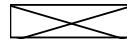


Mobile app to monitor status of school toilets



The app 'Swachh Patasha la', launched on Monday, will keep a check on the status of 8,583 new toilets being built at a cost of Rs 1.07 crore.

HYDERABAD: In its effort to go hi-tech, the school education department has launched a mobile application to monitor construction of toilets across the state.

The app 'Swachh Patasha la', launched on Monday, will keep a check on the status of 8,583 new toilets being built at a cost of Rs 1.07 crore.

The app will help to monitor not only the construction of the new toilets but also the dysfunctional toilets. As soon as the app is launched, the user has to enter the details of the school, including name, code, management and the head master's mobile number. The application, available in Google Play, works in three stages. In each stage, the status of toilets is monitored by uploading pictures. In stage one, the officials have to upload the photo of the area selected to construct the toilet. After the foundation of the toilet is laid, the officials have to upload the picture in stage two. In the final stage, image of the constructed toilet is to be uploaded.

"Our aim is to monitor the status of the toilets through technology. In three stages, the higher authorities can supervise the work without any hassle," said T Chiranjeevulu commissioner of school education in Telangana.

The funds for the toilets won't be released until the final image of the constructed toilet is not uploaded, said officials from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA). "The application will avoid any mismanagement of funds since payments will only be released once the toilets are constructed," said Veeru Pakshi, executive engineer at SSA.

Across the state, especially in districts, most schools do not have toilets. As a result, many girl students, mostly in higher classes, dropout of school.

While the education officials would know, common public may face certain issues in registering dysfunctional toilets," added Pakshi.

The school education department has instructed officials to complete the construction of toilets by June 30.