



SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER AND SANITATION IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Dundappa Y Badlakkanavar¹ Dr. Saneetha R Mane²

¹Research Scholar, P.G Department of Studies and Research in Social Work, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka, India-580003

²Professor and Chairperson, P.G Department of Studies and Research in Social Work, Karnatak University Dharwad, Karnataka, India-580003

Corresponding Author- Mr. Dundappa Y Badlakkanavar

Email- dundappa45@gmail.com

Abstract:

The present paper is an attempt to analyze significance of water and sanitation in school based on data from secondary sources. A successful school is one that offers its kids with a clean and safe environment. Waste management, cleaning services, and the overall health of students and staff are all examples of school hygiene. School sanitation and hygiene education) is becoming more popular, not just from a political but also from a social standpoint. Focusing on school cleanliness acknowledges that children have a right to basic amenities including school bathrooms, safe drinking water, clean surroundings, and hygiene instruction. If these conditions are created, children will attend school, like studying, learn more, and bring sanitation and hygiene concepts and practices home to their families, particularly their siblings. In other words, children become change agents in their homes, communities, and as future parents, and education investment pays off. Unfortunately, school health and hygiene programs have not always delivered on their promises. Many countries have unsafe classrooms for children.

Key words: Water, Sanitation, School, Significance, Sustainable

Introduction:

Water and Sanitation plays a very important role in a living organism. So, these are primary need for every living being. Water and sanitation practices are important to a group of people, particularly school-aged children, because they help them maintain good health and prevent the spread of diseases that affect them and others. Water usage and sanitation practices have a significant impact on population health. Maintaining good sanitation is important for everyone for a variety of reasons, including personal, social, health, and psychological well-being. Essentially, maintaining a high level of hygiene helps to prevent the spread of infections, illnesses, and foul odors.

Objective of the Study:

1. To study the concept of Water and Sanitation.
2. To study the water and sanitation related programs.
3. To study the important of water and sanitation in school.

Methodology:

In this paper the research is used secondary data for preparing research article. The data is taken from different research reports, journals, websites and research papers, magazine and daily news papers, and other educational text books.

Water

Water is a colorless, transparent, odorless liquid that makes up the oceans, lakes, and rivers. Rain is a crucial resource for supporting life because it is the basis of living fluid for creatures. The deterioration in water quality poses a threat to both human and environmental health. Drinking water that is free of contaminants is essential for good health. However, while water is abundant on earth, the availability of sweet water is extremely limited. As a result, sweet water is an important source of life and must inevitably be available in sufficient quantities for everyone on this planet, but judicious water usage is just as important as mere usage. Water is very important and scare resource and everybody including children must aware about it and use water judiciously and consciously.

Sanitation

Sanitation is a term that relates to public health issues such as clean drinking water, proper treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage, and preserving cleanliness. Sanitation aims to safeguard human health by creating a clean environment that prevents disease spread. For example, diarrhea may be minimized by cleanliness, which is a leading cause of malnutrition and stunted growth in children. There are several more illnesses that are easily transmitted in populations with poor sanitation,

including cholera, hepatitis, polio, and trachoma, to mention a few.

The sustainable development goals

The united nations general assembly approved the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in september 2015, with the goal of ending poverty and promoting prosperity for everyone while also safeguarding the environment and tackling climate change. Water and sanitation are at the heart of the new 2030 agenda, with a specific sustainable development goal (sdg) 6 on water and sanitation, as well as explicit links to goals on health, food security, climate change, disaster resiliency, and ecosystems, among many others. The following are some of the technical goals for sdg 6 implementation:

1. Ensure universal and equitable access to clean and cheap drinking water for all, as well as appropriate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and the elimination of open defecation, with a specific focus on the needs of women and girls, as well as those in vulnerable situations.
2. Improve water quality by lowering pollution, eliminating dumping, and reducing hazardous discharge.
3. Significantly boost water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable freshwater withdrawals and supply to manage water shortage and minimize the number of people affected by it.
4. Implement integrated water resource management at all levels, including, when appropriate, trans boundary collaboration.

Factors influencing on water and sanitation

According to a unicef research from 2014, some of the elements that impact water and sanitation conditions affect population health.

1. Water
2. Environment,
3. Personal hygiene (proper living habits, cleanliness of body and clothing, healthy diet, a balanced regimen of rest and exercise)
4. Food
5. Behaviors
6. Surrounding environment (peer group, friends, school,)
7. Family background
8. Poverty
9. Diseases (virus, bacteria, and protozoa) these all factors are influence on the sanitation and hygiene conditions of children.

Our schools- rural context

India has one of the highest rates of school enrollment, particularly in rural regions. With 8

crore school-aged children, there are around 6.3 lakh rural primary and secondary schools. According to the nfhs-ii, 1998, 75 percent of children aged 6 to 14 attend schools in rural regions. However, it is also a truth that barely 10-15% of schools have sanitary facilities on site. Only 44 percent of the 6.3 lakh rural primary and upper elementary schools have water supply, 19 percent have urinals, and 8% have latrine facilities. Only 19 percent have separate urinals, and only 4% have a female-only lavatory. Schools with water and sanitation facilities frequently experience:

1. Non-existent or insufficient water supply & hand washing facilities
2. Toilets are not adapted to the needs of the children in particular girls.
3. Broken, unsafe water supply, sanitation and hand washing facilities
4. Children with poor hygiene and hand washing practices
5. Non- existent and irrelevant hygiene education for children
6. Unhealthy and dirty class rooms and school compounds
7. Improper operation and maintenance of the existing facilities

Water usage and sanitation behavior in school

The school is a location that not only educates students but also creates a learning atmosphere. It plays an important part in a child's growth when they leave the family. It encompasses a child's cognitive and creative development. School should be viewed as a place where students may learn and modify their conduct for the better. Safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in schools contribute to a healthy physical learning environment. However, simply giving facilities does not result in the intended outcome. It also includes people's sanitation and hygiene habits, which have a significant impact. Every year, around 1.5 million children die due to unsanitary circumstances throughout the world. However, if water and sanitation facilities are insufficient or nonexistent, proper sanitation behavior and the effectiveness of hygiene promotion in schools are severely constrained. 2012 (unicef) overall, it's critical to strike a balance between sanitation instruction and enabling and acceptable environmental health circumstances. Effective health promotion requires both education and the right environment. Health should be promoted throughout the school environment and activities in general.

Importance of water and sanitation in school

Basic amenities such as school bathrooms, safe drinking water, clean surroundings, and basic hygiene knowledge are all rights that children have. In schools, water, sanitation, and hygiene create an enabling environment that ensures children's dignity, safety, health, and class attendance. Children are more open to change and are quicker to accept and maintain it. They become change agents in their peer groups, families, and communities. Teachers have a crucial catalytic role as prominent persons who are supported by school management committees.

Disease prevention

In underdeveloped nations, diseases caused by a lack of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene are a major problem. Unsafe water supplies, as well as poor sanitation and hygiene, are thought to be responsible for 88 percent of diarrhoeal illness (who, 2004C). Many schools serve areas with a high frequency of illnesses linked to poor water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (especially lack of handwashing), as well as child malnutrition and other underlying health issues. There would be 1863 million more days of school attendance if everyone in the globe had access to a regulated piped water supply and sewage connection in their homes (who, 2004). Schools, particularly in rural regions, may lack basic drinking water and sanitary facilities, or have facilities that are both insufficient in quality and quantity. Schools with low water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as high amounts of one-on-one interaction, are high-risk environments for children and staff, exacerbating children's vulnerability to environmental health risks. These guidelines are intended to assist increase water supply, sanitation, and hygiene practices in particular, while also acknowledging the relevance of and connections to other aspects of environmental health, such as air quality and physical safety.

Learning

The ability of children to learn can be harmed in a variety of ways. For starters, helminthes infections, which afflict hundreds of millions of school-aged children, can impede physical growth and limit cognitive development in children by causing pain and discomfort, nutritional competition, anemia, and tissue and organ damage. Long-term exposure to chemical pollutants in water (such as lead and arsenic) might affect learning abilities. Diarrheal illnesses, malaria and helminthes infections lead many students to be away from school. In addition, poor classroom environments may make both teaching and learning extremely

difficult. Teachers' illnesses, which degrade performance and increase absenteeism, have a direct impact on learning, and teachers' jobs are made more difficult by schoolchildren's learning challenges.

Gender and disability

Inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in schools are likely to affect girls and boys differently, especially those with impairments, and this may lead to uneven learning opportunities. Lack of sufficient, separate, private, and secure bathrooms and washing facilities, for example, may deter parents from sending their daughters to school. Furthermore, a lack of sufficient menstrual hygiene facilities can cause girls to miss school days, and this can even lead to females dropping out of school entirely at puberty. Inaccessible toilets often lead to a handicapped child not eating or drinking during the day to avoid needing to use the restroom, resulting in health issues and finally dropping out of school.

Water and sanitation related programs

The district primary education programme (dpep), which was implemented in 1994, included water and sanitation in schools. It has been a key component of a variety of water and sanitation programs since 1994. This restructure has aided in focusing only on the health of children by providing basic water and sanitation facilities in schools. (2012, dise)

The total sanitation campaign (tsc) initiative launched the school sanitation and hygiene education (sshe) program in 1999. Water, sanitation, and handwashing facilities are supplied in schools as part of the sshe program, and hygiene instruction is linked to families and communities. Tsc also wants to offer toilet facilities to anganwadi (pre-school) centers, which are early childhood development centers. This would encourage young children and their moms to use the toilet. The sshe program is implemented by the ministry of drinking water and sanitation of the government of india, as well as state governments.

The sarva shiksha abhiyan (ssa) is the government of india's flagship initiative for the time-bound universalization of elementary education (uee). It was begun in 2000-2001. Its broad objectives include universal access and retention, closing gender and social disparities in education, and improving children's learning levels. The terms of the ssa must be matched with the right to education act's norms and standards, as well as free entitlements. The implementation of ssa is overseen by the

department of elementary education and learning. (a moojimanet and colleagues, 2010)

Education as a right (rte) the act was enacted by the indian government in april 2009. The rte act establishes a legally enforceable rights framework with certain deadlines that state governments must meet. The rte act's schedule establishes school building requirements and standards (including drinking water and sanitation). A school building must be an all-weather structure with at least one classroom for each teacher, barrier-free access, separate toilets for boys and girls, safe and adequate drinking water for all students, security arrangements such as a boundary wall or green fencing, a kitchen to prepare mid-day meals, a playground, and teaching-learning materials. (a moojimanet and colleagues, 2010)

Swachh bharat swachh vidyalaya (sbm) is a nationwide initiative that promotes "clean india: clean schools." the campaign's major goal is to guarantee that every indian school has a set of working toilets for girls and boys, as well as well-maintained water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities. This entails a mix of technical and human development elements that are required to provide a healthy school environment and to promote or support proper health and hygiene behavior. (indian county paper, 2016)

Importance of school water supply, sanitation and hygiene education

Today's youngsters will grow up to be tomorrow's adults. Future generations may be stronger and healthier by concentrating on children today and providing them with the skills and information they need to modify their behavior. Schools may serve as a community model for health and environmental care since they are the best location for fostering learning and the health of children. As a result, school water supply, sanitation, and hygiene instruction become critical for the following reasons:

1. Every kid has the right to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.
2. School sanitation and health education encourages children to modify their health habits and attitudes during their youth. What youngsters learn will most likely be implemented inside their families, leading to community development.
3. Providing clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, as well as adequate hygiene instruction, would enhance children's health and may result in a decreased dropout rate, particularly among girls.

4. For many youngsters, school may be their first exposure with flowing water, well-ventilated classrooms, and clean surroundings. This may have a huge influence on their perceptions of what is achievable in the world and even in their local neighborhoods.
5. India has one of the world's largest primary and upper primary education systems, with over 6 lakh primary and upper elementary schools, over 30 lakh instructors, and over 100 million pupils (1991-92). This vast network of schools provides a ready-to-use infrastructure that can be mobilized and utilized to influence parents and, as a result, the community.
6. Students hold the school instructor in high regard and respect him or her not just inside the school but also in the community. By following the teacher's example, the student can establish sanitary habits. In addition, the school teacher has the ability to influence parents and community members on sanitation concerns.
7. The school can also act as a demonstration site for homes and the community at large to embrace the water and sanitation package.

Conclusion:

The national and state governments in india have pledged to provide universal access to wash facilities in schools. The political will may be seen in policies, programs, and resource allocations. Water aid relies on the strong governmental commitment to promote wash in schools by empowering school-related institutions to enhance and maintain their wash facilities and curriculum. The current water and sanitation facilities at many of the schools are inadequate. As a result, it was necessary to establish a healthy school environment in order to tap the potential of school children as the most compelling champions of excellent sanitation practices in the community.

Reference:

- 1.annual report- 2015-16 department of school education & literacy department of higher education ministry of human resource development government of india
- 2.a moojiman et, al (2010) "strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene in schools" a wash guidance manual with a focus on south asia isbn: 978-90-6687-3
- 3.county paper india, 2016 government of india ministry of drinking water and sanitation sacosan vi,dhaka,11-13january, 2016

(<https://mdws.gov.in/sites/default/files/india%20COUNTRY%20PAPER.pdf>)

4. deepak anand (2018) “assessment of the hygiene and sanitation practices of students of class vi to ix in urban government inter college at allahabad district, india” international journal of community medicine and public health | september 2018 | vol 5 | issue 9

5. unicef- report 2017 “strategy for water, sanitation and hygiene 2016-2030” (www.strategy for water, sanitation and hygiene 2016-2030)

6. unicef- 2012 “water, sanitation and hygiene (wash) in school”. United nations international children’s emergency fund, new york. [Http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/cfs_wash_e_web.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/cfs_wash_e_web.pdf).

7. unicef 2013 children dying daily because of unsafe water supplies and poor sanitation and hygiene. Unicef, new york. (http://www.unicef.org/media/media_68359.html .)

8. who (2013) global health estimates summary tables, deaths by cause, age and sex, by who region. world health organization, geneva, switzerland.

[Http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/en](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/en).

9. world health organization (who) 2016- “the situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-european region (www.who-2016)