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UN STORIES

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Length: 2'30"

Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

INDIA: NO TOILET, NO BRIDE

VIDEO

AUDIO

DANCING

MUSIC - WEDDING

NARRATION:

Twenty-three year old Manish Kumar is getting married to 20-year old Babita Rani in the State of Haryana, India. (6.5)

WEDDING

A lavish wedding with a unique prerequisite, says Babita. (3.5)

BABITA ON CAMERA

BABITA: (In Hindi) F

"When my mother and my father decided about the marriage they had asked first whether there was a toilet at the groom's house." (5)

TOILET

NARRATION:

To seal the deal, Manish's parents had to install a toilet in the couple's home. It's a matter of pride and dignity and an unlikely status symbol. (9)

PEOPLE IN STREETS

Nearly half of India's 1.2 billion people have no access to toilets. In fact there are more people with cell phones here than with toilets. (10)

STREET SCENES

And one in every ten deaths is caused by the lack of proper sanitation. (3.5)

NARRATION:

CAMPAIGN IN VILLAGE

So the Government of India introduced the “No Toilet, No Bride” initiative. (4.5)

Supported by the World Bank, the sanitation campaign involves unusual consequences such as shaming the villagers. (7)

KUMAR PRAVEEN ON CAMERA

PRAVEEN KUMAR: (In Hindi) M
“Good morning. What is this?” (4)

NARRATION:

PRAVEEN WORKING IN VILLAGE

Of course, there is no response. Praveen Kumar, a trained sanitation official, gets down to business. (7)

PEOPLE LISTENING

KUMAR: (In Hindi) M

PRAVEEN ON CAMERA

“Is this human, cat or dog? And now I say this to the women. Nowadays cell phones have cameras and people take pictures by hiding in the bushes.” (9)

NARRATION:

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CLASS

Getting the message across to the younger generation is critical. School curricula now include hygiene classes. (6.5)

REBHA KASHYAB ON CAMERA

REBHA KASHYAB: (In Hindi) F

“If anybody goes out in the open to do their business, if anybody spreads any type of waste

and dumps it, that person will be fined 1000 rupees.” (6.5)

NARRATION:

TOILETS

That’s 20 US dollars, which is four times the cost of a porcelain model toilet. (8.5)

WOMAN GATHERS WATER

But still India has a long way go before it reaches full compliance. According to the 2011 census, some 53% of all households still have no toilets or latrines. (12)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Mehreen Sheikh for the United Nations. (4.5)