



Original article

Open Defecation, Sanitation, and Associated Health Issues in India: A Comprehensive Analysis with a Focus on Assam (2000–2022)

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Abstract: Open defecation (OD) remains a pressing public health issue in India, linked to diseases such as diarrhea, stunting, and soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections. This paper examines OD prevalence, sanitation coverage, and associated health outcomes across India, with a particular focus on Assam. Leveraging sources like the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS), Swachh