

Initiatives by Gram Panchayats on hand hygiene

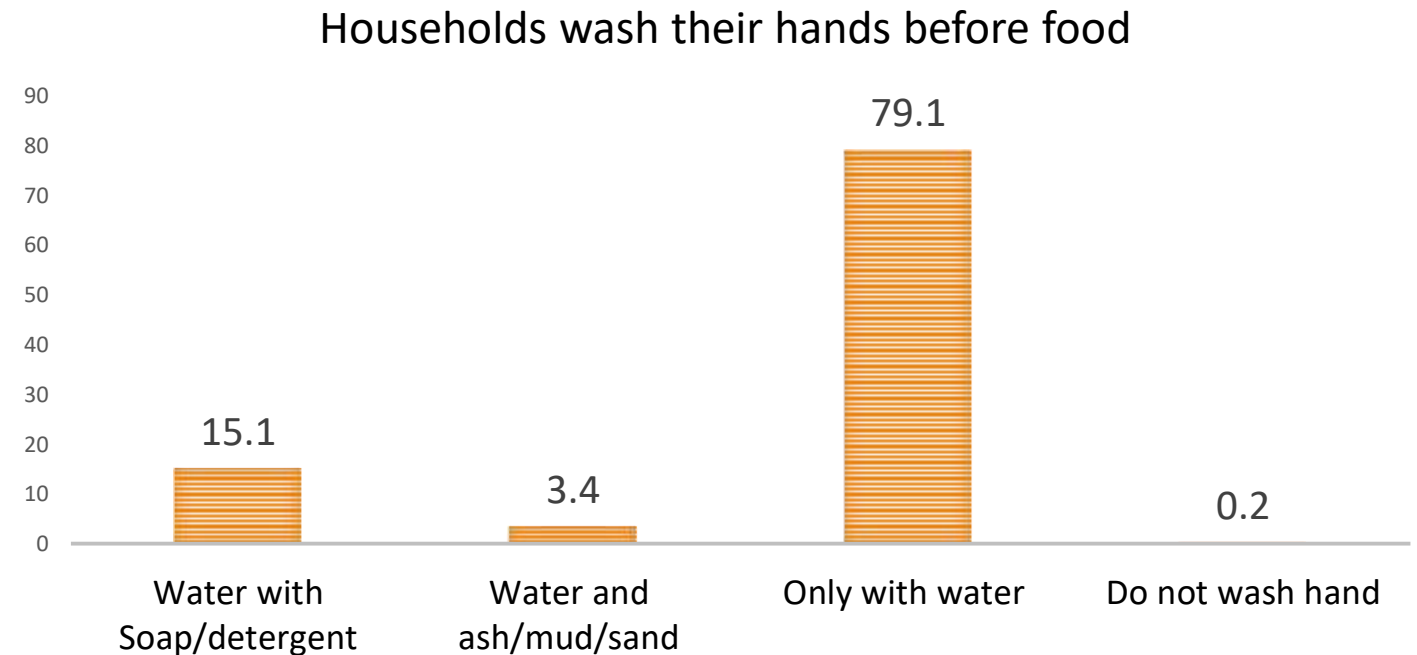
February 24, 2022



About the study

- **Assess levels of capacity and uptake of hand hygiene initiatives at district level**

Amongst the 36 states and union territories of India, Odisha ranks the 32nd in terms of hand hygiene before taking food.



Source: National Sample Survey, 2019

Planning



Finding

Lack capacities of PRIs to plan and budget for hand hygiene promotion

- No initiative taken by PRIs to incorporate promotion of hand hygiene on GPDPs.
- Reported lack of knowledge and awareness on how to include hand hygiene component within GPDP

RECOMMENDATION

- **Official communication to GPs highlighting the need for focusing on hand hygiene beyond covid-19, suggesting use of FC funds for hand-washing promotion and infrastructures.**
- **WASH plan should cover 60% of GP fund.**

Infrastructure



FINDING

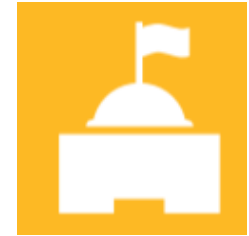
Hand hygiene infrastructure

- Lacking in:
 - Public places (marketplaces, bus stops, as well as panchayat bhawan)
 - Anganwadi Centres, despite of the staff being aware of and having received training on the importance of handwashing with soap.
 - Community Health Centres, despite the staff being aware of and well trained on the importance of hand hygiene.
- Schools, however, had functional handwashing stations.
- Lack of adequate water and soap at AWCs & VHNDs.
- Lack of IECs for people with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

- **Functional hand-washing facilities in institutions within the GP, especially in Health Centres**
- **Hand washing points at the village level institutions & platforms (AWCs and VHND)**

Institutions



FINDING

Awareness and capacities

- Community has knowledge of and practices handwashing with soap.
- As a consequence of the Covid-19, frontline workers received trainings on hand hygiene.
- CSOs play a critical role in dissemination of knowledge and information regarding handwashing with soap, during as well as pre-pandemic.
- Limited role of health workers in awareness raising on hand hygiene.

Lack of IEC material and frontline workers fluent in local languages.

Need for additional resources in terms of IEC material, trainings, human resources to spread awareness and dedicated budgets for promotion of hand hygiene.

RECOMMENDATION

- **Regular capacity building of the duty bearers and key functionaries on hand hygiene.**
- **Inclusive channels of communication to promote hand hygiene, keeping in mind language and disabilities**
- **Departmental convergence is an important aspect**

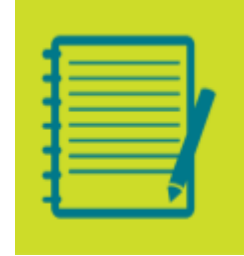
Policy and Finance



RECOMMENDATION

- Using 15FC funds and the scope to integrate the different aspects of WASH, the Gram Panchayats may initiate some steps to provide hand-washing facilities in public places.
- Adequate guidelines/instructions on the placement of these facilities to the Gram Panchayat need to be provided, taking into consideration long term requirements, beyond the pandemic.

Monitoring



RECOMMENDATION

- **Monitoring of hand hygiene in different settings within the GP at regular intervals**
 - **Facilities**
 - **Practice**
- **Monitoring the annual plans and budgets towards hand hygiene in the GPDP for**
 - **Facilities in institutions and public spaces**
 - **Promotion of hand hygiene**
- **Transparency of the data**

Thank You

