SOME LEARNINGS

The concept of WASH and environment-friendly school is well internalised by teachers and students in the pilot schools. Change in behaviour of the students towards sanitation and hygiene practices is markedly visible. Students regularly practise hygiene, maintain cleanliness of the school premises as well as practise the productive use and reuse of water in the demonstration plots (kitchen garden). Water infrastructures installed in the school premise is clean. These initiatives towards sanitation and hygiene measures are self initiated among students, peer evaluation and other campaigns have been very useful to promote.

Because of these, innovations towards sanitation and hygiene measures are self initiated by students, e.g., construction of Chang (raised platform for drying utensils), sanitation for collection of dust in the classrooms, etc. Extracurricular activities and feeling of leadership in students, e.g. construction of Chang (raised platform for drying utensils), sanitation for collection of dust in the classrooms, etc. Extracurricular activities and feeling of leadership among students, peer evaluation and other campaigns have been very useful to promote.

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WASH AND ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY SCHOOL

In order to operationalize the concept of WASH and Environment Friendly School, it is crucial to ensure that the school management committee, teachers, District Education Office and WASH-P has been developed on what the school is about. The school is conceived as a centre of transformation by inculcating the values of water, sanitation, hygiene, and Cooperation (SDC). In the context of WARM-P’s working districts, Blue School Consortium for Water and Sanitation Project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation(Nepal) helps the school to develop or improve WASH infrastructure to develop edge in the existing curricula of the schools. WARM-P / HELVETAS, with the support of local NGOs, helps the school to develop or improve WASH infrastructure to develop edge in the existing curricula of the schools.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the WASH and Environment Friendly School is to develop the school as a centre of transformation by instilling the values of water, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, environment, and water resources in the students through theoretical and practical learning exercises in order to change the behaviour not only of their own but also of their families and communities. The specific objectives are:

1. Improving health of students through:
   - reduction of waterborne diseases by providing quality drinking water,
   - reduction of various infectious diseases by ensuring clean and safe environment,
   - sustainable sanitation and hygiene behaviour change.

2. Raising awareness of students, teachers and parents on WASH, environment and climate change through:
   - integrating these topics in the existing curricula of the school and their exercises,
   - organizing various awareness activities regarding WASH and environmental education,
   - organizing extra-curricular activities (ECA) in WASH and environment related topics.

3. Creating an effective learning environment and enhancing dignity of students for increased enrolment and better retention of the students especially of girls through:
   - promotion of practical learning based on demonstration exercises,
   - gender-neutral division of sanitation hygiene-related tasks such as cleaning toilets, fetching and boiling water,
   - ensuring provision of menstrual hygiene in girls’ toilets and learning about menstrual hygiene and physical and emotional changes during puberty

ACTIVITIES UNDER WASH AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY SCHOOL

1. Access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene
   - Construction of new or improvement of existing sanitation facilities, e.g. separate toilets for girls and boys, toilets for girls equipped with menstrual hygiene facilities, etc.
   - Improvement or construction of drinking water systems, rain water harvesting systems.

2. Water, land, forest and watershed management
   - Terraces improvement, nursery management and composting of organic waste
   - Construction of retention and recharge ponds
   - Demonstration plot for kitchen gardening and its promotion
   - Promotion of reuse of the urine through Ecosan toilet

3. Environment and climate change adaptation
   - Rain water harvesting techniques and management of excess water
   - Environment and climate change related education and provision of resource materials
   - Rainwater, recharge and reuse of water and their techniques
   - Learning visits and demonstration of solar energy, biogas and improved cooking stoves

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

The success of WASH and environment-friendly school is dependent on the collaboration amongst School Management Committee, District Education Office, the school, teachers, students and parents. Government of Nepal has a policy that allows schools to develop and implement 20% local curricula based on the needs of the local context. This provision provides foundation for integrating REAP (Renewable energy, environment, nutrition and climate change-related concepts and knowledge in the existing curricula of the schools). WARM-P / HELVETAS with the support of local NGOs, help the school to develop in improve WASH infrastructure to develop curricula, extra-curricular activities and learning resources as well as build the capacity of teachers to implement them. Implementation of WASH and environment-friendly school has three phases:

1. Access to safe drinking water, sustainable sanitation and hygiene is ensured.
2. Students learn and practise uses of water for domestic and productive purposes, water source protection, adaptation to climate change, and environmental sanitation.
3. Better teaching-learning environment is created through the integration of WASH and environment-related topics in the existing curricula in a creative manner.

In order to operationalize the concept of WASH and Environment Friendly School, it is crucial to ensure that the school management committee, teachers, District Education Office and WASH-P has been developed on what the school is about. The school is conceived as a centre of transformation by inculcating the values of water, sanitation, hygiene, and Cooperation (SDC). In the context of WARM-P’s working districts, Blue School Consortium for Water and Sanitation Project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In the context of WARM-P’s working districts, Blue School Consortium for Water and Sanitation Project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).