



D.O. No. 2/2/s(DWS)/2015
Dated the 16th February 2015

Dear Chief Secretary

You would have noticed that the new guidelines of *Swachh Bharat* – 2019 have reiterated the focus on 'whole village' approach.

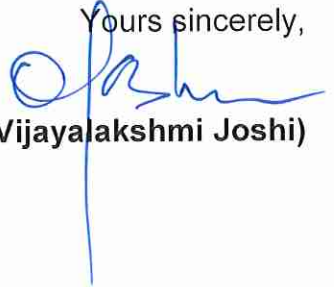
2. The reason for this focus is two-fold. One, it has been observed that "collective action" by the village in making itself ODF yields faster results than an attempt to target individual households. More importantly, there is scientific data to show that reduction in diarrhoea and improved health parameters result only when the village becomes completely ODF i.e. 100% of villagers use toilet 100% of the times. The attached graph from a reputed study will elucidate this point.

3. In view of the above, may I request you to emphasise upon all concerned, especially the District Collectors / CEOs, Zilla Parishads, to focus upon achieving complete ODF villages, i.e. villages where no one defecates in the open. It is also clarified that while whole village saturation approach is to be emphasized, it may also be ensured that natural demand in other areas not chosen for saturation is duly met, and also conversion of insanitary to sanitary latrines and toilet inclusion in houses built under the rural housing programme is not lost sight of.

4. Needless to say, once focus is shifted to ODF villages, you will have to streamline the monitoring system accordingly. It will also be useful to base the entire planning for making the Districts/State *Swachh* by 2019 on the number of villages that are to be made ODF progressively each year.

With regards,

All Chief Secretaries & UTs

Yours sincerely,

(Vijayalakshmi Joshi)

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर