

NURPUR LUBANA, PUNJAB

How WASH activities in a school helped transform it into a SMART village

Here is an amazing story on how conducting School WASH activities in a school in Nurpur Lubana can inspire any village into a Smart village. Located in Kapurthala district of Punjab, 12 Kms from the district headquarters, Census 2011 pegged the population at 334 families. The Principal of the Nurpur Lubana school Punit Puri wholeheartedly embraced the WASH activities rolled out by Mission Sunehra Kal in partnership with FINISH Society. Little did she know that when she agreed to promote sustainable WASH activities in her school, it would take her school to a different league. More importantly, it has transformed the village into a Smart village. The Punjab Education Ministry has been very cooperative and praised the school and village to serve as a role model for other villages

In partnership with MSK, FINISH Society and Manav Vikas Sansthan (MVS), MSK designed interventions to improve farming practices with focus on water resource conservation and management along with improving sanitation, health and cleanliness of Nurpur Lubana.

The program is piloting a waste water stabilization and management solution with support from the gram panchayat and technical guidance from Punjab Pollution Control Board. This will help in conserving excessive water during monsoons that gets wasted otherwise, for irrigation purposes or pisciculture (fish farming).

The program also supported schools with construction and repair of toilet units with hand washing stations by FINISH Society. To ensure assets created are well maintained, FINISH team sensitized school management committees and families to contribute towards maintenance. As a result, around Rs. 17 lakhs were contributed by the communities towards building and maintenance of school infrastructure. All infrastructure design ensures that the special needs for different gender and differently-abled children are met.

Ms. Punit Puri, gushed how the school has been transformed with support from the MSK program and invited everyone to visit the school during the annual day function.



Figure 1: MRF facility at Nurpur Lubana (left) & Inauguration (right)

Another important component of the MSK program in Nurpur Lubana is Solid Waste Management implemented by FINISH Society. The program facilitates collection and management 2.6 MT of solid waste per day. Local Mohalla Committees have been formed to ensure source segregation,

no littering and promoting decentralised waste composting at home as well as ward level. A centralised material recovery facility (MRF) has been set up by the gram panchayat leveraging MNREGA scheme which is operated under the technical supervision of FINISH “Mission Sunehra Kal aims at developing rural economy through improving sustainable agriculture practices, natural resources conservation and their comprehensive management along with creating awareness on health and hygiene issues to improve quality of lives”, says Senior Program Manager, Binoy Menon.

Jarnail Singh, Sarpanch of Nurpur Lubana shares that the village was grappling with problems of solid and liquid waste management, poor school infrastructure and low agricultural output. But with support from ITC Mission Sunehra Kal and its partners, these problems have been addressed.

Sarpanch Mr Jarnail Singh said, “ITC Mission Sunehra Kal has played an important role in dealing with major issues of our village like solid and liquid waste management, school infrastructure, loss of agricultural produce and make our village smart”

Praising the work of the ITC Mission sunehra Kal project, Mohalla Committee President and Local leader Shri Dalveer Singh Ji said "Very good work has been done by ITC MSK team for the development of the village." Today all the villagers are segregating the waste at the source level.



Figure 2: Refurbished school infrastructure