Society & Social Justice · GS - II

‘To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes’
Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Water access; sanitation coverage; hygiene behaviour; beneficiary targeting; outcome-based planning; interdepartmental coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

WASH refers to water, sanitation and hygiene interventions aimed at improving public health and dignity. Effective implementation requires identifying beneficiaries according to their needs and linking assistance with measurable outcomes.

Why Beneficiary Identification Matters

- **Context-specific needs:** Water-scarce villages may require reliable supply systems, while densely populated settlements may prioritise sanitation infrastructure.
- **Equity:** Vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities and remote communities, need accessible services.

- **Efficient allocation:** Accurate household-level data helps prevent duplication and directs resources towards underserved populations.
- **Behavioural change:** Infrastructure alone is insufficient unless communities adopt safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

Synchronising Beneficiaries with Outcomes

- Define measurable indicators such as safe water access, toilet functionality, usage and reduced waterborne disease.
- Link funding and implementation schedules to local needs and service-delivery targets.
- Coordinate health, education, water supply and local-government departments.
- Involve Gram Panchayats and community groups in planning, monitoring and maintenance.
- Conduct social audits, water-quality testing and independent evaluations.

Challenges

Inaccurate beneficiary data, inadequate maintenance, uneven local capacity and weak behaviour-change communication can undermine outcomes.

Conclusion

WASH interventions succeed when beneficiary identification, infrastructure and behavioural outcomes are integrated. Participatory planning, reliable monitoring and sustained maintenance are essential for lasting public-health gains.

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