



INDIA

PALGHAR DISTRICT

PROJECT
(24)

The Palghar district of India is a story with many chapters – each one telling the many different experiences of the children and parents who are separated by economic necessity.

While the greater Palghar area is a growing and more modern city by most standards in India, the rural communities are tribal in nature with little industry to drive their economies.

And while the city is a source of income for most rural families, the necessity it fulfills leaves children alone, forced to complete their responsibilities such as washing, cleaning, cooking, etc. by themselves.

In more than half of rural households, parents work in different cities and their children live without parents or in the community-based residential schools.

Every village, or taluka, has a river or well providing as the primary water source, with villagers and children traveling approximately half a kilometer to collect water. **Bathing and defecation are performed outside** due to a lack of proper plumbing and hygiene practices, making uncovered wells susceptible to overflow with waste and therefore unfit for human consumption. The lack of hygiene education is also demonstrated by families using unsanitary containers for purposes other than drinking water at home.

Like most of her peers in rural Palghar, “Patty” lives without her parents out of

necessity for the family to make a living by working in the city. Children in these tribal communities are raised in the school or alone at home. Schools typically do not teach proper water-health and hygiene and this affects the entire family because each generation is following the previous generation’s habits.

