

Project Hathaway

Group 7-10

Project Type: Single Year

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Project Overview

A. Area of Concern

According to the World Health Organisation, 2.3 billion people still do not have basic sanitation facilities such as toilets or latrines. At least 10% of the world's population is thought to consume food irrigated by wastewater. Poor sanitation is linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Inadequate sanitation is estimated to cause 280 000 diarrhoeal deaths annually. Poor sanitation also contributes to malnutrition. According to a survey that we conducted, 67.3% of people have seen public sanitation facilities being abused before and 69.2% do not know the importance of having proper sanitation. Here in Singapore, most people are unaware of these situations overseas and are abusing the sanitation facilities that we have here.

The World Toilet Organization is a global non-profit organization committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide. It organises events to raise awareness about the sanitation issues locally and globally, and also fund existing movements. They have advocated a day for toilets and sanitation celebrated annually on 19 November, which is globally recognised. They have also set up a World Toilet College to empower trainers and sanitation workers in both urban and rural contexts. There is an annual conference, the World Toilet Summit, that brings together key stakeholders and decision-makers in the sanitation sector

B. Challenges Identified

Sanitation is something that not everybody is comfortable with talking about. As such, people do not really understand the importance of sanitation and the problems that a lack of it may bring. According to statistics gathered by the World Toilet Organisation, every \$1 spent on water and sanitation generates a \$4.3 return in the form of reduced health care costs. The silence surrounding the sanitation crisis is beginning to break as evidenced by the Sustainable Development Goal's inclusion of sanitation on its global

development agenda. Sustainable Development Goal #6 calls for universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and the end of open defecation by 2030.

C. Underlying Problem

Our team, through our online survey, noticed that majority of Singaporeans are not aware of the sanitation problems in Singapore and in the world. Therefore, how might we raise awareness for sanitation so that more Singaporeans would appreciate our sanitation facilities and not abuse them? Through our project, we hope that the sanitation situation in Singapore will improve and everyone will be more concerned about the sanitation issues and do their part. We also aim to have cleaner and better equipped sanitation facilities here in Singapore.

Plan of Action

Date	Action	Objective
March	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Met with beneficiary2. Setting up of social media accounts	Discuss plans for the year and set goals for our project Starting to spread our outreach through social media platforms
March - August	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Posted regularly on social media platforms2. Created an informative website to educate people on the importance of sanitation (https://sites.google.com/view/projectathaway/)	Raise awareness and educate the public

June - August	<u>House to house visits</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted a total of 4 times in 2 different areas during afternoons <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Choa Chu Kang and Bukit Merah 2. Designed an informative flyer to hand out to the residents 	Raise awareness
July	Put up posters around the school toilets with information on sanitation and on how they can do their part in school	Spread the outreach of our project to the students in our school
18 July 14 August	<u>School talks</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visited 2 primary schools, South View Primary School and Edgefield Primary School 2. Presented a set of slides, with a quiz and survey at the end 3. Prizes were given out 	Raise awareness and educate youths so that they can cultivate good habits

Our plan of action is detailed in the table above which shows the date of completion for each of our events and initiatives. We met up with the organisation to decide on what we can do to help first and how they can help us as well. Our main aim was to raise awareness on the issue as they said that people usually do not want to talk about things related to toilets and their toilet “business”, and as such the problems that the lack of sanitation brings about are not really known. We decided that the best way to have the largest outreach would be through social media. Afterwards, we went house to house to spread awareness and put up posters in school to target the students. We also went to primary schools as we felt that they would be the most enthusiastic and would take what

we said seriously. They are also the future of society and they can take all these information that we have shared with them into the future and hopefully this will provide a long term solution to the problem.

Implementation of the Plan: Actions and Outcomes to Date

A. Accomplishments

We have reached out to approximately 1000 people in total, physically and through the internet. Around 100 members of the public have pledged to do their part to improve basic sanitation during the house to house visits and through online forms. The primary school students took what we said seriously, all of them stated that they have learnt something from our presentation, 84% of them said that they would do their part to keep the toilets clean from then on, and 71% said that they will share with their friends and family members.

B. Reflection on Outcomes

We have learnt about the actual state of sanitation locally and globally, and how important it is to us. We should appreciate what we have and not abuse the facilities provided as we are lucky to have them. We are also heartened by the positivity shown by the public and we are confident that they have taken what we have told them to heart and will do their part. We are pleased to have seen that our project has made an impact, and met our main objective of raising awareness. Looking back, we could have visited more households or visited more areas, and planned for the primary school talks earlier so that we could have went to more primary schools to increase our outreach.

C. Scope of the Project

Community Impact:

Members of the public could learn more about the importance of proper sanitation and the problems the lack of it may bring about. They also learnt how they could do their part in keeping our sanitation facilities clean, better appreciate them and not abuse

them. Primary school students also learnt how they can do their part in their schools, or in public. They can also spread what we have shared to their friends and family members, thus widening the outreach of our project.

Resolution of AOC/UP:

Given that we identified the lack of public awareness and social stigma surrounding sanitation and the issues it may bring about, we have reached out to approximately 1000 members of the public through our initiatives and events to tackle these issues. More importantly, we have reached out to about 1300 youths since they are more open minded and will be able to cultivate good habits from young, and they will be able to bring what they have learnt with them when they grow up. We hope that this will have a lasting impact on society and will provide a long term solution to the sanitation issues here in Singapore. Lastly, we hope to pass down this project to enthusiastic juniors so that this project can become more sustainable and have a greater impact on society.

References

World Toilet Organization. (2001). *World Toilet Organization*.

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