

Preface

Launching GSP's *PLUS* series...

Why *Waterplus*?

We began with all five of the basic resources—water, air, energy, land and waste—and cajoled our school partners to dip their fingers into all of these. Together. That was the first year. Now seven years later, armed with the lessons learnt while conducting eight rounds of GSP audit, fortified by thousands of partners who have since joined the GSP network, we can confidently claim that the GSP schools have marched far ahead of 'dipping'. They have plunged in, explored issues, found the weak spots, and in some cases, even managed to fix them. They are now ready to face new challenges.

So why are we whittling down the base of GSP then, reducing its scope from 'managing' five resources to one? We are not. On the contrary, we are deepening its scope, widening its reach, by taking up one resource at a time. We are adding new components to the audit, in a bid to highlight areas and issues that could not be included in the previous edition, but are vital for developing a balanced and comprehensive overview. For example, *Waterplus* among a host of new sections, contains one on Sanitation and Hygiene, focussing on the inherent link between these and the general health scenario in the school.

Would the communities find these added dimensions too complicated and cumbersome? To answer this I shall share with you a letter we recently received from one of our veteran school partners. It says, "As you are well aware, our school is located in one of the driest zones of South Delhi. Every summer we are forced to spend huge sums of money to buy water at commercial rates. After we were introduced to CSE's school programme, we were determined to reduce our consumption. We have finally found a way to do it. We have converted all male urinals to waterless units. Each waterless urinal—there are 18 of these installed till date—would save 1,70,000 litres of fresh water per year. Each unit costs us Rs 2500. The cost of installation can be recovered in the first month itself through water savings."

From wasteful but guilt-ridden consumers to savvy yet cautious water managers, the GSP *gurus* have come a very long way. No more baby steps for them, they are ready to leap frog. Our Plus series will provide them that final spurt of energy.

Sumita Dasgupta
Programme Director, EEU