



PRAVAH

VISION

Pravah is dedicated to providing water for drinking and sanitation to rural schools across India. We aim to accomplish this goal by providing infrastructure support, training and creating awareness in the area of rainwater harvesting and water conservation.

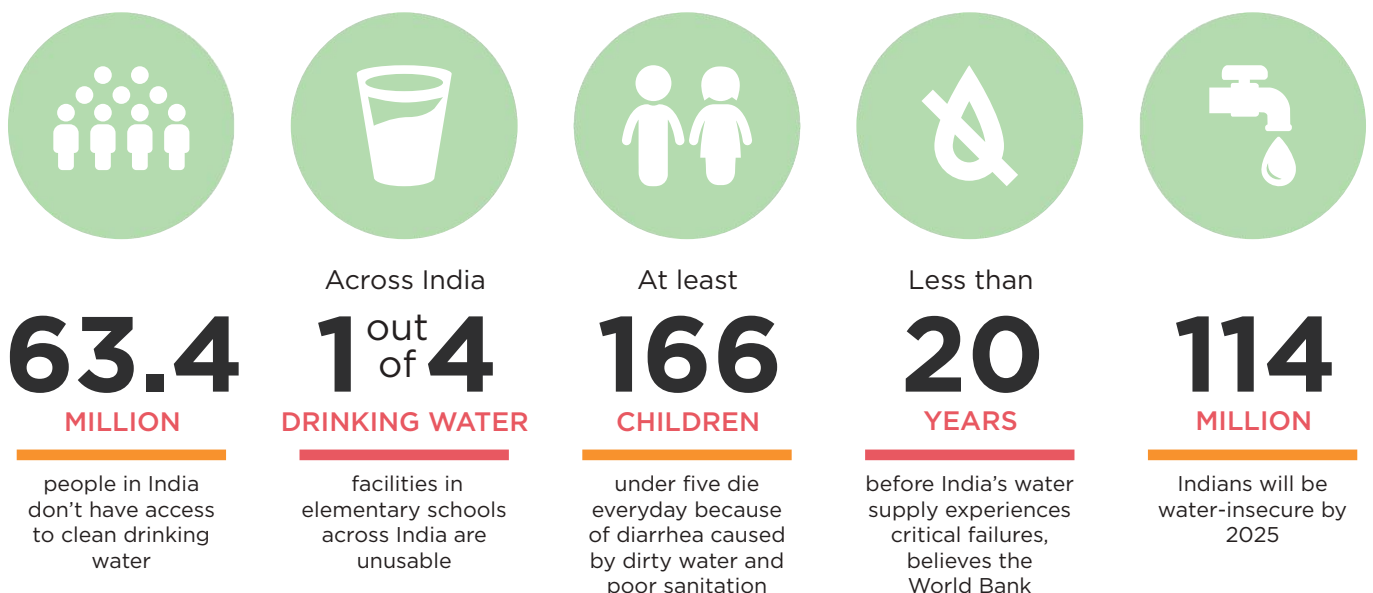
Pravah offers cost-effective solutions for bringing clean water to schools through the implementation of rainwater harvesting systems and engaging with local communities to create awareness about the importance of water and its conservation. We additionally partner with the school, local community and local government to ensure proper long-term functioning of the system

CONTEXT

Our extensive work in rural education and awareness across remote locations in India has exposed us to the lives, aspirations and challenges of several people, especially children. No hardship has been as acute and heartbreaking as witnessing a child struggle to access clean and safe drinking water. *Pravah* aligns itself with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for all) framework, directing all states to provide basic infrastructure facilities such as clean drinking water and toilets in schools.

WHY PRAVAH?

Millions of Indians currently lack access to clean drinking water and the situation is only getting worse with the population expected to increase to 1.6 billion by year 2050.. Students are forced to abandon schools due to lack of toilets and unavailability of mid-day meals primarily emanating from a deficit of reliable water supply - perpetuating the vicious cycle of poverty and inequality. Creating cost-effective infrastructure to bring clean water to schools and knowledge within communities about the importance of water is of critical importance.



Water scarcity is expected to become a key source of national and international conflict in the coming years. Moreover, India needs solutions so that future generations can have access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water and grow up with dignity.

For India to be water secure, it would need to ensure affordable, efficient and sustainable long-term access to clean drinking water.

EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT



BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITIES IN MEGHALAYA



Upon surveying all schools in Meghalaya, it has been discovered that 1,311 government schools need rainwater harvesting systems to have access to water. In partnership with the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), Planning Commission, Meghalaya Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Meghalaya Education Department, Pravah has already implemented rainwater harvesting systems in several schools in this region. Additionally we are conducting a 'Train the Trainers' training program for engineers from the Meghalaya Water and Soil Department, education officers from Meghalaya Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and local community co-coordinators to develop an implementation strategy that will enable scaling of installation of rainwater harvesting systems in 1000+ schools in Meghalaya by building local capacity with local ownership.



IMPLEMENTING 50 RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS IN TRIPURA

Pravah, in partnership with ONGC will construct 50 rainwater harvesting systems across Tripura. As a part of Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan (SVA), ONGC has set up toilets in 205 schools in Tripura. However, it was found that several of these schools don't have access to water and as a result remain unused and non-functional. To overcome this challenge, we have designed a rainwater harvesting drive across Tripura that will include installation of 50 systems and promote education and awareness on the importance of water and its conservation.



PROMOTING SANITATION AND HYGIENE ACROSS 5,592 SCHOOLS IN INDIA



Under Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan (SVA), we have been directly involved in triggering behavioural and habitual changes regarding sanitation and hygiene among students and the local community through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) so that one day India can become Open Defecation Free (ODF). The project is being implemented in 5592 schools across ten states in India in various languages and local contexts. The project aims at improving the health and learning performance of school aged children and their families by reducing the disease and illness that result from poor sanitation and hygiene.



PROJECT PUCHKI—MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS IN RURAL SCHOOLS

Project Puchki is an initiative to fight stigma against menstrual hygiene awareness while creating awareness about soil and water conservation. Puchki is the embodiment of girl child empowerment. It strives to kindle societal change at the grassroots level through a comprehensive layered methodology. The aim is to bring about behavioural change and create awareness on the significance of sustainable living and menstrual hygiene.



METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH



SCHOOL SELECTION

Through extensive work in the field, we have an exhaustive list of schools across India that require rainwater harvesting systems. Schools can also be selected based on donor preference.



SCHOOL VISIT AND DESIGN

Site evaluation is the most critical step because the rainwater harvesting system needs to be designed based on the requirements of the school and not as standardized designs. The system is designed in collaboration with the school authorities and village elders taking into account the total enrollment of the school, water usage patterns and geographic location of the school.

After the site visit and collection of data, the system is designed in consultation with public and private sector partners and our rainwater harvesting team based in Auroville.



FOLLOW UP AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A visit is organized 8 to 10 months after implementation through local partners to evaluate the functioning/usage and maintenance of the system that was installed.



SYSTEM INSTALLATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While the rainwater harvesting system is being installed, engagement with the school staff and local community is simultaneously organized in the school. Prevailing water issues in the school, water conservation techniques and assignment of roles and responsibilities for regular maintenance of the system are discussed. The goal is to instill a sense of pride and ownership among the stakeholders including the students of the school. They are also taken on a tour of the installation to understand the technical details of the system.

SUPPORT US

Support *Pravah* to empower millions of children to get access to water for drinking and sanitation and deliver long term solutions to tackle India's water crisis.

ABOUT earth&us

We are sustainability consultants, researchers and educators. We specialise in challenges relating to common resources that affect our environment and society and requires a multi-sector analysis and holistic approach.

Pravah, is one of many initiatives at earth&us that focuses on creating long term sustainable solutions for the commons. We are based in Auroville, a universal township in South India. earth&us operates in sync with the greater ideology of Auroville; as environmentally conscious township moving collectively towards a sustainable future. Auroville is often described as “continuing experimental township” undertaking new initiatives and creating extraordinary impact in areas of environmental conservation and awareness, scientific research, education, reforestation, organic farming, waste management and architecture. We are driven by this ecosystem and endeavour to collectively create a better world.



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