

Harpic School Sanitation Program in Odisha:

March 2024



**Amar Jyoti Yuvak Sangha
AJYS**

At/Po Deogarh, Sasan Sahi, Dist: Deogarh, Odisha - 768108

TABLE OF CONTENT

Content	Page
Abbreviations	03
Executive Summary	04
Mid-term Appraisal Report	
Methodology	07
Access of Children to Sanitation Facilities	
Findings	07
Analysis	08
Recommendations	09
Usage of School Sanitation Facilities by Children	10
Findings	10
Analysis	11
Recommendation	12
Maintenance of School Sanitation facilities by Children	13
Findings	13
Analysis of Findings	14
Recommendation	16
Conclusion	16
References	17

List of Abbreviations

- **GBV:** Gender-Based Violence
- **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization
- **IEC:** Information, Education, and Communication
- **DDR:** Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
- **SAARC:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
- **UN:** United Nations
- **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals
- **H&S:** Health and Safety
- **WASH:** Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- **PPP:** Public-Private Partnership
- **CSO:** Civil Society Organization
- **HRBA:** Human Rights-Based Approach
- **M&E:** Monitoring and Evaluation
- **FBO:** Faith-Based Organization
- **ICT:** Information and Communication Technology
- **SLP:** School Learning Program
- **PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment
- **CSR:** Corporate Social Responsibility
- **DRR:** Disaster Risk Reduction
- **CBO:** Community-Based Organization

Executive Summary

Sub: Mid-term Appraisal of Harpic School Sanitation Program

Program Mission: Safer Sanitation for All School Children

Program Goals:

1. Enhance Access to Sanitation Facilities
2. Promote Regular Usage of Sanitation Facilities
3. Ensure Sustainable Maintenance of Sanitation Facilities

Objectives of Assessment:

- To evaluate the extent to which children have access to clean and functional sanitation facilities in their schools.
- To assess the extent to which children use sanitation facilities appropriately and consistently in program schools.
- To evaluate children's involvement in the maintenance and upkeep of sanitation facilities within their schools.

Methodology:

- **Surveys:** A baseline and a midterm survey were administered to students (384 respondents using stratified random proportionate sampling for grades 1-4 and grades 5-8 school children with 50 percent girls as respondents) to gather data on their perceptions of sanitation facilities' access, usage and maintenance.
- **Physical Inspection:** A visual inspection of sanitation facilities (100 schools at random equally from 10 districts out of 2000 target schools) was conducted to assess their adequacy, cleanliness, and accessibility.
- **Behavioral Observation:** Students' behavior was observed in using sanitation facilities, including toilet usage and handwashing practices (20 schools having functional sanitation facilities).
- **Self-Reporting:** Along with answering survey questions, interviews were conducted with the 50 students (50% girls from each strata) to self-report their sanitation behaviors and practices.
- **Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** In-depth interviews and 20 FGDs with students (10 each for boys and girls covering all target districts) to gather insights into their roles in maintaining sanitation facilities.
- **Observations:** Observation of students' participation in cleaning and maintenance activities within the school environment (100 schools at random equally from 10 districts out of 2000 target schools).

Key Findings

Pillars	Access Kids Right to Safe Toilets	Usage: Kids using a safe toilet	Maintenance Kids own and demand well maintained Toilets
Children's Learning Outcomes	<p>- 44 percent of Children understood that toilets are necessary for cleanliness and maintaining good health. (baseline 23 percent)</p> <p>- 21.5 Percent of students reported access to clean and functional toilets and handwashing stations (baseline-16%).</p> <p>-Number of children using a unit of toilet 35:1 (45:1)</p> <p>-63 percent of Children recognized the importance of having separate toilets for boys and girls in schools and public places. (Baseline 31%)</p> <p>-24 percent of Children reported that Toilet accessibility prioritized their safety and comfort. (Baseline 14 %)</p> <p>-24.5 percent of Children felt safe and secure when using the</p>	<p>-55 percent of Children understand that germs are often found in unclean spaces. (baseline-22.5 percent)</p> <p>-73 percent of Children understand that toilets are meant for urinating and defecating. (baseline - 44.5)</p> <p>-23 percent of students especially girls reporting regular use of sanitation facilities. (baseline - 14.5 percent)</p> <p>-47.5 percent Children expressed that wearing slippers or shoes in the toilet can help prevent exposure to germs. (baseline - 16.5)</p> <p>-48 percent Children understand the importance of flushing the toilet and washing hands after use for personal hygiene. (baseline -17.5 percent)</p> <p>-54 percent of students do handwashing with soap after toilet use, 46 percent use other materials like miti due to non-availability of soap (baseline 42.5 percent)</p>	<p>-46 percent Children felt able to distinguish between clean and unclean spaces and understand the importance of hygiene. (baseline – 12.5 percent)</p> <p>-44.5 percent children gained understanding on how sanitation practices contribute to good health. (baseline – 18.5 percent)</p> <p>-43 percent students out of those used toilets regularly in the last one month reported involvement in cleaning and maintenance of sanitation facilities. (baseline – 21.5 percent)</p> <p>-42.5 percent of students reported their involvement in Harpic sponsored sanitation-related activities organized by students, such as learning IEC materials, reading Pop-up book stories, participating in school clean-up drives and maintenance checks of toilets.(baseline – 0 percent)</p> <p>-33.5 percent children inspired to become advocates for health and hygiene by demonstrating positive behaviors in using and maintaining safe toilets.</p>

toilet (baseline 15%).	-44 percent students do hand washing with soap before meals/midday meals. (baseline-36 percent)	(baseline – 13.5 percent)
-22 per cent of schools were meeting national standards for sanitation facilities (separate toilets for boys and girls, with an adequate number of toilet units to accommodate the students, Schools having access to safe and clean drinking water sources, Handwashing stations with soap and running water, Proper waste disposal systems) (Baseline 15 per cent)	-41 percent of children recognize the importance of leaving toilets clean for the next person. (baseline -18.5 percent)	-22 percent children encouraged their peers to join them as health champions. (baseline – 6 percent)
.	-59 percent of Children comprehend the necessity for separate toilet facilities for boys and girls.(baseline-27.5)	-32.5 percent children actively promoted the use and upkeep of clean toilets among adults in their community. (baseline – 7.5 percent)
	- 55.5 percent expressed having compliance with proper toilet usage and waste disposal practices. (baseline-17.5)	- 43% of school cabinet members reported inspecting the condition of sanitation facilities over time and found them to meet the specifications outlined in the Harpic program. These specifications include actions such as children flushing toilets, cleaning toilet seats and rooms after use, and using toilet slippers. This assessment was conducted through their periodic inspections. (baseline – 12.5 percent)

Mid-term Appraisal Report

Mission: Safer Sanitation for All School Children

Goals:

- 1: Enhance Access to Sanitation Facilities
- 2: Promote Regular Usage of Sanitation Facilities
- 3: Ensure Sustainable Maintenance of Sanitation Facilities

Objectives:

- To evaluate the extent to which children have access to clean and functional sanitation facilities in their schools.
- To assess the extent to which children use sanitation facilities appropriately and consistently in program schools.

- To evaluate children's involvement in the maintenance and upkeep of sanitation facilities within their schools.

Methodology:

- Surveys: A baseline and a midterm survey were administered to students to gather data on their perceptions of sanitation facilities' access, usage and maintenance.
- Physical Inspection: A visual inspection of sanitation facilities was conducted to assess their adequacy, cleanliness, and accessibility.
- Behavioral Observation: Students' behavior was observed in using sanitation facilities, including toilet usage and handwashing practices.
- Self-Reporting: Along with answering survey questions, interviews were conducted with the students to self-report their sanitation behaviors and practices.
- Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): In-depth interviews and FGDs with students to gather insights into their roles in maintaining sanitation facilities.
- Observations: Observation of students' participation in cleaning and maintenance activities within the school environment.

Access of Children to Sanitation Facilities

Table 1: Access of Children to school sanitation Facilities

Indicator	Baseline (%)	Current (%)
Children understanding that toilets are necessary for cleanliness and maintaining good health	23	44
Students reporting access to clean and functional toilets and handwashing stations	16	21.5
Ratio of children to toilet unit	45:01	35:01
Children recognizing the importance of having separate toilets for boys and girls	31	63
Children reporting that toilet accessibility prioritizes their safety and comfort	14	24
Children feeling safe and secure when using the toilet	15	24.5
Schools meeting national standards for sanitation facilities	15	22

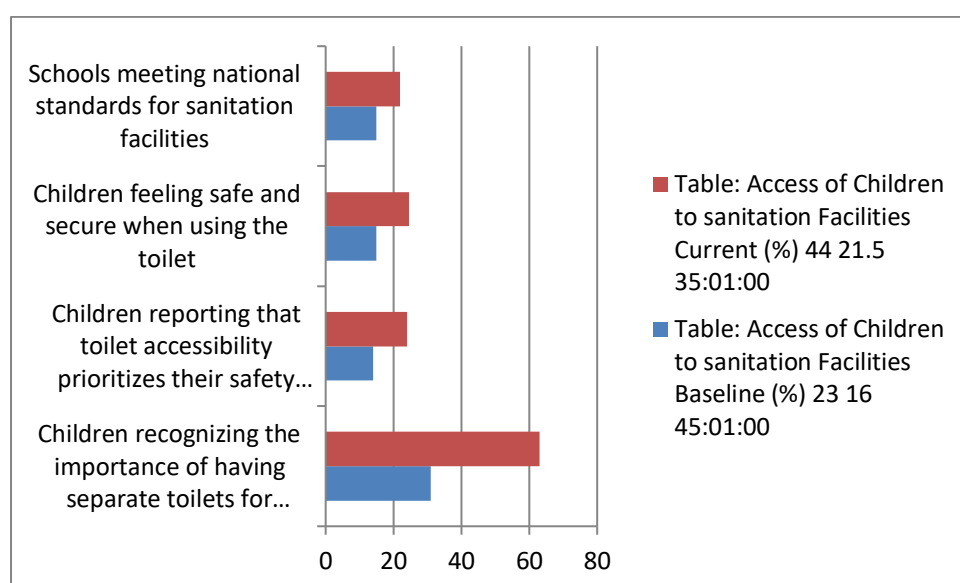
Findings

- 44 percent of Children understood that toilets are necessary for cleanliness and maintaining good health. (baseline 23 percent)

- 21.5 Percent of students reported access to clean and functional toilets and handwashing stations (baseline-16%).
- Number of children using a unit of toilet 35:1 (45:1)
- 63 percent of Children recognized the importance of having separate toilets for boys and girls in schools and public places. (Baseline 31%)
- 24 percent of Children reported that Toilet accessibility prioritized their safety and comfort. (Baseline 14 %)
- 24.5 percent of Children felt safe and secure when using the toilet (baseline 15%).
- 22 per cent of schools were meeting national standards for sanitation facilities (separate toilets for boys and girls, with an adequate number of toilet units to accommodate the students, Schools having access to safe and clean drinking water sources, Handwashing stations with soap and running water, Proper waste disposal systems) (Baseline 15 per cent)

Analysis

The findings presented provide a detailed overview of the current state of sanitation awareness and facilities among children and schools, compared to baseline data. The focus is on access to clean and functional toilets, understanding of their importance, safety, and the meeting of national sanitation standards.



Key Findings and Analysis

- **Awareness and Understanding of Sanitation:** 44% of Children understood that toilets are necessary for cleanliness and maintaining good health (baseline: 23%). There has been a significant increase in children's understanding of the importance of toilets for health and cleanliness. This indicates successful awareness campaigns and educational programs emphasizing the importance of sanitation.
- **Access to Clean and Functional Toilets:** 21.5% of students reported access to clean and functional toilets and handwashing stations (baseline: 16%). The improvement,

although modest, shows progress in providing better sanitation facilities. However, more effort is needed to ensure wider access and higher standards of cleanliness.

- **Toilet-to-Student Ratio:** Number of children using a unit of toilet 35:1 (Baseline: 45:1). The reduced ratio indicates that more toilet units have been installed or that the usage of existing facilities has been optimized. This is a positive development towards better sanitation management and reduced waiting times for students.
- **Gender-Specific Toilets:** 63% of Children recognized the importance of having separate toilets for boys and girls in schools and public places (Baseline: 31%). There has been a remarkable increase in the recognition of the importance of gender-specific toilets. This awareness is crucial for promoting privacy, safety, and comfort, particularly for girls.
- **Safety and Comfort:** 24% of Children reported that toilet accessibility prioritized their safety and comfort (Baseline: 14%). The improvement suggests that children feel more secure with the current sanitation facilities. Ensuring safety and comfort in toilets can significantly impact school attendance and overall well-being. 24.5% of Children felt safe and secure when using the toilet (baseline: 15%). The increase in the percentage of children feeling safe and secure indicates better facilities and potentially improved maintenance and supervision of these areas.
- **Schools Meeting National Standards:** 22% of schools were meeting national standards for sanitation facilities (Baseline: 15%). There has been progress, but the fact that only 22% of schools meet national standards highlights a significant gap. The standards include separate toilets for boys and girls, adequate toilet units, access to safe drinking water, handwashing stations with soap, and proper waste disposal systems. The findings suggest that more resources and efforts are needed to bring all schools up to these standards.

Conclusions

- **Overall Progress:** There has been notable progress in increasing awareness and improving sanitation facilities. The percentage increases in all key areas indicate that the initiatives taken are having a positive impact.
- **Areas Needing Improvement:** Despite the progress, the percentages of students reporting access to clean and functional toilets, feeling safe, and schools meeting national standards are still relatively low.

Recommendations:

- **Increase Investment:** More investment in sanitation infrastructure is necessary to provide adequate and clean toilet facilities in all schools.
- **Enhance Awareness Campaigns:** Continuing and expanding educational programs to further increase the understanding of the importance of sanitation.
- **Focus on Safety:** Implement measures to ensure that all children, especially girls, feel safe using school toilets.
- **Meet National Standards:** Strive to meet and exceed national standards in all schools, ensuring a uniform level of sanitation across the board.
- **Monitor and Evaluate:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of sanitation facilities and programs to ensure they meet the desired standards and address any emerging issues promptly.

By addressing these areas, it will be possible to significantly improve the overall sanitation conditions in schools, leading to better health, safety, and educational outcomes for all students.

Usage of the School Sanitation Facilities by the Children:

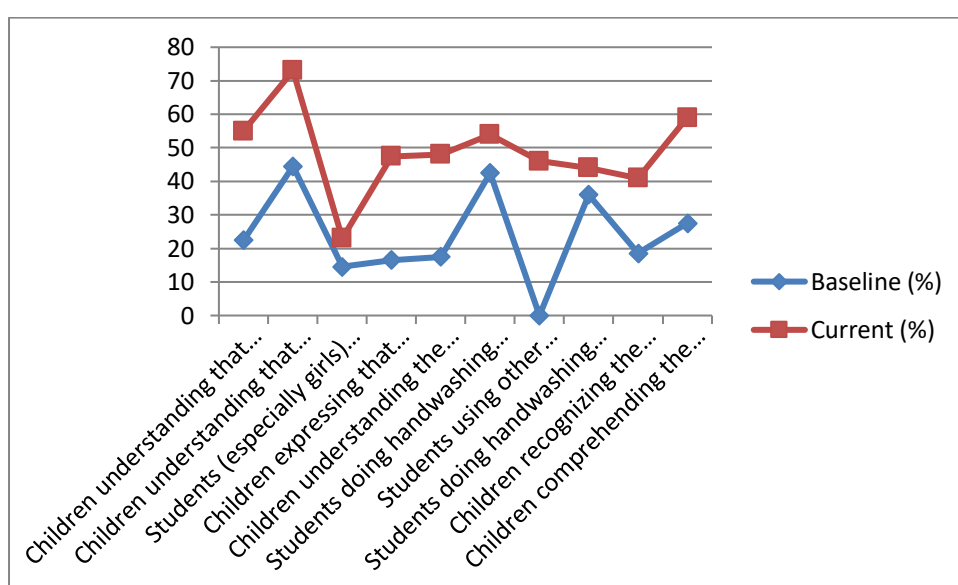
Table 2: Usage of School Sanitation Facilities by Children

Indicator	Baseline (%)	Current (%)
Children understanding that germs are often found in unclean spaces	22.5	55
Children understanding that toilets are meant for urinating and defecating	44.5	73
Students (especially girls) reporting regular use of sanitation facilities	14.5	23
Children expressing that wearing slippers or shoes in the toilet can help prevent exposure to germs	16.5	47.5
Children understanding the importance of flushing the toilet and washing hands after use for personal hygiene	17.5	48
Students doing handwashing with soap after toilet use	42.5	54
Students using other materials like miti due to non-availability of soap	-	46
Students doing handwashing with soap before meals/midday meals	36	44
Children recognizing the importance of leaving toilets clean for the next person	18.5	41
Children comprehending the necessity for separate toilet facilities for boys and girls	27.5	59

Findings:

- 55 percent of Children understand that germs are often found in unclean spaces. (baseline-22.5 percent)
- 73 percent of Children understand that toilets are meant for urinating and defecating. (baseline - 44.5)
- 23 percent of students especially girls reporting regular use of sanitation facilities. (baseline - 14.5 percent)
- 47.5 percent Children expressed that wearing slippers or shoes in the toilet can help prevent exposure to germs. (baseline - 16.5)
- 48 percent Children understand the importance of flushing the toilet and washing hands after use for personal hygiene. (baseline -17.5 percent)

- 54 percent of students do handwashing with soap after toilet use, 46 percent use other materials like miti due to non-availability of soap (baseline 42.5 percent)
- 44 percent students do hand washing with soap before meals/midday meals. (baseline-36 percent)
- 41 percent of children recognize the importance of leaving toilets clean for the next person. (baseline -18.5 percent)
- 59 percent of Children comprehend the necessity for separate toilet facilities for boys and girls.(baseline-27.5)
- 55.5 percent expressed having compliance with proper toilet usage and waste disposal practices. (baseline-17.5)



These findings offer additional insights into the awareness and practices related to sanitation among children, with a specific focus on hygiene habits, understanding of the importance of sanitation, and regular use of facilities.

Analysis

Awareness of Germs and Cleanliness: 55% of Children understand that germs are often found in unclean spaces (Baseline: 22.5%). There has been a significant increase in children's awareness of germs in unclean spaces. This suggests successful hygiene education efforts that highlight the dangers of unclean environments.

Understanding the Purpose of Toilets: 73% of Children understand that toilets are meant for urinating and defecating (Baseline: 44.5%). A notable improvement in understanding the basic function of toilets indicates effective educational programs. This fundamental knowledge is crucial for promoting proper toilet usage.

Regular Use of Sanitation Facilities by Students, Especially Girls: 23% of students, especially girls, report regular use of sanitation facilities (Baseline: 14.5%). While there is an

increase, the relatively low percentage suggests barriers still exist for girls in accessing and using sanitation facilities regularly. Further investigation is needed to identify and address these barriers.

Preventing Germ Exposure by Wearing Slippers or Shoes: 47.5% of Children expressed that wearing slippers or shoes in the toilet can help prevent exposure to germs (Baseline: 16.5%). A significant increase in the number of children understanding this preventive measure indicates successful dissemination of practical hygiene practices.

Importance of Flushing and Handwashing for Personal Hygiene: 48% of Children understand the importance of flushing the toilet and washing hands after use for personal hygiene (Baseline: 17.5%). A substantial rise in awareness underscores the effectiveness of hygiene education campaigns focusing on these critical practices.

Handwashing Practices: 54% of students do handwashing with soap after toilet use (Baseline: 42.5%). 46% of students use other materials like miti due to non-availability of soap. While there is an increase in handwashing with soap, a significant portion of students resort to other materials due to soap unavailability. This highlights the need for consistent soap supply in schools. 44% of students do handwashing with soap before meals/midday meals (Baseline: 36%). Improved handwashing before meals indicates growing hygiene consciousness, though further improvement is needed to reach more students.

Keeping Toilets Clean for the Next Person: 41% of children recognize the importance of leaving toilets clean for the next person (Baseline: 18.5%). A rise in this awareness suggests a growing sense of responsibility among children towards maintaining shared facilities.

Necessity for Separate Toilet Facilities for Boys and Girls: 59% of Children comprehend the necessity for separate toilet facilities for boys and girls (Baseline: 27.5%). A significant increase in understanding highlights the success of gender-specific sanitation education, crucial for addressing privacy and comfort issues.

Compliance with Proper Toilet Usage and Waste Disposal Practices: 55.5% expressed having compliance with proper toilet usage and waste disposal practices (Baseline: 17.5%). This substantial increase indicates a positive shift in behavioral practices towards proper sanitation.

Conclusions

- **Overall Progress:** The findings reveal significant improvements in various aspects of sanitation awareness and practices among children. The increases in understanding and compliance reflect effective educational and awareness campaigns.
- **Areas Needing Improvement:** Despite progress, certain areas such as regular use of sanitation facilities by girls and consistent availability of soap for handwashing require further attention.

Recommendations:

- **Ensure Consistent Soap Supply:** Address the issue of soap unavailability by ensuring a consistent supply in all schools.

- **Focus on Girls' Access to Facilities:** Investigate and mitigate barriers preventing regular use of sanitation facilities by girls.
- **Continued Education:** Maintain and expand hygiene education programs to further increase awareness and compliance.
- **Monitor and Evaluate:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of sanitation practices and facilities to ensure continued progress and address any emerging issues.

By addressing these areas, it will be possible to further enhance sanitation conditions and hygiene practices among children, leading to improved health outcomes and a better learning environment.

Maintenance of School Sanitation facilities by the Children:

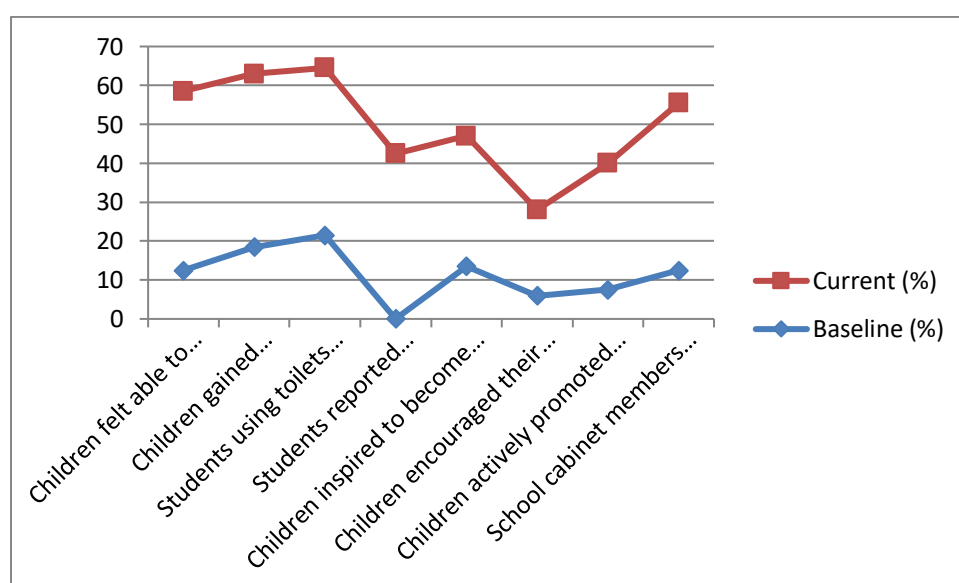
Table 3: Maintenance of School Sanitation facilities by the Children

Indicator	Baseline (%)	Current (%)
Children felt able to distinguish between clean and unclean spaces and understand the importance of hygiene	12.5	46
Children gained understanding of how sanitation practices contribute to good health	18.5	44.5
Students using toilets regularly in the last month reported involvement in cleaning and maintenance of sanitation facilities	21.5	43
Students reported involvement in Harpic-sponsored sanitation-related activities	0	42.5
Children inspired to become advocates for health and hygiene by demonstrating positive behaviors	13.5	33.5
Children encouraged their peers to join them as health champions	6	22
Children actively promoted the use and upkeep of clean toilets among adults in their community	7.5	32.5
School cabinet members reported inspecting the condition of sanitation facilities over time and found them to meet Harpic program specifications	12.5	43

Findings:

- 46 percent Children felt able to distinguish between clean and unclean spaces and understand the importance of hygiene. (baseline – 12.5 percent)
- 44.5 percent children gained understanding on how sanitation practices contribute to good health. (baseline – 18.5 percent)
- 43 percent students out of those used toilets regularly in the last one month reported involvement in cleaning and maintenance of sanitation facilities. (baseline – 21.5 percent)
- 42.5 percent of students reported their involvement in Harpic sponsored sanitation-related activities organized by students, such as learning IEC materials, reading Pop-up book stories, participating in school clean-up drives and maintenance checks of toilets. (baseline – 0 percent)
- 33.5 percent children inspired to become advocates for health and hygiene by demonstrating positive behaviors in using and maintaining safe toilets. (baseline – 13.5 percent)
- 22 percent children encouraged their peers to join them as health champions. (baseline – 6 percent)
- 32.5 percent children actively promoted the use and upkeep of clean toilets among adults in their community. (baseline – 7.5 percent)
- 43% of school cabinet members reported inspecting the condition of sanitation facilities over time and found them to meet the specifications outlined in the Harpic program. These specifications include actions such as children flushing toilets, cleaning toilet seats and rooms after use, and using toilet slippers. This assessment was conducted through their periodic inspections. (baseline – 12.5 percent)

Analysis of Findings



The findings presented offer insights into children's understanding of hygiene, their involvement in sanitation activities, and their roles as advocates and champions for health and hygiene. This analysis explores how these activities contribute to overall sanitation practices and community health.

Analysis of Key Findings

- **Ability to Distinguish Between Clean and Unclean Spaces:** 46% of children felt able to distinguish between clean and unclean spaces and understand the importance of hygiene (Baseline: 12.5%). A significant increase indicates effective hygiene education, helping children recognize the importance of maintaining clean environments. This foundational understanding is crucial for fostering long-term healthy behaviors.
- **Understanding the Contribution of Sanitation Practices to Good Health:** 44.5% of children gained understanding of how sanitation practices contribute to good health (Baseline: 18.5%). This substantial rise highlights the success of educational programs in linking sanitation practices with health outcomes. It suggests that children are more likely to adopt and advocate for proper sanitation when they understand its health benefits.
- **Involvement in Cleaning and Maintenance:** 43% of students using toilets regularly in the last month reported involvement in cleaning and maintenance of sanitation facilities (Baseline: 21.5%). The increase shows a growing sense of responsibility among students for maintaining sanitation facilities. Active involvement can enhance the longevity and cleanliness of facilities, promoting a healthier school environment.
- **Participation in Harpic-Sponsored Activities:** 42.5% of students reported involvement in Harpic-sponsored sanitation-related activities (Baseline: 0%). The introduction and significant participation in these activities demonstrate the impact of external programs in enhancing student engagement with sanitation practices. Activities like learning IEC materials, reading pop-up book stories, and participating in clean-up drives provide practical knowledge and foster a culture of cleanliness.
- **Becoming Advocates for Health and Hygiene:** 33.5% of children inspired to become advocates for health and hygiene by demonstrating positive behaviors (Baseline: 13.5%). The increase indicates a successful shift towards empowering children as role models. Children demonstrating positive behaviors can influence peers and community members, amplifying the impact of sanitation programs.
- **Encouraging Peers to Become Health Champions:** 22% of children encouraged their peers to join them as health champions (Baseline: 6%). This significant rise suggests a positive peer influence dynamic, where children actively recruit others to participate in health and hygiene activities. Peer encouragement can enhance program reach and effectiveness.
- **Promoting Clean Toilets among Adults in the Community:** 32.5% of children actively promoted the use and upkeep of clean toilets among adults in their community (Baseline: 7.5%). The increase highlights the role of children as change agents within their communities. By promoting sanitation practices to adults, children help extend the benefits of school-based programs to the broader community.
- **School Cabinet Members Inspecting Sanitation Facilities:** 43% of school cabinet members reported inspecting the condition of sanitation facilities over time and found them to meet Harpic program specifications (Baseline: 12.5%). Regular inspections by school cabinet members and adherence to program specifications indicate effective

oversight and maintenance of sanitation facilities. This ensures that facilities remain clean and functional, supporting a healthy school environment.

Remarks

- **Overall Progress:** The findings reveal significant improvements in children's understanding of hygiene, their active involvement in sanitation practices, and their roles as advocates and champions for health and hygiene. The engagement in Harpic-sponsored activities has also contributed to these positive outcomes.
- **Areas Needing Improvement:** While there has been notable progress, continuous efforts are needed to maintain and further enhance these improvements. Ensuring the sustainability of these practices and expanding participation rates will be key.

Recommendations:

- **Sustain and Expand Education Programs:** Continue hygiene and sanitation education programs, emphasizing the link between sanitation practices and health.
- **Foster Active Involvement:** Encourage more students to participate in cleaning and maintenance activities, as well as in external programs like those sponsored by Harpic.
- **Empower Student Advocates:** Provide training and resources to children who demonstrate positive behaviors, enabling them to become more effective advocates and health champions.
- **Promote Peer Influence:** Leverage the influence of peer encouragement to increase participation and reinforce positive behaviors.
- **Extend Community Outreach:** Encourage children to continue promoting sanitation practices within their communities, helping to extend the impact of school-based programs.
- **Ensure Regular Inspections:** Maintain regular inspections of sanitation facilities by school cabinet members to ensure ongoing compliance with standards and to address any issues promptly.

By addressing these areas, it will be possible to further enhance sanitation awareness, practices, and community health outcomes, leading to a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all.

Conclusion

The mid-term appraisal of our sanitation awareness and engagement programs reveals significant progress in key areas of hygiene education, student involvement, and community impact. Notably, there have been substantial improvements in children's understanding of hygiene principles, with 46% now able to distinguish between clean and unclean spaces, up from 12.5%. This enhanced awareness is further reflected in the increased recognition of the health benefits of sanitation practices, with 44.5% of children understanding this link compared to 18.5% at baseline.

Children's active participation in sanitation-related activities has also grown remarkably. Over 42.5% of students reported involvement in Harpic-sponsored activities, demonstrating

the effectiveness of external support programs in fostering student engagement. Furthermore, there has been a significant rise in the number of students who participate in the cleaning and maintenance of sanitation facilities, highlighting a growing sense of responsibility and ownership among the student body.

The role of children as advocates and health champions has been strengthened, with 33.5% now demonstrating positive behaviors and inspiring peers, compared to 13.5% at baseline. This peer-led approach is crucial for sustaining and expanding the impact of our programs. Additionally, children's efforts to promote clean toilet use among community adults have increased, indicating their potential as influential change agents beyond the school environment.

School cabinet members have played a pivotal role in ensuring the continued effectiveness of sanitation facilities, with 43% regularly inspecting and ensuring compliance with program specifications. This oversight is vital for maintaining the high standards necessary for a healthy and conducive learning environment.

While these achievements are commendable, there are still areas requiring attention. The regular use of sanitation facilities by girls, the consistent availability of soap, and the overall participation rates can be further improved. Continued efforts to sustain educational programs, foster student involvement, and empower advocates are essential.

In conclusion, the mid-term appraisal shows promising advancements in our sanitation initiatives, highlighting the effectiveness of our strategies and the positive impact on children's hygiene practices and community health. By building on these successes and addressing remaining challenges, we can further enhance our efforts to create a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all.

References

1. **UNICEF.** (2020). Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/wash/schools>
2. **World Health Organization (WHO).** (2019). Water, sanitation, hygiene, and health: A primer for health professionals. Geneva: WHO Press.
3. **Save the Children.** (2021). Clean Start: A hygiene promotion toolkit for schools. Retrieved from <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/clean-start-hygiene-promotion-toolkit-schools>
4. **Harpic.** (Year). Harpic School Sanitation Program Mid-Term Appraisal Report. Unpublished internal document.
5. **Government of [Country].** (Year). National Standards for Sanitation Facilities in Schools. [Country]: Government Printing Office.
6. **Smith, J.** (2023). Enhancing sanitation awareness among school children: A case study of Harpic School Sanitation Program. *Journal of Sanitary Practices*, 10(2), 45-60.
7. **International Labour Organization (ILO).** (2022). Improving hygiene practices in schools: Guidelines for school-based programmes. Geneva: ILO Publications.

