

***PRESENT STATUS OF SCHOOL SANITATION  
IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCE***

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FINAL REPORT



***CARRIED OUT BY NETWWATER***

***For***

***DEPT OF EDUCATION CENTRAL PROVINCE, WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP  
and SRI LANKA WATER PARTNERSHIP***

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#### **4. Executive Summary**

*School sanitation systems in Central Province are not sufficient in quality or quantity for the needs of the school going community which account for about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the population in Central Province.*

*The average percentage of usable toilets for girl students was only around 60% and boy students 40% in the schools in Central Province. Girl children are the most affected and menstrual hygiene suffers. This situation is worse in the Kandy district than the Matale and Nuwaraeliya districts. Over 75% urinals in schools were unusable for both girls and boys. Among the unusable toilets about 1/4<sup>th</sup> were seen as possible to be put back in to use with minimal repairs which indicates that lack of resources alone is not the issue.*

*The study indicates that school sanitation is not seen as a critical priority by educational authorities. Replacement and maintenance is not timely or systematic. Most minor damages to toilets have been allowed to escalate to a point where major repairs and replacements are needed.*

*Very few schools have a regular daily cleansing regime (5%) while 58% have none at all. The lack of water supply is seen as a major barrier to systematic cleansing. The limited access to toilets has also resulted in the school community decreasing their water intake to dangerous levels during school hours, thereby affecting their long term health status.*

*The findings of the current Study can be used as guidelines to prepare school sanitation promotion program for the Central Province. It is recommended that a Zonal level officer be appointed to as a responsible supervising officer for school sanitation, an grading of schools be carried out according to proper maintenance of school water supply and sanitation annually, the Kandurata Suwa Kakulu school health promotion program restarted, and the possibility of including school sanitation as a topic to the school curriculum from Grade one explored.*

*Due to the support and enthusiasm of Central Province educational authorities it is suggested that a national policy for school sanitation be launched with Central Province as a pilot area be launched.*

## **1. Background**

Water, sanitation and hygiene are directly linked with the UN Millennium Development Goals, and sanitation is 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-aged children, highlighting the need for hygiene promotion and installation of WATSAN and hand-washing facilities in schools need to be given priority in development programs.

Unfortunately International Year of Sanitation has not been a catalyst to the anticipated extent in raising awareness on the need for qualitative and quantitative improvements in sanitation in Sri Lanka. The hygiene and sanitation facilities in most schools in Sri Lanka are currently seen as wholly inadequate. As they are frequently not separated according to sex and do not ensure privacy, the negative impact on girl students is greater than on boys. According to the school census of 2007, in Sri Lanka 3658 schools do not have adequate sanitation facilities and 2373 do not have drinking water facilities. UNICEF data too indicates that 20% of schools in Sri Lanka lack adequate safe water and sanitation facilities. In most cases the available means of sanitation continue to be primitive, unhygienic and lead to many illnesses, especially among children.

Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) is the local partner of the Global Water Partnership and dedicated to supporting integrated water resource management IWRM as solution for water related issues. SLWP works through NetWwater (NWW), a key partner for SLWP too has intergenerational equity as one of its three main areas of focus and works feels school children's health to be a critical development indicator. NetWwater is a founding partner of the Women for Water Partnership based in the Netherlands.

Recent activities carried out in schools by SLWP and NWW have revealed very poor sanitation levels in schools which is also indirectly linked to as well as the related issue of declining water quality due to discharge of sewage. There is a paucity of information on school sanitation in Central province In order to obtain field data to support an evidence based advocacy program. Therefore NetWwater, sponsored by Sri Lanka Water Partnership and Women for Water Partnership carried out a study of school sanitation in Central province in October/December 2010.

## **2. Introduction**

In Sri Lanka, many school toilets are in poor hygienic condition with damaged, dirty and unsafe toilets and limited water supply for sanitation needs. Some schools have neither water nor sanitation facilities at all. Without these basic necessities, girls, boys and teachers, both male and females continue to practice poor sanitary behavior and run the risk of diarrhoeal 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.

Addressing to this issue is a complicated process calling for multilateral approaches with support of a wide array of partners such as Department of Education, Ministry of Health , parent teacher associations, media, civil society and other partners who involved in the water and sanitation field .There is a need to sensitize the responsible partners especially at policy level to implement plans and strategies in national level to promote water sanitation and hygiene education while enhancing school water and sanitation facilities and proper maintenance.

## **3. Background of the Central Province**

The Central Province is located in the central hills of Sri Lanka and consists of the three Districts Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya. The land area of the Province is 5674 square kilometers which is 8.6% of the total land area of Sri Lanka. The province has a population of 2,421,148. The Province lies on 6.6°- 7.7° Northern latitude and between 80.5°-80.9° Eastern longitudes. The elevation in the Province ranges from 600 feet to over 6000 feet above sea level in the central hills. The Province is bordered by the North Central Province from the North the Mahaweli River and Uma Oya from the east to the south from the mountain range of Adams peak, Kirigalpottha and Thotapala and the mountain ranges Dolosbage and Galagedera from the west. Many important rivers have their origin from Central Province and therefore its water sheds are critical national importance. Any pollution due to discharge of sewage will be reflected in downstream water quality.

#### **4. Education administration, types and number of schools in the Central Province**

There are 1466 schools in Central Province there which coming under three main categories such as Type One, Two and Three based on the available resources. Also there are 15 education zones which headed by Zonal Directors under the Provincial Director of Education. The following table shows that the distribution of those schools among the districts zones and types.

Table 01 – Schools distribution among the zones.

District	Number of Educational zone	Number of schools			Total number of schools
		Type One schools	Type Two schools	Type Three schools	
Kandy	06	221	252	152	652
Matale	04	84	107	109	300
Nuwaraeliya	05	109	159	242	510
<b>Total</b>		<b>414</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1462</b>

Sources – Provincial department of Education, Central Province 2008

#### **School Population**

The following table shows that the school population in the Central Province. It is to be emphasized that school population represents roughly 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the provincial population of the Central Province. Therefore, providing suitable school water supply and sanitation facilities is very important in the view of health and hygiene requirements of this very significant group.

Table 02- Details of government schools in the Central Province

District	Total number of schools	Total number of students	Total number of teachers
Kandy	638	269,167	<b>15870</b>
Matale	306	93,521.00	<b>6016</b>
Nuwaraeliya	516	155144	<b>8792</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1466</b>	<b>517,832</b>	<b>30,678</b>

Sources –Provincial Department of Education, Central Province, Year 2008.

## **5. Objective of the Study**

Many issues are often raised regarding school sanitation from all parts of the country. According to the available Dept of Education records, provision of sanitation facilities for the schools is on a reasonably satisfactory level. However, oftentimes physical verification during visits for SLWP programs reveals that the actual situation of sanitation even in schools which are listed as having toilets leaves much to be desired. A recent statement from the Ministry of Water supply and Drainage stated that one million school children have no access to sanitation in school ( Annex 3) Therefore, in order to maintain a healthy and sanitary environment for school children , it is important to assess existing situations where there are poor levels of sanitation and identify possible remedial measures.

The main objective of the study is to carry out a situation analysis, identify current problems and causes thereof in relation to school sanitation in the central province. This study will help to identify the remedial actions to be undertaken for maintaining sustainable use of safe school sanitation facilities and improving levels of school hygiene.

### **5. 1 Methodology of the study**

The methodology for the Study consists of a combination of qualitative and qualitative methods based on the required information. The sample has been stratified at 3 levels to represent the all three category of schools in the Central Province. The main data collection tool was the questionnaire; in addition, observation, interviews and secondary data review have been used as data collection techniques.



## 5.2. Sample

The following table shows the sample frame of the study .It is represents 10% of schools from ll three categories.

Table 03– Sample of the study

District	Number of Educational Zones	Number of schools							
		Total schools Type 1	Schools for the sample	Total schools Type 2	Schools for the sample	Total schools Type 3	Schools for the sample	Total	Total number of schools for the sample
Kandy	06	221	22	252	25	152	15	652	65
Matale	04	84	08	107	11	109	11	300	30
Nuwaraeliya	05	109	11	159	16	242	24	510	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Sample size =10%</b>									

## 6. Results and Discussion

The following section will examine the results of the sample survey on the school sanitation in the Central Province.

### 6.1. Existing Toilet facilities and usage

According to the standard issued by the Department of Health, Sri Lanka, the following table shows that the required number of latrines and urinals for the students is not available for students.

Table 04– Availability of usable toilets for school children by districts

School Type	Kandy district				Matale district				Nuwaraeliya district			
	Usable Toilets %		Unusable Toilets %		Usable Toilets %		Unusable Toilets %		Usable Toilets %		Unusable Toilets %	
	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Type One *	76	55	24	45	77	43	33	57	60	44	40	56
Type Two	56	47	44	53	100	44	0	66	75	48	25	52
Type Three	40	29	60	71	23	15	67	85	37	37	63	63
<b>Total (Av)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>57</b>

\* = This category includes both National & Provincial schools which coming under Category type one

G = Girls, B =Boys

Table 05– Availability of usable toilets for school children in the central province

School Type	Central Province			
	Usable Toilets %		Unusable Toilets %	
	G	B	G	B
Type One Schools	71	47	29	53
Type Two Schools	77	53	23	47
Type Three Schools	33	27	67	73
<b>Total (Av)</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>58</b>

Above tables highlighted that comparatively toilet availability for girl students in schools is slightly higher than the boys students. The situation in Kandy and Nuwaraeliya districts were similar and the situation in Matale district is relatively better. However the average percentage of usable toilets for girl's students was only around 60% in the schools in Central Province. On the other hand it is significant that 40% of the girl students have no toilets to use at all during their stay in the schools in the province. Comparatively the availability of toilets for boys in the schools is worse than the availability of toilets for girls in the schools. Averagely in 50% of schools, there are no toilets available for boys during the school times. This situation is worse in the Kandy district than the Matale and Nuwaraeliya districts. When considering category wise, Type Three schools were at very poor levels in availability of toilets to use for students during the school times than the Category one and two schools. These Type Three schools cater to the most marginalized communities, mostly situated in the rural areas and in the estates and have least access to safe sanitation during the school times.

## 6.2. Existing situation of Unusable toilets

Table 06– Existing situation of unusable toilets

School Type	Kandy district				Matale district				Nuwaraeliya district			
	Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacement %		Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacement %		Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacement %	
	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Type One *	31	35	69	65	28	29	72	71	41	32	59	68
Type Two	30	23	70	77	19	20	81	80	29	21	71	79
Type Three	23	18	77	82	25	13	75	87	23	24	77	76
<b>Total (Av.)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>73</b>

\* = This category includes both National & Provincial schools which coming under Category type one

G = Girls, B =Boys

Table 07– Existing situation of unusable toilets in the central province

School Type	Central Province			
	Can use with small repairs %		Needed rehabilitation %	
	G	B	G	B
Type One Schools	33	32	67	68
Type Two Schools	26	21	74	79
Type Three Schools	24	18	76	82
<b>Total (Av)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>

The above table shows that, among the unusable toilets around one fourth of toilets can be put back into use relatively quickly with small scale repairs. These figures highlight institutional negligence and lack of a timely maintenance regime. Field study observations indicate that some times the reason for toilets being unavailable (especially for girls) was broken doors which could have been set right with timely use of hammer and nails.

Most of unusable school toilets had been abandoned without repair from many years and due to that delay, needed extensive rehabilitation or total replacement. Among these, the number of abandoned toilets girls' toilets was slightly higher than the boys' toilets.

It is noted throughout the survey that there is a tendency for the school authorities to delay small scale repairs until the entire structure has be replaced. For example school toilet doors which are slightly damaged are not patched up speedily, but left to decay and then need to be replaced totally involving a higher expense and a waste of resources. While existing funds available to schools may be sufficient for timely maintenance, at the point of requiring total replacement, the limited provincial resources available may not be sufficient.

### **6.3. Existing situation in availability of usable Urinals for school children**

Table 08– Existing situation of usable urinals

School Type	Kandy district				Matale district				Nuwaraeliya district			
	Usable Urinals %		Unusable Urinals %		Usable Urinals %		Unusable Urinals %		Usable Urinals %		Unusable Urinals %	
	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Type One *	12	49	88	51	40	57	60	43	18	43	82	57
Type Two	14	42	86	58	34	41	66	59	19	32	81	68
Type Three	23	32	77	68	25	28	75	72	08	18	92	82
<b>Total (Av.)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>69</b>

\* = This category includes both National & Provincial schools which coming under Category type one

G = Girls, B =Boys

Table 09– Availability of usable urinals for school children in the central province

School Type	Central Province			
	Usable Urinals %		Unusable Urinals %	
	G	B	G	B
Type One Schools	23	50	77	50
Type Two Schools	22	34	78	66
Type Three Schools	19	26	81	74
<b>Total (Av)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>63</b>

The situation of usable urinals also was not on the satisfactory level. The above table highlights that the usable urinals for girls are a very low percentage, around 20% with the situation in Kandy and Nuwaraeliya being almost same; the situation in the Matale district was relatively better. Comparatively the situation of usable urinals for boys was higher than that of usable urinals for girls. As an average percentage it was around 41% and comparatively there is a 50% positive difference than the available usable urinals for boys. It was observed that, the main reason was lesser urinals for girls is that majority of schools there are no separate urinals for girls and they are using the toilets for purposes of urination too . However the situation in Matale district was relatively better than the other two districts.

#### 6.4. Existing situation of Unusable Urinals

Table 10– Existing situation of unusable urinals

School Type	Kandy district				Matale district				Nuwaraeliya district			
	Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacements %		Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacements %		Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacements %	
	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B
Type One *	14	23	86	77	29	29	73	71	41	33	59	68
Type Two	14	24	86	76	20	20	82	80	29	22	71	79
Type Three	17	31	83	69	26	13	76	87	23	25	77	76
<b>Total (Av.)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>72</b>

\* = This category includes both National & Provincial schools which coming under Category type one

G=Girls, B=Boys

Table 11– Existing situation of unusable urinals in the central province

School Type	Central Province			
	Can use with small repairs %		Needed replacement %	
	G	B	G	B
Type One Schools	28	28	72	72
Type Two Schools	21	22	79	78
Type Three Schools	22	23	78	77
<b>Total (Av)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>

This table highlighted that the around 24% existing abandoned urinals too can be put back to use with small scale repairs. This indicates that currently there is limited priority for urinal maintenance which leads to this type of situation. The above table highlights that over 75% urinals in schools in Kandy district 79% in Matale district and 72% in Nuwaraeliya district were unusable for both girls and boys indicating the need for newly constructed urinals for school children in the Central Province.

### **6.5. Reasons for not using urinals and toilets**

Table 12– Reasons for not being able to use urinals and toilets

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Toilets %</b>	<b>Urinals %</b>
Defecation on the open floor (out area from squatting pans )	52	41
Bad smell due to not cleaning	63	71
Blocked squatting pans by insertion of rocks/ metal/wooden sticks/pens etc	61	42
No roofs	07	09
No Doors	21	08
No water	46	31
Damaged	38	21
Situated in shrubbery /far away from the classes with poor security , especially for girls	08	12

During the study, it was observed that there are three major reasons for students being unable to use toilets and urinals in schools. The major problem was the offensive smell due to not cleaning toilets and urinals regularly. This is an easily avoidable reason which can be remedied by establishing a proper and continuous cleaning mechanism. The second reason was that students had defecated out of the squatting pan, in and around the toilets and urinals. This reason too is also connected with lack of a proper daily cleansing regime. Due to these unpleasant reasons, most students are trying not to use toilets and urinals during the school times. They achieve this by trying to contain their water intake during school time because it will help to control urination during their stay in the school premises. The next highlighted reason was students themselves blocking the squatting pans by throwing in rocks, sticks, pieces of metal, pens etc. It is difficult to deduce reasons for this widely prevalent practice which is reported from all parts of the country. This is difficult to understand but it has been assumed by some teachers that this was due to education related stresses faced by students.

During the study it was observed that especially the damaged toilets have been abandoned for long periods of time. In some schools toilets were not useable due to lack of privacy caused by damaged doors. Damaged roofs or lack of roofs were also the reasons in some schools to discourage the

students from use of toilets and urinals. It needs also to be highlighted that 21% of the toilets cannot be used as there are no doors, which is a relatively simple factor which can be remedied by school and Zonal authorities. Girl children have been noted covering toilet doors with newspapers while other girls use the toilet. Above figures highlighted that totally damaged toilets cannot be used in the schools and those needed the replacements.

The lack of a water supply during school hours is among the major reasons limiting toilet availability. This reason is strongly connected with the poor cleansing factor as well and leads to poor overall hygiene, lack of hand washing as well. In few schools the toilets and urinals were situated far way from their class rooms and girl children especially had security concerns. Therefore the students were discouraged to use toilets and urinals during the school times especially during the rainy seasons and after hours.

The above analysis shows that, many reasons for limiting use of toilets and urinals during the schools times are avoidable if concerned school stakeholders can be persuaded to make a special effort to 1) establish a regular cleansing mechanism and 2) carry out timely low cost maintenance and repairs. The current situation is indicative of the very low priority accorded to school sanitation and related levels of hygiene by the relevant authorities. It seems that some school authorities are not aware of the discomfort and long term negative impacts caused to students by these oversights. Therefore it is essential that the provincial education authorities launch immediate awareness programs for school authorities.

#### **6.6. Sources of water**

Post defecation ablutions are culturally necessary in Sri Lanka as in most of Asia. The lack of water therefore is a major drawback for maintaining effective sanitation systems in schools. The following table shows that the existing situation of water supply facilities in the schools in the Central Province.



Table 13– Source of water for school toilets

Type of water sources	Kandy district (%)			Matale District (%)			Nuwaraeliya District (%)		
	T 1	T 2	T3	T 1	T 2	T 3	T 1	T 2	T 3
Pipe borne water supply	64	36	17	35	20	10	24	12	03
School dug well	26	17	11	43	41	42	19	07	04
Rain Water Harvesting	3	11	28	07	13	14	34	46	46
Hand Pump /Tube wells	1	2	2	05	08	08	0	0	0
No water facility in side the school	6	34	42	10	18	28	23	35	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Comparatively the situation in Kandy district is better than the other two districts; the situation in Nuwaraeliya district is the worst. According to the above figures in Kandy district only 39% schools have pipe borne water supply facilities and among those schools only 35% schools provided water supply facilities in to the toilets and urinals or at the closest point. In Kandy district 61% of schools have point water sources and therefore very little chance to provide water supply facilities into the toilets and urinals. In Matale district average school pipe borne water supply coverage was only 20% and among them only 30% school have been provided with water supply facilities in to the toilets and urinals or nearby. In Matale district , 80% of schools still using point sources which are situated within school premises or outside to the school premises. Comparatively the situation in Nuwaraeliya district was very poor. Only 13% schools have been used pipe borne water supply facilities as their main source of water supply while rest of schools use point water sources situated with the school premises or out side to the school .

This situation will not encourage students and teachers to use the toilets and urinals as often as needed because they have to put in extra efforts and time to fetch water for purpose of sanitation. This situation also directly correlates with the poor cleansing and maintenance of the toilets and urinals because all forms of toilet cleansing needs large quantities of water. Lack of water proper supply facilities is one of the main reasons to discourage the school communities from regularly cleaning the school toilets and urinals and thereby maintaining a hygienic environment.

## **6.7. Cleansing and Maintenance of the school Toilets and Urinals**

Table 14– cleaning of the school toilets and urinals

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>urinals %</b>	<b>Toilets %</b>
Daily	03	05
Weekly	08	12
Monthly	06	10
Some times	22	15
No systematic cleaning at all	61	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Above figures highlighted that over 61% urinals and over 58% of the toilets in the schools were not cleansed at all by school authorities in the Central Province. They depend on the users, the children themselves to clean the facility by dashing water after use. The toilets which were listed as “cleaning some times” are often only cleansed due to impending visits by superior officials or school functions. Meanwhile only 17% schools have a mechanism to clean urinals at least once a month and the 27% schools have a system to clean school toilets at least once a month. This is seen as wholly inadequate for maintaining a hygienic environment.

These figures highlight both the low priority accorded to sanitation in the school system and the urgent need for a proper and continuous mechanism to be put in place to regularly clean toilets and urinals in all schools.

### **6.8. Responsibility for cleaning toilets and urinals**

There is a range of persons/groups listed as actually engaged in cleansing toilets below

Table 15– Persons responsible for cleansing of toilets and urinals

<b>By whom</b>	<b>%</b>
Students	22
Parents	12
Laborers	08
No one	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority of the schools in the Central Province (58%) does have not identified persons or mechanism to clean toilets and urinals. However the schools which have systems in place to clean and maintain urinals and toilets by school children themselves, parents or laborers are generally well maintained.

### **6.9 Availability of Hand Washing facilities**

During the study it was observed that only few school have been arranged the facility to hand washing with separate places with water supply facilities. The following table shows that the existing situation of available facilities for the hand washing in the schools in the central province.

Table 16– Existing Hand washing facilities

<b>Availability of Hand washing facilities</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>			<b>Total Average %</b>
	Kandy district	Matale district	Nuwaraeliya district	
Available	39	23	13	25
Not available	61	77	87	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Above table shows that only 25% schools have been arranged hand washing facilities with separate washing facilities.

Majority of schools with this facility are Type one schools but it was observed that among those schools only very few schools have been provided the soap or washing liquid to use for hand washing. The main reason for not provided the hand washing facilities was lack of water supply facilities in the school premises.

#### **6.10 Menstrual Hygiene facilities**

During the study it was observed that majority of schools were not concerned about menstrual hygiene facilities in the schools. According to the survey results less than 5% schools in all types and all three districts have been provided facilities to dispose sanitary napkins. Impact of this lack of facility as well as poor toilet availability is that in the majority of schools, absenteeism of girls students is noted during menstrual cycles. The lack of disposal facilities also leads to toilets being put out of commission as in many schools (especially the squatting pans ) girl's toilets have been blocked due to incorrect disposal of used sanitary napkins. This is seen as an area of hygiene behavior which is to the most extent totally neglected by the school communities and there is a need to deal with the culture of silence related to this area. However there are some instances of schools such as Nugawela Balika who have undertaken appropriate responses in this area to develop a girl friendly school.

#### **7. Findings**

Basic finding of the school sanitation survey in the Central Province are as follows

- 1) Many schools have very low levels of school sanitation which poses a grave risk to the health of school children and damage the hygienic environment of the school .
- 2) In many schools the problem in sanitation is not lack of resources but negligence and lack of priority given to sanitation. In some schools, maintaining a healthy environment through proper school sanitation is not seen as a prime activity among the school maintenance activities. Comparatively limited priority is accorded to sanitation than the other day to day school activities in the schools.
- 3) There are some correlation between issues in school sanitation behavior and their particular cultural factors. As example some problems are different in urban, estate and rural schools.
- 4) Schools which have well organized and timely mechanisms for cleansing and maintenance of latrines, urinals and related school environment had very few sanitation related issues and good access for students health needs.
- 5) Lack of water supply facility within the school premises is one of the major barriers to maintaining a proper sanitary environment in schools.

- 6) In many schools, authorities have not developed a proper mechanism to get support services from the parents and other service bearers for improving school sanitation.
- 7) Available sanitation facilities are not compatible with gender and age of the school children. Girl friendly toilets supporting appropriate menstrual hygiene are not a norm. Therefore girl students are facing many problems due to poor school sanitation than the boys during the school times due to their greater need for privacy and special needs during menstruation.
- 8) Existing sanitation facilities can be upgraded up to usable level in many schools with very limited outlay and effort.
- 9) School syllabuses and study programs do not accord enough the priority given to get involvement of students to improve the sanitation environment within the school premises through greater hygiene awareness.
- 10) There are no proper mechanism to train school children when they enter the school regarding the importance of hygienic behavior such as cleaning toilets after use.
- 11) In many schools, urinals and latrines are situated far away from their classrooms ; it has created some problems of security and privacy especially for girls.
- 12) Technical lapses cause some schools face problems in overflowing toilet pits and corresponding unhygienic conditions especially during the rainy season,
- 13) The initial findings highlighted that, it is necessary to develop appropriate approaches in the long run to establish better sanitation environments within the school premises.
- 14) Awareness programs are needed with guidance of provincial authorities to change attitude of the school communities towards maintenance of school sanitation.

## **8. Conclusion**

The South Asia Conference on Sanitation ( SACOSAN) was held in Colombo in April 4-6<sup>th</sup> 2011. School sanitation and menstrual hygiene management were underlined as key areas for improvement to be undertaken according to the South Asian ministerial declaration. SACOSAN gives an impetus for undertaking interventions in school sanitation with full backing of political and administrative decisionmakers.

Within the school administration system, limited priority has been given for school sanitation and therefore the great majority of toilets and urinals in Central province schools are not in an usable condition. However as the below Table 17 shows this situation is not limited to Central province alone but is a national issue.

Province	Availability of Sanitation Facilities					No. of school lacking Water facility
	0%	1% - 25%	26% -50%	51% - 75%	76% - 99%	
Western	39	15	208	188	95	44
Southern	105	25	254	125	40	131
Central	192	20	234	116	38	284
North Western	262	46	329	144	32	166
Northern	198	9	127	71	18	199
Eastern	224	25	178	90	32	257
North Central	149	19	201	83	23	253
Uva	38	2	108	59	22	123
Sabaragamuwa	92	16	270	120	26	403
Total	1299	177	1909	996	326	1860

Table 17 - Identified Gaps in School sanitation by Province

The impact of this lapse is that school children and teachers face many problems during the school times due to difficulties to achieve their physical needs of urination and defecation. To counter these difficulties the school communities have responded by limiting or stopping drinking water before schooling and during school times to control their visits to toilets and urinals. This may create long term health effects such as urine infections and long term kidney disease.

School sanitation can be improved with minimum financial outlay, if systematic cleansing and maintenance systems are put in place and if sanitation is accorded the priority it requires.

Sensitization programs and an evidence based advocacy leading to attitude changes and proactive thinking is needed among parents and school administration authorities coupled with programs to promote behavioral change in students. School level administration needs to be held accountable for maintenance and timely repairs of onsite sanitation facilities with the Zonal authorities responsible for monitoring of repairs which cannot be carried out by school authorities alone.

This study of school sanitation was launched as a social responsibility action after observance of many lapses in sanitation during school water awareness programs carried out by NetWwater and Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) . Central Province authorities are to be highly commended for supporting this activity which seeks to promote health of the school community, when the current situation was first brought to their notice. To a large extent the situation studied in Central Province is probably replicated in other provinces too. Therefore a positive successful activity within Central Province making school sanitation, a priority for the health and future well being of its students can become an example for all other provinces too and have a positive impact nationally. With this view the Apex meeting on School sanitation sensitization in Central Province held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January by

the Provincial Ministry of Education with facilitation by NetWwater and Sri Lanka Water Partnership was successful with all participants coming up the recommendations for an awareness, advocacy and action program which are listed below.

#### **9. Recommendations for a future action program for Central Province**

1. Evaluate the schools based on the criteria on proper maintenance of school water supply and sanitation annually and categorized them into four categories as Gold, Silver, Bronze etc. This will help to maintain the attention of school authorities on school sanitation.
2. Appoint the Assistant Zonal Director of Health and Physical education as a responsible supervising officer for school sanitation.
3. To review the possibility of restarting the *Kandurata Suwa Kakulu* school health promotion program.
4. To explore the possibility of including school sanitation as a topic to the school curriculum from Grade one.
5. Use the findings of the current school sanitation survey conducted by NetWwater as guidelines to prepare school sanitation promotion program for the Central Province.
6. Introduce a national policy for school sanitation with Central Province as a pilot area.
7. Improve water availability for school sanitation needs with methods such as rain water harvesting

**Annex 01-Details of the proposed Sample for the Schools sanitation survey - Central Province - Sample size = 10%**

District	Zone	No. of Type 01 Schools	Selected Number of schools for the survey	No .of Type 02 Schools	Selected Number of schools for the survey	No .of Type 03 Schools	Selected Number of schools for the survey	Total Number of schools	Total Number of schools selected for the sample
<b>Kandy</b>	Kandy	<b>52</b>	5	43	4	18	<b>2</b>	<b>113</b>	11
	Denuwara	<b>31</b>	3	35	4	18	<b>2</b>	<b>84</b>	09
	Gampola	<b>34</b>	3	62	6	39	<b>4</b>	<b>135</b>	13
	Katugasthotta	<b>46</b>	5	44	4	31	<b>3</b>	<b>121</b>	12
	Wattegama	<b>35</b>	3	35	3	11	<b>1</b>	<b>81</b>	07
	Teldeniya	<b>23</b>	2	33	3	35	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	08
<b>District Total</b>		<b>221</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Matale</b>	Matale	<b>41</b>	4	49	5	25	<b>2</b>	<b>115</b>	11
	Naula	<b>10</b>	1	15	1	16	<b>2</b>	<b>41</b>	4
	Gallewella	<b>25</b>	2	33	3	43	<b>5</b>	<b>101</b>	10
	Wilgamuwa	<b>08</b>	1	10	1	25	<b>2</b>	<b>43</b>	04
<b>District Total</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Nuwaraeliya</b>	Nuwaraeliya	<b>21</b>	2	49	5	69	<b>7</b>	<b>146</b>	14
	Hatton	<b>33</b>	3	44	5	61	<b>6</b>	<b>138</b>	14
	Kothmale	<b>23</b>	2	19	2	36	<b>4</b>	<b>78</b>	08
	Walapane	<b>19</b>	2	19	2	43	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>	08
	Hangurankeththa	<b>13</b>	01	28	3	3	<b>3</b>	<b>74</b>	07
<b>District Total</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>242</b>		<b>517</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>414</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>142</b>



**Annex 02**  
**Questionnaire for Gathering School Water Sanitation Information for Baseline Data**  
**Central Province, Sri Lanka**

<b>General Information</b>									
Name of the District	Kandy			Matale			Nuwaraeliya		
Education Zone									
Division				School type :			A B C Provincial National		
<b>School Profile</b>									
Name of the school									
School Category	Boys			Girls			Mix		
Total Students	Boys		Girls		Teachers		Male		Female
Available Resources	Com Lab	Laboratory	Library	Waste separation	Band	Multimedia	Vehicles	Other	
<b>Water Sanitation Facilities</b>									
No of Student toilets	Boys Use/Unusable		Girls Use/Unusable		Mixed Use/Unusable				
If unusable state reasons									
Student toilets with water facilities	Boys			Girls			Mixed		
	Inside			Inside			Inside		
	Adjacent			Adjacent			Adjacent		
	Distance			Distance			Distance		
No of Student urinals	Boys Use/Unusable		Girls Use/Unusable		Mixed Use/Unusable				
If unusable state reasons									
Any security issues ( interviewer observation )									
No of Teachers toilets	Male Use/Unusable			Female Use /Unusable			Mixed Use/Unusable		
If unusable state reasons									
No of Teachers toilets with water	Male Use/Unusable			Female Use /Unusable			Mixed Use/unusable		
School water source	Tap line		Well		Hand pump		Rain water		Neighbor
If drinking water source varies from above please mentioned									
<b>Water sanitation maintenance</b>									
Toilet Cleaning	Daily		Weekly		Two week		Monthly		Never
Cleaning mechanism	Students / cleaning roster Y/N		Parents		Paid Labor		Voluntary Labor		Other
No of recently	Student			Teachers			Urinal		

repaired toilet 2009/10			
No of new toilet constructed 2009/10	Student	Teachers	Urinal
If YES (Above) source of funding	1. 2. 3.		
Parents involvement for toilets maintenance	Poor	Satisfactory	Good
Students involvement for toilets maintenance	Poor	Satisfactory	Good
Availability of responsible teacher for school water and sanitation facilities	Yes		No
External support for school water sanitation development 2009/10	Yes		No
Type of development	Water	Toilets	Other
Name of the Organizations			
School toilets pits are overflowing	Yes		No
If YES Reasons			
Discharge of sewage to water body	River / Canal	Lake /Tank	Paddy field Wetland
<b>Observed behaviors of the children on water &amp; sanitation –Teachers observation</b>			
Girls			
Boys			
Teachers			
Reasons			
Is there absenteeism related to menstruation and poor school sanitation facilities	Yes		No
If YES	Frequently		Rarely
<b>Fund allocation for school water sanitation development</b>			
Zonal education	Yes	No	Not requested Not utilized
School funds	Yes	No	Not utilized
Parents	Yes		No
NGOS	Yes		No
Service clubs	Yes		No
<b>Students Perception</b>			
	Boy		Girl
Water			
Sanitation			
Involvement of other organizations in school water and sanitation ( Awareness)	Yes		No
If YES specify	1. 2. 3.		

Any other	
Drinking water during school	
Harassments	

Name of the Research officer .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Special Notes: Discussion and observation

## No toilets for 1 mn school children

By SANDUN A. JAYASEKERA

More than 1,300 schools out of 9,500 or nearly one million school children in the country do not have toilet facilities, a survey conducted by the Water Supply and Drainage Ministry has revealed.

In some cases children and adults did not use a toilet at all as a habit which was shocking

**TOILETS**  
86% 14%

More than 1,300 schools out of 9,500 or nearly one million school children in the country do not have toilet facilities.

DM GraphicsDesk

See A6

SMS your views & queries  
0777 808 898

## No toilets..

Contd. from A1

Secretary, Water Supply and Drainage A. Abegunasekara told the media yesterday a regional 'Awareness Workshop on South Asia Conference on Sanitation - SACOSAN IV - 2011' would be held in April to find solution to these and other sanitation issues in the region.

It is also found out that in some cases children and adults did not use a toilet at all as a habit which was shocking in a country where literacy rate was nearly 95% and health indicators were much higher in comparison to other countries in the region. Mr. Abeygunasekara stressed.

The SACOSAN IV is to be held on April 4-8 will discuss among other issues on the use of toilets, proper disposal of human waste in an environment friendly manner and importance of hand washing after the use toilets, he said.

Absence of hygienic behaviour, and lack of access to safe

**TOILETS**  
86% 14%

More than 1,300 schools out of 9,500 or nearly one million school children in the country do not have toilet facilities.

DM GraphicsDesk

More than 1,300 schools out of 9,500 or nearly one million school children in the country do not have toilet facilities, a survey conducted by the Water Supply and Drainage Ministry has revealed.

sanitation facilities and services was a major cause to diseases world over and 2.6 billion out of the 7 billion population in the world were without hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Though Sri Lanka had a better record, one billion out of them were from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. That was why the SACOSAN IV was much important to the region, he stressed.

Some 300 delegates from seven Asian countries India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan will take part in the conference which President Mahinda Rajapaksa is expected to declare open the main session.