



The use of soap during hand washing remains a persistent problem throughout villages in India. Although many families will report usual hand washing before eating and after defecation, the substance most commonly used to wash hands is mud without the use of soap. This may be due to a variety of reason ranging from a lack of awareness around the importance of soap to the availability and cost of soap in local markets. The frequent co-habitation of families with animals and the frequent presence of animal feces within courtyards where children play also introduce concern around the lack of soap use.

Questions:

1. What potential health problems (direct and indirect) could arise from this situation?
2. As a public health official in the area, what are the first steps you would take to improve this situation?
3. What are the potential obstacles you could be faced with within rural communities and villages? Present a creative solution to the lack of affordable and available soap.
4. Who would need to be involved? How would you ensure compliance and cooperation among these individuals?
5. At the government level, how might these problems creatively be approached?
6. At the grass roots levels, how might these problems creatively be approached?
7. What kind of management support would be needed for your suggested intervention (i.e. monitoring and accountability)?
8. What stakeholders would need to be involved?