

## Chapter 10 - The Bare Necessities

Access to “the bare necessities” such as housing, water, sanitation, electricity and clean cooking fuel are a sine qua non to live a decent life. A family’s ability to access bare necessities – such as housing, water, sanitation, electricity and clean cooking fuel – have therefore been regarded as an important barometer of economic development in academic and policymaking circles. This chapter examines the progress made in providing access to “the bare necessities” by constructing a Bare Necessities Index (BNI) at the rural, urban and all India level.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on providing “the bare necessities” to all: **Goal 6** focuses on access to clean water and sanitation to all while, **Goal 7** inter alia aims to provide universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuel.

### Government Schemes for Bare Necessities

Scheme	Objective	Targets and achievements
<b>Swachh Bharat Mission-Rural and Urban</b>	<p>SBM-Rural - attain Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019 by providing access to toilet facilities to all rural households in the country.</p> <p>SBM-Urban - achieve 100 per cent Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and 100 per cent scientific processing of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) being generated in the country</p>	<p><b>SBM-rural</b> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 10 crore toilets built across rural India.</li> <li>• The programme has ensured that no one is left behind and to achieve the overall cleanliness in villages.</li> <li>• Phase II of SBM(G) from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is being implemented focusing on ODF sustainability and Solid &amp; Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)</li> </ul> <p><b>SBM-Urban</b> -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,327 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been declared ODF so far.</li> <li>• Construction of more than 66 lakhs individual household toilets and over 6 lakhs community/ public toilets, far exceeding the Mission’s targets.</li> <li>• Mission is now focusing on holistic sanitation through its ODF+ and ODF++ protocols with a total of 1,319 cities certified ODF+ and 489 cities certified ODF++ as on date.</li> <li>• 68 per cent of waste generated per day is being processed.</li> </ul>
<b>Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)</b>	<p>PMAY intends to provide housing for all in urban and rural areas by 2022.</p>	<p><b>PMAY (Urban)</b> - 109.2 lakh houses have been sanctioned out of which 70.4 lakh houses have been grounded for construction of which 41.3 lakh have been built.</p> <p><b>PMAY (Gramin)</b> - Since 2014-15, construction of approx. 1.94 crore rural houses have been completed, out of which</p>

		1.22 crore houses have been constructed under the revamped scheme of PMAY-G and 0.72 crore under erstwhile Indira Awaas Yojana scheme
<b>Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)</b>	Provide functional tap water connection (FTWC) every rural household by 2024 and get assured supply of potable piped water at a service level of 55 litres per capita per day regularly on long-term basis by ensuring tap water connections.	Upto 16th January, 2021, so far about 3.2 crore of rural households have been provided with FTWC since the launch of the Mission.  Keeping with 'no one is left out' principle, 18 districts in the country have become 'Har Ghar Jal districts' whereas 57,935 villages have also become 'Har Ghar Jal Gaon'.
<b>Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - Saubhagya</b>	To achieve universal household electrification by providing electricity connections to all willing un-electrified households in rural areas and all willing poor households in urban areas in the country, by March, 2019.	All States have declared electrification of all households on Saubhagya portal, except 18,734 households in Left Wing Extremists (LWE) affected areas. Additionally, around 19 lakh households across 7 states have been identified and are being electrified.
<b>Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)</b>	To provide clean cooking fuel to poor households with a target to provide 8 crore deposit free LPG connection. This connection is provided in the name of an adult woman member of a poor family	Under PMUY, a target to provide 8 crore new LPG connections has been achieved in September, 2019, 7 months in advance of the target date of 31st March, 2020.

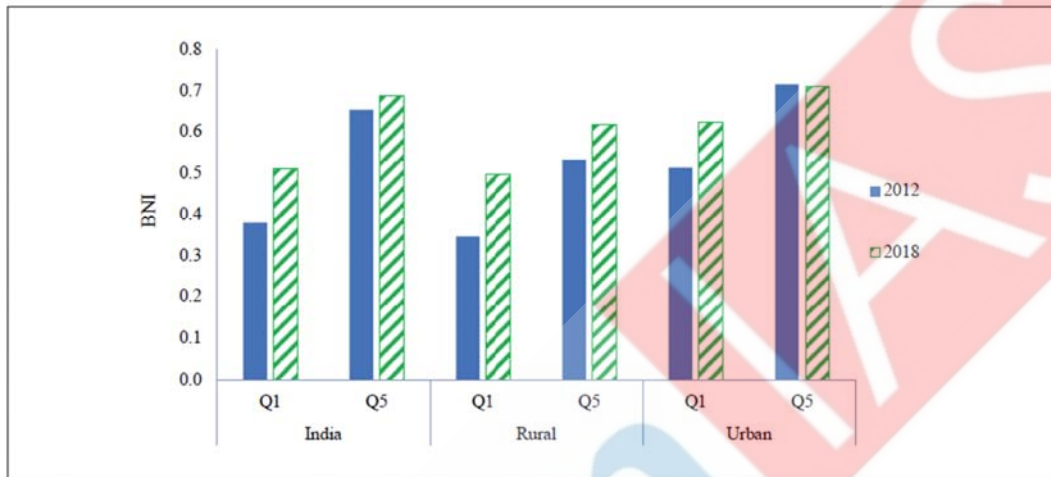
To measure the progress in the delivery of “the bare necessities”, the Survey develops a composite index called the **Bare Necessities Index (BNI)**.

The BNI summarizes 26 indicators on **five dimensions viz., water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities**. The BNI has been created for all states for 2012 and 2018 using data from two NSO rounds viz., 69th and 76th on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition in India.

- Compared to 2012, access to “the bare necessities” has improved across all States in the country in 2018. Access to bare necessities is the highest in the States such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat while it is the lowest in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tripura.
- The improvements are widespread as they span each of the five dimensions viz., access to water, housing, sanitation, micro-environment and other facilities.
- Inter-State disparities in the access to “the bare necessities” have declined in 2018 when compared to 2012 across rural and urban areas. This is because the States where the level of access to “the bare necessities” was low in 2012 have gained relatively more between 2012 and 2018.
- Access to “the bare necessities” has improved disproportionately more for the poorest households when compared to the richest households across rural and urban areas.

- The improvement in equity is particularly noteworthy because while the rich can seek private alternatives, lobby for better services, or if need be, move to areas where public goods are better provided for, the poor rarely have such choices.
- Improved access to “the bare necessities” has led to improvements in health indicators. Similarly, we also find that improved access to “the bare necessities” correlates with future improvements in education indicators.

**Figure 6: Improving Equity in Access to Bare Necessities**



Source: Survey calculations.

#### DRINKING WATER ACCESSIBILITY INDEX

The sub-index for access to drinking water, drinking water accessibility index, is composed of sub-dimensions viz., the principal source of drinking water, distance from source of water, nature of access, and method of taking out water.

- Access to drinking water to households in most of the States has improved in 2018 compared to 2012, in rural as well as in urban areas, (except for Andhra Pradesh in Rural and Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh in urban areas).
- Regional disparities have increased in 2018 when compared to 2012 despite such disparities declining in urban areas (Figure 8). This is because these disparities have increased in the rural areas.
- The Jal Jeevan mission must therefore focus on reducing the disparities in the rural areas as the reduction in such disparities will reduce the disparities across India.

#### SANITATION INDEX

Indicators used in the sub-index are percentage of households by access to latrine for exclusive use, the type of latrine viz., piped sewer system, septic tank, twin leach pit, single pit. These indicators show physical as well as quality of access to sanitation.

- sanitation access has improved for all States in rural areas and for most of the States in urban areas in 2018 compared to 2012.
- Regional disparities in access to sanitation has declined as the states having low access to sanitation in 2012 have gained more.
- However, inter-State difference in access to sanitation are still large, especially in rural areas. The level of access to safe sanitation has increased in lowest income quintile, both in rural as well as in urban areas.

### HOUSING INDEX

The housing index measures not only the structure of house (in terms of Pucca or Katcha), but also the quality of house in terms of type of dwelling unit (independent or not) and condition of structure (Good or not).

- Access to housing has improved in all States, except urban areas in few States.
- The inter-State disparities have also declined as the States having low level in 2012 have gained more. However, the gaps in the levels across states have been large, especially in rural areas.
- The improvement in access to housing has also been disproportionately greater for the lowest income group when compared to the highest income group, thereby enhancing equity in access to housing in 2018 vis-à-vis 2012.

### MICRO-ENVIRONMENT INDEX

The micro-environment index measures the percentage of households who are living in a dwelling unit with access to drainage, without problems of flies/mosquitoes, and efforts made by local bodies/State government to tackle problem of flies/mosquitoes.

- Micro-environment, as measured by the index, has improved in 2018 for all States, except for Assam in rural and Odisha and Assam in urban areas, as compared to 2012.
- Regional disparities have declined sharply in urban areas in 2018 vis-à-vis 2012, though it was increased in the rural areas.
- The micro-environment is much better in urban areas when compared to the rural areas, and the rural-urban gaps are large.
- The access to microenvironment in 2018 has improved especially to the lowest income quintile in rural as well as in urban areas.

### OTHER FACILITIES INDEX

Other facilities' index captures the availability of kitchen, kitchen with a water tap, good ventilation in house, access to bathroom, attached bathroom, electricity use, the types of wiring used instead of temporary electric wiring, and type of fuel used for cooking (LPG or others).

- Access to Other-facilities for a household has improved for all States in 2018 compared to 2012 for rural as well as in urban areas except for Himachal Pradesh in urban.
- The inter-states disparities in terms of these facilities have also declined, especially in the urban areas.
- The equity in access to other facilities has improved in rural and urban areas.
- The gaps are still high across the State in rural, between rural and urban in States, between income groups, and between rural and urban in income groups.

**Research studies support that the access to bare necessities through its possible linkages can positively impact health and educational indicators.**

### HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Swachh Bharat Mission, has led to a decrease in diarrhea and malaria cases in children below five years, still births and new-borns with weight less than 2.5 kg. Similar effects have been noticed on child survival of safe sanitation through the decline in open defecation.
- Access to improved sanitation also reduces the risk of contracting diarrhoea.
- Access to the piped water and sanitation is critical in reducing the child mortality substantially.
- The distance and time spent on fetching water from the source is found to affect under-five child health and increase the risk of illness.



- Access to clean cooking fuel improves child health. Studies have found a significant trend for higher infant mortality among households that cooked with a greater proportion of biomass fuel.
- Close association between household air pollution and mortality among children aged under-five, possibly because of respiratory illnesses, support the case for providing clean cooking fuel through government programmes.

#### EDUCATION OUTCOMES

- Water hauling, a daily activity, consumes substantial time and effort of a household. It is found that water hauling activity is negatively associated with the girls' school attendance.
- Access to latrine in schools substantially increases enrolment of pubescent-age girls.
- There is a strong correlation between electricity consumption per capita and higher scores on the education index.

#### CHAPTER SUMMARY

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- The improvements are widespread as they span each of the five dimensions viz., access to water, housing, sanitation, micro-environment and other facilities. Inter-State disparities in the access to “the bare necessities” have declined in 2018 when compared to 2012 across rural and urban areas. This is because the States where the level of access to “the bare necessities” was low in 2012 have gained relatively more between 2012 and 2018.
- Access to “the bare necessities” has improved disproportionately more for the poorest households when compared to the richest households across rural and urban areas. The improvement in equity is particularly noteworthy because while the rich can seek private alternatives, lobby for better services, or if need be, move to areas where public goods are better provided for, the poor rarely have such choices.
- Using data from the National Family Health Surveys, we correlate the BNI in 2012 and 2018 with infant mortality and under-5 mortality rate in 2015-16 and 2019-20 respectively and find that the improved access to “the bare necessities” has led to improvements in health indicators.
- Similarly, improved access to “the bare necessities” correlates with future improvements in education indicators. Thrust should be given to reduce variation in the access to bare necessities across states, between rural and urban and between income groups, on bare necessities. The schemes, inter alia, Jal Jeevan mission, SBM-G, PMAY-G, may design appropriate strategy to reduce these gaps.
- A BNI based on large annual household survey data can be constructed using suitable indicators and methodology at district level for all/targeted districts to assess the progress on access to bare necessities.