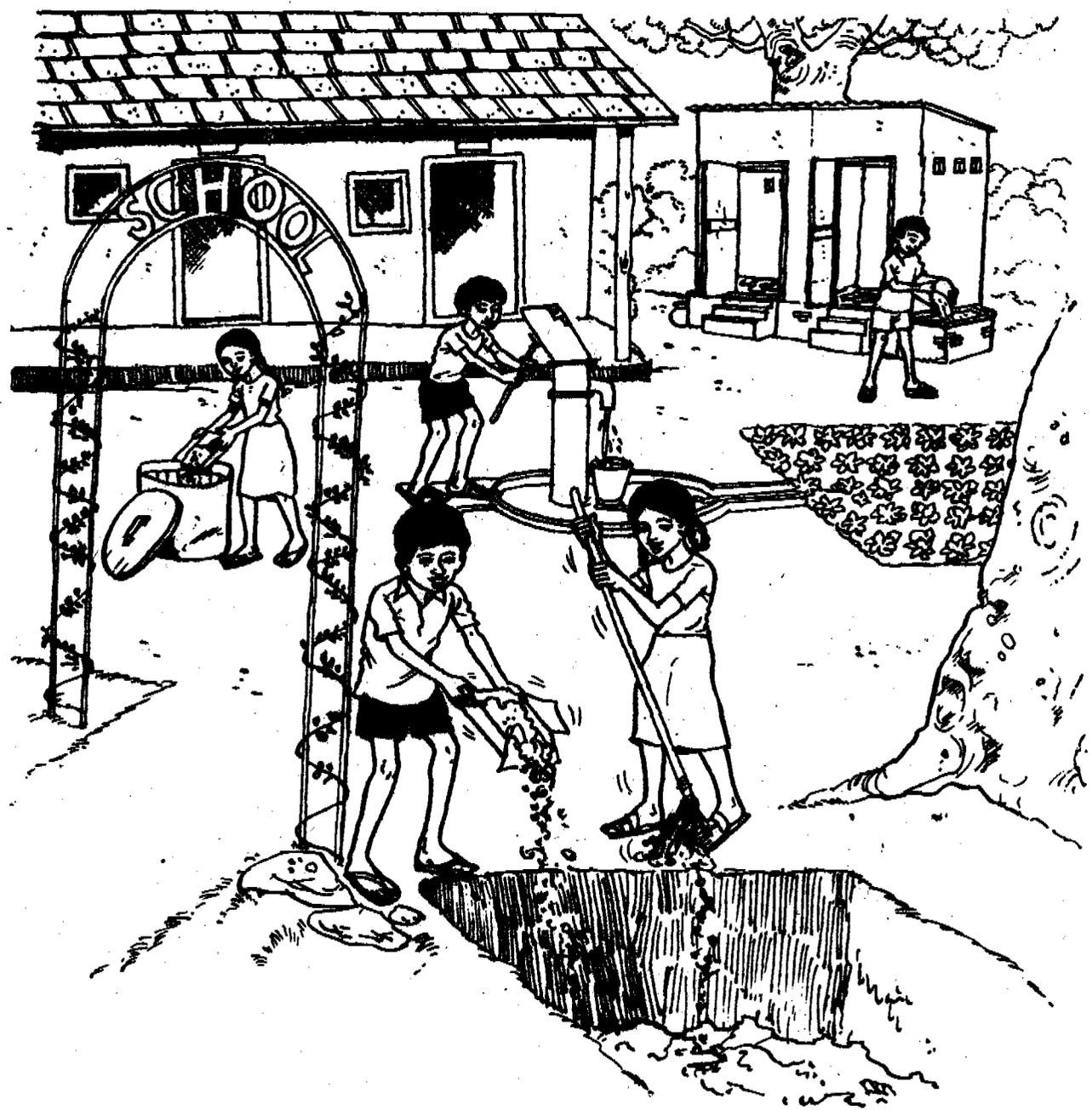




Jackie #1



# SCHOOL SANITATION



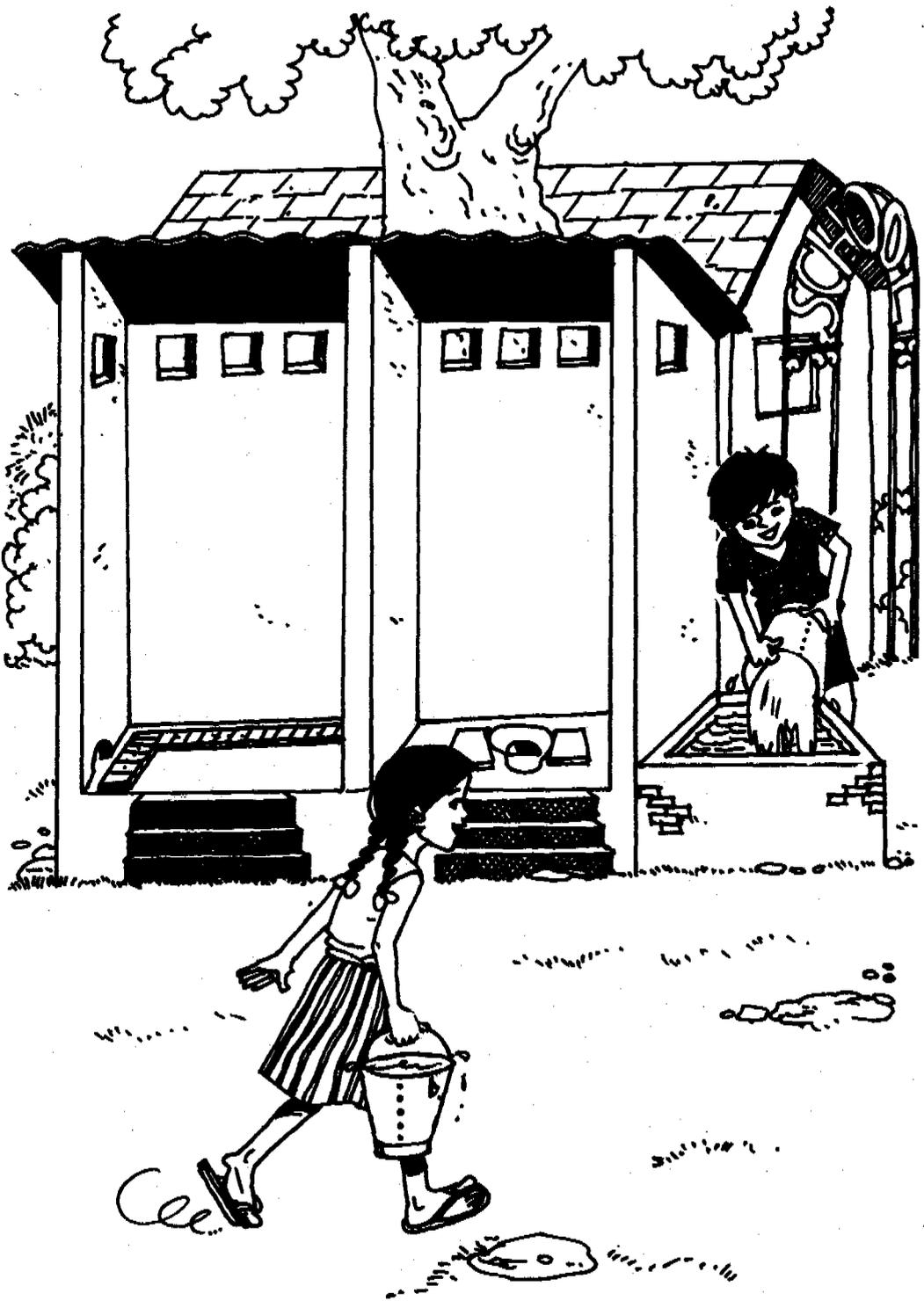


---

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of the UNICEF strategies to promote Environmental Sanitation within the context of the Water and Sanitation Decade (1981–1990) and the Health for All by Year 2000 programmes, UNICEF is collaborating with Education Authorities from various States to provide sanitary facilities in primary schools. This booklet has been written with the purpose of providing some basic materials for a one-day orientation course for teachers from the project schools. Given that the practice of personal hygiene is covered in the school curriculum, this topic has not been treated but the importance should be emphasized to the teachers.

The themes selected are focussed on the creation of a sanitary environment in the school compound and the inculcation of healthy habits. A section describing some ways in which the school can reach out to the community and contribute to its health and welfare is incorporated.



---

## **A. SANITARY LATRINE**

### **1. Why should you have a school latrine?**

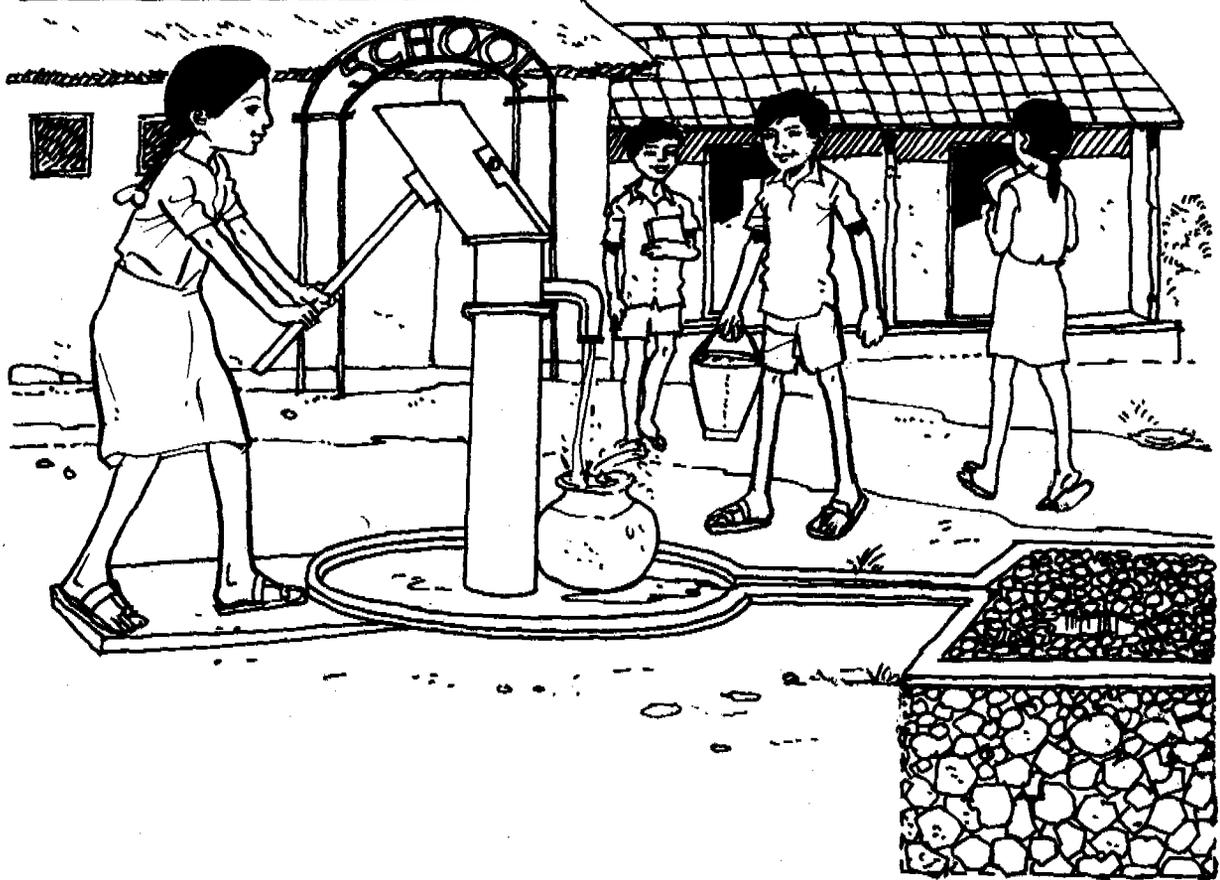
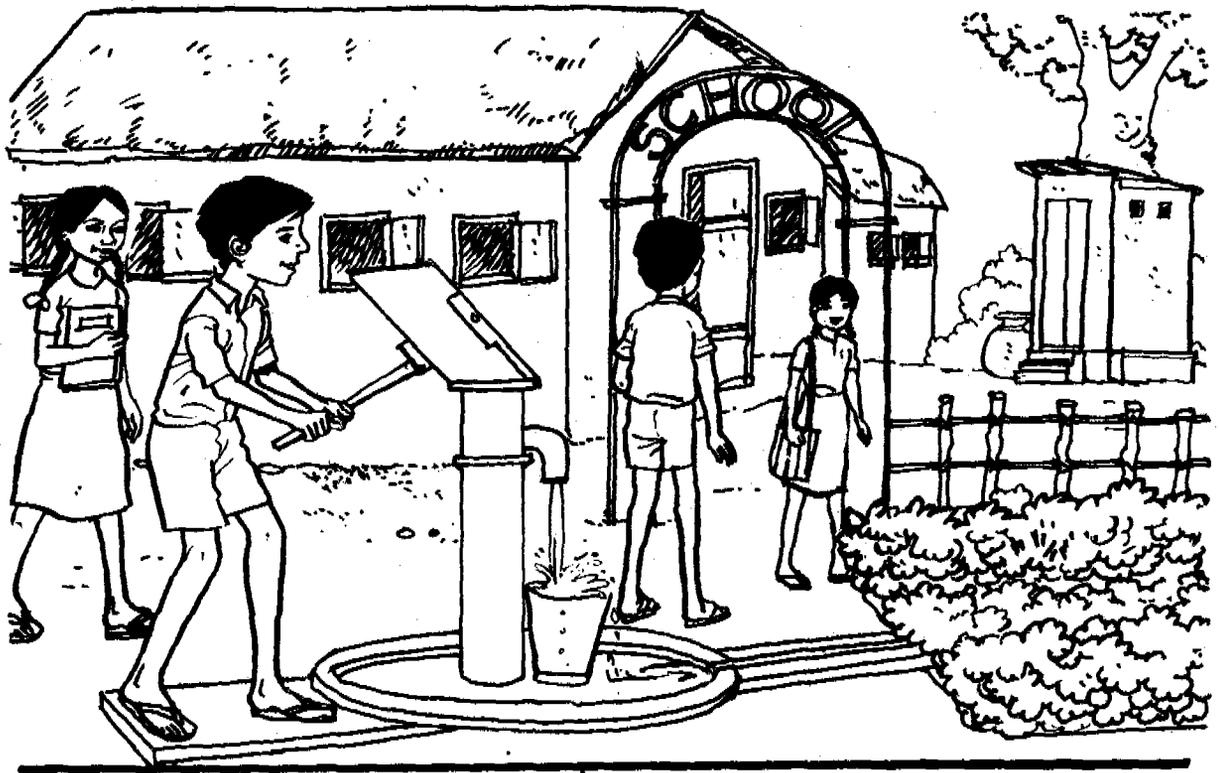
- It stops people from defecating and urinating in or near the school compound. You have clean and healthier surroundings.
- It protects children from sickness. Healthy children are more active in school.
- It encourages sanitary habits among the children and their families.
- It provides privacy, especially for girls, and is convenient during the monsoon and winter.
- It can be used as a model to teach the community about sanitation.

### **2. Role of teachers**

- Teach children the benefits of using a sanitary latrine.
- Make sure that all staff members and children use the sanitary latrine.
- Make sure that the latrine is looked after properly. A dirty latrine always gets dirtier and, finally, no one wants to use it.
- Check the latrine every day and make sure that there is enough water for using and flushing the toilets.
- Repairs must be carried out at once.

### **3. Role of pupils**

- Use the sanitary latrine. Do not pass stools or urinate in the open. Keep your school compound clean.
- Flush the latrine with water after you use it.
- Help fill the water tank so that enough water is available at all times.
- Help teachers to make sure that the latrine is used properly and is well maintained.



---

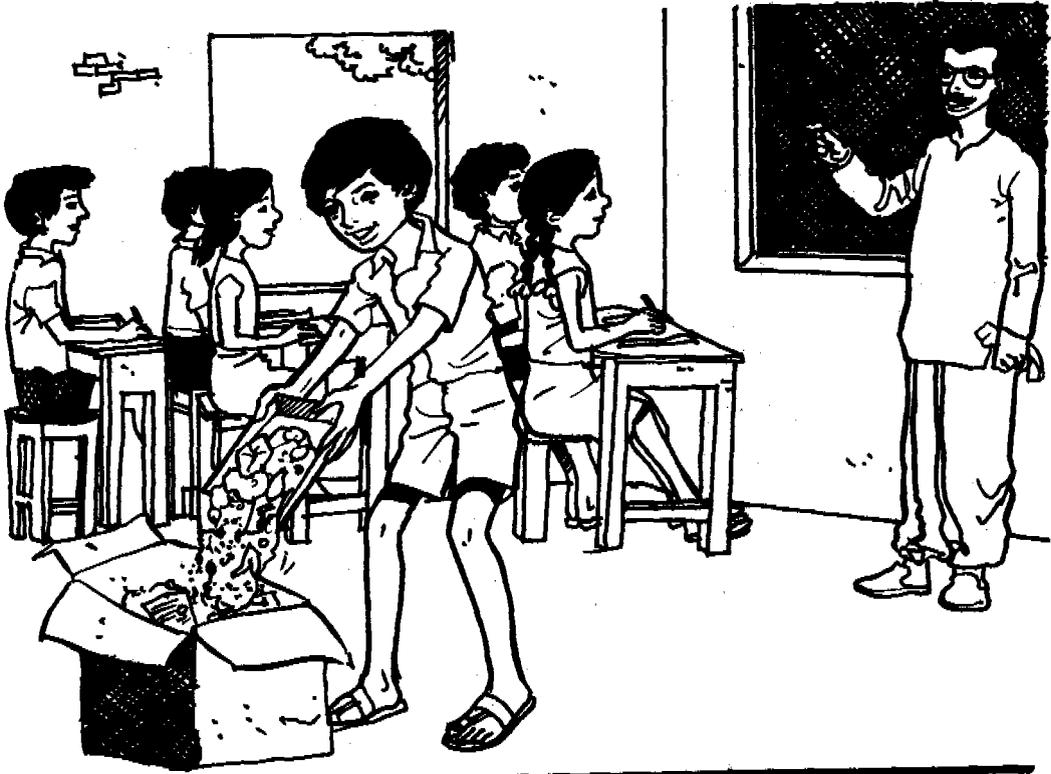
## **B. WASTE WATER DISPOSAL**

### **1. Why is it important?**

- Stagnant water looks bad and makes it difficult for people to reach the source of water (tap/handpump/well?).
- Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water and spread diseases like malaria and filariasis.
- Waste water carries germs and bacteria from surface dirt. It can seep through the soil and contaminate ground water.

### **2. How can it be done?**

- Make a concrete platform around the tap, handpump or well. Make a concrete drain leading away from the source of water.
- Waste water from the school kitchen should also flow through/ down a concrete drain or earth ('kuchcha') drain.
- For permeable soil, e.g. coarse sand, weathered laterite, a soakage pit can be dug at the end of the drain.
- Clay or sandy clay soils do not allow water to seep through easily. For these soils, waste water can be led into a garden plot through an "earth" drain.



---

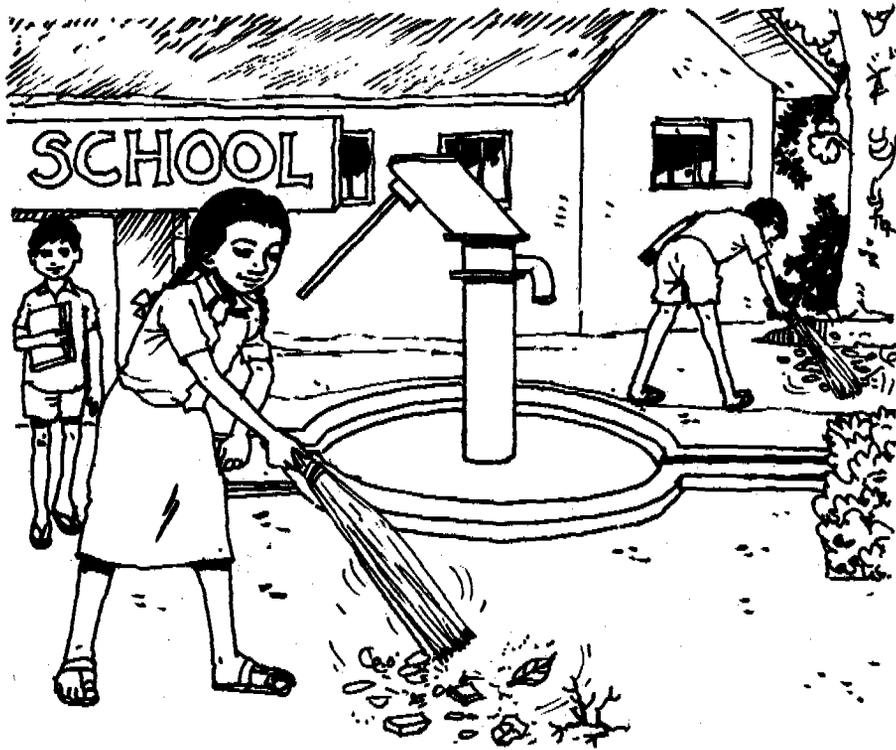
## **C. GARBAGE DISPOSAL**

### **1. Why is it important?**

- A dirty school looks very bad. It also creates a bad impression about the students and teachers. So keep the school clean and tidy.
- Dirt attracts flies, rats, cockroaches and other insects. All of them spread infectious diseases.

### **2. How can it be done?**

- Keep a dustbin in every classroom. The dustbin need not be expensive. An empty cardboard or wooden box can be used.
- Keep a larger garbage can in the school yard. This can be made of metal so that it lasts longer. The older children in your school can empty this can into the garbage pit.
- Some garbage, like waste paper, can be burnt. The rest can be thrown into a garbage pit. In your school yard, dig a pit about 1.5 meters long, 1 meter wide and 0.8 meter deep. You can make it bigger or smaller depending on the number of students in your school. At least once a week, cover the garbage with a layer of soil about 75 mm thick. This will prevent flies from breeding in the garbage.



---

## **D. PROTECTION OF WATER SOURCE AND DRINKING WATER**

### **1. Why is it important?**

- Contaminated water transmits water-borne diseases such as

Diarrhoea  
Dysentery  
Hepatitis  
Cholera  
Typhoid  
Worms

- If people drink contaminated water, they risk getting these diseases.

### **2. How can it be done?**

#### **a) Water sources: open well/handpump/tap.**

- Do not throw rubbish into open wells.
- Always use a clean bucket to draw water from open wells.
- The platform around the well/handpump or tap should always be maintained clean and free from rubbish. Avoid accumulation of filth for at least 15 meters radius from the source.

#### **b) Drinking water**

- Always provide a cover for the drinking water pitcher.
- Do not dip cup into the pitcher.
- Always pour water from the pitcher into a cup or use a ladle.
- Advise pupils to wash hands before they cup their hands to drink water from tap/handpump.



---

## **E. REACHING OUT TO THE VILLAGERS**

The school can play a very important role in helping to keep the village clean and healthy. If you involve your school in the life and activities of the village, it will bring you closer to the community and will also make your students' education more meaningful and fruitful.

Projects related to the health and welfare of the community can be taken up by groups of elder students helped by teachers. These projects can be carried out during week-ends and holidays or even as part of the regular school programme. Some ideas for such projects are given below. You could adapt these to suit the interest and level of education of your students.

### **1. Water supply survey**

One or more groups of children can be asked to conduct a survey in one part of the village or the whole village. They can collect answers to questions like: What is the source of water? (handpumps, tap, well, etc.); How far is the source from the villagers' homes? Is the water easily available? Is the water clean? How many water sources are protected? How is the water collected and stored? How is the waste water drained? Is there a concrete platform around the tap/ handpump/well?

### **2. Waste water disposal**

If there is no concrete platform and drain for the handpump, you could take the initiative in arranging to get from the village community some money, materials and labour to make them. You should discuss the activity with the government department in charge of water supply.

---

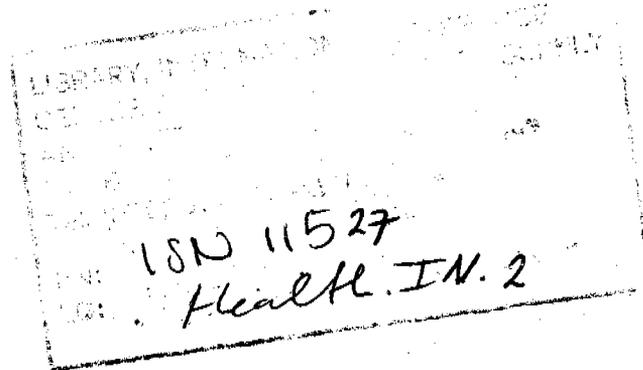
### **3. Family health survey**

The teacher can prepare simple questionnaires which will be filled in by the students on such topics as incidence of diarrhoea, sanitation practices (e.g. washing of hands with soap before eating), garbage disposal, etc. in the family.

### **4. Clean village week**

During vacations or festivals like Diwali, the school can start a "Clean the Village" project. The village can be divided into small areas. Each area can then be made the responsibility of a group of students led by one teacher.





### **Colour coding**

Documents are colour coded according to the major issues they address. The four primary colours—red, blue, green and yellow respectively, indicate the following broad categories: survival of children; protection and care; improvement of family and environmental conditions; preparation of children for life.



**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA  
73 Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110 003  
INDIA**