INFOSYS

- ## Background
  Established in 1981, Infosys is a NYSE listed global consulting and IT services company with more than 198,000 employees. In their journey of over 35 years, they have catalyzed some of the major changes that have led to India's emergence as the global destination for software services talent. Infosys has been an early adopter of a strong CSR agenda. Along with sustained economic performance and robust eco-sustainability management. They believe in the importance of social stewardship and embrace responsibility to create a positive impact in the communities.

  Declining literacy levels on the one hand and absence of proper sanitation facilities on the other meant an unclean environment in and around schools. The Infosys Foundation felt there was a need to provide schools in this area with at least the basic amenities that would make the schools conducive for students as centres of education. In May 2015, Infosys in association with **Akanksha**, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of its Bhubaneswar Development Centre, entered into collaboration with the Odisha State Government undertaking Odisha Primary Education Programme Authority (OPEPA) for construction of toilets in 110 schools. It had set April 2016 target to complete the projects.

- ## Location, Date
  Odisha State, 2016

- ## Areas
  Rural (Schools)

- ## Stage/Scale
  Full Scale

- ## Objective of the assignment
  Infosys' intervention to improve sanitation facilities in schools started with a purpose. These interventions stemmed from the fact that declining literacy levels on the one hand and absence of proper sanitation facilities on the other meant an unclean environment in and around schools. The Infosys Foundation felt there was a need to provide schools in this area with at least the basic amenities that would make the schools conducive for students as 'Centres of Education'.

- ## What was done
  - Infosys took up this project as a challenge. It chose schools with very bad sanitation access standards. The schools were identified by employee volunteers of Infosys, Bhubaneswar office. Frequent follow-ups with the government, strict monitoring to plan and execute, engaging various stakeholders such as government officials at several levels, headmasters, village committee members and vender partners helped in quality and speedy implementation of the project. This project completely synchronizes with the overarching government initiative for a 'Clean India, Clean School'. Similar projects have also been undertaken in Mysore and other parts of Karnataka.

- The 161 toilets, built by the Foundation in association with Akanksha, the CSR arm of Infosys Bhubaneswar, were handed over to the school authorities at an inauguration ceremony attended among others by Odisha's energy minister Pranab Prakash Das.

- ## Impact
  - Under the 'Swachh Vidhalaya Program', the foundation has successfully completed the construction of 365 separate and fully functional toilets for boys and girls in 110 schools in the state.
  - This had not only taken the initiative of cleanliness to the grassroots, but also work as an effective mechanism to minimise the school dropout rate.

- ## Challenges and Issues
  The project was challenging one for the Infosys Foundation – from the methodology for identification of schools to finalizing the schools that required the infrastructure.

- ## Lessons learnt
  Frequent follow-ups with the government as well as strict monitoring were required in order to plan and execute the program. Not just that, implementation of the construction work for the toilets in schools required collaborating with various stakeholders such as government officials at several levels, headmasters, village committee members and vendor partners.

- ## Financials
  The program was part of Infosys Ltd. CSR activities.

- ## Economic sustainability/Revenue Model
  N/A

- ## Implementer Contact Persons
  - **Infosys Foundation**
    foundation@infosys.com

- ## Sources and References
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  - http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2014/oct/28/Infosys-Foundation-to-Construct-109-Toilets-in-Government-Schools-676197.html
  - https://www.infosys.com/about/Pages/history.aspx