

# Baseline Assessment of School Sanitation Infrastructure – DCM Shriram

## Background:

A clean and hygienic school environment is necessary to ensure children's well-being and dignity, and provide an enabling learning space. Numerous studies have shown that most children in rural areas, especially girls and children who are differently-abled, drop out of school due to the lack of toilets or safe drinking water facilities. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, which was enacted in 2009, states that all schools must have separate toilets for girls and boys as well as safe drinking water facilities. This was further emphasised upon by the Supreme Court who took cognisance of this and directed the central and state governments to provide basic infrastructure, including drinking water and toilets, in all schools before the beginning of the academic year 2012, as per the RTE Act. In 2014, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan to provide every school with a functioning and well maintained water, sanitation and hygiene facilities within a year.

## About the Project:

DCM Foundation aims at complimenting and running programs dedicated towards Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), which is in alignment with the Central government's agenda. Under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, DCM Foundation proposed a three-year high-impact school sanitation program aiming at contributing to the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission by renovating sanitation facilities in all government schools in Kota district, Rajasthan. The objective of this initiative was to strengthen sanitation-related infrastructure in schools as well as increasing the awareness and behaviour of the community within the vicinity of these schools and the slums around the plants of the corporate.

Change Alliance was engaged by DCM Foundation to conduct a detailed assessment of school sanitation infrastructure in both components with the following objectives:

- To assess expense on upgrading school toilets by physical survey, covering all government schools
- To assess gaps in knowledge / attitudes covering sample schools, villages, slums so as to design soft intervention
- To conduct baseline study of impact parameters such as attendance, dropout rate, prevalence of diseases, family-spends on treatment etc.
- To have top line findings generated on sanitation behaviour and impact parameters

## Processes Undertaken:

For Component I, separate teams under supervision of a civil engineer were responsible for accessing school toilet infrastructure and providing renovation estimation to DCM. The estimates were further used by the DCM Foundation to plan the renovation work and strengthen the school WASH Infrastructure. A total of 250 schools were assessed including all government schools of Ladpura block, and 30 schools each from other blocks.

Under Component II, the baseline assessment study was conducted using a 'before and after, non-experimental design methodology. To respond to the evaluation framework, a mix methods approach, including quantitative and qualitative surveys, were adopted. Perspectives of communities, and other stakeholders like school officials, district and block level officers from SBA etc. were also captured. Similarly, urban slums and sanitation programs were understood with stakeholders from concerned authorities.

**35**

government schools  
across five blocks of Kota

**6th to 12th**

class students were  
interviewed using Random  
Selection method

and the connected communities –  
villages and slums -within 3-5kms  
were covered for household survey

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A total of **1427** sample size was covered  
for the assessment under  
component II.

### **About Change Alliance:**

Change Alliance is a for-profit organisation providing CSR consultancy and other development sector services to both companies and civil society organisations. Our services include end-to-end CSR strategy, design, implementation and management of large programs, in-depth research, baselines and end-term impact assessments, mid-term evaluations, and training and capacity building across sectors and industries. We have expertise and a successful track-record in conducting large-scale research, monitoring and evaluations, trainings, and implementing campaigns especially in education, gender, livelihoods, and climate change. And our 60 years legacy of developmental work, engaging with civil societies across the globe, and working with over 300 partner organisations in India has helped clients reach the remotest corners of the country.

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