

# A Teacher's innovation of self-cleaning urinals in school

A case study of government school teacher Ramakant Sahu who is making it right by creating clean and odour-free surroundings in and outside school Chhattisgarh

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Cost effective toilet made with the use of plastic bottles

Government schools in the entire district of Dhamtari are now able to create a clean and hygienic environment for students, thanks to the efforts of teacher Ramakant Sahu who has created these self-cleaning urinals.

Using waste plastic bottles, trays and pipes to make separate urinals for boys and girls, Ramakant Sahu of Government Primary School in Fusera village of the district has been

able to encourage children to use the toilets and not urinate in the open, making the surroundings hygienic and odour free.

This innovation has been appreciated by the district authorities and is now in different stages of implementation in all the government schools in the district.

Sahu said that he has been noticing that toilets are mostly used for urination more as compared to defecation and lack of water often made them dirty and smelly which forced the students as well as teachers to go out in the open and relieve themselves.

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*This small, yet effective idea has been able to inculcate good, clean habits in children.*

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Message on the school wall about cleanliness and hygiene

It was only after he attended the teachers' orientation under Sri Aurobindo Society's Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives (ZIIIEI) programme in April 2017, he realised of coming up with this idea of using waste material to address a major hygiene issue in his school.

"ZIIIEI is a great platform that encourages teachers to come up with innovations in the given limited resources of a government school. My school has been using these toilets since October 2017 and it has created a lot of positive change among the students," Sahu said.

He added that this small, yet effective idea has not only been able to inculcate good, clean habits in children but due to this change, “we can dream of a clean school, clean house, clean village and a clean society as the baton of change is in the hands of children.”

Sahu made these toilets with help from fellow teachers, members of the village council and students who helped in arranging the material required to make them.

“We also spread awareness about harmful effects of urinating in the open through cartoons. Also, students are encouraged to anonymously drop the names of their fellow students who urinate in the open in a box,” he said, adding that it helps to maintain discipline among students.

Sahu said that a clean environment is necessary for a healthy mindset which is paramount for development of good character. ■

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