

## SCHOOL WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND HEALTH INTEGRATED (SWASH ++)

There is an increasing body of evidence demonstrating that WASH in schools can have a significant positive impact, both on child health and on education outcomes. UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 - WASH is at the center of this development goal that envisions universal, sustainable, and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and the elimination of open defecation by 2030. WASH also underpins many other SDGs, including those related to nutrition, health, education, poverty and economic growth, urban services, gender equality, resilience and climate change which are part of ChildFund India's agenda too.



## Aim



To make safe drinking water, sanitary conditions and hygienic environment available for Deprived, Excluded and Vulnerable children in identified government schools in 4 districts of seven states – Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka --in order to improve their health and learning outcomes.

## Vision and Approach



- Provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in school to secure a healthy school environment and protect children from illness and exclusion. It is a first step towards a healthy physical learning environment, benefiting both learning and health.
- Girls are particularly vulnerable to dropping out of school, partly because many are reluctant to continue their education when toilets and washing facilities are not private, not safe or simply not available. When schools have appropriate, gender-separated facilities, an obstacle to attendance is removed.
- Health, hygiene and nutrition in school also support life skills education. Children get the nutritional benefits intended, rather than ingesting bacteria, germs and viruses. Studies show that when hand washing becomes part of a child's daily routine the benefits to health are evident and the practice does not easily fade.





## Beneficiaries

All school going children of the targeted 60 schools.  
(approximately 15,000 children)

Parents, school teachers, school authority, government and non-government organizations, community members.



**Project Period:** 3-5 years

## Highlights



### Hand Wash Initiative

The idea and benefits of hand washing are introduced to students through IEC material integrated into health education classes. Each project school is supplied with soap/hand wash liquid and towels. Volunteers and school teachers encourage children to wash their hands before and after lunch/dinner and after use of toilet.



## Accessible facilities

Schools are provided safe drinking water facilities. In some schools, tube wells were fitted with solar trackers for water lifting. Hand wash points and toilets were modified to help children access them easily.



## Outreach and advocacy

Camps were organized at community levels and schools to demonstrate use of hygiene kits to families and the wider community. In the light of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the project initiated volunteer programs engaging children, teachers, WASH committees, parents & communities to keep school campuses clean and hygienic, and advocate for access to the government's school health program.



## Imparting life skills

The program integrates life skills education, focussing on key hygiene behaviors for school children and using participatory teaching techniques. Children also learn about menstrual hygiene and physical and emotional changes during puberty.

## Impact



### Within one year of intervention,

- Studying in a cleaner, safer environment, children in over 40 schools are healthier and are performing better.
- Nearly 5000 school going children are positively influencing hygiene practices in their homes, among family members and in the wider community.
- There is an observed change in the current hygiene behavior of the children. They are expected to continue to practice better hygiene.