

## **PREFACE**

Rehabilitation of scavengers has been one of the greatest challenges for the Indian Social Fabric. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi campaigned against the practice of removal of night soil by humans. Government of India has been attempting to eradicate manual scavenging through various administrative and legislative measures.

The Government of India's present initiative to eradicate this problem is being addressed through various Ministries like Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), etc. The flagship programme of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in this regard is the Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme launched in 1989. The scheme is aimed at converting existing dry latrines into sanitary latrines, constructing new latrines where none exist and to liberate manual scavengers from pursuing the occupation.

Feeling the need to assess the effectiveness and impact of this scheme, the MoHUPA engaged the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. (AFC) to undertake a nation-wide study. This report presents the results of the evaluation exercise and has suggested a number of policy measures to make the scheme more effective.

Agricultural Finance Corporation, Ltd. are thankful to MoHUPA for giving us this opportunity to learn about one of the important social problems of Indian society. We would like to place on record our sincere appreciation and thanks for the whole hearted cooperation extended to the study team by the officials of MOUHPA, HUDCO, State Govt. Officials, Representatives of Urban Local Bodies and Grass Root Level Workers. We wish to thank Shri S K Singh, Joint Secretary (Housing) and Shri Pankaj Joshi, Director for providing support and guidance to the team.

Last but not the least, we extend our thanks to the residents of urban wards and local community leaders who spared their valuable time and came forward to give information and suggestions. We are hopeful that the study would open new vistas in improving urban sanitation and improve quality of life of sanitation workers.

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**Dr. Rakesh Malhotra**  
**Dy. General Manager**