be changed."
- "The social force and the olden norms that the people in the rural areas hold. People who draw its connections to religion and impurity deviate people from good health and proper facilities. It is also the political situation of India where people are busy fighting for no reason, sidelining important issues"
- "People don't take ownership. They just use and go. Hence hygiene and sanitation isn't maintained."
- "Lack of safe water supply, poor environmental sanitation, improper disposal of human excreta, and poor personal hygiene help to perpetuate and spread diarrheal diseases in India. Since diarrheal diseases are caused by 20–25 pathogens".
- "Population. That's the root cause of everything isn't it? Like even if there are 700 million people who know and understand sanitation fully, there'll be another 400 who don't. To bring a change there has to be a change in mentality, and mentalities aren't changed in a day."
- "While it is obvious that illiteracy is the factor to which questionable sanitary habits may be attributed to, the following also may be considered, although one may argue that they are each intertwined with the factor of literacy.

- 1) lack of provisions/ facilities- for instance lack of separate waste bins in malls, footpaths, etc.
- 2) lack of legal enforcement- fines and dues in accordance with laws related to sanitation, health and hygiene are often waived or not given due importance because of corrupt officials/ persons managing the same.
- 3) nurture- perhaps a proper routine to ensure hygiene was not something that a child was taught or encouraged to do by their immediate social relations. Instances for the same may vary from being encouraged to use hand washes, sanitary napkins, etc. to being discouraged from spitting on roads/ urinating on roadsides, etc.
- 4) "lack of time"- stated in quotations because it is one of the most common excuses that one may be given, sought or unsought, regarding their living conditions in their current location of residence, be it their own flats or in hostel rooms. People hide behind the aegis of being bad at time management such that they are unable to find time amidst their oh so busy schedules to ensure a hygienic immediate environment. This excuse is possibly the most flimsy bluff to ever exist."