

O&M OF SCHOOL TOILETS

A case of Hyderabad- Secunderabad
Mandal Schools



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1. Introduction

After the family, schools are most important places of learning for children; they have a central place in the community. Schools are a stimulating learning environment for children and stimulate or initiate change. If sanitary facilities in schools are available, they can act as a model, and teachers can function as role models. Schools can also influence communities through outreach activities, since through their students, schools are in touch with a large proportion of the households in a community

A survey among school children in India revealed that about half of the ailments found are related to unsanitary conditions and lack of personal hygiene. Such survey results show the need for a focus on children. Also, it is generally recognized that childhood is the best time for children to learn hygiene behaviours. Children are future parents and what they learn is likely to be applied in the rest of their lives. They have important roles in the household, taking care of younger brothers and sisters, and depending on the culture, they may also question existing practices in the household. If children are brought into the development process as active participants, they can become change agents within their families and a stimulus to community development. They are eager to learn and help, and if they consider environmental care and their role in this as important, they will take care of their own health and the health of others. Being tomorrow's parents, children are also likely to ensure the sustainability of a programme's impact.

In reality, schools are often more than just places for learning and behaviour change. If school sanitation and hygiene facilities are absent, or are badly maintained and used, schools become risky places where diseases are transmitted. Schools can also pollute the natural environment in such a way that it causes health hazards for the community at large. It is therefore important that schools have proper facilities. However, improved facilities in themselves are not sufficient. If we want to reduce the incidence of sanitation and hygiene-related diseases, and to protect the natural environment, behavioural changes are also needed, leading to proper use of the facilities.

A study on WASH facilities was conducted by SaciWATERS in July 2015 in 77 schools across 14 mandals of Hyderabad district. The study shows that about 31% of schools don't have access to standard toilet facilities. In the remaining schools, which have toilet facilities, 26% of schools don't have separate toilets for boys and 5% of schools don't have toilets within their premises. In addition to this about 73% of the schools don't have proper O&M system for toilets, leading to non-functionality of toilets.

Identifying the seriousness in lack of O&M of toilet facilities in schools, SaciWATERS as part of intervention under Basti Vikas Manch as initiated an O&M model on pilot basis in Secunderabad Mandal of Hyderabad district.

2. Existing scenario of toilet maintenance in Secuberabad Mandal Schools

If toilets are unhygienic they can carry a lot of germs. They should be regularly cleaned with water and cleaning agents. The graphs below explains the existing situation of toilet cleaning in secunderabad mandal.

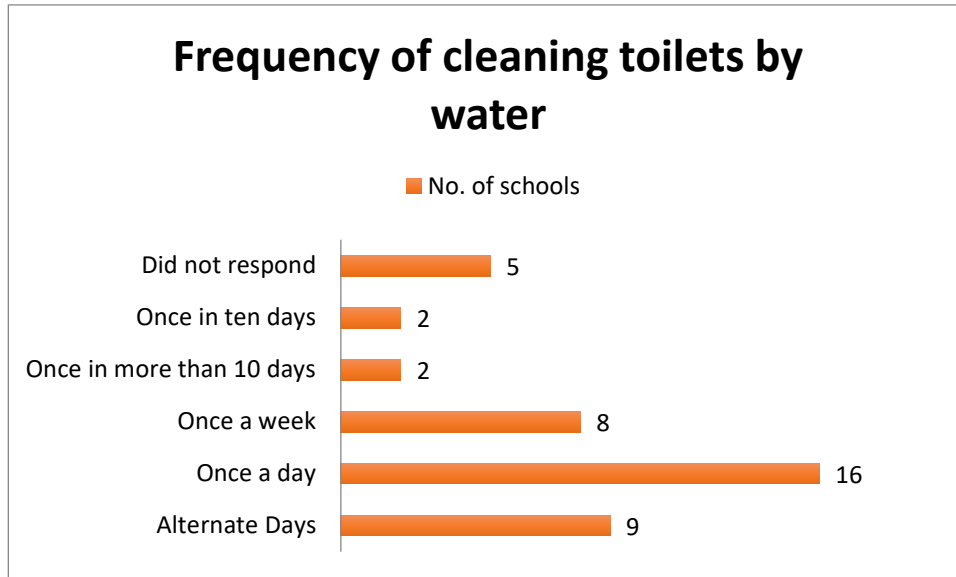


Figure 1: Frequency of cleaning of toilets in Sec-bad mandal schools 2017

Source: SaciWATERs Survey

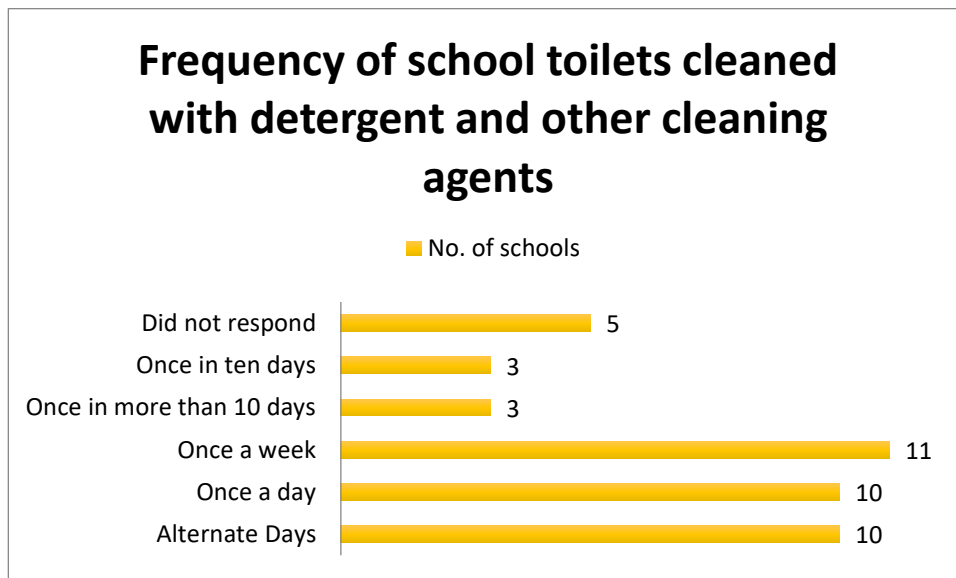


Figure 2: Frequency of cleaning with cleaning agents in sec-bad Mandal schools 2017

source : SaciWATERs survey

Majority of schools are coping to keep their toilets clean in some form, but still the out of 42 schools, about 60% of schools donot have regular or daily cleaning of toilets. In addition to this the frequency of cleaning of toilets using cleaning agents is much more worse.

The major coping issues by the schools in cleaning the toilets are

- Lack of finances
- Non-availability of labor
- No sufficient water availability for cleaning

A study was conducted by SaciWATERs as a part of BVM activity, where the school students were asked to rate their toilets based on their cleanliness. The following are the results, where about 57% of the students felt that the school toilets are not clean, as it was stinking and about 13% children felt that they are not in usable condition.

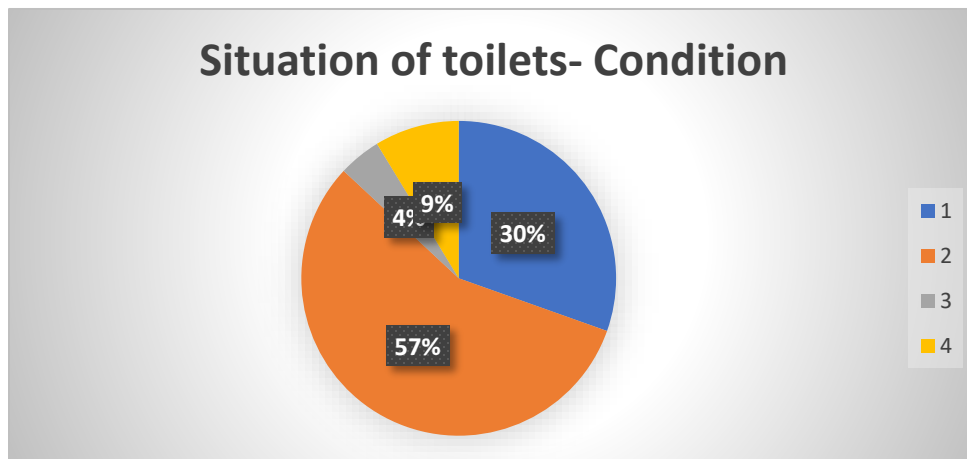


Figure 3: Ranking of school toilets by school children

source: Study done by SaciWaters

Case – Heat Master, Sec-bad mandal Govt. Primary School

“It’s very difficult to get persons who can clean toilets regularly. Government allocates 2500/- for cleaning toilets. But who cleans them regularly? Every day we have to go out of school and look for any sanitary worker from Secunderabad cantonment board that daily clean roads. So there is a need to create a model where bunch of schools in same area can be allotted to specific personnel.

Toilets cleaning in all these schools has become a big issue as there are no regular cleaners who can do cleaning. In some of the schools Headmaster and teachers pile up money and pay to cleaners. Should teachers’ pay to clean toilets? Isn’t this responsibility of government to have allocated funds for these activities.

The coping mechanism for cleaning of toilets in school observed are

- Identifying person for cleaning the toilets for reasonable rates, The general cost demanded by cleaners is Rs.200-2500/month

- Convincing the existing cleaner to clean it daily and neatly
- Teachers contribute for paying the cleaners

3. Introduction O&M innovation in School – Piolet mode

The objective of this model is to improve the conditions of the toilets in schools through innovation which give high quality output in low cost.

Background:

A local Non-profit organization called Good Morning has started an mechanized initiation of cleaning of public and community toilets, where high pressure cleaning machine is used for cleaning toilets in very less time. The advantages of this model are

- Low cost
- Less time
- Needs less water than required
- Daily cleaning of the premises
- Does not need continues water supply i.e. tap not required can be cleaning using water in storage spaces.
- Cleaning agents not required on daily basis

Considering this model, BVM has experimented the same with school toilets, where good morning organization was oriented towards the school needs and school were connected to good morning organization through BVM team. On discussion with the school headmasters and Dep.IOS the following points were decided

- Mechanized daily cleaning
- Cost – 500 INR/school/month
- School has to provide water and plug point

Note: The cost has been fixed with no-profit no loss context, to encourage the schools for this activity and also orient schools for daily cleaning of toilets.

Details

The pilot included the schools of secunderabad mandal division 2 consisting of 16 schools. The project has been started in the following schools and is running successfully in past 2 months.

The major hindrances observed during the implementation of the piolet are

- No convenient access to 3 pin plug near the toilet



- In some of the school's toilets door are locked which don't let cleaner to get access to toilet easily or immediately.
- Source of water is sometimes away from the school which is taking time on ground daily to get the water.

Table 1: List of piolet schools in secunderabad Mandal ,division 2

S.No	School Name	Primary/ High School
1	Gun Bazaar School	Primary
2	Gun Bazaar School	High School
3	Balamrai	Primary
4	Balamrai	High School
5	CBN school	Primary
6	Nallagutta	Primary
7	Nallagutta	High School
8	Meclodguda	Primary
9	Mudfort	Primary
10	Mudfort	High School
11	Begumpet	Primary
12	Begumpet	High School
13	Urdu medium, Nallagutta	Primary
14	Urdu medium, Nallagutta	High School
15	Kingsway school	Primary
16	Kingsway school	High School
17	Piket school	Primary

Role and Responsibility of the model from different stakeholders

The following table defines the roles and responsibility of the PPP model for cleaning of school toilets

School authority	Cleaning agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Water, 3 pin power point, Detergents • Monitoring day to day cleaning • Hygiene behavior awareness in children in usage of toilets • Payment of 500 INR/month • Co-operating with cleaning agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning of school toilets as per agreed timings • Providing - Vehicle travel, cleaner, Machine, Mask, boots, Fuel for vehicle • Co-operating with school authority • Th fuel cost, salary of the cleaners is the responsibility of cleaning agency

Frequency of cleaning

School toilets are cleaned daily or one in two days.

- School cleaning is started around 8 am in the morning to 6 pm in the evening. On an average, it takes around 15 minutes to 30 minutes to clean each school depending on dirt and number of toilets.

- Accessibility time from one school to other is also counted which is approximately 30 minutes in this model.
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Financial model

The capital cost for the cleaning agency is about 33,000 INR, which include vehicle cost, machine cost. The O&M cost of this model is about 13,000 INR which include the salary of the cleaner , fuel of the vehicle and minimal cleaning agents.

Capital Cost	
Material	Amount
Vehicle	15,000
Machine	18,000
Total	33,000

O&M cost	
Material	Amount
Labour /monthly	10,000
Fuel	3000 per month
Detergents	300 per month
Total	13,000

Currently wit 5500 INR/month /school from 16 schools is not covering the O&M cost for the cleaning agency i.e good morning organization. But, increasing the cleaning charges from 500 INR to 800-900 INR will be a viable model for its sustainability.

4. Conclusion & Way forward

Toilet maintained in schools is one of the important aspect in terms of safe sanitation in schools for inculcating hygienic behavior in the children.

Toilet cleaning is a profession which is not opted by many people. But this is a model which is initiated voluntarily to make an impact on health of students. Although model is not recurring the cost of labor initially, but it can be strengthened by increasing the amount of contribution from schools. Model is very efficient in terms of time, cost and efficiency of work done. There is an increasing demand from schools to get cleaned their toilets. As there are less resources the limit to number of schools is not rapidly increasing. There is drastic change and improvement in usage of toilets in schools. If there are clean toilets students are using and there is decrease in open defecation and open urination percentage, inculcating behavior change in the students, who are going to use the future public toilets and public places. This is just a beginning for new scenario of sanitation situation in schools across Hyderabad.

Way forward

BVM with good morning organization is moving forward with large and positive attitude to scale up and cover as many schools as possible. There is need of support and will from the school authorities and government agencies to scale this model in the from PPP.

Thus, a collaborative approach to the issue of sanitation in terms of maintenance of toilets will be initiated soon for scaling the project and making the model Viable.