Pune district is situated in the state of Maharashtra, having close proximity to the financial capitol of the country, Mumbai. A good climate and geographical location have given rise to various corporate and farming activities co-existing in and near Pune. Undoubtedly, Pune has progressed remarkable in the last few decades but, as the city rises with more workers, farmers and laborers, costs to run the city also rise.

The district of Pune is divided into 15 talukas (areas) with a total population of more than seven million. This city is blessed with various dams and rivers that provide good supply of water.

Pune city is known as the “Oxford of the East” for its educational institutes and students have hope for a better future provided by the education system. Apart from private schools, there is a significant number of schools run by city government, Zilla parishads and other trusts. These schools are the primary focus for Project 24 2020. In such schools, tuition is free for most students. Schools also provide students with meals to ensure the students receive proper nutrition.

The majority of schools receive water from a government pipeline that connects to various house, schools and building. There is a fixed time period for water supply, so schools or houses store the water in a tank for daily use. This water is used for activities other than drinking. Water purification systems are not very common in government-run schools or Zilla parishads.
ZPPS Pimpale Khalsa, Shirur

Thanks to Freudenberg, a proud farming village in Pune District will have access safe drinking water

“First of all I would like to say thank you for giving this wonderful gift to us. This plant is very important to us as we don’t have direct access of pure water. We are glad to have this clean water facility in our school. Here I just want to tell you something about our school toilets, i.e. we have separate toilets for boys & girls. But due to unavailability of cleaner or time we are unable to maintain the toilets in a proper way. Any facility which could be donated to our school will be of utmost help. Thank you very much.”

- Mr. Dhumal, teacher
Filtering existing water source will set children on the path to a healthy future in this small farming community school

The school of Pimpale Khalsa is situated in the village located in the Shirur district of Pune, India. The majority of the villagers are involved in farming, focused on sugarcane, sorghum and bajra, while a few others work as daily wage earners in a variety of jobs. This village is open defecation free with the population of approximately 3,000. The villagers are aware about the hygienic practice and they are very proud of this fact. School development and maintenance is primarily provided by villagers who contribute, along with the help of panchayat office.

Well water is the source for drinking water, and they store it a water tank that supplies schools and households. The major concern is the sewage water canal passing besides the water source which is a major source of contamination. Infrastructure problems like roads and sewers, which are not proper or in good in condition, along with a lack of public transportation services, are part of the daily struggle for everyone in the village.
Planet Water Foundation is a U.S.-based non-profit that develops strategic partnerships that support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts that align with four of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education; Gender Equality; Reduced Inequalities; and Clean Water and Sanitation. Project 24 programs and initiatives support these four SDGs with longitudinal support in each community for five years.

Since 2015, Project 24 is Planet Water Foundation’s World Water Day advocacy and engagement platform the focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“This project (AquaTower) would definitely be helpful for us, because we have a resource to get the water from well, but we don’t have filtration to clean the water. The sewage canal is flowing beside the well, so the water contamination ratio is really very high. Second advantage of this filter is that, from the project day onwards, children won’t need to carry a water bottle to the school, so it will reduce their weight of school bag. Thanks.”
– Village Head, Mr. Sameer
“We are really very happy and excited to have this water filter in our school. Till the date in our school there was no water purifier for getting clean water for our children. This filter will keep our children very healthy and happy. Thank you.”
- Teacher Ms. Shirke