There are several ‘rights’ given to citizens of India but the right to a safe, secure, and healthy life at home and in schools is not one of them. Thus, we believe a “Right to Sanitation Facilities”, especially for our women and girl children who face several challenges everyday just to attend nature calls in a safe and secure environment, is much needed. We are committed to providing such toilet facilities in communities, neighborhoods, and schools, where they are not available so that we can ensure both dignity and safety to women and girl children.

In 2015, Sewa International started the “#Yes! I can go to school” program, and implemented the first pilot project by installing toilets at four government schools in Jigani, Bengaluru District, in South India. Girl’s school attendance increased by 87%.

Since then, Sewa International has expanded the project to different locations across India. In the past four years, this project has benefitted more than 7,803 families and 29,379 school children from various sections of Indian communities.

ACCESS TO TOILETS IS CRITICAL FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

www.toilets-sewausa.org
For women and girls, apart from the threat of assault and harassment, not having to access toilets has a serious implication on their health as it elevates chances of urinary tract and kidney infections.

Every year diarrhea and pneumonia kills 600,000 children under the age of five years. The connection between diarrhea and malnutrition is well established. Diarrhea is often caused by lack of clean water for proper hand washing. Lack of toilet facilities further exacerbates the problem as feces on the ground contribute to contaminated drinking water and water resources.

Ending open defecation is not just about access to toilets, it’s about normalizing toilet usage, generating demand for toilets, and coaxing people to use them every single day. Open defecation is an age-old practice that is seen as “normal” in many communities.

Access to sanitation is crucial for the maintenance of health, safety, and dignity. For women and girls, toilets provide a space to manage menstrual hygiene and are an important measure in mitigating the risk of harassment whilst defecating in the open around dusk and dawn.

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Sewa has two toilets models with cost effective bio digester pit:

1. **Pre-fabricated cement panel portable toilets**
2. **Brick & mortar toilets**