

Situation analysis of School Sanitation
in Denuwara Educational Zone
Final Report

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Background

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are directly linked with the United Nation's (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MGDs), and now recognized by UN as a fundamental human right, essential for human dignity and well being. In order to reach this goal, resources spent on improving the health of school-age children, highlighting the need for hygiene promotion and installation of WASH and hand-washing facilities in schools need to be given priority in development programs. National Development Bank has had a keen interest in promoting health for the new generation by promoting access to sanitation facilities. NDB has provided upgraded facilities with provision of Rainwater harvesting tanks for two marginalized schools in Denuwara School zone, Kandy district, namely in Lagamuwa and Gadaladeniya.

Inadequate and bad quality water facilities and damaged toilets in poor and unsafe hygienic condition with limited water supplies for sanitation needs are found in many schools in Central Province. Some schools have neither water nor sanitation facilities at all. Without these basic necessities, girls, boys and teachers, both male and female, continue to practice poor sanitary behavior and run the risk of diarrheal illness.

Teachers and students also refrain from drinking water during school due to the need to curtail visits to the toilet and as a result may suffer from long term kidney related complications.

The poor sanitation facilities in particular severely affects adolescent girls during menstruation who are therefore forced to be frequently absent from school. This loss of time has long term impacts on the development of the future generation.

Addressing this issue is a complicated process calling for multilateral approaches with support of a wide array of partners such as the Department of Education, Ministry of Health, National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB), Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), civil society, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and private sector partners who are involved in the water and sanitation field.

1. Existing situation of water supply in schools of Denuwara zone

Denuwara education division in Kandy district consists with two educational divisions namely, Udunuwara and Yatinuwara. Those divisions are fast urbanizing because those divisions are border the Kandy city limits. Due to population pressure within Kandy city limits, there is a trend to develop these areas as new residential areas within a Greater Kandy. However in comparison to the other divisions in Kandy district, coverage of proper infrastructure facilities is relatively better. For example safe pipe born water supply coverage in Denuwara area is 75%.

On the other hands demand for schools in Kandy town students from these areas is also high. The children who attend schools in these peripheral areas with poor transportation are generally those from lower income families who cannot afford to go to Kandy, Peradeniya or Pilimalawe schools.

School WASH facilities in Denuwara zone are not at a satisfactory level. The existing situation of school WASH facilities as follows.

2. Water supply facilities

Number of schools	Number of students	Number of teachers	Number of school have pipe water supply		Number of school have pipe water supply	
			No	No	No	%
87	29,230	2178	69	79	18	21

Source –Denuwara zonal education office -2012

According to the above figures 79% schools have obtained pipe water supply facilities from public water supply systems. Only 21% of schools still using point water sources such as dug wells, hand pumps etc.

3. Sanitation Facilities

Number of schools	Number of students	Number of teachers	Number of toilets available at present *	According to the national standard required no of toilets	%	Balance required no of toilets	%
87	29,230	2178	382	585	65	203	35

*including toilets given by ministry of economic development year 2012.

Source –Denuwara zonal education office -2012

Based on the above figures 203 new toilets are needed in the zone to upgrade students sanitation facilities according to the acceptable national standard. But it does not reflect gender sensitiveness, age appropriateness and child friendliness of the existing sanitation facilities.

In 2013, NDB with facilitation from SLWP upgraded two most needy schools in Gadaladeniya and Lagamuwa, hosting children from underprivileged families providing with them with safe sanitation and rainwater harvesting tanks. The provision of RWH is very critical to maintaining hygiene in school toilets as it has been observed in many cases that provision of facilities without adequate water supply eventually leads to damage and abandonment of the toilets. . As this area gets frequent rain, the RWH tanks are continually topped up thereby saving on water bills.

SLWP partner NetWwater has provided 28 rural hospitals in Central province with RWH tanks which have been assessed by the Provincial Health Ministry to be effectively functioning, in one hospital this is the sole water source.

After completion of this activity, the NDB wished to carry out a situation analysis of existing school sanitation prior to possibly carrying out a renovation of toilets with provision of RWH tanks. The possible activities to be carried out on the basis of this survey were identified as follows

1. Assist to get pipe water connections to schools which situated closely and accessible to pipe networks
2. Provide water storage facilities ,internal plumbing and construct drinking and hand wash in points at suitable places within school premises

3. Provide Rain Water Harvesting systems for schools to use be used for safe sanitation and gardening.
4. Assist to construct adequate numbers of toilets and urinals according to the national standards.
5. Establish better operation and maintenance systems for water supply and sanitation facilities for enhanced sustainability.
6. Formulate and strengthen school health clubs.

4. Survey methodology

The methodology used for the assessment is as follows

- a. Briefing of Survey team
- b. Initial visit to all 87 schools to assess damages and the necessity for new infrastructure – minor technical issues identified
- c. Second visit by technical team to draw up estimates for major (new pits, new toilets, repair drainage, new water supply systems, and RWH tanks)
- d. Review of all current plans to provide school sanitation in Denuwara so that replication and duplication can be avoided
- e. Presentation of estimates as per final assessment

The results of the Assessment is presented in the separate annex which lists by school the status of each school, estimate of requirement , comments on requests made by school authorities and observation of research assistants.

A priority action list by school is also annexed for future decision making by NDB.

5. Survey Findings

Enquiries at the Denuwra Educational Zone have revealed that there is no current pending allocation at present for school sanitation refurbishment in this area. But there are numerous requests for other construction items and for demolition and removal of broken toilets. Of the 87 initially listed schools in Denuwara zone, two Gadaladeniya and Lagamuwa were already provided sanitation facilities by NDB and one more school Aladuwaka had been provided a toilet by SLWP. Gadaladeniya and Lagamuwa schools also got provision of RWH tanks.

Of the 84 school visited two were closed or closing down due to declining number of students. One had already been turned in to a youth training centre. Many had relatively small numbers of children. But zonal authorities affirmed that the state policy was to keep marginalized schools open for the benefit of the lower income groups who could not afford travel to towns in order to maintain literacy levels.

It was also apparent that some students who had originally been entered in to schools in town were now coming back to villages due to straitened economic situations. Minor observations such as the way children take off their shoes in school to save school leather and that many were observed to come in rubber slippers is indicative of the poverty level of the families.

School sanitation infrastructure had been seen as refurbished in many of the schools visited. However many did not have a proper systematic maintenance and cleansing plan for toilets. Also there was limited interest in maintaining the facilities in use by carrying our minor repairs such as fixing damaged doors or

locks in many schools, thereby ensuring that these refurbished facilities are available for the children. Very surprisingly some schools with minimal facilities rejected the need for refurbishment as this would give them further responsibilities in maintenance.

In 2013, NDB and SLWP upgraded two needy schools (Lagamuwa and Gadaladeniya) providing with them with sanitation and rainwater harvesting tanks. The provision of RWH is very critical to maintaining hygiene in school toilets. As this area gets frequent rain, the RWH tanks are continually replenished thereby saving on water bills. Another issue which arose is the negative perception regarding RWH tanks. Due to the dengue epidemic the Provincial Health authorities have been observed removing gutters in some schools.

Also some of the schools which have piped water supply have little interest in augmenting the existing water supply with rain water since they state the bill is paid by the state. This indicates a dependency which needs attitudinal reorientation. Most of the school officials interviewed felt that the RWH tanks were redundant and had to be convinced about their appropriateness in times of a possible drought and the need to conserve water.

6. Future action

The following 13 schools are placed in Category A in the priority list in case of refurbishment. The criteria used for selection were a) schools lacking in facilities, b) with students coming from poverty stricken families c) with school authorities

who were interested in provision of improved facilities for upgrading their schools and ensuring ongoing maintenance through a proper cleansing plan.

It is also interesting to note that many of these schools are in areas where there was a high level of insurgent activity in 1988-89.

- a. Gelioya Sri Pannarathana Central Collage, Gelioya
- b. Pitawalawatta Maha Vidyalaya, Gelioya
- c. Uda Aludeniya M.V. Weligalla
- d. Kotagaloluwa Kanishta Vidyalaya, Hodiadeniya
- e. Rangama M.V. Handessa
- f. Alapalawela M.V. Handessa
- g. Kiriwaula K.V. Pilimatalawa
- h. Aladuwaka Madduma Bandara K.V. Kadugannawa
- i. Urapola Susila Kanishta Vidyalaya, Pilimathalawa
- j. Walgowwagoda Buddhist School, Danture
- k. Rattepititiya M.M.V. Danture
- l. Edanduwawa K.V. ,Penideniya
- m. Al Siraj Muslim Maha Vidyalaya

School sanitation does not seem to be a priority issue for many principals. Therefore it issues is seen that this is as much an attitudinal as an infrastructural challenge. SLWP has been long working on the school sanitation advocacy highlighting the need to maintain safe hygienic sanitation for schools. Parallel to this activity a school sanitation sensitization material (in the form of a sanitation poster and leaflet) has been distributed by SLWP with collaboration of the Provincial education authorities at the Zonal Principals meeting in Central Province 800 schools had been thus covered by the program. Of this school 80 had been undertaken for conducting a special World Toilet Day activity in November 2013. This dissemination program had been well accepted and written reports have been sent back to the Provincial authorities.

This activity has raised interest in the issue of school sanitation among senior school authorities for ensuring long term health benefits for children.

Discussions are ongoing to make toilet inspection an integral part of the school inspections and encourage the school principals to pay more attention to ongoing maintenance.

The NDB program promotes the need for effective cleansing and maintenance to ensure that refurbished infrastructure provided is available for use in a satisfactory manner. This program should be used as a model for all school infrastructure refurbishment programs which should include and emphasize this maintenance component. The end result of this activity is ensuring a healthy younger generation who are environmentally conscious and sensitive to appropriate water use.

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For

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