“WASH in our School - A holistic action on better hygiene behavior and healthy environment”.

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Over all Objectives

• *To provide better hygiene behavior and healthy environment in schools in order to improve the quality of life of the future generation.

• *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
• **Schools can be able to stimulate children for a behavior change. If there is adequate facilities on enough safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, children as well as teachers can act as role models of the society.**

• **This will definitely influence the communities for a better change in their attitude and approach.**

• **Try to implement environmental awareness/school sanitation/hygiene in school syllabus for a healthy school environment.**
Activities

- *Awareness will be given to school children on water-borne diseases like cholera, amoebic dysentery, gastroenteritis, diarrhoeal diseases, typhoid, hepatitis, polio, viral infections, ascariasis and schistosomiasis.*

- *Awareness camps, symposia, seminars, children congress, water quiz, competitions, rallies, will be conducted in all selected schools as part of WASH Campaign. Selected children will be sent to State and National level competitions and incentives will be given to those selected.*
*WASH posters will exhibit and display in all selected schools.

*To constitute "WASH school committees" and "Eco-clubs" with the co-operation and participation of pupils, teachers, parent-teachers association (PTA) and school directors.

*Parent-teachers associations (PTAs), school directors, panchayats (PRI)s and other local stakeholders will take the responsibilities for the construction of water supply and sanitary facilities in the respective schools.

*Children’s project/models based on safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene promotion will be invited in children congress. Innovative projects will be selected for further studies.
• Programme components

• a) 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”. In an unclean village, there is illustration of open defecation, water stagnation, waste accumulation, various sources of drinking water contamination in wells, ponds and other drinking water sources. While in a clean village, there is Water and Sanitation Committee (WASAN)/ Village Development Committee (VDC) for making decisions and for empowering the local communities. Further to depicts on sanitary latrines, compost pit, wastewater for kitchen garden, good hand pumps/ sanitary wells etc.
(b) Simple practices for a healthy life:
This poster illustrates various means of hygiene promotion for a health 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.
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.

*It was noted that globally, 1099 million people lack access to safe drinking water whereas in India it was 125 million.

*In terms of open defecation, 2600 million people in the world as a whole resort to open defecation while in India alone 700 million people lack access to sanitation facilities and defecate in the open.

*Diarrhoea claims the lives of 2 million children around the world every year but in India it was noted that 1 million children lose their lives to diarrhoea every year.
(d) **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). Directions are given to those affected with diarrhoea should have a diet supplemented with fruit juice, butter milk, black tea with lemon, tender coconut water, rice or dhal porridge. Further, lactating mothers should continue to breast feed children affected with diarrhoea.
(f) 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. There are pictures to depict what are the “Critical times” when hand washing should be practices.
(g) **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.
(h) *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 carries of many lives threatening diseases. Wastewater can be channeled to raise a kitchen garden where abundant nutritious vegetables and greens can be grown.
(i) 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 to all to prevent the death of 2 million children every year due to water-borne diseases.
(j) **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.
It was noted that environmental health interventions are regulatory in nature and benefits can be realised over a long period. We would like to share our experience on WASH in our schools with other participants world over for a better hygiene behavior and healthy environment; and to spread the message of WASH - a global movement. With our experience, it was found that WASH in schools is a sustainable model for better hygiene behaviour and healthy environment.
Thank you