

**Situation of Water, Sanitation and
Hygiene in Nepalese Schools:
An Assessment
Study Report Submitted to
Department of Education and UNICEF**

Research Centre for Educational Innovation and
Development (CERID)

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Study Objectives

- Assess curriculum & textbooks in relation to WASH theory & practice
- Assess the level of girls' absenteeism in schools due to lack of WASH services during menstruation
- Assess the current status of inclusive WASH (by gender, disabilities and child friendliness) and software components such as cleanliness, operation, maintenance and sustainability in schools
- Assess the quality of newly constructed facilities, including girl-friendly latrines/female urinals, and the use of these by students and teachers
- Explore behaviors and WASH when facilities are absent or inadequate

Regions Covered

Three districts were sampled representing the three regions of Nepal (mountain, hillside and terai/plain) from east to the west: Sunsari, Dolakha and Doti



Sunsari District



Dolakha District



Doti District

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Sampling

Districts'	Doti	Dolakha	Sunsari	Total
Districts	1	1	1	3
Female/health teachers	30	30	30	90
Menstruating girls FGD	6	6	6	18
Child Club	5	4	5	14

Research Tools/Instruments

- Questionnaires tailored for female teachers, health teachers and students
- Interviews with school management committees and parent teacher associations
- School observation check-list
- Focus Group Discussions with girls who had begun menstruating and members of child's clubs
- Records of school attendance (by gender)

Major Findings

- Government policy has prioritized the provision of WASH facilities in Schools, with a special focus on gender-friendly needs, but girls' toilets remain unsuitable for MHM in most schools.
- School health curricula and textbooks facilitate education related to sanitation and hygiene behaviours. However, most school teachers are not trained on related life-skills, practical hygiene, and sanitation.

Girls' Absenteeism due to Menstruation

Many girls in secondary school are not attending schools during their menstrual period:

Sunsari-28%, Doti-31% and Dolakha-34%



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Newly Constructed Toilet for Girls

- 99% of girls' toilets are not suitable for managing menstrual hygiene in most schools due to the lack of water supply, wash basin soap, and pad disposal chamber
- 1% of schools have gender friendly facilities



Girls' Coping Behaviors

- 53% of girls sometimes change sanitary pads in the toilet and take them home in plastic bags.
- 47% of girls throw dirty pad in river or bush.
- Girls tend not to use toilets/urinals for urination during their menstruation, fearing they may leave blood marks in pans.



Successes and Challenges

Challenge

Lack of a clear selection methodology for schools selected, especially one that takes into account the different challenges faced by various ethnic groups, castes and urban / rural youth

Success

Identifying the major challenges of MHM in schools for WASH in schools stakeholders resulting in integration of MHM issues into Annual Strategic Integrated Programme for 2013/14

Key Recommendations for Policy & Programme Implementation

- DoE should develop a mechanism for proper implementation of child, girl and differently-abled friendly WASH facilities. The recent inclusive standards designed by the DoE need to be considered in the process of planning and implementation.
- DoE should orientate schools on the importance of WASH, inclusive standards, and the need for girl friendly latrines, including MHM facilities, and related knowledge and skills for adolescent girls.

Recommendations for Replicating this Research

- Design stratified sampling methodology of targeted schools around geographic, ethnic and socio-economic groups that might have different MHM practices
- Ensuring government stakeholders are actively involved in the design of the research tools in order to promote acceptance of the findings

Thank You !

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