IMPACT OF HYGIENE EDUCATION IN INDIA: A KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES STUDY

By: Leah Svingen
Background

- Biology in South India
- Two 5-week independent research
- Auroville
- Aikiyam School
Why India?

- 626 million people without access to basic sanitation
- 386,000 deaths due to diarrheal disease each year
- 67% of people living in rural areas practice open defecation
- 45.9% of schools without toilets

81% of 1.1 billion people that defecate in the open in the world live in 10 countries:
- India, 638
- Indonesia, 56
- China, 50
- Ethiopia, 49
- Pakistan, 48
- Nigeria, 33
- Sudan, 17
- Nepal, 15
- Brazil, 13
- Niger, 12
- Rest of the world, 215
Objectives

- Collect descriptive data of knowledge, attitudes, and practices of hygiene
- Collect socio-demographic and health data
- Identify relationship between health, socioeconomic status, and hygiene behaviors
- Implement hygiene education program
Hygiene Education

What is hygiene?

What are germs?
Hygiene Education

- Health risks
- Practical knowledge

**FIGHT GERMS BY WASHING YOUR HANDS!**

1. Wet your hands
2. Soap
3. Lather and scrub - 20 sec
4. Rinse - 10 sec
5. Turn off tap
6. Dry your hands

**DON'T FORGET TO WASH:**
- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands
Results

- Enrolled 74 students in grades 5-8
- Frequency of changing clothes and literacy of father are significant predictors of Body Mass Index (BMI)
- 51% defecate in open fields
- 33% of students are underweight
- Hygiene education: 70% to 97% proficiency
50% of students have toilet and 87% have color TVs

Personal insights

Ideas for the future