

Background

In many countries, particularly developing countries (like India) there is high prevalence of water and sanitation related diseases, which causes many people, particularly children to fall ill and die. World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics for 2003 reveal that 4% of all deaths and 6% of the global burden of diseases are the result of inadequate sanitation, water and hygiene. It thus is essential that people follow improved hygienic practices in order to reduce these diseases.

Hygiene and sanitation is important in case of schools, as children are particularly vulnerable to sanitation related diseases. Apart from sanitation related diseases, improper personal hygiene practices could lead to skin and fungal infections, infection in eyes and ears and lice in hair. Children can also influence the behaviour of their parents, siblings and friends. This survey aims to assess the level of knowledge that students have about appropriate sanitation practices and how many of them actually follow these practices. The data generated as a result of this survey could help design other activities to increase awareness about the importance of health, hygiene and sanitation.

Methodology

- A brief survey form has been provided here.
- Teachers are encouraged to improve this form depending on the interaction which they have with their students.
- Teachers must also note that the context of applicability of some questions may differ from others depending on their suitability - for instance some questions may be suitable for urban schools only or vice versa and may have to be changed for other schools.
- Once the finalized survey form is ready, teachers could ask students to interview other students in the school.
- They must document their results in the survey forms.
- Once the survey is complete, teachers must encourage students to analyse the data that has been generated.
- Data generated could be depicted in the form of bar / pie charts.
- Based on the analysis of the data, teachers with the help of their students could develop certain programmes to increase awareness among students about this critical issue.

Objective

To assess the awareness among children about appropriate health, hygiene and sanitation practices.

Place

School/ Other school

Duration

1 week for survey, 2 hours for class room discussion

Group size

Pairs

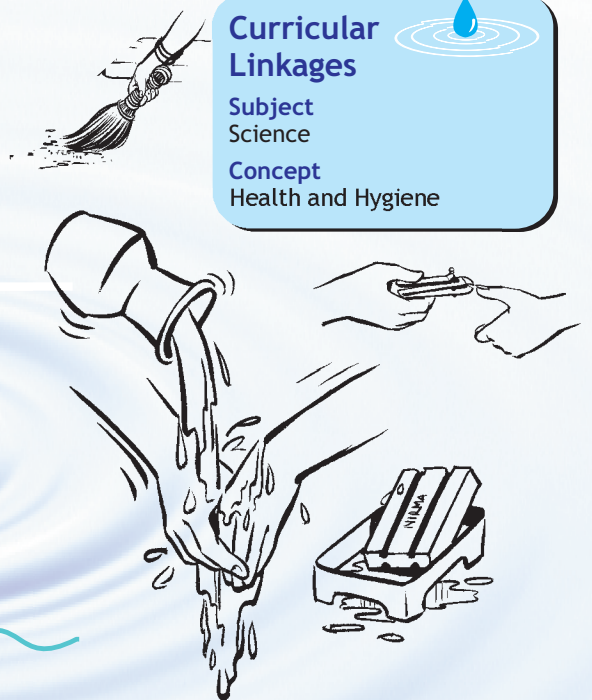
Material

Personal hygiene questionnaire, pen, notebooks

Curricular Linkages

Subject
Science

Concept
Health and Hygiene



Personal Hygiene Survey - Sample Questionnaire

Personal Hygiene Practice	Personal Frequency of observing the practice			
	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
I always wash my hands before having food				
I use soap to wash my hands				
I use alternatives to soap (ash, etc)				
I always wash my hands after using the toilet				
I bathe daily				
I wash my hair a minimum of once a week				
I always wear washed clothes				
I walk to school without any footwear				
I wear clean and washed socks daily				
I brush my teeth twice a day				
I cut my nails regularly				
I comb my hair tidily before going to school				