Study on Bacteria Removal Efficiency of Different Types of Handwashing Materials and Technique

Status: Completed

Project Partner: Suaahara II project funded by USAID/ Helen Keller International

Project Area: Kathmandu

Project Duration: November 2017 to January 2018

Aim:
To study the efficiency of different types of soaps against *E. coli* to study effect of six steps of hand washing in reduction of *E. coli*

Project Description:
Promotion of improved hand hygiene has been recognized as an important public health measure to control the transmission of diarrhea pathogens. In advocating the people about handwashing, hygiene promotion campaigns have not been able to recommend the type of soap and type of water to be used while washing hands. In addition to this, effect of handwashing technique in pathogen removal has not been conclusively shown. Therefore, this study was carried out to evaluate the efficiency of different soaps and handwashing technique against *E. coli* for washing hands. The data obtained from this study will help to determine whether type of soap for handwashing are equally effective in bacteria removal and to determine if handwashing technique is important in reducing bacterial counts.

Project Outputs:
- Prepared a report and presentation on ‘Study on Bacteria Removal Efficiency of Different Types of Handwashing Materials and Technique’

Major Achievements:
- The study concludes that a soap best reduces the number of coliforms only when a correct technique of hand wash is applied to wash the hands and when the water used for the hand wash is clean and free of germs
- Among all, antiseptic soap was found to be most effective in reducing *E. coli* counts