



habits to their homes and influence their parents and elders to construct and use toilets. School Sanitation, therefore, forms an integral part of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

TSC was launched in Bhadrak district in 2003. Since then toilet units have been set up in several schools. Bania High School in Bhadrak block is one such school. Established in 1980, the school building comprised an office room and a few classrooms. A tube well, set up in 1982, was the only source of drinking water. There was no urinal, no latrine. The teachers and students had no choice but to go to the open field to answer the call of nature.

An opportunity came their way when the Campaign was launched in their village. The school entered into an agreement with the District Water and Sanitation Mission to carry out construction work as per approved design and to ensure timely completion of the work. Considering the nature of black cotton soil, columns were erected and the school agreed to



Hygiene Education

bear the extra cost on that count. Students, teachers and villagers were actively involved in the work. The former students of the school and a few villagers made contributions in terms of money and materials such as bricks, sand and chips. The curing of the structure

was entrusted to students, who also helped unloading of the materials." We engaged only one mason and one helper for this purpose,'

says Sri Bipin Bihari Parhi, a teacher of the school. The enthusiasm of the students and the guidance of the teachers helped the school reduce the expenses.

Students contribute a sum of Rs 2/- to the class fund every month. The money thus collected was used to procure cleaning materials and disinfectants such as brush, bleaching powder, bucket, phenyl and soap. In the mean time, the students have acquired the habit of using urinals and toilets. They also clean the toilets regularly.

"When I was admitted into Class VIII in this school, I did not know that I was expected to use the toilet. I was used to the practice of going to the open field to answer the call of nature. But when I saw senior students using the toilet for the purpose, I felt embarrassed. I also came to know from our teachers that by polluting the atmosphere we expose ourselves to diseases. This motivated me to use the toilet," recalls Sri Ranjan Dhal, now in Class IX.

Initially, it is the motivation that gets the students started. Slowly, it becomes a part of their habit. And it is their habit that keeps them going.



School Toilet

YOUTH POWER

A small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, that is the only thing that ever has. The volunteers of the National Youth Project (NYP) know it well. They know their inherent strength and are led by their innate desire to bring about a social change.

Biraharekrushnapur is a traditional village in Puri district. Close to the city of Lord Jagannath, this village

is reputed for its illustrious sons, who have made their mark in the fields of politics, administration and social work. However, all the villagers were not equally enlightened; nor did they have opportunities. There were quite a few who had no access to the basic amenities for leading a dignified life. As many as 120 households out of a total of 297 belong to the Scheduled Castes, who lived in an unhygienic atmosphere. Most of the members

