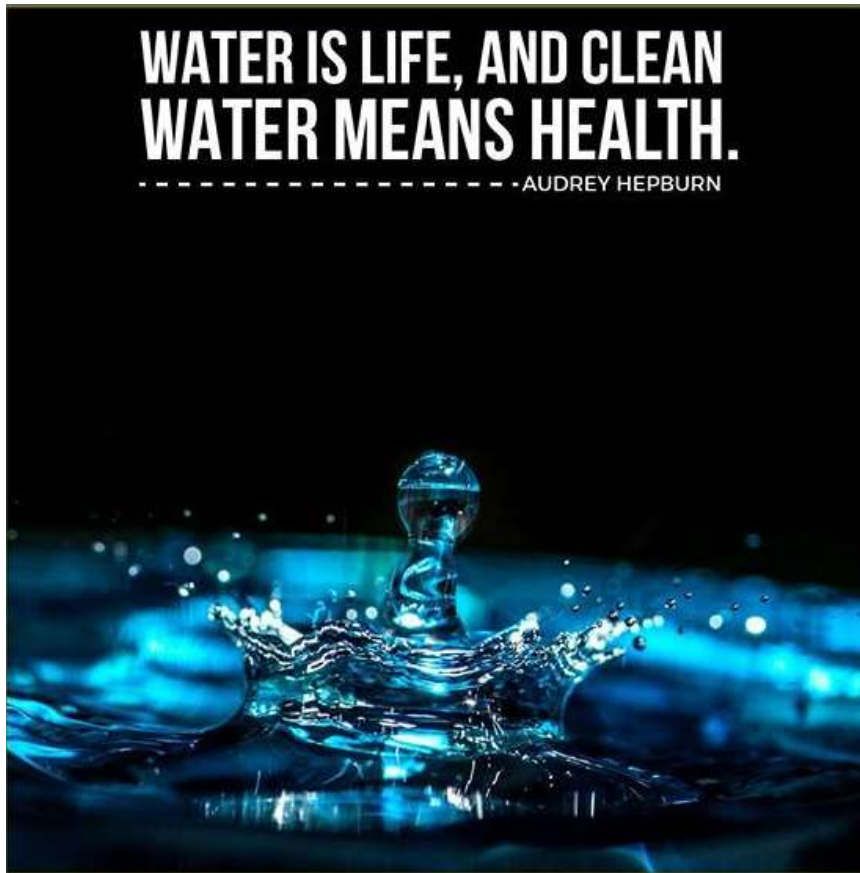




2024



Clean and Pure Drinking Water for Bright Future

**AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF DIVI'S SCHOOL RO PROJECT,
YADADRI-BHUVANAGIRI DISTRICT, TELANGANA**

PRESENTED BY DEEKSHA – CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND ACTION



Divi's Laboratories Ltd.

**AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON DIVI'S INTERVENTION OF
RO WATER STATIONS IN SCHOOLS**

YADADRI BHONGIR DISTRICT, TELANGANA

A CSR INITIATIVE OF DIVI'S

2024

Report Prepared by

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CLEAN AND PURE DRINKING WATER FOR BRIGHT FUTURE

INTRODUCTION

These days, availability of clean and safe drinking water has become a precious segment in estimating the standard of life. Given the water contamination in streams and ponds due to mixing of pollutants, harmful chemicals and sewerage water, it has become not useful for direct water consumption unlike the earlier days. Simultaneously the ground water too has become scarce. Whatever less available, it is also hard water with fluoride and other harmful minerals deposited thereby causing long term health problems to the people consuming the same.

BACKGROUND

In these circumstances, various non-government organizations, charitable institutions, trusts and companies are supporting the governments in setting up water purification plants in the areas where the problems are identified as severe to dangerous range. Nevertheless, the issue is wide spread and the efforts are at minimum scale. Area covered and communities benefitted are also not at optimum level. Thus, there is growing need for many more such interventions.

Same time there are diverse connected issues around this initiative that need to be addressed to ensure its proper and effective usage by the public. Important of these include: regular maintenance, cleanliness around the area of the water plant, regulating water flow, monitoring the usage by the communities, purification process, quality checks and sustainability of the initiative. In this context, Divi's efforts to provide safe drinking water to the communities, adopting a comprehensive approach, is noteworthy.

DIVI'S INTERVENTION

Divi's has been proactively carrying out social welfare programmes for past three decades, taking into consideration the specific requirements of the region to do its bit towards improving the lives among the communities. As part of its CSR programmes, during the years 2022 and 2023, Divi's focused on provision of clean and safe drinking water to the village

communities around its manufacturing units in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. Setting up RO plants in schools for providing safe drinking water has been an important contribution towards promotion of quality education to children. They have also extended the project to the government offices and public places like Police Stations, Hospitals and Bus stands. This is in line with their vision of giving back to the community.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

In compliance with the Government of India rules and regulations towards interventions under the CSR component of the Companies/Corporates, Divi's planned for an impact assessment study of the purified drinking water stations in the schools.

Deeksha, a not-for-profit organization working on the lines of child rights, environment and gender issues has been approached to take-up the task of studying the impact of these water stations provided in the schools as part of the CSR initiatives.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Divi's has provided RO water purifying machines to almost all government schools in the district of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Telangana, catering to more than 60,000 students every-day. During the years 2022 & 2023 Divi's has reached out to 629 schools and 37 Government offices, and installed a total of 703 RO water stations across the district to ensure provision of safe drinking water. Therefore, to understand the status, the utility and the impact of the intervention it is intended to take up the impact assessment of the intervention.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To understand and analyse the impact of setting up RO water purifiers in Government Schools on the quality of education.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology is participatory and included Interaction with the Head of the institution, FGD with the students, SGD with the teachers and physical observation of the RO units. Besides, one on one interaction with the Technician and Divi's staff helped in gathering views in total.

SAMPLE

Since the intervention schools are high in number located across the district, 50% of the mandals were selected to do the study using stratified sampling method. Further, following the same method a sample of 5% schools were identified in these mandals. Care was taken to ensure covering all types of Schools – Primary, Upper Primary, High Schools, Residential Schools, KGBV and Model Schools. The number of schools to be studied came to 31 out of 630 schools, however, the study team visited 36 schools and 2 model school hostels during the study. The number of units installed in each school was not the criteria in selecting the schools.

FINANCIAL OUTLAY

Divi's has spent an amount of ₹6,83,22,288.00 under its CSR intervention towards setting up water purifying (RO) machines in schools.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

The study team physically visited all the identified schools, observed the RO water purifying units, interacted with the students, teachers and the non-teaching staff to understand the utility and the impact of the intervention. Details of the schools visited are as below:

Table 1 – Details of the Schools visited & the number of RO water units installed

Sl. No	Mandal	Village	Type of School	No. of RO units	Strength
1	Alair	Reddygudem	MPPS	1	31
2		Alair	ZPHS	3	439
3	Bhuvanagiri	Raigiri	MPPS	1	80
4		Raigiri	ZPHS	1	240
5		Yousufnagar	MPPS	1	31
6		Vadaparthi	UPS	1	78
7	Bibinagar	Raghavapauram	UPS	1	54
8		Rahimkhanguda	MPPS	1	21
9		Bibinagar	ZPHS	2	247
10	Bommalaramaram	Tirumalagiri	MPPS	1	40
11		Malyala	Model School	1	646

12		Bommalararamaram	ZPHS	1	158
13	Cheruvugattu	Cheruvugattu	MPPS	1	65
14	Chityala	Perepalli	MPUPS	1	80
15		Epuru	MPUPS	1	85
16		Epuru	ZPHS	1	100
17		Gundrampalli	ZPHS	2	140
18	Choutuppal	Choutuppal	MPUPS	2	400
19		Lakkaram	Model School	1	666
20		Lakkaram	Model School Hostel	1	120
21		Choutuppal	ZPHS	2	325
22		Thangadapalli	MPPS	1	148
23		Thangadapalli	ZPHS	2	300
24	Pochampally	Jalalpur	KGBV	1	243
25		Narayanagiri	Model School	1	600
26		Narayanagiri	Model School Hostel	1	100
27		Pochampally	ZPHS Girls	1	421
28		Pochampally	MPPS	1	159
29		Pochampally	ZPHS Co-Ed	2	421
30	Narayanapuram	Gudimalkapuram	MPUPS	1	63
31		Allamdevi cheruvu	MPPS	1	22
32		Sarvail	MPPS	1	53
33		Gujja	ZPHS	1	68
34		Gujja	MPPS	1	35
35	Yadagirigutta	Gosala	ZPHS Girls	1	159
36		Gosala	ZPHS Co-Ed	1	240
37		Yadagirigutta	MPPS	1	104
38		Pedda Kandukur	MPPS	1	75

The observations are presented as overall and school specific that need further attention.

- All the Primary, Upper-Primary and High schools (629) in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district are provided with water purifiers. One to three purifiers are installed in each of the schools based on the number of pupils. A total of 666 RO water purifying machines are provided in the schools across the district, benefitting about 60,000 students every day.

- The students and the teachers are very happy at the provision of RO plants in the schools. According to them, children's intake of water increased compared to earlier years, where providing drinking water to children was a big challenge for the school administration.
- Earlier to this intervention by Divi's, drinking water is bought by the school staff from the RO plants in the village on daily basis. Each bubble of purified water was bought @₹.10/- to ₹.20/-. In some places, drinking water is supplied by the Gram Panchayat. Children and the staff used to get their own water bottles to the school. Thus, the intake was very limited, particularly by the students.
- Now that the RO plants are very much in school, children fill their water bottles during interval time and keep them in the classroom. During Lunch time, children go to the water plant and drink.
- In most places, especially in primary and upper primary schools, kitchen staff are also using RO water for cooking purpose. They fill water in the water can or drum and use it. In few schools, the bore well water is used or the kitchen staff get water from the village RO plants in cans and use it. In some schools, separate Mission Bhagiratha tap connection is also available and is being used for cooking.
- Everywhere, children are drinking water from the RO units provided by Divi's only. They feel that taste of water is good and they are able to drink more water compared to earlier times. Teachers reported that children are now drinking sufficient water and the dehydration issues faced earlier have comparatively come down. On an average, children drink about 2 to 3 bottles a day as claimed by the children and the teachers in most schools.
- In majority schools, Bore-well water is supplied through overhead tank. Wherever provision is available, Mission Bhagiratha water is supplied to the RO unit through overhead tank. Plumbing work and connections are all taken care by Divi's.
- The RP units are set up in accordance to the place available – mostly in staff rooms and in some schools in one of the classrooms. And in few others, the machine is kept in the verandah and in a few cases they are put in a separate unused classroom.

- In some Primary Schools, where the RO units are placed in the classrooms, they use water cans provided by Divi's earlier, to supply drinking water to the students. The Aaya fills water in the water cans having taps and keeps it in the verandah, so that small children can use it for drinking water. This is a measure taken to avoid spillage of water around RO units inside the classroom.
- In ZPHS, Choutuppal, the RO unit is kept in a separate room and in lock and key. The school sweeper opens it for students during lunch time and intervals. For meantime consumption, students fill their bottles and keep with them in the classrooms. Glasses are provided for drinking water from RO unit.
- Maintenance of the RO machine is the responsibility of Divi's. Monthly visits by the technician are arranged to address concerns, to ensure proper and efficient working of the water purifiers (RO units) installed in the schools. Technician contact number is written on the machine itself for convenience and easy access to call the person, in case of any problem in the machine. Entire expenditure from installation to maintenance of the machine is borne by Divi's.
- Everywhere, it is reported as very satisfactory about maintenance. Immediate response from the technician to any issue is well appreciated. In almost all the schools, the staff reported very positively about the on-call response to repairs, if any, and promptness in changing filters by the technician.
- In some schools at Choutuppal mandal, monkeys are damaging the overhead tanks set up by Divi's. The school management is trying hard to clean the tank periodically and pump water into the RO unit.
- The Lakkaram Model School is already having a 500litre capacity RO plant but is not sufficient to meet the cooking and drinking water needs of the large number of students. Moreover, it often gives trouble in purification due to hardness of the water. Thus, RO unit provided by Divi's is helping a lot to fill the gap in drinking water requirement, as claimed by the Principal.

- In some schools the Anganwadi centres are located within the school premises. The drinking water needs of these centres are met from the RO units located in the school. Eg: Peddakandukuru MPPS, Sarvail MPPS, Thangadipalli MPPS.
- *In almost all schools, the HMs claimed that the expenditure spent towards purchase of water has come down totally due to Divi's intervention of RO unit. To add to this, there was tension of non-availability of water, purity of available water and continuous follow up with the suppliers. In this condition, children and staff not able to drink sufficient water. They also reported aggravation of these problems during summer months.*
- The HM, MPUPS, Vadaparthi claimed that previously children used to go home for water and there were complaints from parents about it often. That issue is resolved now with the installation of RO unit by Divi's.
- ZPHS, Bibinagar, has 2 RO units. Filtered water from RO units is filled in another chiller cum storage drum kept outside in the hall and students fetch water from this drum. Both the RO units are kept in a room under lock and key.
- While setting up RO units in the schools, Divi's has also given water bottles to the students as per the list given by the respective mandal and district officers. As a result, new admissions and late admissions did not get the bottles. They now demand for the bottles.
- It was observed that in very few schools, glasses are provided near the RO units. As students were given water bottles, they fill water in the bottles for consumption. But those who do not have water bottles had to make alternate arrangements, viz., carrying plastic bottles from home or share their friends' bottles.

SOME FEELINGS AND OPINIONS CAPTURED DURING THE STUDY

Viresh Kumar, HM, Model School, Narayanagiri, Bhudan Pochampally

We have another large RO plant instituted by another donor (Christian Missionary) previous to Divi's unit, and prior to me taking charge in the school. The two are quite sufficient for meeting our water demands. However, as regards maintenance and change of candles, Divi's staff are very prompt and regular, whereas the maintenance of the unit installed by Christian missionary had to be taken care by us only.

ZPHS, Gosala, Yadagirigutta has two schools in its compound... One is Co-Ed and the other is Girls High School. In the Co-Ed school, there are 2 RO units. One person is exclusively allotted to take charge of the RO units kept in a separate room. The input water supply is from Mission Bhagiratha, but it comes on alternate days. Hence overhead tanks are filled and kept ready. Due to monkey menace, the tanks are kept in the same room for supply of water to the two RO units. Boys are also entrusted the responsibility to maintain the premises and surroundings neat and clean. The Headmistress, Ms. Sharat Yamini expressed her gratitude to Divi's for this provision of drinking water to children. According to her, "*donating water is the best donation out of all*"

Siva Kumar, HM, ZPHS, Choutuppal

We have a solar power unit and we send the power to the grid. So, our power bills are not much. Can't say that the RO unit takes more power or not...

Moreover, we do not feel stressful regarding functioning of the RO unit. Just a phone call to the technician or to Divi's office, we get our issue resolved successfully.

Ms. Mallika – Warden, Model School Hostel, Lakkaram

Earlier there was no provision for drinking water in the hostel. Since the girls are more in number, we had to buy almost 35 cans of water (@Rs. 15/- per can) for cooking and drinking purposes. This used to cost us more. We tried to adjust from the budgets available under school grant but used to be a great challenge in meeting the water needs of the hostel. The girls spoke to DEO and requested for resolving the issue. Thus, Divi's intervention started. Now that Divi's has provided us this facility, we and the girls are every happy. We filter 3 times a day. For cooking we store filtered water in a drum. We are also noticing positive change in the overall health situation and hygiene of the girls. And in turn, it is having a positive impact on the academic performance of the girls.

Anji Reddy, HM, ZPHS, Gundrampally

Drinking water supply should be monitored by the Government and Mission Bhagiratha water should be provided to all schools. It is already filtered on a large scale and is supplied, but I agree there are gaps. Moreover, the bore-well water is hard and one cannot drink directly. Hence, the RO units provided by Divi's are much useful. Their service is prompt... recently one of the two RO units provided by Divi's developed a complaint and was resolved within no time!

B. Srilatha, HM, MPPS, Reddygudem, Alair

Earlier we faced many problems for supply of drinking water to students. So, we used to buy water bubbles for drinking purpose. The students being poor, cannot contribute. However, power issues and irregularity in water supply created problems frequently. Water was also yellowish in colour. With the intervention by Divi's all these problems are resolved. Using the RO filters water for cooking and even for making raagi porridge. This is an excellent contribution by Divi's. While going homes, children are filling their bottles with RO water. We don't object because they come from very poor families.

We need to focus on cleaning the overhead tank regularly which is not being done currently.

Class 10 students, ZPHS, Alair

Earlier there used to be one tank in the staffroom for which plastic taps were fixed outside for us to drink. It was never sufficient as all the students stand in line during lunch time and wait to drink. Most times we had to go to classes without getting water. Sometimes, the taps used to be damaged and water comes slowly. But now with this plant and the water bottles given to us waiting in queues for water has gone, we are drinking enough water. We are able to fill water within no time. We are never thirsty, thanks to Divi's.

Ramadevi, Headmistress, MPPS, Raigiri

Previously we used to get water from the Mission Bhagiratha village overhead tank situated nearby. When the gate valves are open by the GP, we used to fill water in drum. Now that an

additional overhead tank is constructed within the school premises, the issue is resolved. Children too are given two water bottles – one by Divi's and another by another donor. So, they are able to drink sufficient water. They are not getting water from their homes now as enough water is available in the school. They go to urinals often and this is an indication for their increased water intake. However, if one of the taps of the RO unit is replaced by a tube with valve, it becomes easier for children to fill water in their bottles.

I have two questions... How long is the free maintenance by Divi's? How do we change candles frequently and maintain the TDS low? Responding to this the Divi's staff member present along with the study team informed that it will continue as long as the district administration collaborates with Divi's.

Students of ZPHS, Bommaramaram

Earlier drinking water supply was through the tap connection from Mission Bhagiratha. But we had to wash our hands and lunch plates there only as there was no separate provision. Hence entire area is watery and unclean. Hence, we did not like to drink water from the tap. Either we remained thirsty or adjust with water brought from our homes. Some of our friends used to fill their meals plates with water and move away from the place before they drink. Now that a separate RO provision is made by Divi's and water bottles are provided, our water woes are cleared. We are able to drink water sufficiently. We are allowed to fill bottles three times a day during school hours. One person will be there during the break times to supervise the process.

Many thanks to Divi's team!!

SCHOOL SPECIFIC ISSUES

1. UPS, Choutuppal – There are two units provided by Divi's but wires and adapter of one unit are stolen, hence is under repair. The strength being 400, the load has increased on the unit that is functional, demanding frequent change of candles. Technician opined that the water is hard and has higher TDS, which is also causing the need for frequent change of candles. HM appreciated Divi's efforts to provide efficient service even in such critical conditions.

2. In ZPHS, Choutuppall out of the two units provided, one is being utilized. The second one is kept spare. The HM reported that once the dining hall construction is completed, they will start the second unit too. The overhead tank put up by Divi's has been destroyed by monkeys. They used to lift the lid, get into the tank and spill the water. Hence the school management set up another overhead tank with thread type lid.
3. In MPPS Tangadapally, rats menace needs to be addressed. The rats seem to have bitten and damage the wires and spoiling the RO plant. Adapter needs to be replaced. The HM requests for an additional RO unit.
4. In MPPS, Sarvail, Samsthan Narayanapuram mandal, there was no regular supply of Mission Bhagiratha water. Due to lack of pressure, filling the overhead tank is taking lot of time. Hence, requested to construct a sump to store water and pump it to the overhead tank thereby supplying to the RO unit.
5. The RO unit in ZPHS, Epuru requires frequent servicing as the water source to the unit is from Bore well and TDS level is very high at 1100. Despite changing candles frequently, the filtration process has been slow.
6. There are two RO units in ZPHS, Gundrampalli, but only one is in operation. The other unit is yet to be brought into use, meanwhile, the wires and adapter are bitten by rats. Additional water requirement for cooking is met from the nearby village water plant. Similar issue has been raised in Tirumalagiri MPPS, Bommaramaram mandal.
7. In the Lakkaram Model School the RO unit is recently shifted to the space available next to the staircase due to their internal arrangements. the existing outlet pipe is shorter than the length required to connect to the drain. Hence, the Principal requested to provide additional pipe to avoid wetting in the walk area.
8. The HM Peddakaduburu MPPS requested for a pipe to be fitted to one of the three taps so that water can be easily filled into the drum and serve to children.
9. ZPHS, Alair has 3 RO units. Two of the three overhead tanks provided by Divi's are in good condition but the third one is broken. This was being replaced by Divi's.

ZPHS, Alair has 3 RO units, all the three are placed at one place. This gives a bit of congestion as students come together for filling up. The HM and the teachers requested for one more RO unit given the higher number of students and staff. The Headmistress claimed that before the installation of RO units, they had to face many challenges for getting water for drinking and cooking, as well. Daily about 25 cans in the morning and 20 cans in the evening had to be purchased as the strength was more than 500 then. All the school fund was expended for buying water cans. Additionally, there used to be frequent water problems and non-availability of sufficient water. The crisis was more during summer months. But when this provision of RO units from Divi's came up, there is double benefit – firstly water problem is resolved, secondly the financial benefit of zero expenditure for buying water.

“We are extremely happy and lucky to get this provision and are thankful to Divi's”

10. There is a single RO unit in MPPS, Raigiri. The overhead tank provided by Divi's has a cap that can be easily removed. Monkeys are frequent visitors to the area before and after the school hours. They take out the cap, spill water almost every day. This required the teachers to oversee this almost every now and then and clean the tank. Finally, this issue is resolved when another tank with thread type lid was installed under *Manavuru – Manabadi* programme. Rest of the RO unit repairs are being regularly done by the technician and the HM supervises the TDS content personally. The RO unit also meets the water demand of the AWC situated in the same premises (25 children and staff). The plant room is in lock and key due to the monkeys' menace. The sweeper fills water in cans and keeps it ready for use by children. The higher-class children (5th class) claimed that they help the younger ones in filling their water bottles.
11. There was no power supply in MPUPS, Vadaparthi. Hence the RO unit has been set up in the annex building where AWC is situated. It works with power supply taken from the AWC and the power bills are being shared. The HM also claimed that monkeys are frequently damaging the wires and thus often the technician has to come and replace them and make the RO unit function. Appreciating the service he said, '*no other agency*

would like to do this, Divi's staff never rejected our request to replace the wires multiple times. We are indebted to Divi's for their committed service'.

12. The RO unit present in ZPHS (Girls), Pochampally is not started as there are few issues regarding raw water supply. Divi's team made all arrangements for plumbing and water supply connection from the existing sump to the overhead tank. But water supply to the sump has been a challenge as there is no Borewell. However, there are bore wells for Primary School and ZPHS Co-Ed school situated in the same compound, but there is no connection to girls' high-school. Mission Bhagiratha water supply is available for toilets, but connection to the drinking water sump is not given. The school staff want Divi's intervention for resolving these issues. They also sought support for borewell/motor for the sump to their school in the compound.
13. MPUPS, Raghavapuram, Bibinagar – Overhead tank needs thread type cap as monkeys are frequently spoiling it and was becoming difficult to clean the same often.
14. During the visit to Malyala model school (Bommalararamam) the Principal requested for RO unit to the hostel too. RO unit is installed in the school. Once the school hours are over, the school premises is locked and the hostel cannot access that RO unit. Hence, they are purchasing water from outside and requested to provide one additional RO unit for hostel purpose.

OTHER NEEDS/DEMANDS THAT CAME UP DURING THE STUDY

- It was observed that the toilets in most schools are constructed by Divi's in the previous years. Water facility was also provided by Divi's by constructing separate overhead tank. However, they are not being maintained properly by the respective school managements. The doors are loose or broken, no sanitation measures, side walls are also in dilapidated condition... this condition needs attention by the concerned.
- Most Schools have no provision for scavengers. Hence toilets cleaning has become pathetic. Teachers and HMs are trying to address this by asking support from the GP. However, it is not happening on a regular basis. The study team observed that in higher schools, children are asked to clean the toilets themselves (MPUPS, Choutuppall, MPPS, Tangadapally).

- Students from all the schools preferred Horlicks to the millet porridge being supplied alternate day in the schools. Horlicks used to be provided by Divi's earlier which was stopped with the instructions from the department in light of introduction of *Raagi* porridge by Government.
- In MPPS, Allamdevi Chervu, the cook has to bring cooked food from her home as there was no facility for cooking in the school compound. Thus, they requested to consider construction of a kitchen.
- Teachers of Allamdevi Cheruvu, MPPS, shared that the notebooks provided by Divi's used to be good in size and quantity. But the notebooks supplied by Govt. are small in size and not sufficient, especially the checked-rules books, as the young children use more papers for practice of writing. Hence, HM requested Divi's to provide note books and also outdoor play material, toilets, additional classroom as they have only one room.
- Teachers preferred notebooks and other provisions also to be made by Divi's. (ZPHS, Gosala, 1 & 2). Similarly, MPPS, Pochampally and MPUPS, Epuru requested for supply of notebooks to children.
- HM of MPPS, Cheruvugattu, requested to provide water bottles to the students and computer-based education to the children.
- Children demanded dual desks/benches for them (MPPS, Yadagirigutta).
- Special officer, KGBV, Pochampally requested for supply of Library books to get the children into reading habit.
- There are 12 children in Bhavita centre meant for physically challenged located in the premises of ZPHS, Pochampally. The drinking water requirement is met from the RO unit present in the ZPHS by filling water in the bubble and keeping it in the centre for the students to use. However, the staff requested for TLM for the children.
- The HMs of MPPS Pochampally requested support of Vidya volunteers. MPUPS Epuru, HM informed that Divi's provided vidya volunteers for past three years which is a big contribution to enhance the academic performance of the students. However, their salary of ₹6,000/- remained the same since their appointment and hence requested to consider increasing it.

RO PLANTS AT OTHER PUBLIC PLACES AND OFFICES

Along with the provision of RO units in Schools, Divi's has set up RO plants in government offices, hospitals and public places too. This intervention is one major part under Divi's CSR component of safe drinking water project, in the last two years – 2022 and 2023. The study team visited few Police stations, Court, Govt. Hospital, Bus stands and observed the conditions, accessibility, utilization, maintenance etc. The observations are detailed below:

Police Stations

The Police Stations at Choutuppall, Pochampally and Bhuvanagiri town along with traffic Police Station, Choutuppall are visited. RO plants of 50 LPH are installed in Police stations during the year 2023. In Bhuvanagiri town PS, the RO unit is of 100 LPH capacity. These machines are majorly used by the station staff. Additionally, people coming to Police station from different places also utilize the facility of clean and safe drinking water. On an average, 100 to 150 people come to any PS per day and sufficient drinking water can be accessed by them, thanks to the setting up of RO unit, the staff claimed.

Pochampally PS, being in the junction, people coming to market, bus stand or other places in the junction come to PS for drinking water purposes and hence the plant is always in running condition, the inspector stated. It is noted by the study team that the RO water purifiers are kept near the entrance and have easy access. Special overhead tanks are installed for the purpose of supply of water to the RO unit. Water supply is from Municipality or Bore well as per the area provisions.

Choutuppall PS has borewell connection and they are making efforts to get Krishna water (municipal water). Traffic Police Station, Choutuppall seems more popular among the sanitation workers and drivers coming to the neighbouring Govt. Hospital. They are seen filling their bottles and carrying. The PS staff there informed that water bubbles are filled and carried when the team go out on traffic related operations.

Interactions with the station staff reflected complete satisfaction about the utility and maintenance of the plants at each place. The taste of the water is very good, the staff expressed. They reported that the technician from Divis has been very responsive and attends immediately to the calls regarding service, change of filters or any issues with regard

to the repairs. They appreciated Divi's staff for their proactive approach towards ensuring utmost utility of the RO units and promptness in attending to the calls.

Prior to installation of RO units, drinking water is supplied to the PS by private agencies once a day and if additional requirement is there, the staff had to get water bubbles. It was difficult to meet water requirements of the general public coming to PS, the staff expressed.

It is very useful as we spend more time on duty than at home. We feel safe to drink water from the RO unit rather than the bubbles we used to get earlier – Staff from Pochampally PS.

Bhuvanagiri town PS is big and the staff here are about 100 members. So, the capacity of the RO unit is 100 LPH here. Women Police Station too is present in the same compound. However, no RO plant is set up there. They have provision of Voltas filter. People coming to both PS access drinking water from Divi's provided RO unit, apart from the PS staff.

Request for chiller or provision for cold water to meet thirst particularly during summers came in from the staff of PS. The staff from Women PS urged for a separate RO unit for their PS, so they can make best use.

Government Hospital, Choutuppall

2 RO units each of 100 litre capacity are set up at the hospital, keeping in mind the number of people visiting hospital and the staff working in shifts. There is provision for chilled water as well. Both the units are kept at such places which are easily accessible, the surroundings are maintained neat and clean, and the waste water outlet is connected to drainage. Glasses are hooked in to the taps so that people can fill and drink water. Many patients or their family members are seen drinking water or filling their bottles with water from RO units.

Bus station, Choutuppall

- Located at a prominent place in the main building of the bus stand but from one side it is covered by mother and baby feeding unit that is recently set up by the Government. Nevertheless, many people are seen filling water and drinking from the RO unit.
- It is kept in a separate room with iron grilled doors. The doors are open from morning 6 to night 11. Later the doors will be locked for the safety of the unit, as shared by the caretaker.

- Overhead tank is provided separately and one employee is allocated for taking care of regular water supply to the RO plant. The area surrounding RO unit is clean and properly maintained.
- Nearby shop keepers responded in the negative to using RO water.
- It is observed that the bus conductors and drivers are using the unit to fill their water bottles and carry for their journey.
- Interaction with students, who are the daily commuters from this place, revealed that they are not aware of the system available. They observed people accessing water from the unit but never imagined or realized that it is a purifier, hence did not access it ever. They mentioned, they would not mind drinking water from the unit as they are aware of it now.

Court of Junior Civil Judge cum Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Alair

One RO unit of 50 LPH is set up in the office, at the back side of the building. The unit was installed during the year 2023, however, it is observed that it is not being used. There is a wash basin which is being used by the staff for handwash but none of them seem to be concerned about the RO unit. Moreover, all the waste and discarded furniture is kept near the unit and the area is not being in regular use.

When enquired with the technician, it is understood that from the beginning, water supply to the unit was not regular despite having a borewell and the overhead tank. Moreover, there were some power issues and the adapter did not work. Hence the RO unit became dysfunctional. The technician tried in many ways to bring the unit in use by sampling the TDS and showing it to the staff of the court. But still his efforts were not fruitful. Presently the unit was kept in Switch off mode. On checking, the RO unit is running properly.

The study team tried to enquire with the staff responsible for the water arrangements in the court. Though the officials could not be met, one respondent, a subordinate in the office of the court informed that there is water supply to the unit but the unit is not run. The reason seems to be TDS and taste issues. The unit was kept without operating for many months and hence they were skeptical on the working and quality of water filtered from the unit.

The water requirements for the staff are met through getting water cans from outside. There is a Blue Star water purifier for the staff inside the building. There is no arrangement for drinking water to the public coming to the court. The nearby tea stall is their source for quenching their thirst or they have to get water bottles personally. The public had no information about the presence of RO unit in the court premises, and there are no signboards about the availability of drinking water. Moreover, the place is not open to the public because of its location.

During the interaction with Divis staff member and technician, there seem to be communication gap which can probably be sorted out with the initiation by Divi's staff because the institution itself is highly hierarchical.

Overall Remarks

- The provision of water plants in Government offices has been a successful initiative by Divi's and is appreciated by all.
- This initiative gave way to resolve drinking water issues and concerns by the general public visiting the offices, Police Stations and Bus Stands.
- The technician visits are prompt and maintenance aspects and change of filters has been regular. There are no complaints from any in this regard.
- While in some places, the board is displayed about availability of drinking water, in some it is not. The placement of the units as in Aler Court needs attention.
- The RO unit at the Court building in Aler unit needs focus. The unit is installed a year back, but still not put to use till date. It is functional and working but the officials seem to be disinterested and have their own hesitations to bring it to daily functioning.
- Provision of glasses at the unit goes a long way in utilizing the unit in full potential.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS/FUTURE THOUGHTS

Divi's intervention of providing safe drinking water to children of Govt. Schools is a commendable and sustainable initiative towards Quality Education in Schools. Moreover, the holistic approach – providing RO water purifier, overhead tank for supply of water and the stainless-steel water bottles to the students resulted in multiple benefits. For instance, it

contributed to availability of, and accessibility to pure drinking water, increased consumption resulting in better health, increased attention among students as they stopped going home, and many more. As observed by the study team during the visits to various schools, students and staff alike appreciated this and expressed their gratitude for this arrangement. Teachers claimed that the parents also expressed their contentment towards Divi's intervention in health and academic development of the children.

Direct impact is seen in relieving pressure of buying water or getting water supply from respective Grama Panchayats. Otherwise, it was quite challenging as well as expensive. Another observation that is crystal clear from all the schools visited has been the continued commitment and dedication of Divi's team and technicians to respond timely to the service needs and repairs. This came in as a very positive note from all the schools. Last but not the least is the free maintenance of the water filters.

However, as observed in some places, the school managements have to take further steps to ensure effective and optimum utilization of RO units. It includes periodical cleaning of overhead tanks, addressing the monkey and rats menace, maintaining the RO unit area clean, providing glasses to drink water, etc.

Making provision of RO units in other places, particularly that are accessible to public, are highly appreciated. The small gaps may be considered for rectification so as to enable optimal utilization of the machines and reach the goal of clean and safe drinking water to all.

Divi's team accompanying the study team were particularly delighted that they got an opportunity to interact with students and teachers because of the study team's visit. Though they visit the schools as part of their responsibility their interaction is limited to a certain level, as they shared.

It was happy to note that during the interactions with the students and the teachers, Divi's staff and the technician were looking at various aspects of the RO plants and noting down the issues. They were also rectifying the doubts by clarifying or attending to the technical issues there and then itself, which is highly appreciable. It shows their keenness and commitment towards the cause and percolation of the philosophy from management to the grassroots... *valuing people's needs and giving back to the community...*

PHOTO GALLERY



Pic 1 – Students having their mid-day meal keeping their water bottles ready to drink



Pic 2 – Interaction with Hostellers in the Model School



Pic 3 & 4 – Students fetching water from the RO units



Pic 5 – Interaction with the teacher



Pic 6 - Unit with facility to fill water drum



Pic 7 - Technician checking the unit



Pic 8 - Interaction with HM and the teacher in Cheruvugattu MPPS



Pic 9 – RO water purifier kept in a separate room under the supervision of Aaya



Pic 10 – RO unit kept unutilized in the Judicial Magistrate Court in Alair



Pic 11 - Bus Conductor filling water bottle for consumption on commute - Choutuppal Bus stand



Pic 12 - Interaction with College Students at Choutuppal Bus Stand



Pic 13 - Study Team along with Divi's Staff Interacting with the Inspector at Choutuppall Police Station

"Water Is Life and Clean Water means Health"

- Audrey Hepburn

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