JETIR.ORG

ISSN: 2349-5162 | ESTD Year: 2014 | Monthly Issue



JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

MUNICIPAL SANITATION WORKERS SEWER MAN PROBLEMS DURING COVID AND NATURAL CLIMATES

DR. DAWINDER SINGH

Ph. D in Sociology, Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab)

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR - Dr. Dawinder Singh, Ph. D in Sociology, Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab)

ABSTRACT

Covid-19 has exacerbated many of the problems that municipal sanitation workers already face. With a decrease in city budgets, and an increase in the amount of waste being produced, these workers are struggling to keep up. In addition, natural climates such as hurricanes and floods have put additional strain on the system. In this article, we will explore the challenges that municipal sanitation workers are facing and some possible solutions to these problems. We hope that by bringing attention to these issues, we can help make the job a little easier for these hardworking men and women. Sanitation workers are the unsung heroes of our society. They work tirelessly to keep our streets clean and our waste out of sight. However, their job is not an easy one. In addition to the physical challenges of the job, they also face many other challenges such as a decrease in city budgets, an increase in the amount of waste being produced, and natural climates such as hurricanes and floods. Despite these challenges, sanitation workers continue to show up every day and do their jobs. We believe that by bringing attention to the challenges they face, we can help make the job a little easier for these hardworking men and women.

KEYWORDS- Covid, Natural Climates, Sewerage, Municipal Sanitation Workers, Sewer Man, Physical Health and death Problems and needs

INTRODUCTION

The difficulties of being a municipal sanitation worker

Municipal sanitation workers have one of the most difficult and potentially dangerous jobs in the world. They are responsible for cleaning and maintaining sewers, which can be harbour to a variety of harmful bacteria and viruses. In addition, they often have to work in difficult and cramped conditions, with little protection from the elements.

The Covid-19 pandemic has made their job even more difficult, as they now have to take extra precautions to

protect themselves from the virus. This includes wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves, as well as avoiding contact with people who may be infected. Natural climates can also pose a challenge, as extreme weather conditions can make it difficult to access sewers and put workers at risk of injuries.

Despite these difficulties, municipal sanitation workers continue to perform an essential service for society. They play a vital role in preventing the spread of disease, and keeping our sewers clean and functioning properly. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for their hard work and dedication.

THE INCREASED WORKLOAD DURING COVID

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, sanitation workers have been on the front lines, ensuring that our sewage systems continue to function properly. However, they are facing increased workloads and challenges due to the pandemic. In addition to the increased amount of waste generated by businesses and households, there is also a need for more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of public areas.

Sanitation workers are also at risk of exposure to the virus, as they come into contact with infected waste. As a result, many of them have been forced to take on additional shifts in order to keep up with the demand. This has led to increased stress and fatigue, and some workers have even contracted the virus themselves.

Despite the risks, sanitation workers continue to perform their duties with dedication and professionalism. They are an essential part of our society, and we must do everything we can to support them during this challenging time.

In some cases, workers are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while performing their duties. This can be challenging in itself, but it also adds to the heat and humidity that they must endure. Natural climate conditions can also make their job more difficult, as extreme weather can cause flooding and other problems.

The increased workload and challenges faced by sanitation workers during Covid-19 are substantial. However, they continue to perform their essential duties with dedication and professionalism. We thank them for their hard work and commitment during these difficult times.

THE DANGERS OF WORKING IN THE SEWERS

The job of a municipal sanitation worker is a dirty and dangerous one. They are responsible for cleaning and maintaining the sewers, which are often filled with hazardous materials. In addition, they are also exposed to harmful bacteria and viruses.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, sanitation workers have been working tirelessly to keep the sewers clean and safe. However, they are at an increased risk of exposure to the virus. In addition, the extreme weather conditions that have been occurring lately can also make their job more difficult and dangerous.

Sanitation workers play a vital role in keeping our cities clean and safe. However, we must remember that they

h159

are putting their own health at risk in order to do so. We should all be thankful for their hard work and dedication, and do our part to help protect them from harm.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Climate change is affecting sewage systems in a number of ways. One is that rising temperatures are causing more frequent and intense storms, which can overload and damage sewer systems. Another is that sea level rise is causing flooding and infiltration of salt water into sewers, which can corrode pipes and equipment. Extreme weather events can also cause power outages that prevent sewage treatment plants from operating properly. All of these impacts can lead to sanitary sewer overflows, which can contaminate drinking water supplies and pose a public health risk.

Climate change is also causing changes in the composition of sewage, as more people are using flushable wipes and other disposable products that don't break down easily in the sewer system. This can lead to blockages and increased maintenance costs.

As climate change continues to occur, it is likely that these impacts will become more severe and frequent, posing a serious threat to the effectiveness of sewage systems around the world.

One way that climate change is affecting sewage systems is by causing more frequent and intense storms. These storms can overload and damage sewer systems, leading to sanitary sewer overflows. This can contaminate drinking water supplies and pose a public health risk.

Another way that climate change is affecting sewage systems is by causing sea level rise. This rise is causing flooding and infiltration of salt water into sewers, which can corrode pipes and equipment. This can also lead to sanitary sewer overflows, which can contaminate drinking water supplies and pose a public health risk.

A third way that climate change is affecting sewage systems is by causing extreme weather events. These events can cause power outages that prevent sewage treatment plants from operating properly. This can lead to the release of untreated sewage into the environment, which can contaminate drinking water supplies and pose a public health risk.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR SANITATION WORKERS?

Sanitation workers are on the front lines of keeping our communities clean and safe, but they often do not have the resources or support they need to do their jobs effectively. Here are some ways we can improve conditions for sanitation workers:

- Provide them with adequate safety gear, including gloves, masks, and protective clothing
- Ensure they have access to soap and water for washing their hands
- Make sure they have regular breaks to rest and eat
- Pay them a livable wage so they can support themselves and their families
- Provide adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and training on how to use it properly.
- Ensure that workers have access to proper sanitation facilities and health care.

- Develop policies and procedures to protect workers from exposure to hazardous materials.
- Increase pays and benefits for sanitation workers to reflect the importance of their work.

By taking these steps, we can show our appreciation for the vital role that sanitation workers play in our society and help them to stay safe and healthy as they carry out their important work.

CONCLUSION

Municipal sanitation workers have been struggling during the Covid pandemic and natural climate changes. They are working longer hours in difficult conditions, and many are getting sick. The city needs to do more to support these essential workers, who are doing their best to keep our communities clean and safe.

We hope that this article post has brought attention to the challenges that municipal sanitation workers are facing. We believe that by bringing attention to these issues, we can help make the job a little easier for these hardworking men and women.

REFERENCE

- 1. https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/waste/sanitation-workers-on-covid-19-front-lines-how-to-save-the-warriors--71640
- 2. https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxoof256/files/health-safety-and-social-security-challenges-of-sanitation-workers-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-in-india.pdf
- 3. https://fortune.com/2022/11/08/chennai-india-population-floods-climate-change-adaptation/
- 4. https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/indias-sewer-workers-risk-snakes-toxic-gases/
- 5. https://swachhindia.ndtv.com/world-toilet-day-sanitation-workers-the-essential-yet-neglected-workforce-64833/
- 6. https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/water/kolkata-sewer-deaths-do-not-improve-sewerage-and-water-supply-at-the-cost-of-sanitation-workers-75698
- 7. https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsenvironau.1c00005
- 8. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/11/19/sanitation-workers
- 9. https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/sanitation-workers-amid-pandemic
- 10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanitation_worker
- 11. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096320300528
- 12. https://forthriverstrust.org/climate-change-and-the-impacts-on-our-sewage-networks-and-rivers/
- 13. https://www.melbournewater.com.au/media/18551/download
- 14. https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2022/06/29/sea-level-rise-from-climate-change-is-threatening-home-septic-systems-and-public-health/
- 15. https://www.teriin.org/article/mainstreaming-climate-resilient-water-and-sanitation-infrastructure-long-lasting-impacts
- 16. https://www.americanrivers.org/threats-solutions/clean-water/impacts-rivers/
- 17. https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/06/01/gbrag-report-climate-change-greater-boston

- 18. https://www.siasat.com/11-sanitation-workers-died-in-gujarat-in-2-yrs-while-cleaning-sewers-govt-toassembly-2548767/
- 19. https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/asia/2023/02/01/india-vows-to-end-manual-emptying-of-sewagetanks-to-prevent-worker-deaths/
- 20. https://scroll.in/article/1041036/manual-scavenging-killed-19-people-in-mumbai-in-past-five-years-butbmc-records-show-zero-deaths

