



ཀྲུལ་གཞུང་ཕྱིས་ཞིབ་དབང་འཛིན།  
ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY

Bhutan Integrity House

Reporting on Economy, Efficiency & Effectiveness in the use of Public Resources



RAA/AG-SP/25/2024-25/113

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

PRESS RELEASE

In line with Section 115 of the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018, the RAA has submitted the Performance Audit Report on Wash Facilities and Services in Government Schools under Thimphu Thromde for tabling during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Fourth Parliament. The report was tabled in the joint sitting of the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

The RAA conducted the Performance Audit on Wash Facilities and Services in Government Schools under Thimphu Thromde to ascertain whether the children have access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene in schools to create a supportive learning environment.

The audit mainly focused on identifying gaps and challenges in the implementation of WASH facilities in the schools and providing recommendations for improvement.

Findings

While recognising the efforts made by the Ministry of Education and Skills Development and Thimphu Thromde in promoting WASH initiatives, the RAA noted gaps and challenges that potentially may undermine the functionality, accessibility, and management of WASH facilities and services in schools, with far-reaching implications on student health, well-being, and educational outcomes. The inadequacies of WASH facilities in most schools were generally due to old infrastructure that was built prior to the development of National Standards for WASH, highlighting the need for upgradation and retrofitting to meet the current needs of students.

Some significant findings are briefly highlighted below:

- i. Notable gaps in the adequacy of WASH facilities, with issues ranging from insufficient toilets for both males and females, inadequate water supply, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene provisions.
- ii. Schools lack toilet facilities that meet all the specified design features outlined in the National Standards for WASH in Schools (2024).
- iii. Several facilities are observed to require structure and timely maintenance to remain hygienic and functional in line with the National Standards for WASH.
- iv. Some schools lack adequate accessibility to WASH facilities, including the lack of inclusive facilities for students with disabilities, and improperly designed fixtures.

*"Every individual must strive to be principled. And individuals in positions of responsibility must even strive harder."*  
- His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

P.O. Box: 191 | Kawangjangsa | Thimphu | Bhutan | Tel: +975-2-322111  
Website: [www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt](http://www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt) | Email: [info@bhutanaudit.gov.bt](mailto:info@bhutanaudit.gov.bt)





# ཀྲུལ་གཞུང་ཕྱིས་ཞིབ་དབང་འཛིན། ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY

*Bhutan Integrity House*

Reporting on Economy, Efficiency & Effectiveness in the use of Public Resources



- v. Water quality testing in schools is found to be inconsistent and there is a lack of clear communication and coordination between schools and agencies concerned about water sources to be tested, testing schedules, and test results.
- vi. There is a lack of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of WASH programs in schools that could potentially hinder progress tracking, informed decision-making, and the effectiveness of the WASH Programs.
- vii. Limited training is offered to health coordinators, students, and others involved in leading awareness efforts.
- viii. The current staffing practices allocate cleaners according to school level, as per the Ministry's HR policy, rather than considering the actual student population.
- ix. Insufficient budget allocated to their upkeep severely restricts the school management's capacity to perform necessary upgrades, repairs, and routine maintenance.

## Recommendations

In order to guide the agencies in addressing the gaps and improving the WASH facilities and services, fostering a healthier, more equitable, and supportive learning environment for every student, the RAA has provided ten recommendations, which are highlighted below:

- i. The Ministry of Education and Skills Development, in consultation with Thimphu Thromde and school management, should develop a prioritised plan to ensure the adequacy of WASH facilities as per the National Standard.
- ii. The Ministry of Education and Skills Development should prioritise upgrading WASH facilities to ensure inclusiveness.
- iii. The Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), in consultation with the Royal Civil Service Commission, should specify the requirements of cleaners (WASH facilities based on the student population).
- iv. MoESD, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Thimphu Thromde, should prioritise and secure an adequate, sustained budget allocation for the maintenance, upgrading, and improvement of WASH facilities in schools.
- v. Thimphu Thromde should institute mechanisms for water quality tests and remediation.
- vi. Thimphu Thromde should ensure a reliable water supply in schools and alternative storage facilities.

*"Every individual must strive to be principled. And individuals in positions of responsibility must even strive harder."*  
- His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck





རྒྱལ་གཞུང་ཕྱི་སྤྱོད་ལ་དབང་འཛིན།  
**ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY**

*Bhutan Integrity House*

Reporting on Economy, Efficiency & Effectiveness in the use of Public Resources



- vii. The school management should develop a comprehensive management plan for the operations and maintenance of WASH in schools.
- viii. The Ministry should develop an integrated awareness program on WASH for students, coordinators, and staff.
- ix. The Ministry should ensure a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of WASH programs in schools nationwide.
- x. The Ministry should conduct a comprehensive assessment of WASH facilities in all government schools nationwide.

The progress made in promoting WASH in schools is acknowledged, including the development of National Standards. However, significant gaps remain that must be addressed to ensure that all students have access to safe, inclusive, and functional WASH facilities.

The report is available on the RAA website [www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt](http://www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt).

(Tashi)

Auditor General

*"Every individual must strive to be principled. And individuals in positions of responsibility must even strive harder."  
- His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck*

P.O. Box: 191 | Kawangjangsa | Thimphu | Bhutan | Tel: +975-2-322111  
Website: [www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt](http://www.bhutanaudit.gov.bt) | Email: [info@bhutanaudit.gov.bt](mailto:info@bhutanaudit.gov.bt)