

National Urban School Sanitation Initiative

School is important for cognitive, creative and social development of children. So, is the School Sanitation and Hygiene Education, as it is necessary for the safe, secure and healthy environment for children to learn better and face the challenges of future life. Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), with support from Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) and GTZ India initiated the National Urban School Sanitation Initiative project. The initiative is aimed at using "Children as agents of change" philosophy and addressing the water, sanitation and hygiene issues in urban schools to initiate behavioral change among children, who can potentially take back the lessons home and trigger a change.

Baseline survey was the first step of action towards improvements of the water, sanitation and hygiene/health situation of the school and community separately. Base line surveys need to be conducted at the very initial stage of the programme to assess the existing situation of water, sanitation and health and hygiene status, to understand the practices, traditional beliefs and to identify the appropriate measures that can be considered for future plans. A study team comprised of team leader, coordinator, core team members (researchers) and field staff having experience in the field of hygiene and sanitation were mobilized to carry out the survey and assessment. The study consists of desk study, participatory field investigation, qualitative and quantitative data collection, analysis and concise report preparation. A total of 41 schools were surveyed in various locations of Pune, Bangalore and Delhi

The findings from the baseline got incorporated as the basis for developing the National Urban School Sanitation Manual, thus address the key issues with water, sanitation and hygiene, so as to provide the school with a document for implementing better water and sanitation practices in their schools. The Manual was submitted and got approved from MOUD later.