EFFICACY OF PROJECT LET'S CHANGE SWACHHTA MONITOR (TARGETED-NEGLIGENCE-FREE MAHARASHTRA)A STEP OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO SPEED UP THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6(SDG-6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11(SDG-11- SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITY)

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Abstract:

Project Lets Change Swachhta Monitor aims to develop a habit amongst school students to practically stop people that they see littering or spitting. Through over 10 years of Swachhta Abhiyans there is awareness about the importance of cleanliness, however unknowingly many still litter and spit carelessly. Because nobody points out this unsocial act on the spot, the habit of such carelessness has stayed. Further after pointing out the mistake, they will request that person to rectify his mistake on the spot. For people to realize that the actual stopping has started, the school shares a video of Swachhta Monitor casually narrating the incident on social media. Anybody who gets stopped by a student for negligence a few times will tend to be more aware of not making the mistake- Rohit Aarrya (concept creator and Executor, Project head – Project Lets Change) Supported and promoted by – Department the of School Education, Government of Maharashtra.) This program is successfully fulfilling sustainable development goal 6-clean water and sanitation at the same time sustainable development goal for sustainable cities and communities by developing a habit of reacting to basic social misconduct.)

Key Words: *Project Let's Change Swachhta Monitor -a negligence-free Maharashtra, SDG-6, SDG-11*

Introduction:

Rio de Janeiro 1992 summit marked the first international attempt to draw action plans and Strategies for moving towards a more sustainable pattern Brundtland Commission 1987 marked sustainable development as the solution to the problems of environmental degradation

"Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." by the **Brundtland Commission - Our Common Future (1987).**

Sustainable development (SD) calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet. To bring sustainable development the mainstream United Nations (UN) launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.This universal, integrated and transformative plan aims to promote actions that will end poverty and build a more sustainable world over the next 15 years.

There are 17 goals and 169 marks specific targets to be achieved by 2030. Reaching the goals requires action on all fronts – governments, businesses, civil society and people everywhere all have a role to play. SDGs are not legally binding. Significant initiative towards sustainable development comes directly from the community level.

NGOs create linkages between global and local needs and actors. They have played a role in the negotiation, monitoring and implementation of environmental law and policy at all levels.

Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) emphasises the importance of ensuring clean water and sanitation for all. It aims to address water scarcity, water pollution, and insufficient sanitation practices. Access to clean water and sanitation is critical for environmental sustainability, as well as human health and ecosystem integrity.

Goal 11(Sustainable Cities and Communities) emphasizes the need to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. It addresses issues such as urbanization, air pollution, waste management, and access to green spaces. Creating sustainable cities and communities is crucial for environmental sustainability, as the majority of the global population resides in urban by ac accelerating progress toward achieving eenvironmental sustainability, it is important tto implement strategies and measures that address the key challenges and promote sustainable practices. Some strategies that can help to accelerate the progress; strengthening the policy frameworks, promoting sustainable consumption and production, increasing investments in renewable energy, conserving and restoring biodiversity, improving waste management, strengthening climate action, fostering collaboration and partnerships, and last but not the least is to promote environmental education and awareness. 2021

India ranked at 120th position in the SDG Report, 2021 with an overall score of 61.9. India dropped by three places in 2021 when compared to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, where India ranked 117th. India has only been able to achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action). It is set on its track to maintain this SDG achievement. Though there are major challenges left to deal with: **(Global SDG Report 2023)**

India has been on track to achieve SDG 6 (Clean water & sanitization) with its Swach Bharat Abhiyan.With-it regards with Sustainability Cleanliness and sanitation are very important subject. We should also maintain cleanliness for the sake of a healthy environment. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat with the objective of sustained cleanliness in the country. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014 to achieve an open defecation free (ODF) India in five years. This progressed the country towards SDG 6.2, which aims for adequate and equitable sanitation access for all, especially for women and girls. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted, "Sustainable development of one-A sixth of humanity will be of great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet. It will be a world of fewer challenges and greater hope; and, more confidence of its success". It accelerated implementation through a cascade model which placed master trainer pools in each state and district who in turn trained grassroots implementers who reached households, pre-schools, schools and healthcare facilities with key messages. This has been effective for scaling up while retaining buy-in from local communities.

Earlier structure of Swachhata Abhiyans:

The School Education Department has been doing Swachhta Abhiyaans for several years. Besides that, various organizations do several activities for cleanliness involving schools and students. Commonly in these activities, students are involved in the actual cleaning of school premises or surrounding areas. Secondly, students connect with various people through one-to-one contact or rallies to spread awareness of, the importhe tance of

cleanliness and ill effects of unclean surroundings. Thirdly students participate in competitions like drawing, elocutions etc with a theme of cleanliness. There is another activity of taking an oath of cleanliness, which states that students themselves will not litter and not let anybody else litter. Unfortunately, this oath gets forgotten, many people still carelessly spit and litter. Though awareness is done over many years, this habit of carelessness has stuck because nobody actually stops anybody when the mistake happens.

A mistake of carelessly disposing an unwanted thing, like empty food covers etc; and spitting mostly happens unknowingly.

Aim of Project Lets Change Swachhata Monitor :

Maharashtra aims to become a negligence-free state regarding waste disposal. The root cause of unclean surroundings is careless spitting and littering. Project Lets Change Swachhta Monitor aims to develop a habit among school students to practically stop people that they see littering or spitting. Project Lets Change Swachhta Monitor aims to develop a habit amongst school students to practically stop people that they see littering or spitting. Further after pointing out the mistake, they request that person to rectify his mistake on the spot. For people to realize that the actual stopping has started, the school shares a video of Swachhta Monitor casually narrating the incident on social media. The effect is seen almost immediately. Anybody who gets stopped by a student for negligence a few times will tend to be more aware of not making the mistake. Thus the root cause of unclean surrounding gets addressed. This project is successfully fulfilling sustainable development goal 6-clean water and sanitation at the same time sustainable development goal for sustainable cleanliness in cities and communities by developing a habit of reacting to basic social misconduct.

Stucture of Project Lets Change Swachhata Monitor :

Through over 10 years of Swachhta Abhiyans there is awareness about the importance of cleanliness, however unknowingly many still litter and spit carelessly. Because nobody points out this unsocial act on the spot, the habit of such carelessness has stayed. PLC Swachhta Monitor students are not expected to do the cleaning of areas or spread awareness about cleanliness. The students will take the responsibility of only practically stopping anybody wherever someone is seen littering or spitting carelessly.

Further after pointing out the mistake, they will request that person to rectify his mistake on the spot. For years we have taken oaths and promised to do this, however, practically everybody turns a blind eye even while witnessing an unsocial act. For people to realize that the actual stopping has started, the school shares a video of Swachhta Monitor casually narrating the incident on social media. Anybody who gets stopped by a student for negligence a few times will tend to be more aware of not making the mistake.

Efficacy of Project Lets Change Swachhata Monitor :

The first phase of 2023 had 64198 schools participate in PLC Swachhta Monitor with about 59 lakh students. This was after the education department was convinced of the positive effect of the pilot project in 2022 that got a response from over 12,000 schools. The Government of Maharashtra, Education Department has announced the second phase of PLC Swachhta Monitor 2023 that will start on 1st January 2024.

Pilot project	12000schools	About 1.5 lakh students
First phase 2023-24	64198 schools	About 59 lakh students
Second phase 2023-24	Enrolling	

Relevance of Project Lets Change Swachhata Monitor with SDG 6 and SDG 11:

This program is successfully fulfilling sustainable development goal 6-clean water and sanitation at the same time sustainable development goal for sustainable cities and communities by developing a habit of reacting to basic social misconduct. This project and its swachata monitors are sussscessfully enrooting Sanitation habits to make Maharashtara Negligence free in its real sense as State governments are key to India's progress on the SDGs as they are best placed to 'put people first' and to ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.
(https://india.un.org/en/sdgs)

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