PRIVATE ACTS, PUBLIC STORIES: SANITATION NGOS DURING THE ‘CLEAN INDIA’ MISSION

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World Toilet Day 2019
INDIA HAS A SEVERE SANITATION PROBLEM.

Source: Joint Monitoring Programme
WHO/UNICEF 2015
“Sanitation is like a corrupt brother-in-law. You can’t get rid of him, but you don’t want to introduce him to your friends.”

— Sanitation consultant
“After Independence, after so many years of Independence, when we stand at the threshold of one and half decades of the 21st century, do we still want to live in filthiness?”

--Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India
Independence Day Speech
August 15, 2014

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION IS LAUNCHED IN 2014 WITH A DEADLINE OF 2019.
IT’S NEVER “JUST” ABOUT TOILETS.
THE BJP IS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST AND OPPRESSION OF MINORITIES.
SANITATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH SOME OF THE LOWEST CASTE GROUPS.
SANITATION IS ENTWINED WITH A COLONIAL PAST AND IS HIGHLY GENDERED.
There is a contested relationship between this government and NGOs.
STAKEHOLDER ORIENTATIONS

- Women
- Environment
- Health
- Political/charismatic
- Children
- Aesthetics/modernity
- Religion
- Economics
- Human rights
- Disaster
SANITATION IS NOT JUST ABOUT TOILETS, BUT A STRUGGLE TO DEFINE WHAT A “CLEAN” MODERN INDIA SHOULD BE.
THANK YOU!

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