CASE STUDY
“WASH CLUB”

Sindh Agriculture Forestry Workers
Coordinating Organization
PRE-INTERVENTION CONTEXT

In the far north western plain of Sindh province, in a landscape once heavily populated by non-Muslim before partition of subcontinent, taluka Maharabpur now dominated by feudal lords. Despite of satisfactory result in literacy rate of the district Naushahro Feroze, Sindh government has declared emergency in education department due to high student drop out ratio. One of the main reason of dropping out often considered is lack of infrastructure in schools.

Government primary school, Pir Ilyas Kalhoro is surviving school in emergency declared situation where infrastructure is required to be improved since school is lacking toilet for students. The drop out ratio of girls’ students is dramatically increased where girl’s education is perceived as taboo in the society. Situation of water and sanitation in school is poorer of the poorest since students practice open defecation in the school. Due to open defecation students mostly fell ill and unable to attend school. Thus, there was an urgent need to not only aware student and teachers about WASH but also empower them to have access to those facilities.

WASH INTERVENTIONS

To respond such a scenario, SAFWCO along with its mobilization and technical team visited school to improve the wash facilities. A wash club was formed to empower the students to take charge of water and sanitation hygiene problems. Through set of mobilization tools team ensured the participatory approach to trigger students and teachers. Participants were given exposure to health and hygiene content developed by SAFWCO to ensure personal, environmental and household hygiene. Hand washing demonstrations were carried out to enable personal hygiene of the students. Mother and father support groups were formed to ensure maximum enrollment of the students in the schools. Students were made aware of open defecation and its hazards through F-diagram of feces.
In focus group discussions, teachers, parents and students identified the main problem of decrease in enrollment is non-functionality of already constructed toilet. Engineering core of SAFWCO with collaboration of UNICEF, assess the toilet and suggested to repair the unit for students. School management committees were involved in the procedure to ensure transparency. Wash club members were extensively trained on health and hygiene practices and were made responsible for maintenance of toilet and health & hygiene conditions of the schools.

Teachers and head master of the school strictly monitor the personal hygiene of the students that leads to increased enrollment in school. WASH club is empowered to lead the approach toward school led total sanitation.

**IMMEDIATE OUTPUT**

Enrolment of the school dramatically increased after intervention, students are being monitored by teachers for their personal hygiene. All the students use soap for hand washing and wash club maintain the environmental hygiene of the school.
IMPACT OF INTERVENTIONS.

The WASH interventions created multi-dimensional impacts in improving the water and sanitation hygiene.

The hand washing skills led them to better health and hygiene conditions. Routinely practice of hand washing will sustain them from diseases and other diseases transmitted through oral contact that will lead higher enrolment ratio.

WASH club champions take active part along with community resource person to ensure the open defecation free enabled environment in the village. They use to preach the messages related to health and hygiene.

Association with SAFWCO & VWC has increased WASH club’s member’s social capital because they interact with people from diverse backgrounds and learns from their experiences since they are becoming role models for other children.

Due to open defecation, free school status, students are healthy and take active part in recreational activities held at school levels.