



# Hand Hygiene Roadmap 2022-30

School Education Department, Chhattisgarh

Children learn habits from the early days. What they learn, they share with friends, family members & communities and act as agents of change. Schools play a vital channel to change behaviour, as children learn new habits and behaviours. Hand hygiene is one of the crucial behaviours to improve health, enhance children's learning ability and reduce absenteeism of school children.

Handwashing with Water and Soap (HWWS) is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions that protect against persistent infectious diseases and potential future pandemics. However, access to the hand hygiene facilities and support for the required behaviours are missing, with challenges related to the availability of water and soap at the designated space to wash hands in all settings, including schools across India.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an urgent need and provided critical opportunities to ensure universal access to HWWS and promote hand hygiene behaviours. Access to hand hygiene facilities and sustainable HWWS behaviour also contributes to quality education and progress towards three important Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**SDG 1:** Reduce the burden of WASH-related diseases (targets 3.3 and 3.9)

**SDG 4:** Improve the learning environment in schools (target 4.a)

**SDG 6:** Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation (target 6.2)

## Impact of Hand Hygiene practice

Handwashing protects health and saves lives. Globally, proper HWWS can reduce:

- 32%-48% in diarrhoea among children (Mill JE and Cumming O, 2016<sup>1</sup>)

- 15% in stunting among under-5 children (Public Health Nutr, 2012)
- 25% in risk of acute respiratory infection (Lancet, 2003 and Am J Pub Health 2008)
- 40% in healthcare associated infections (Dtsch Arztebl Int, 2009)
- 40-50% in school absenteeism (Am J Trop Med Hyg, 2007)

### Status of handwashing in India

- 97% of households have a place for washing hands. 80.3% of urban and 49.4% of rural households with a handwashing space are equipped with water and soap (NFHS<sup>2</sup> 2015-16).
- 35.8% of people (56% urban, 25.3% rural) wash their hands with soap before eating, while 74.1% (88.3% urban, 66.8% rural) wash their hands with soap after defecation (NSS<sup>3</sup> 2018-19).
- 59.5% of households (49.3% rural and 79.7% urban) have handwashing facilities on-premises with soap and water (JMP<sup>4</sup> 2017).
- 98.7% of schools have handwashing facilities. However, only 46.8% of schools have water available near the toilet, and only 36% have water and soap available (NARSS<sup>5</sup> 3, 2020).
- 90.24% of schools have access to handwashing facilities (U-DISE<sup>6</sup> 2019-20).

### Status of handwashing in Chhattisgarh

- 38.1% of households (33.3% rural and 56.9% urban) practice HWWS before meal and 87.0% of households (Rural 84.1 and Urban 98.2%) practice HWWS after defecation (NSS 2018).
- 42.1% of schools have soap & water, while 47.5% have water for HWWS (NARSS<sup>7</sup> 2, 2018-19).
- 95.95% of schools have handwashing facilities within the campus (U-DISE 2019-20).

<sup>1</sup> The Impact of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene on Key Health and Social Outcomes: Review of Evidence

<sup>2</sup> NFHS: National Family Health Survey

<sup>3</sup> NSS: National Sample Survey 76 Round

<sup>4</sup> JMP: Joint Monitoring Programme

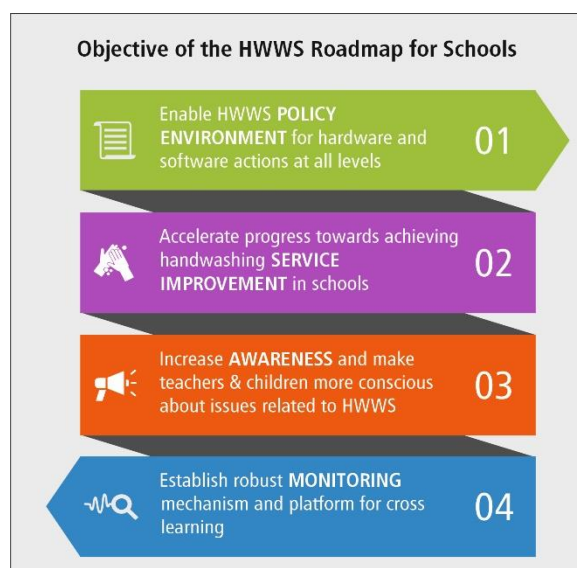
<sup>5</sup> NARSS: National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey

<sup>6</sup> U-DISE: Unified District Information on School Education

<sup>7</sup> NARSS: National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey

## Hand hygiene roadmap for School Education Department, Chhattisgarh

The roadmap of the School Education Department incorporates investment and action to make HWWS a habit and lasting social norm with improvement in hand hygiene service in all schools. The overall goal of the roadmap is to guide all stakeholders for service improvement in schools and provide enabling environment to sustain the positive behaviour of HWWS by children.



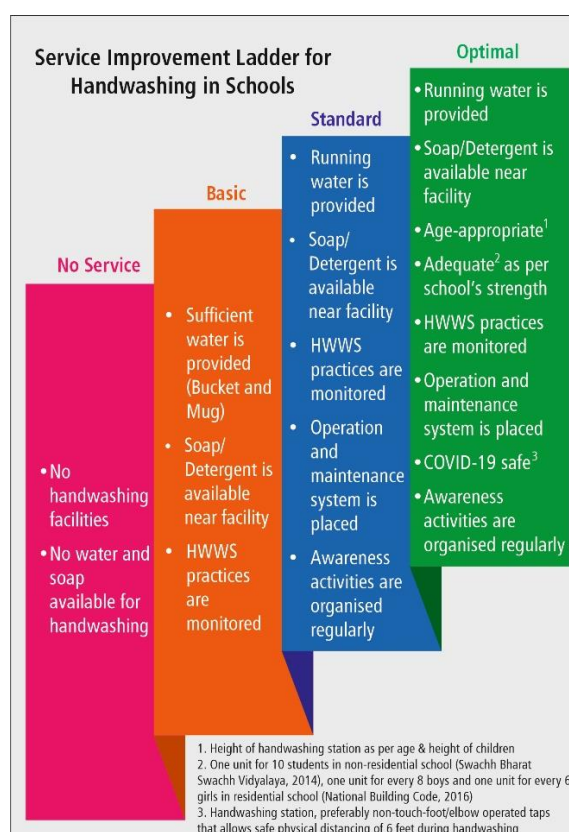
## Service Improvement Ladder for Handwashing in School

Functional handwashing facilities with water and soap are necessary to practice safe hand hygiene. The handwashing facility in any setting may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps, and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. The facility also provides handwashing agents that could consist of bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent, and soapy water but should not include ash, soil, sand or other handwashing agents (JMP 2020).

Handwashing roadmap requires significant measures to enhance components of hardware (facility) and software (behaviour change). Both elements collectively help in creating an enabling environment to promote handwashing, strengthen capacities of facilitating action, operation and maintenance (O&M) arrangements, budgetary allocations to establish infrastructure & for O&M and communication for behaviour change.

In the context of school, there could be four types of

handwashing situations - i) schools with no services, ii) schools with essential services, iii) schools with standard services, and iv) schools with optimal services. The Hand hygiene roadmap for School Education Department shall adopt a phase-wise service improvement approach to enhance services and sustain good hand hygiene behaviours through various communication & monitoring activities. The following figure shows the service improvement ladder to be adopted by the Department.



## Role of School Education Department

School Education Department at State shall focus on a) creating enabling environment for HWWS interventions, b) guiding improvement of handwashing infrastructure & services, c) engaging stakeholders through social & behavioural communication activities, and d) monitoring and review of handwashing practices and behaviours. The recommended actions for different levels of school administration are provided below, including the State Education Department, District offices and Schools.

### School Education Department at State

#### Enabling Environment

- Orient and clarify roles and responsibilities of District officials and teachers in accelerating action on HWWS;

- Develop training module on HWWS with the support of sector experts and development partners;
- Build capacity of teachers on HWWS through online/offline (Diksha) platform;
- Share guidelines for the inclusion of hand hygiene in the educational curriculum.

### **Handwashing Infrastructure and Services Improvement**

- Develop standard operation procedure for age-appropriate handwashing facilities in all schools (must include in newly constructed school infrastructure) based on service ladder improvement approach;
- Ensure convergence and coordination with the Public Health Engineering Department (Jal Jeevan Mission) for running water and Panchayat and Rural Development Department (Swachh Bharat Mission-Phase II) for grey water management;
- Allocate additional funds for improving handwashing infrastructure under the composite grant/school development grant and guide leveraging funds from other sources, like the 15th Finance Commission, District Mineral Fund (DMF) and others.

### **Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Activities**

- Develop handwashing information kit for the discussion and interaction on HWWS in various platforms (School Management Committee, Parent's meeting, others);
- Prepare advisory on celebrating National and International days in schools and communities on the significance of handwashing message (International Women's Day, World Hand Hygiene Day, Global Handwashing Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day, Girl Child Day, Toilet Day, etc.);
- Share prototypes for wall writings, slogans and posters in all schools on handwashing;
- Provide advisory on setting-up handwashing corners in all schools.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- Include monitoring of both HWWS hardware and software activities in the State-level review and provide direction to districts to include the same in the monthly review forum;
- Share good practices on handwashing in the State and District level platforms;

- Provide advisory on the engaging dedicated nodal teacher and student from Child Cabinet/Youth & Eco-club (Handwashing Monitor) to observe HWWS practices and maintain data on HWWS.

## **District Education Offices**

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### **Enabling Environment**

- Orient Block Education Officers, Cluster Academic Resource Coordinators and Nodal teachers on the implementation of handwashing roadmap;

### **Handwashing Infrastructure and Services Improvement**

- Assess handwashing facilities based on the service ladder improvement approach and develop an action plan (Update District Swachhta Action Plan) to improve the facility from 'No Service' to 'Optimal Service'.

### **Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Activities**

- Train all nodal teachers and school-level monitors on HWWS and sensitization of all teachers and children through them;
- Guide schools to organize handwashing events regularly and recognize efforts of performers.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- Review HWWS hardware and software activities progress in the District level meetings;
- Develop and share self-assessment checklist to monitor HWWS service improvement;
- Establish deeper coordination with PHE and P&RD Departments to ensure availability of water for handwashing and greywater management;
- Provide guidance on school-led monitoring for WASH facilities and services, including handwashing with operation & maintenance mechanism.

## **School-level actions on HWWS roadmap implementation**

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### **Enabling Environment:**

- Ensure sensitization of staff and teachers on HWWS;
- Utilize school development fund on priority for handwashing facilities upgrade;
- Explore local sources of funds (CSR, DMF, MP LAD/MLA LAD, individual, etc.) to support HWWS infrastructure creation/upgrade.

## Handwashing Infrastructure and Services Improvement

- Assess handwashing facilities based on service ladder and take action on improving the facility from 'No/limited Service' to Optimal Service';
- Include provisions for improving HWWS facilities and services in the School Swachhata Action Plan.

## Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Activities

- Maintain handwashing facilities within the school setting and build awareness on hand hygiene and sustaining the behaviour;
- Engage PRIs, SMCs, Parents groups and PTA for hygiene promotion with children;
- Orient child cabinet/youth & eco-club members on HWWS and sensitize other children through them.

## Monitoring and Review

- Engage a dedicated Handwashing Monitor, as per State's advisory;
- Monitor HWWS service improvement through a self-assessment checklist with the help of Handwashing Monitor.

## Timeframe (2022-30)

Milestones	2022-23	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2028-29	2029-30
Hand Hygiene Roadmap finalized						
Guidelines (hardware and software activities) for Districts issued						
Baseline (Basic, Standard and Optimal handwashing services)						
80% schools achieved in-premises BASIC handwashing services						
80% schools achieved in-premises STANDARD handwashing services						
80% schools achieved in-premises OPTIMAL handwashing services						
100% schools achieved in-premises OPTIMAL handwashing services						
Funds for operation, maintenance, retrofitting and behaviour change activities are regularly provided to schools						
Midline/Evaluation for course correction						

<sup>8</sup> Critical times of HWWS: i) after defecation, after cleaning child's anus and after removing child's faeces from yard, ii) before having food, iii) before preparing food, before serving and before feeding a child/breast feeding, iv) after handling garbage, v) after touching animals and pets, and vi) hands are visibly dirty in general time and specifically during COVID-19 i)

## Monitoring Indicators

Data for the following indicators are recommended to be collected at the School level to be aggregated at district and state level for review and course correction.

% of schools having Basic handwashing facilities
% of schools having Standard handwashing facilities
% of schools having Optimal handwashing facilities
% of schools having handwashing facility connected to a soakpit for greywater management
% of schools having any IEC materials displayed near or at the handwashing station
% of Schools who have appointed a Handwashing Monitor (Member of Child Cabinet/Youth & Eco-Club)
% of teacher/member of school management committees who have been participated in at least one hand hygiene training in last one year
% of children practicing HWWS at critical times <sup>8</sup> in schools
% of schools which has leveraged 15th FC or other funds for handwashing infrastructure and O&M

after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing, ii) after visiting a public space, including public transportation, markets and places of worship, iii) after touching surfaces outside of the home, including money and iv) while caring for a sick person-before, during and after.