WINN’S THREE-STAR APPROACH: GATEWAY TO HAVE A SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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To keep learners safe and healthy there must be a clean environment in and around schools. To give importance to the topic of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, the following WinS indicators are given importance:

1. availability of drinking water
2. regularity of cleaning of sanitation facilities
3. availability of group hand washing facilities
4. accessibility of sanitary pads
5. compliance with food handling standards, and
6. number of learners dewormed.

UNICEF supports WASH in Schools activities and the Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools is designed to improve the effectiveness of hygiene behavior. According to World Health Organization, the approach ensures that healthy habits are taught, practiced and integrated into daily school routines. The Three Star Approach helps schools meet the essential criteria for a healthy and protective learning environment.
for children as part of the broader child-friendly schools’ initiative. According to www.un.org, it aims to address the bottlenecks that block the effectiveness and expansion of current WASH in Schools program.

As generated from www.washinschools.info, in the Three Star Approach, schools are encouraged to take simple and inexpensive step to ensure that all students wash their hands with soap, have access to potable drinking water, and are provided with clean, gender-segregated toilets at school every day. It also promotes incremental approach like group activities and beginning with daily supervised group hand-washing sessions. One to three stars can be achieved by expanding hygiene promotion activities and improving infrastructure to ultimately achieve the national standards for WASH in Schools.

The Three Star Approach helps schools focus on meeting children’s needs through key interventions by prioritizing the most essential actions for achieving goals. It also provides a clear pathway for all schools throughout a country to meet national standards, and for all children to have hygiene-promoting and healthy schools. Local action and support from communities and does not depend on expensive hardware inputs from the education system or external support agencies are also encouraged. The guiding concept for interventions at all stages is ‘Keep it simple, scalable and sustainable’ so that the approach can be sustainably expanded at low cost.

With this, the school and community can work hand in hand to provide a healthier and safer learning environment for the school children.

References:

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UNICEF_Field_Guide-3_Star-Guide

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