



# WASH in Schools: Hygiene promotion approaches in Bangladesh

CDI 2 WASH Program, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Day 3 Session number 12

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# CDI2 WASH Program, Bangladesh

## Project at a glance

**Goal:** Improving health outcomes for target communities

**CSO :** Australian Red Cross

**Implementing Partners:** Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, IFRC and iDE

**Project Period:** May 2014 – Jun 2018

**Target Beneficiaries:** 23,000 people from 1600 HHs. This includes 13,000 students from 29 Schools.



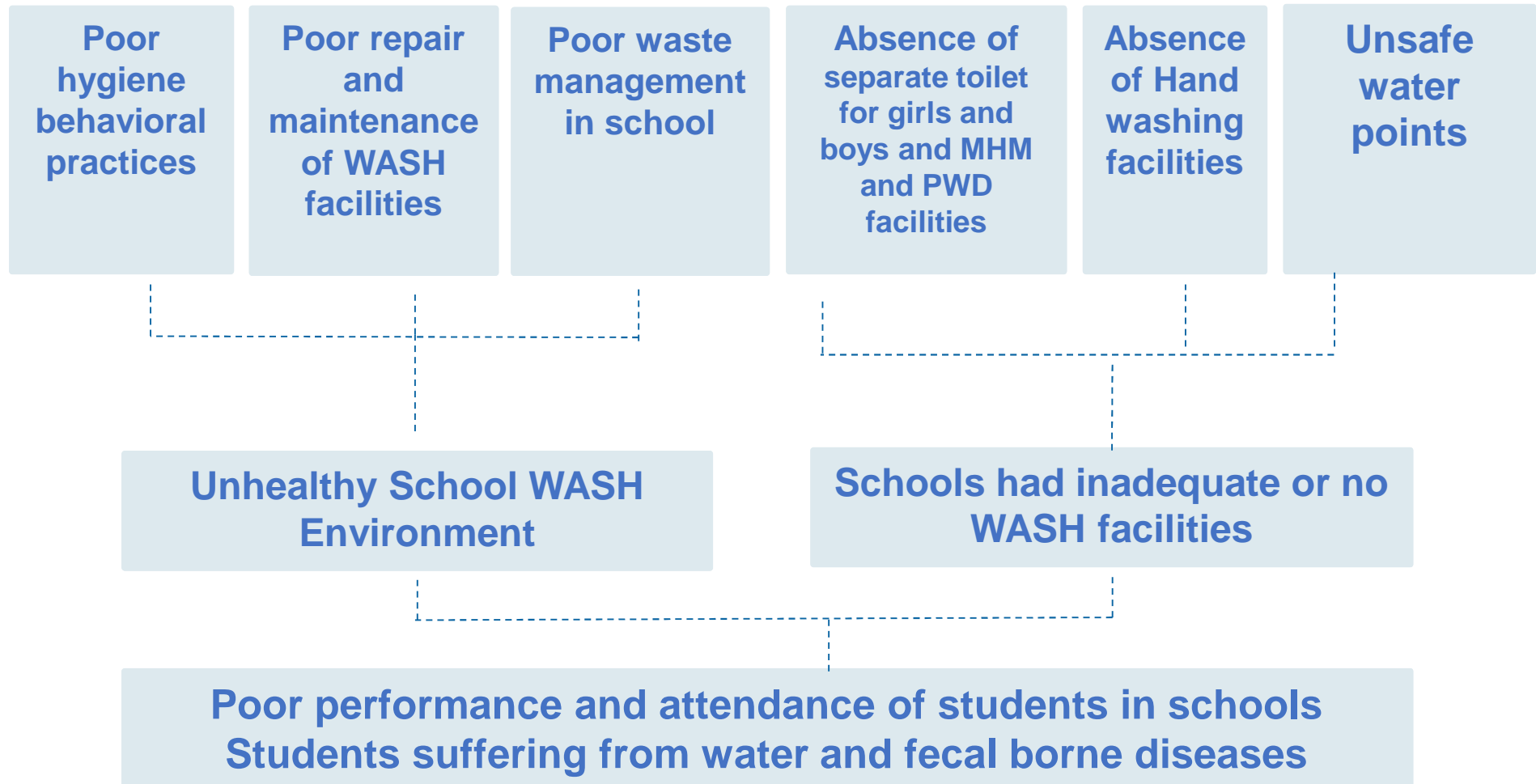
# *School WASH Situation in Bangladesh*

- Inadequate student toilet ratios.

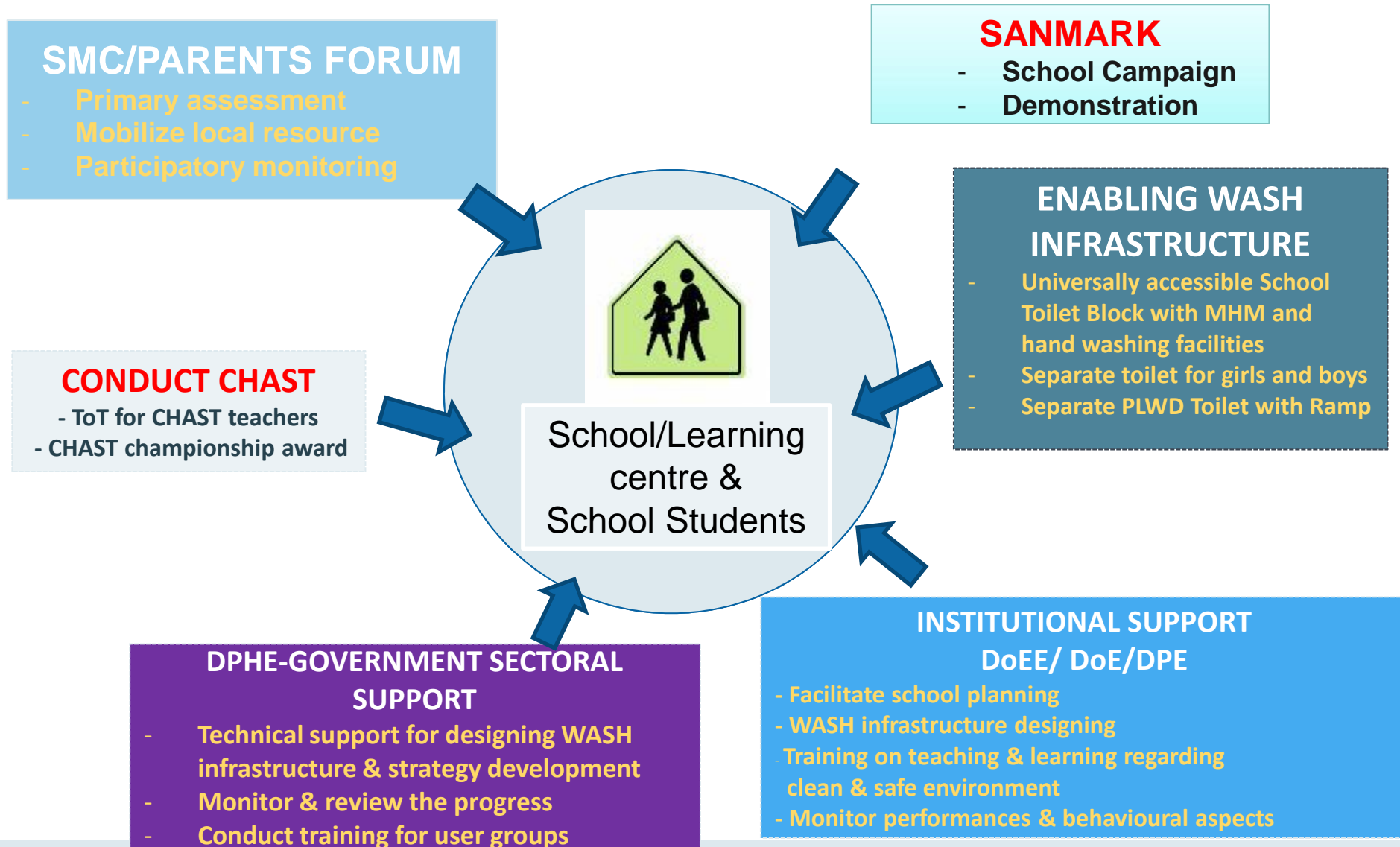
Single toilet available for every 187 students against the government standard of one toilet per 50 students

- Only 5% school have separate toilet for boys and girls
- Only 45% school have improved toilet facilities
- Often unsafe drinking water (arsenic contamination in groundwater)
- 53% girls do not have access to toilets with adequate privacy
- Only 3% of schools girls have a trash can inside their school toilet
- 40% school girls do not attend school during menstruation

## WASH problem in School-CDI 2 WASH Program (Baseline 2014)



# BDRCS Approaches adopted in school WASH



# Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training (CHAST) Approach

Package of training for school students to change hygiene and sanitation behaviour and practice

- Treats students as change agent for school and community
- CHAST Champions
- Peer to peer learning (C2C) to disseminate HP messages
- Student leaders use CHAST methodology to promote good behaviours and practices and with teachers monitor WASH behaviours
- School teachers play a key role in encouraging and monitoring WASH behaviours
- Enhance communication skills and gives young people a voice
- Builds leadership quality

## Other HP activities supporting schools as learning centres

- SanMark
- Parent Forum Meetings
- builds students knowledge and practice in schools and in homes
- builds school as a learning centre
- Recognises students as the future generation





# CHANGES

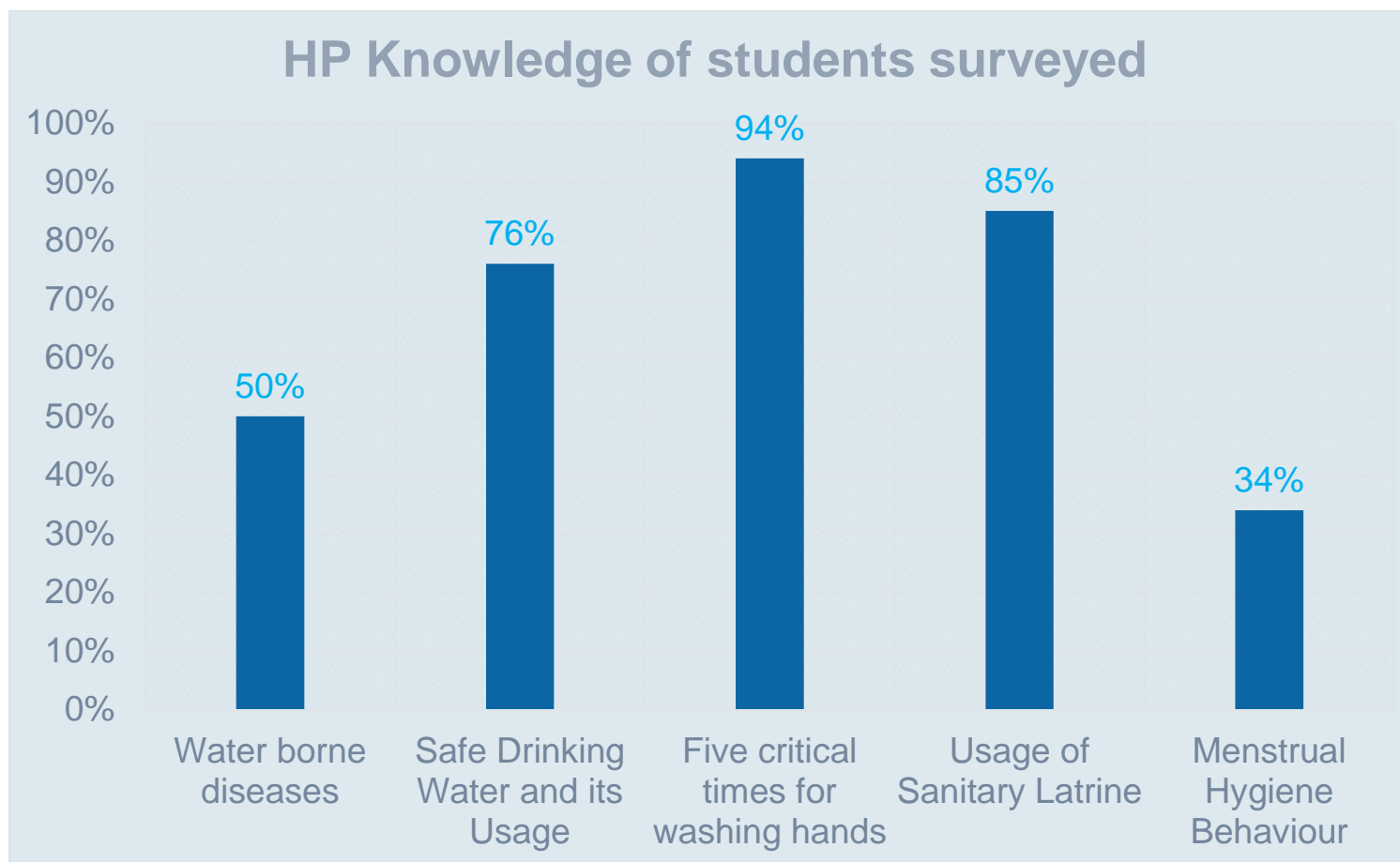
## *Individual level – students*



- Students knowledge about WASH has increased
- Improved hygiene behaviours & practices including using safe water sources
- Water and faecal borne diseases have reduced significantly
- Girls in schools are adopting good MHM practices and have more confidence to discuss issues related to MHM
- According to SMCs school attendance of girls and boys has increased



## Key results of Hygiene Promotion in School

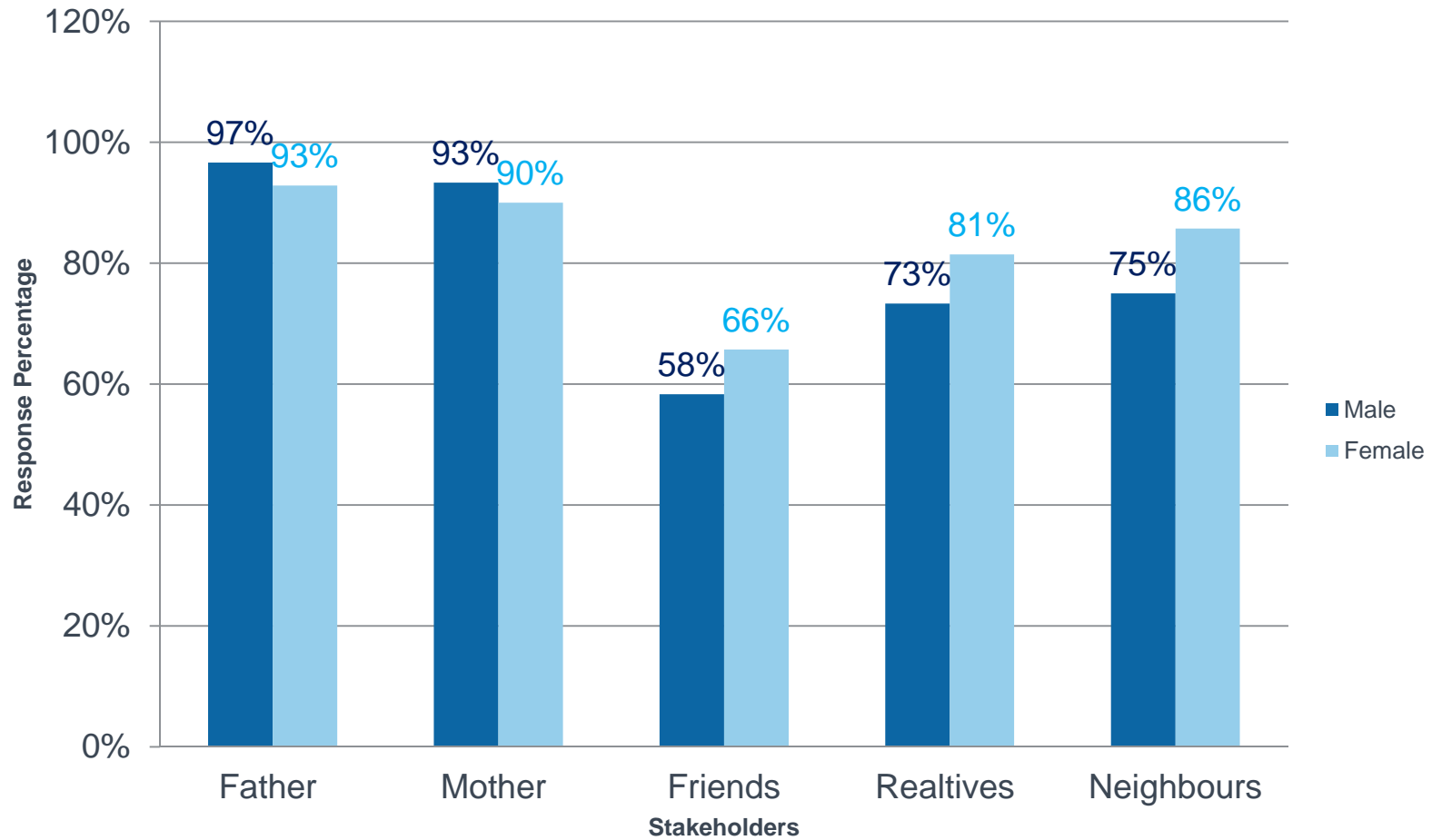


# CHANGES

## *Household and community level*

- Students disseminating HP messages to parents, relatives and neighbours. Each student reaching 21 people (source: CHAST survey )
  - Messages from students, reinforced through parent forum meetings have encouraged families to adopt good hygiene practices at home
    - such as handwashing, cleaning latrines, using slipper, MHM,
    - invest in improved household latrines,
    - adopt local technologies for safe water at home and
    - establish solid waste management systems within HH
- (source: hygiene behaviour survey)

# Knowledge Dissemination by Students – Self Reported



# CHANGES

## *Enabling environment level – Government and institutions*

- Commitment from Govt Departments and SMC to ensure budget allocation for latrine maintenance & cleaning (29 MoUs)
- Endorsement of latrine designs by Govt and interest in replication in future constructions
- Use of IEC materials by Govt Departments beyond this project
- Awareness build-up among the SMCs to invest in WASH
- 8 SMC already appointed cleaner for maintaining school toilet block

# Evidence of Changes

- CHAST assessment (Yearly)
- Hygiene behaviour and disease surveillance study (Yearly )
- Monitoring of school based sanitation and hygiene behaviours
- School attendance records
- Stories of change



# CHAST champion

*I don't feel shy to talk about menstruation with my classmates or relatives and I heartily care about applying all the teachings we have learnt from School"*



*I shared my knowledge that I learnt from CHAST with my 30 friends who did not know good Menstruation hygiene practice*

*"I felt proud not because I could answer all the questions but for becoming the icon seeing whom others will get inspired to learn and apply good WASH behaviors in their life"*



*Mousumi Khalko, 14 years old an aborigine student, studies class nine at Nazirdigor High School.*





# Student in **Action** on CHAST



# Lessons learned

- Students are effective key change makers in family and in the community
- CHAST provides behavioural change methodology for sustainable WASH in school, as peer to peer model considered effective. Students are involved in shaping suitable BCC
- Participation increasing students (particularly girls) confidence and they are seen as role models
- CHAST is a good entry point to raise more difficult topics such as gender and inclusion both at the school and community level
- Schools based approach is part of integrated model
  - Strengthening capacity of local government and involving them throughout the program is important for sustaining changes
  - Through exposure and involvement in the project, government change agents have recognised importance of gender and diversity and are including MHM and disability features in latrine designs beyond the project
  - Working with Parents groups helps strengthen ownership and results
  - SMC are taking responsibility for maintenance and cleaning of school toilet blocks and hygiene promotion activities

# Recommendations

- Use integrated approaches to reinforce HP messaging
  - CHAST, SanMark in schools, parent forum meetings
  - Foster linkages between parents and schools, and school management with local government
  - Invest in infrastructure and ensure school latrines are universally accessible and designs appropriately meet the needs of all (ie MHM and disability features)
  - Conduct advocacy with government to promote replication/scale up and sustainability

# *Resource recommendations*

- CHAST Manual (Bangla language)
- MHM Training Module (Bangla and English language)
- MHM leaflet and booklet (Bangla language)