

## Barabanki school toilets ensure girls stay in school



Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen, a Central Government Scheme, Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh has transformed enormously during the past few years. The progress is seen in its open defecation free (ODF) status, provision of clean drinking water for all the households, general village cleanliness and school toilets.

Previously, people were accustomed to defecating outdoors, an age-old habit that caused various diseases and malnutrition among children.

To make the district open defecation free, individual household toilets were constructed in 4,48,874 homes across the district. Hygiene and cleanliness activities were promoted and maintained through regular IEC activities.

However, there were no separate toilets for boys and girls in government schools. To address this issue, separate toilets were built in as many as 2,418 primary and junior schools. The initiative has paved the way for adolescents to continue their education even after they attain puberty. It has also contributed to meeting the hygiene and menstruation requirements of girls.

As far as community sanitary complexes (CSCs) are concerned, while the construction of CSCs has been completed in 16 Gram Panchayats of the district, construction of an additionally 400 CSCs is under progress.

On its part, the district administration has provided technical and financial support to all GPs to ensure that SBM-G work continues unhindered. In addition to consistent follow-up, the district officers have pledged to make sanitation measures accessible in every primary school.

### **A GP that needs recognition:**

An ideal GP carrying out remarkable work in spreading awareness about safe sanitation, construction of individual toilets and making clean drinking water accessible to every person in the Panchayat is Saidanpur GP in Sirauli Gauspur Block.

Hamimpur Primary School is a sound example of cleanliness, made possible by the strenuous efforts of the Pradhan - Mr. Rajesh Kumar, and Panchayat Secretary - Mr. Abhay Shukla. The school with an enrollment of 102 students has a children's park and separate toilets for boys and girls.

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