



Enhancing hygiene and inclusivity in schools

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Impact of safe water and effective sanitation at Rashid Adarsha High School in Pallabi, Dhaka

40% of girls miss about three school days during menstruation

The lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools is a widespread problem that has a negative impact on the health, education, and wellbeing of students - especially girls. This leads to gender inequality in education. Rashid Adarsha High School serves as an example, with over 90% of its students coming from nearby slum areas. The school, comprising of 1,153 students, 42%~ of which are girls, lacked proper WASH facilities, including menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities in the toilets. Furthermore, there was a notable lack of hygiene knowledge among students.



Our work

We developed facilities that enable access to safe water and sanitation in the school. With a focus on empowering students to drive change beyond school and within their households, we conducted regular hygiene sessions and campaigns. On the ground floor, separate latrines have been constructed for girls and boys, with one chamber designed to be disability-friendly.

These latrines are equipped with running water facilities, ensuring convenience for students. All girls' chambers are equipped with menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities, inclusive of a sanitary pad vending machine, to help manage periods, enabling female teachers and students to manage periods.

Towards WASH equality in schools and democratisation of hygiene knowledge

Significant improvements have been achieved in school WASH facilities and hygiene practices. Because the school caters to students who come from surrounding slums, influence of the hygiene knowledge dispersed resulted in community-wide positive impact. WASH interventions reduced absenteeism among the girls during menstruation days.