

Assessing School Sanitation: Insights from Kishangarh Renwal Tehsil, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Dr. Shweta Khandelwal¹, Amita Choudhary²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Rajasthan

²Research Scholar, Department of Geography, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Abstract

According to World Population Review (2021), the Indian education system stands in 32nd position globally. The Sustainable Development Goal 4 stands for quality education and ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all as well. The SDG6 also ensures availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Poor sanitation infrastructure increases absenteeism and learning outcomes. The present study was carried out to study sanitation infrastructure in schools like toilet facility, waste management and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities as well. Twenty-five rural schools of KishangarhRenwal tehsil of Jaipur district, Rajasthan have been taken for study. The result states that all schools have toilet facility and regular supply of water. The results relating to waste management among studied schools were found to be less significant. A total of 32.00% of schools don't have waste management facility. IEC activities were found to be significant.

Keywords: Education System, SDG4, Quality Education, Sanitation Infrastructure, Poor Sanitation

Introduction

Children have a better environment for learning and fulfilling their full potential when they have facilities such as clean water, toilets, and soap for washing hands at school. The Indian School Education System is one of the largest in the world with nearly 14.89 lakh schools and more than 95 lakh teachers. The system has nearly 26.52 crore students of pre- primary to higher secondary level from different socio-economic grounds. The Gross Enrollment Ratio of the country at higher secondary level is 61.49%. The Gender Parity Index at higher secondary level is 1.02%. Jaipur district has a total number of 9006 schools, out of which 3781 are state government schools, 10 central government schools and 5215 private unaided Recognized schools. The district has a total number of 84443 teachers. The goal of getting quality education is in progress.

The Ministry of Education had launched the swachhvidyalaya initiative (SVI) in 2014 to provide separate toilets for boys and girls in all government schools. Under this initiative, a record number of 4, 17,796 toilets were constructed in 2, 61,400 schools, including 1, 90,887 girls toilets in a one year period up to 15th August, 2015. Encouraged with this stupendous success, the Department of School Education and Literacy launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar in 2016-17 to ensure long term sustainability and behavioral change. The Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar not only honors the schools who have taken

exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene but also provides a benchmark and roadmap for schools to make further improvement. Under this Award, schools are rated on six broad parameters of (a) Water (b) Toilets (c) Hand washing with Soap (d) Operation and Maintenance (e) Behaviour Change and Capacity building and (f) COVID-19 (Preparedness and Response). Department of School Education & Literacy has advised States and Union Territories to encourage school education authorities for promoting cleanliness and hygiene practices in schools by undertaking various activities, including SwachhataPakhwada, appointment of Student Ambassador, singing Swachhata songs in BalSabha/Children's assembly, celebrating Swachhata Diwas and drawing/painting competitions focusing on Swachhata in each school. Swachhatapakhwada (cleanliness fortnight), 1-15 September is also a part of this mission of cleanliness.

Review of Literature:

Study Region

Jaipur district consists of 16 tehsils. KishangarhRenwal tehsil is one of them which is taken into consideration for study.

Twenty-five government schools have been taken for study. GSSS Lalasar, GSSS Itawa, GSSS Badhal, GSSS Luniyawas, GSSS Dyodhi, GSSS Dhinha, GSSS Baghawas, GSSS Malikpura, GSSS Ralawata, GSSS Basari- Khurd, GUPS Kabro ka Bas, GSSS Ranjeetpura, GSSS Ramjipura Kalan, GSSS Khedi Milak, GSSS Dungarsi ka Bas, SMV GSSS Harsoli, GSSS Pachkodiya, GSSS Mundoti, GSSS Mandha Bheem Singh, GSSS Bhainslana, GSSS Bhadwa, GSSS Sundo ka bas, GSSS Anatpura, GSSS Nandri are the name of schools.

Objective of the study:

This study is conducted to determine basic sanitation parameters in schools. Five sanitation parameters are included in this study (1) Toilet Facility (2) Separate Toilet for boys and Girls (3) Regular supply of Water (4) Waste Management (5) IEC activities.

Research Methodology:

No research can be completed without methodology. The researcher collected data using a survey research tool. This research paper is primarily based on primary data. Data is obtained through schedules. The schedule consists of two parts: Part one including the name and location of the school and the Second part contains questions related to sanitation parameters. Both open ended and multiple-choice questions are included in. In cases where more than one option was ticked, such as the IEC activities in school, evaluations were made by considering the total number of answers separately. KishangarhRenwal tehsil of Jaipur district, Rajasthan is the study area. Twenty-five government schools have been taken into consideration for data collection. All government schools are situated in rural areas. The prior permission of school heads was also obtained.

Result and Discussion:

Table 1: Baseline school characteristics

S.No.	Parameters	Category	Frequencies (%)
1.	School type	Government	25(100%)
		Private	00

2.	School locality	Rural	25(100%)
		Urban	00
3.	School type based on gender	Co-educational	25(100%)
		Separate for Boys and Girls	00

Source: Computed by the researcher

As table 1 shows, a total number of 25 schools were taken into consideration for study. All of the schools are government schools and located in rural areas. All schools are co-educational.

Table 2: Sanitation infrastructure in schools

S.No.	Sanitation Parameters	Category	Frequencies (%)
1.	Toilet facility in school	Yes	25(100%)
		No	00
2.	Separate toilets for girls and boys	Yes	25(100%)
		No	00
3.	Regular supply of Water	Yes	25(100%)
		No	00
4.	Waste management	Open	08(32.00%)
		Decomposing Pit	17(68.00%)
5.	IEC activities promoting sanitation	Hand Washing Day	22(88.00%)
		Wall paintings promoting sanitation	19(76.00%)

Source: Computed by the researcher

Table 2 depicts the basic sanitation infrastructure in schools. Five basic sanitation parameters have been taken into account. Toilet facility, separate toilets for girls and boys, regular supply of water, waste management and IEC activities are among them. The finding of study is as following:

1. All the 25 schools studied have toilet facility in school premises.
2. All the surveyed 25 schools have gender based separate facility of toilets for girls and boys.
3. A regular supply of water was found among all the surveyed schools.
4. The waste management was found to be less significant. A total number of 8 schools (32.00%) out of 25 schools (100%) don't have waste management facility and leave their waste in the open. Whereas 17 schools (68.00) have waste management facility and have decomposing pits.
5. IEC activities were found to be satisfactory. Every year 15th October is celebrated as 'Hand Washing Day' around the globe. Hand washing day is organized in 22 schools (88.00%). Along with 19 schools (76.00%) have wall paintings which promote sanitation.

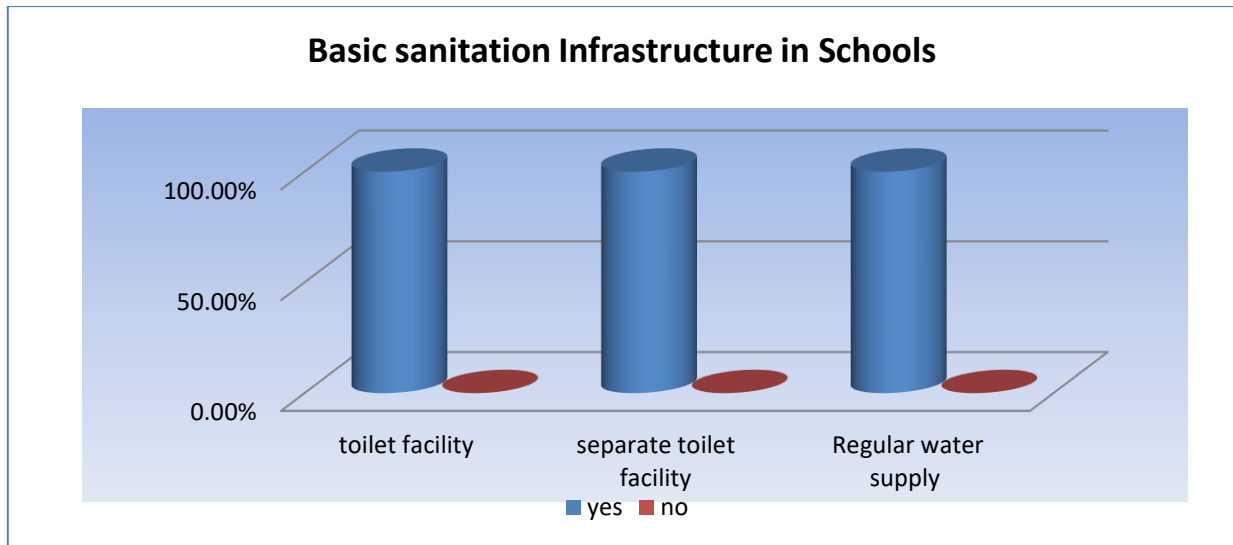


Figure1: Basic sanitation in schools

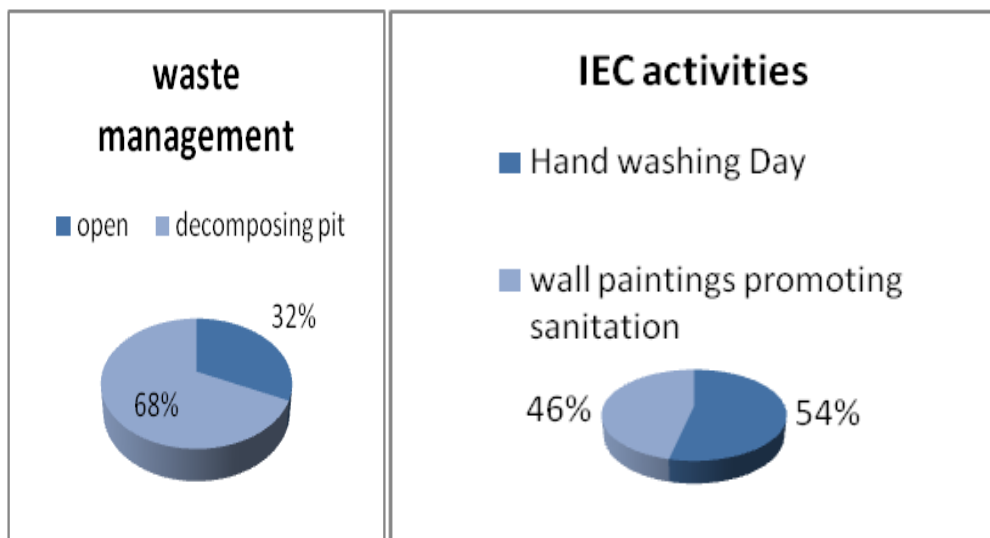


Figure2: waste management and IEC activities in schools

Over 620 million children worldwide lacked a basic sanitation service at their school. Improved sanitation facilities at the school are considered single-sex and usable (available, functional and private). In India, 98.71% of schools have toilet facility. In this study, the basic sanitation parameters are discussed; it is found that all studied schools have toilets, single sex toilets and usable facility. The provision of basic hand washing and sanitation facilities in pre-primary and primary schools can reduce absenteeism and cases of diarrhea and other infectious diseases such as soil transmitted helminths (worms) among young children. The result of the survey states that waste management is less significant. About one third of schools (32.00%) don't have waste management facility. This can accelerate the transmission of infection. It is evident that providing drinking water to keep children hydrated in school improves their memory, attention and general cognitive performance. The study found that IEC activities, which includes hand washing day and wall paintings were in stupendous progress. Most of the schools have both activities therein premises. The drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: Global Baseline Report 2018 shows that between 2000 and 2016 the proportion of

schools without any sanitation facility decreased even faster than the proportion of the population practicing open defecation.

Suggestions:**Conclusion:**

The school is a crowded place, where students and staff spend most of the day time together. If poor sanitation prevails in the school premises, it can become a high-risk environment of transmission of person-to-person infection. Usable toilet facility along with waste management is the need of the hour. So, proper sanitation and sustenance of sanitation is must for keeping our children healthy, reducing absenteeism and increasing quality education.

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