# Case Studies WASH MEGHALAYA





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#### **ACTION PLAN THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE**

A clear cut work plan that made WASH activities a success in LSK SSA LP School in Lumkyntung Village, has demonstrated how comprehensive strategies for safe sanitation can work if teachers, students and the community work in tandem. The school is located in Khatarshnong Laitkroh Block of Meghalaya.

During the visit by the WASH team it was found out that the teachers made a work plan on the basis of three activities- clean toilets, clean surrounding area and clean classroom with focus on compost pit.

These three activities are divided among students -one student from each class. The activities in which class one to seven participate are carried out every Monday. They engage in the cleanliness drive with a sense ownership with all the support from the teachers who were motivated to do so following the training they received in the orientation programme under Swatch Bharat Mission in Mawkdok Village. According to them, most of the ideas about the activities emerged from this programme.

The teachers along with the students planted trees near the toilets to beautify it but trees got stolen away the next day, as the school has no fencing or boundary wall to prevent people from entering the school. But that did not dampen their spirit with both teachers and the students deciding to educate the community not to vandalise the school assets.

This spirit shown by the school has motivated other schools to chalk out similar strategies for carrying out WASH activities.

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Activities wise routine for Students



#### **2** A NEW BENCHMARK FOR MONITORING

Lamjingshai L.P and U.P School located in Umtyngngar Village is another example of the WASH project getting a boost through concerted and collective efforts. The school has set a benchmark not only for the neighboring schools, but also for their own homes and the community.

All this happened through well chalked out plans for cleaning and monitoring sanitation facilities by assigning duties to schools houses. The teachers allocated the cleaning tasks to four teams; red, blue, green and yellow with each team taking care of toilet, steps, yard and garden. The students conduct the activities under the supervision of teachers. The best team is encouraged and motivated.

This is one of the learning that WASH Team replicated in other schools motivating them to adopt the similar plans. The efficacy and the impact of the performance of students were clearly evident as the school campus is maintained and cleaned by the students who enjoy carrying out their tasks. This routine also helps the students adopt similar activities at home which can be a motivation for their family and neighbours.



Notice board representing cleaning assignment for students.



Evidence of clean school campus



## **3** GRADE SYSTEM THAT UPGRADED THE HYGIENE CONDITIONS

AT Gunpati L.P School in Jirang Block of Ri-Bhoi District, the WASH team observed a chart prepared by a CRP, of students who are responsible of cleaning the toilets. There are three columns containing days of week, names of the students assigned the task of cleaning the toilets and the marks given for the performance respectively. The performance is judged by the teachers.

The strategy has set off a competition among the students to perform better and receive good marks for that as the best performance would fetch a prize. The students get plus points if they clean well and know their own duty and also get minus points if they ignore their duty or are not performing as expected.

The impact is visible. Not only the toilets are cleaned regularly, the students themselves demand the cleaning task and encourage others to engage in WASH activities.



Notice board representing cleaning assignment for students.



Evidence of clean school campus



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#### A ROUTINE CLEANING OF TOILETS SAYS IT ALL

LAD Mukhla Upper Primary School of Lad Mukhla village in Thadlaskein block of Jaintia Hills which got one water closet and two urinals (new) for boys and 2 water closets (renovation) for girls under Meghalaya School Sanitation Project has shown how proper management of hygiene and cleanliness activities can make all the difference. The school was handed over by the Block Development Officer on October 20, 2016. During the inauguration of the toilet and the subsequent visits by the SACH WASH team, it was found that the school has a planned routine for cleaning toilets, classrooms and school campus.



The Head Teacher Mr E. Bang who took this initiative along with the student volunteers was responsible for Lamjingshai Upper Primary School, Umtyngngar in East Khasi Hills adopting this idea with the WASH coordinators helping implement this in all schools for better performance in WASH practices. The design is also to circulate task among students equally so that each and everyone understand their work responsibility of maintaining their school clean.

The Block Development Officer was very happy to observe the routine and she praised the school teacher for assigning the roles to students in a systematic way. She also encouraged the community also to build such habits in the community so that everyone can stay healthy and clean.

This process indicates a sustainable WASH practice in all schools with a regular check up by the School Sanitation Management Committee.





#### **5** CRP GUIDING WASH ACTIVITIES

THE Head teacher who is also the WASH CPR regulates a daily routine for the student volunteers to perform their roles and monitor the activities. The routine was made with certain objectives like-checking of nails and hair, sweeping classroom, checking of plastic objects, cleaning drive, checking uniforms and toilets.

The routine is followed monthly and date wise. The student volunteer puts a tick mark on it depending on the task that they do each day before and after school and the WASH CRP monitors it every day. The CRP is satisfied that the routine helps her carry her work easily in the school and monitor the roles of the student volunteers. This routine is also a checklist for understanding better WASH activities with performance assessment.



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#### **ROUTINE CLEANING WITH TEACHER'S AS LEADERS**

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THE teacher of BTC DIET Lower Primary School framed a routine where all the teachers take a day to take charge of cleaning tasks with the groups of students with each student volunteer is leading the campaign. The school got two toilet blocks under the School Sanitation Project for boys and girls and the students who are in charge of cleaning the campus also helps in cleaning the school toilet. Since the school has only 23 students, all from Lower Primary, the teacher in charge of the day also helps the students carry out the activities and maintain the SMC register.

The exercise helps them review the report once in every month when they hold a SSMC meeting with all the members. Even the material management is done very effectively with students using cleaning agents and water and reporting timely when it is about to get out of stock.



#### HOW SUSTAINED WASH ACTIVITIES CHANGED STUDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS CLEANLINESS

BELKURI Upper Primary and Secondary School is a testimony to how sustained WASH activities promoted by SACH team can bring about students' behavioral change towards not only the use of toilets but also towards its upkeep. It all stated after several visits and a WASH orientation programme by the team and handover of the School Sanitation Units to the school. The team observed that students were taking had started taking initiative in keeping the toilet clean. The new swanky toilet was nothing but a big surprise for most of them. The sanitation unit that existed that existed earlier was not enough for all the students, especially for the girls. According to Resource Person (CRP), Mr. Hilarius Timung the students are now using the toilets, a far cry from the situation when students would rush out to relieve themselves. The students themselves clean the toilet and taken to regular hand washing at the wash basin, which was missing earlier. He said that the new construction and sustained efforts by SACH team and the consequent ehavioral change shows how students are determined to live a healthy life by practicing safe hygiene practices.





#### 8 LET'S CLEAN UP

CLEANING habits inculcated in students can have huge impact on cleanliness of the schools. Nongrim Jirang L.P School is a fine example of this effort. A surprise visit by SACH WASH team to the School Sanitation Unit revealed that the students were engaged in a cleaning drive in their school. The picture of students with broom sticks in their hands says it all. They were present in every corner of the school campus. To most of them it was really a fun time with a motive along with a sense of togetherness. While some were seen dusting the tables and chairs, others were cleaning their class rooms and the surroundings. It was seen that most of the students brought their own broomsticks to clean the campus. This was an initiative taken by the student volunteers with the help of their teacher.





#### 9 EFFORTS THAT PAVED THE WAY TO BETTER USE OF TOILETS

MYNGKREM Lower & Upper Primary School in Thadlaskein Block of Jaintia Hills received two Water closet and four urinals (renovation) for Boys and 1Water closet & 2Urinals (new) for Girls and BTC DERT Lower Primary School in Thadlaskein Block of Jaintia Hills received 1water closet and 2urinals(New) for both boys and girls under Meghalaya School Sanitation Project. Both these schools have demonstrated how they can support the huge effort by SACH and HDFC Bank Ltd by constructing a concrete pavement leading to the sanitation units and in Myngkrem a drainage system, so that water does not gets stagnant near the sanitation units especially during rainy season.

The school took the initiative to cover all the pipes which was lying open near the sanitation units this was done to protect the pipes from future damage. The school also constructed pavement connected to the sanitation units so that students do not face problem during rainy season to use the toilet. The initiative taken by the school represents the ownership and their sense of sustaining the toilet for the students. The school campus is also maintained clean and the master trainer along with the students maintains a systematic routine of cleaning the school campus, classroom and toilet

The fund for the construction was raised through SMC members as they felt the need to construct a pavement for the students so that they can easily use the toilets without facing hurdles. Now they need not walk through muddy way and are happily using the toilets. These three schools took the initiative for the better use of the toilets.



#### 10 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTS LOW COST PAVEMENT WITH BAMBOOS



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and dote where the student volunteer puts a tick mark on it do each dote fore and after school and the WASH CRP monitors it at the routine nelps her carry her work easily in the school and volunteers. This routine is also a checklist for understanding better

> Following in the footsteps of Myngkrem Lower & Upper Primary School in Thadlaskein Block of Jaintia Hills, Tasku Lower Primary School in Jirang Block which received two urinals and one water closet for both boys and girls, made a pavement of woods to the toilet constructed near the playground.

> Before that the students would pass through the field covered with red soil. The footpath was made out of bamboos on a low budget. This facility made it easier for the children to walk towards the toilet especially during rainy season when the entire area becomes muddy and filthy making the toilet dirty and uneasy for the students to use.



#### **11** IT'S YOUR TOILET, MAKE IT LOOK BEAUTIFUL

KJCEU L.P and U.P School is situated in Umling Block located in Dondral village the school has students from class Nursery to class Eight. What makes it different from others sanitation units constructed under the Meghalaya School Sanitation Project is its toilet which is surrounded by China Roses.



Once the construction of toilet was completed, the class five to eight students wondered how they can give a distinct look to their newly built sanitation school. After lot of deliberations, they decided to plant trees around it. The idea of making the toilets look pleasant and friendlier to students came from the school animator Hardly.S. Kharkongor which was supported by other teachers and students. The students chose China Roses as they grow the best compared to other plants.

The message was loud and clear - It's your toilet, keep it clean". One can read it outside the toilet. They got the message across that they have a sense of ownership and they must keep it clean. The information collected from the master trainer was that the students started using the sanitation units and they are maintaining it clean by assigning individual roles to a group of students each day. The task is guided by student volunteers with the help of teachers.

This success behind this initiative lies in the comprehensive WASH orientation programme held in the school and the subsequent training of a teacher under ToT (training of trainers). The school set an example for other schools.







#### 12 ENHANCEMENT OF RENOVATED SANITATION UNITS

THE students and the teachers of BTC DIET Upper Primary School SSA had a reason to cheer after they received two water closet renovated for boys under School Sanitation Project. But the main

hurdle was that the toilet is located behind the school where the students have to pass a slipery area. As a result of that the students were not able to use it. The motivation by the teachers to use them of no use. During the WASH project implementation the Head Teacher formed SSMC and from the project the school received an hand holding support of seventeen thousand rupees, as a result the teacher came up with the idea of constructing a new pavement which would help the students utlize the toilet.



Even the pipes of the tank were plastered with cement so that it does not get damaged externally. These efforts revealed that school authorities took the ownership and made it possible for the students to make the maximum benefit out of it.



#### **13** TEACHER INITIATES CLEAN CAMPUS CAMPAIGN

THE CRP of Santipur Lower Primary School, Ajoy Syiem has demonstrated that mere construction of toilet is not enough and that cleaning school campus is equally important to inculcate the sense of cleanliness in the students and the community.



Ajoy Syiem who has been the part of the WASH activities since the construction of the toilet in the school felt that red soil which covers the large area of school spreads to the classes and the toilets, which if left unlearned for days, leaves stains on the floor. So he felt that the campus requires regular cleaning and discussed it with the students who were willing to do the cleaning activities

The CRP prepared a daily roster for the students to clean the school campus, toilets and the classrooms. Soon the daily cleaning process started and the school got an entire new look. Earlier, there have instances of students and teachers skidding and injuring themselves due to presence of soil on the floors. Even the teachers would face difficulty to take classes in such circumstances. Now, things have changed due to active participation of staff and the students, thanks to initiative taken by the Ajoy Syiem.

Following this success, the school decided to paint the walls so that it will look better and cleaner. The teacher also made a systematic routine to maintain it for a longer time. This impact was seen after the CRP received training on WASH and realized the importance of keeping the school clean.



#### **14** AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Belkuri U.P School and Secondary School, Umling Block, Ri Bhoi District.







Shri, Hilarius Timung (CRP), who is also the Head Teacher of Belkuri Upper Primary School organized an event on solid and liquid waste management and also on environmental protection. The participants were the students from the school and even parents of the students. The CRP felt the need to motivate the parents along with the students so that it can initiate a bigger impact and the matter is taken up seriously both at school and household level.



#### 15 CRP ENSURES BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES IN SCHOOL

Mr. Phrangbor Marngar, a teacher and also a WASH CRP of Mawthung Marwei Lower Primary School under Nongstoin Block did something that the teachers and the students though would ever happen in their school. He conducted a clean school awareness programme on Solid and Liquid Waste Management and Environmental Protection. Before that such activity had never took place inside the school campus.



According to him, he took this initiative after attending the CRP (Community Resource Person) refresher Training and awareness programme on Module 3&4 (Solid & Liquid Waste Management and Environmental Protection) conducted by SACH on the February 4, 2017 in Nongstoin.

The teacher also made a routine that once in a week they should have a special period to talk on cleanliness as this would help the student revive the good aspects on hygiene. The teacher also takes active participation in the cleaning of School campus and to beautify the school.

His efforts finally paid off. Now, the school staff and the students of school are much aware of the segregation of liquid and solid waste and are better equipped to take care of the environment.



#### **16** SSMC PLAYS PROACTIVE ROLE IN WASH ACTIVITIES

BIANGBOR Nonglang, a teacher and WASH CRP (Community Resource Person) from Nonglang UP School of Mairang Block has demonstrated how the proactive role of SSMC (School Sanitation Management Committee) can effectively carry out WASH activities in the school routinely. The teacher had been conducting classes based on safe sanitation practices once in a week. The CRP admitted that following the intervention of SSP and WASH Programme in the school, students are motivated and take up the responsibility of promoting cleanliness in the School and every morning they engage in cleaning up their class rooms and keep their campus clean and tidy. So he thought that if these are to be sustainable, there must be a well chalked out strategy to keep the momentum going. The school organizes special interactive sessions with the students. The CRP himself is incharge of checking each and every student's cleanliness and tidiness. The School also practiced and maintained proper disposal management where they segregate the biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste by digging two pits in the school to collect the waste materials. These strategies have motivated other schools to adopt similar safe sanitation practices.









#### 17 EIGHT-YEAR OLD MOTIVATES HER MOTHER TO BUILD TOILET AT HOME



This is the story of a child who motivated her mother to build a toilet in her own house after seeing the new sanitation blocks in Hingaria a village located in Khliehriat block of East Jaintia Hills, and the subsequent WASH activities in these schools. These schools are - Hingaria Sein Raij LPS (New construction), Hingaria Shnong Thymme LPS (Renovation of existing one), Hingaria UPS (New construction and renovation of existing one).

The child and her mother who is a teacher in one of these schools did that after witnessing how enormous efforts were put in to build these toilets, and how constrains such as poor connectivity, bad roads and shortage of labour were overcome to implement these projects. No contractor was ready to work in area for these reasons. Finally after lot of efforts, one contractor finally took up the task.

The eight-year child was impressed by these toilets that she started persuading her mother to build the similar type of toilet at her home. The mother who herself was witness to the construction of toilets in the schools finally gave in to the demand of her child and was convinced how safe sanitation practices and hygienic conditions are vital to health of the children.

The mother took the initiative to construct a toilet so that her children can use it at home also. She admitted that after using the toilets in schools, it was embarrassing and awkward to deficate in the open. She owes it to persistent demand of her child who motivated and inspired her to build this toilet.







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