

WASH in Schools- a holistic action on better hygiene behaviour and healthy environment in Kerala (India)

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Global & Indian Scenario on Water and Sanitation



- ⌘ Globally, 1100 million people lack access to safe water. In India, 125 million people lack access to safe water.
- ⌘ At the global level it was recently estimated that 2600 million people defecate in the open. In India, 700 million people lack access to sanitation facilities & resort to defecate in the open.
- ⌘ Diarrhoea claims the lives of 2 million children around the world every year. While one million children in India die of diarrhoeal diseases each year directly as a result of drinking unsafe water and living in unhygienic conditions.

The health profile of Kerala State (South India)

- ⌘ The health profile of Kerala State is reported to be low mortality-high morbidity syndrome.
- ⌘ The dominant disease group comprises diarrhoeal diseases, gastroenteritis, dysentery, cholera, infectious hepatitis, malaria, worm diseases, japanese encephalitis, dengue fever, weils disease and chikungunya were identified as the common water-borne and water-related diseases in the area
- ⌘ It was further observed that lack of protected water supply and toilet facilities, accumulation of solid waste, and poor hygiene practices were found to be the major risk factors of high water-borne morbidity in the region.
- ⌘ In this context, WASH Coalition in Kerala in collaboration with its stakeholders have launched a programme in certain selected schools in the southern districts of Kerala called "WASH in Schools" with an objective for a better hygiene behavior and healthy environment in schools.

Objectives of WASH in schools



- ⌘ To provide better hygiene behavior and healthy environment in schools in order to improve the quality of life of the future generation.
- ⌘ Dissemination of knowledge at grass-root level is important for a change in the attitude of the people. So schools are the best place for a start.
- ⌘ Schools are the ideal places of learning for children and they have a crucial role in the process of community development. Schools can be able to stimulate children for a behavior change. This will definitely influence the communities for a better change in their attitude and approach
- ⌘ Try to implement environmental awareness/school sanitation/hygiene education in school syllabus for a healthy school environment.

Activities

- ⌘ Intensive awareness will be given to children on various aspects of safe and clean drinking water, water contamination, disease transmission, waste disposal, sanitary latrine, impact of open defecation and water-borne diseases, mosquito menace, hand washing, sanitary wells etc.
- ⌘ To constitute "WASH school committees" and "Eco-clubs" in the respective schools with the co-operation and participation of pupils, teachers, parent-teachers association (PTA) and other stakeholders including Local Self-Governments (Panchayats).
- ⌘ Awareness camps, symposia, seminars, children congress, water quiz, competitions and rallies will be conducted in all selected schools as part of WASH Campaign in schools.
- ⌘ Exhibition on models of domestic solid waste disposal / sanitary latrines/sanitary wells/compost latrine/safety distance of dug well and water body will be conducted.

- ⌘ Parent-teachers associations (PTAs), school directors, panchayats (PRIs) and other local stakeholders will take the responsibilities for the construction of water supply and sanitary facilities in the respective schools.
- ⌘ Simple disinfection methods of dug wells and available water for drinking will be demonstrated to children in order to reduce water-borne morbidity. Intense awareness will be given to mosquito eradication.
- ⌘ During rainy season, medical camps will be conducted in rural and semi-urban schools as part of WASH Campaign in association with PHCs, CBOs, NGOs, Local Self-Governments (PRIs), civil organisations and other grass-root bodies in order to prevent the out-break of water-borne diseases.
- ⌘ Children's project/models based on safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene promotion will be invited in children congress.

Some other programme modules



- ⌘ ***Sanitation – ways within our means:*** This illustrates various aspects of a “clean village” and a “unclean village”. The clean village is depicted as the “heaven on the earth” whereas the unclean village as the “hell on the earth”.
- ⌘ ***Simple practices for a healthy life:*** This poster illustrates various means of hygiene promotion for a healthy life. Depiction of key hygiene behaviours include water handling, personal hygiene, safe disposal of human faeces, food hygiene, safe disposal of animal and solid waste, safe disposal of liquid waste and village sanitation. In *water handling*, pictures to explain the importance of a safe water source for drinking water collection, keeping of water containers in home and the necessity of a ladle/tap/tilt to pour drinking water in order to avoid dipping hands in water.

- ⌘ ***The Facts and the Solutions:*** In this section, there is a comparison of Global and Indian scenario on safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and health.
- ⌘ ***Timely Action Saves Lives – Treat Dehydration With ORS/SSS:*** Various pictures of this poster to explain how to prepare ORS and Sugar Salt Solution (SSS).
- ⌘ ***Hand Washing –Washing away germs, preventing diseases:*** Hands are the body's feeders and cleaners and helping to eat and keep the bodies clean, including defecation. If hands do not wash at critical times, particularly after handling human faeces, fecal germs can be transmitted, leading to diarrhoeal diseases.

- ⌘ ***Kitchen Gardens:*** This session demonstrates uses of waste water from households and other sources for generating nutritious food. Pools of stagnant wastewater are the breeding grounds for mosquitoes that are the carriers of many lives threatening diseases.
- ⌘ ***Faecal – oral Transmission Route:*** Depictions on faecal-oral transmission route are faeces, flies/pet animals, fields, fluids (water), fingers and food. Illustrations are given to block the faecal-oral transmission route include using of toilet, proper hand washing, using safe water source and good handling practices, and adopting good food hygiene practices etc.

⌘ ***Our Children are the future. Can we afford to exclude them:***

This is a message to the society and all stakeholders of the sector that children are the future and it is the responsibility of all to prevent the death of 2 million children every year due to water-borne diseases.

⌘ ***Who is responsible? - "We"*** : Finally, the depiction on who is responsible for the pitiful situation on water, sanitation and health illustrates that nobody other than "we" are responsible to manage, maintain and operate the system. Capacity building by providing proper training will create an ideal situation for the problems.

Programme outcome



- ⌘ It was noted that environmental health interventions are regulatory in nature and benefits can be realised over a long period. They are exclusively preventive and benefits can be realised over a long period. Further, the environmental health interventions also potentially convey considerable non-health socio-economic benefits. These benefits are basically societal in nature. Parent-teachers associations (PTAs), WASH school committees, Eco-clubs and Local Panchayats (PRIs) are found to be the driving forces of WASH programme in schools. The outcome of the programme in schools will be assessed periodically.

Key recommendations based on the lessons so far learned from Kerala on WASH in Schools

- ⌘ Partnerships with governments, donors, community-based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), teachers, children and school administrators are essential elements to achieve the sustainability of school sanitation and hygiene education programmes.
- ⌘ To highlight the duty of all stakeholders to convey the message that “children are effective agents of change and schools are the ideal places of learning for children; and that they have a crucial role in the process of community development”
- ⌘ All children have a right to basic facilities such as school toilets, safe drinking water, clean surroundings and information on hygiene.

- ⌘ To support efforts to implement environmental awareness/school sanitation/hygiene education in school syllabus for a healthy school environment.
- ⌘ Capacity building is needed at all levels.
- ⌘ Child friendly especially girl child and disabled friendly water and sanitation design options essential.
- ⌘ Greater emphasis should be given to schools as knowledge center and teacher as facilitator/motivator.
- ⌘ Strengthening school based monitoring systems.

Kitchen Gardens

Generating nutritious food with waste water

Pools of stagnating waste water are the breeding grounds for mosquitoes which are the carriers of many life threatening diseases.

Waste water can be channeled to raise a kitchen garden where abundant nutritious vegetables and greens can be grown.



Where can a kitchen garden be raised?

Kitchen gardens can be raised near the sources of waste water disposal. Ideal places include,

Bathrooms



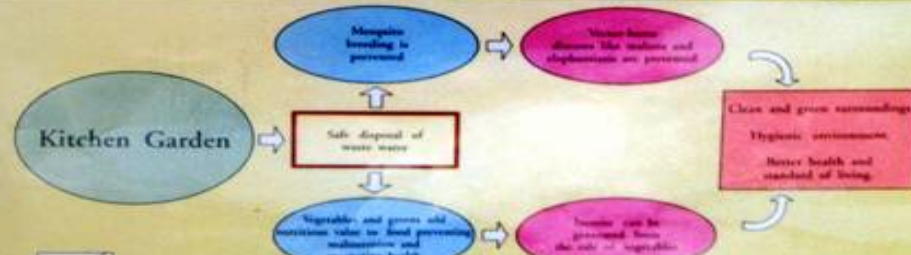
Hand pumps

Tap stands



Sanitary wells

What are the benefits of promoting a kitchen garden?



Designed & developed by WaterAid India and produced by WSSCC India Chapter for use in the WASH Campaign



Sanitation - Ways Within Our Means



WASTE
"Straw all over attracts pests and animals"



OPEN DEFECTION
"Cause for water and soil contamination"



HAND PUMP
"Used for various purposes. Spoils the source"



WATER STAGNATION
"Birth place for Mosquitoes and attraction for pigs"



BROKEN PLATFORM, WATER STAGNATION
"Contaminates the source"



POND/TANK
"Contamination by activities. Same water is also collected for drinking"



UNCLEAN VILLAGE
"HELL ON THE EARTH"

CLEAN VILLAGE
"HEAVEN ON THE EARTH"



WATER AND SANITATION COMMITTEE (WASAN) / VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (VDC)



TOILET
"Safe place for human excreta disposal"



GOOD HAND PUMP
"Should have good platform, long drainage and washing platform"



WASTE WATER
"Soak pit / Kitchen garden are the appropriate choices"



DUST BIN
"Safe place for Garbage"



COMPOST PIT
"A place for safe disposal of garbage and animal waste"



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