

Vasanthi, India

Vasanthi lives in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, India. She is 10 years old and goes to Marachipatti Primary School.

Discover how the school health club educates others about staying healthy.

The school worked with WaterAid to build clean toilets and train people to talk about how to prevent disease.

Before the new toilets were built, children were often ill. Now Vasanthi and her class mates chat about health with their parents so the whole community learn how to have healthier lives. >>

Vasanthi at her school. →



↑ Vasanthi and her class mates queue to use the toilets.



↑ A mural helps explain how to stay healthy.

Q&A

Hello Vasanthi, can you tell me what difference the toilet block has made to your life at school?

“Before we had the toilets we had to use the thorny bushes on the outskirts of the village. Sometimes snakes would come and disturb us. I would run away as quickly as possible. This wasn't much fun.”

Your school has a health club – what did you learn from it?

“Through the personal hygiene committee, we have learnt to cut our nails and wear clean clothes.”

What information do you give to others about personal hygiene?

“If somebody else comes to school looking dirty we ask their parents to send them cleaner next time. We also tell our parents to wash their hair, clean their teeth and wash their hands with soap after handling garbage.”



↑ Members of the school hygiene group keep the water pump clean.



↑ Students are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water.



India

Only 33% of India's population have access to a toilet.