

Monthly Newsletter – October 2020

❖ EVENTS

Hand Hygiene For All - Global Handwashing Day 2020

Global Handwashing Day (GH Day) was observed on October 15 on the theme “**Hand Hygiene for All.**” Water For People India Trust in collaboration with National Stock Exchange Foundation observed GH Day in Birbhum district, Rajnagar in the presence of Chief Health Officers, Gram Pradhan/Upa-Pradhan (elected heads), Self Help Group members, health workers (ASHA, ANM, AWWs, AWHs) and mothers to spread awareness on importance of clean hands. The program aimed to:

- Spread the importance of handwashing and its impact on our health and well-being to rural communities and stakeholders especially during COVID times.
- To tap the existing grassroots level Government and Non-Government platforms to sensitize people regarding requirement of handwashing at critical times.



An online painting competition was organized in five schools in Kolkata. Around 460 students participated in the competition. The best paintings will be demonstrated in public places to generate awareness among masses. Mass awareness campaigns were organized through Auto Miking and leaflet distribution in Odisha (Ganjam and Khordha) and West Bengal (Howrah and Hooghly).



In Amravati, GH day was celebrated in six villages (Khatkali, Kulangana, Jamun Nala, Tembru, Borda and Jaitadehi) in Chikhaldara block. Around 509 community members including women and children actively participated in the celebrations.

As part of public awareness program, Development Management Institute (DMI) organized WASH Talks titled ‘Hand Hygiene For All’ on October 14 calling upon the society to adopt safe handwashing practices to fight

COVID-19. Water For People India represented by Mr. Vivek Sharan, State in Charge, Bihar was invited as one of the panelists. He discussed the various WASH initiatives undertaken as part of Project Sheohar and the novel concept of stimulating behaviour change through locally available social art (SABC). The discussion was recorded and uploaded on You Tube channel WASH Observatory, DMI - <https://youtu.be/cj00skoqHY0>

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Annual Meeting of VWSC

The Annual meeting of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) was held on October 15 in Bhabanipur Gram Panchayat, Rajnagar block, Birbhum district. During the meeting, Water For People India Trust team facilitated in finalising the pockets for triggering sanitation activities within the community, budget preparation for mini pipe water scheme, role of water user committees to ensure

sustainability of created water points, finalising the rate chart (service fees) for Jalabandhus, and to facilitate “Para Baithaks” (community meetings) to plan and finalise the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for the period 2021-2022. 31 VWSC members participated in the meeting.

Hygiene Awareness Session for Nirmal Bandhus

An awareness session on safe handwashing practices and personal hygiene was organized for Nirmal Bandhus (Sanitation workers) consisting of 35 female labourers (unskilled), supervisors and local government representatives from project areas in Kolkata, West Bengal. The labourers are in direct contact with filth and dirt and in dire need of orientation on personal hygiene and safety. Hand sanitizers, liquid handwash and masks were distributed among the participants.



Training on Field Water Testing Kit



Water For People India Trust organized a training on water testing in nine villages in Chikhaldara block, Amravati district, Maharashtra. Total 71 people participated in the training (28 male, 43 female) including Gram Panchayat members, ASHA and Anganwadi workers. Demonstration was provided using a simple and user-friendly Water Testing Kit to check water contamination and presence of harmful bacterial pathogens and methods to keep water source safe. Post training the testing kits were provided to the GPs to

undertake regular and planned drinking water testing to prevent waterborne diseases.

❖ COVID-19 RESPONSE

Visual Aids for Hygiene Promotion

Field Facilitators in Sheohar district are using smart phones for dissemination of WASH messages in the communities. Audio-visual materials are being used as part of interpersonal communication (IPC). With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, visual aids through mobile phones are helping the rural communities to take necessary precautions and adopt safe WASH practices. Field Facilitators are adhering to protocols and guidelines issued by the government and maintaining social distance during interaction with the rural communities. Short films are also shared with the communities having mobile phones to educate them and their family members.



❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Groundwater Recharge in Schools

Water For People India Trust has piloted the School Water Infrastructure and Conservation Program in partnership with Ernst & Young Foundation and Samagra Shiksha Mission Kolkata as part of Project Unnata Vidyalaya Unnata Kolkata in West Bengal. Under this

initiative, Water For People India Trust has implemented a model for tapping annual 1.8 million litres rainwater and channelling them underground through recharge pits in two schools - Arya Parishad Vidyalaya and Maulana Hasrat Mohani Memorial Girls High School. Total 3017 students have been reached through improved water and sanitation facilities. The key learnings from the project will help to replicate and scale up this model in other schools.

❖ SANITATION INITIATIVES

Development of Ceramic MF Membrane with Higher Porosity/Pore Size

Under the Membrane based Shit Straw (PLE) program, the trials on fabrication of tubes was undertaken. It was proposed to carry out the activities on slip casting and extrusion of ceramic tubes at M/s Kumar Ceramics, Balasore for increasing the pore size and/or porosity. Batch trials for slip casting of crucibles/trays using moulds available were carried out to optimize the composition. It was planned initially to fabricate single channel tube by extrusion for evaluating the property of the sample based on the selected composition. The raw materials for extrusion of ceramic tubes with increased porosity were identified and the characteristics were analyzed. Exploratory trials of tubes with smaller sizes (10 mm OD x 7 mm ID) could be carried out using selected grade of coarse-grained alumina.

Turbid Water Filtration Test using Slip Cast Tray (2M2808 with 1% w/v dust content, 18.1g charcoal in 1.8L)

