



throughout the year. It is really shocking that visitors feel embarrassed when they see people defecating in the open. They also find the place unhygienic because this contaminates the water sources and pollutes the air. It is time we put an end to this shameful and unhealthy practice.

I have visited several schools, which have been covered under the School Sanitation programme. Toilet blocks have been set up and boys and girls use the urinals and latrine to answer the call of nature. Open urination and open defecation are now strongly discouraged. However, children are yet to be educated on matters relating to personal hygiene. They must learn to trim their

nails, comb hair neatly, wear clean dress and maintain cleanliness. Teachers must pay attention to this.

We have achieved a lot. But a lot more remains to be done. Creating infrastructure is certainly a formidable task. But still more formidable is the task of changing a mindset. Total Sanitation is not all about installing latrines. It aims at changing an age-old practice by raising people's awareness. Expenditure on sanitation should not be considered a bad investment; it is an investment in building our future.

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## SANITATION FOR ALL

### TECHNOLOGICAL OPTION FOR INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD LATRINES

There is a popular notion that household toilets are a matter of luxury, which only the rich can afford. But probably they do not know that sanitary latrine would cost them only a few hundred rupees. And there is a provision of an incentive of Rs. 500/- for a family belonging to the BPL category. A pit latrine is in no way inferior to a latrine with a septic tank.

Pit latrine can be of two types:

1. On pit latrine
2. Off pit latrine



On Pit Latrine



Off Pit Latrine

SI No.	Pit Latrine
1	Satisfies all sanitary requirements.
2	Construction is easy, does not require much expertise; not time consuming
3	Total initial cost is very low. Affordable by low to middle income group people.
4	Gradual upgrading by construction in stages is possible. Investment can be made in installments
5	The pit is fully covered. Foul gas/odour cannot come from the pit. It is absorbed by the surrounding soil. Hence no chances of air pollution.
6	There is no vent pipe nor any part of it is exposed.
7	Requires much less quantity of water for flushing (2-3 Ltr). So it is also suitable for semi arid water scarce areas.
8	Liquid part of pit sludge is soaked away by pit soil and so never comes out to cause any nuisance or pollution or disease creation.
9	Cleaning the dry powder like odorless digested sludge of a filled up leach pit is very easy and even the owner himself can do it. If there be any labour cost involved, it would be very less.
10	The dry sludge can be easily carried to the agriculture field and applied directly as organic manure.

#### On Pit Latrine with RCC rings and rectangular plate

- (1) The size of the plate is 1.2 m in length x 1m in width.
- (2) The plate is kept over 1.2 m depth x 90 cm diameter (if 4 rings are provided)
- (3) There should be holes in RCC rings so that water can escape through holes.
- (4) The pan is fitted with a plate and should have a steep slope and water seal.
- (5) It is a water seal latrine and is free from foul smells; so it can be constructed near house.
- (6) The super structure of latrine can be made out of sack, bamboo, polythene sheet, straw mat, etc.
- (7) If a family of 5-8 persons uses this latrine daily, it will be filled up in 2-3 years.



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