

## **Project Report: GM/23 - SDG-6**

The goal of our project, SDG-6 was to provide a sustainable solution to the water scarcity issue in India by providing communities with Bio-sand filters and educating them on how to properly maintain them. To address this issue we provided 2 schools in rural parts of Delhi, India with Bio-sand filters and educated them on how to properly maintain them. By addressing peoples' mindsets surrounding the maintenance, we can ensure that the Bio-sand filters have a lasting impact on the communities we work with. Through this project, we aimed to address the mismanagement of water resources and build an understanding amongst communities about the importance of the consumption of clean water. This aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. As UWC students we recognised and ensured that our project correlated and followed the UWC mission statements of promoting peace, sustainability and self & community well-being.

We believe our project made a significant difference by providing sustainable solutions to the water scarcity issue in India. The implementation of Bio-sand filters in two schools in rural parts of Delhi not only addressed the immediate need for clean water but also had a lasting impact on the mindset of the communities. The filters were designed with messages emphasizing the importance of clean water, contributing to increased awareness among the people. This shift in mindset is crucial for the long-term success of our project, as it encourages individuals to actively check and ensure the cleanliness of their water sources at home.

Our project successfully achieved its goal of providing clean water through the installation of Bio-sand filters in two schools. Beyond the tangible outcomes, we also gained valuable learning experiences in leadership, collaboration, and project execution. Thorough planning, consistent communication with our partner organization FORCE contributed to the successful implementation of our project. The funds allocated for building the sand filters and maintenance were used judiciously, allowing us to be actively involved in the project's progress and impact over the long term.

Additionally, we are proud of the learning opportunities the project provided us, enhancing our leadership and collaboration skills. The decision to allocate funds for the maintenance of the filters demonstrates our foresight, ensuring the project's sustained impact beyond the initial implementation. Our commitment to overcoming challenges, such as connectivity issues and reliance on our partner organization, reflects our dedication to making a meaningful and lasting difference.

While many of the successes of our project were focused on its completion and the provision of clean water to the students in the schools where we implemented water filters in, we think our project also impacted their mindsets in terms of clean water. As the water filters have messages about the importance of clean water on them, we believe that as people read those, they will recognise the importance of clean water. With that awareness, they will be more inclined to check their water sources at home and ensure that they are getting clean water.

Not only has this project impacted the people in the schools we implemented the water filters in, but it has also provided us with many learning opportunities, especially in leadership and collaboration. We learned about how important it is to plan well because, without thorough planning, we would not have been able to execute our project. Especially, in contacting our partner organisation, FORCE, we had to consistently reach out to receive updates on our project. This also improved our collaboration because we understood how important it is for all partners to contribute. The two of us also noticed

that due to our busy schedules in eleventh and twelfth grade, we would have to find times when the two of us could meet and dedicate ourselves to our project entirely. This also improved our collaboration because we needed to compromise at times and at certain times one person would do more work and vice versa.

In the end, our project's funding was used to build large sand filters for two schools in rural parts of India. Some of the money is with our partner FORCE to be used to maintain the filters as they require an annual cleaning and checking. We think the money we kept for maintenance purposes was an especially good use of the funding as it allows us to be a part of the project for longer than just implementation, it means we can reach out to our partner and consistently see the progress and impact of the water filtration system. We think it is also important to keep some funding aside for the maintenance as it means the filters are not just a "one and done" thing, but rather they impact the communities in the long term.

While we were able to complete our project and we believe our funding has been used well, there were certain lessons that we learned along the way which could have improved our project. Specifically, being able to rely on a group of people. When we contacted FORCE, our partner organisation, it was clear that they would be really interested in our project and after a few meetings with them, we decided they would be a good group for us to partner with since we are overseas. However, this involved a lot of reliance on them as we would need to trust that they help us out with our project and they use our funding money wisely. This meant we had to consistently contact them to receive updates. In this, there were times when we would not receive responses immediately which made us quite afraid, however, we would always eventually receive a reply and would have an update waiting for us. Over time, our trust with FORCE increased and they truly did help us immensely in the completion of our project. Our work with them led to an important lesson of being able to rely on people, while skepticism can be important and helpful, sometimes things are out of our control and we have to be patient and trust the people we are working with.

With that being said, although we saw that we should be able to trust people more and rely on people more, we also noticed that it would have helped if we were more organised in advance. This is because while we had done a lot of research and had a timeline we wanted to follow with ideas of what we would do, this was not as clearcut as we hoped and there needed to be earlier research done to ensure that we could follow everything exactly as planned. We think that if we had been more sure of what every step in our process would be, it would have helped us give the people at FORCE more direct instructions so we could rely on them more and it would have ensured our project went according to plan and followed our timeline. Overall, our project did not just have an impact on the people we provided access to clean water with, but also an immense impact on us and our inclination towards service.