Pune district is situated in the state of Maharashtra, having close proximity to the financial capital 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 remarkably 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 Holkarwadi school is situated right in the center of the Holkarwadi village. The 290 students gather from a 5-kilometer radius from six other smaller villages for their daily education and nutritious meals. There are nine teachers who support the academic development of students.

The water from a local well is stored in two huge overhead tanks in the village, and then pipelines supply untreated water to school and households. Villagers use this water only for washing and cleaning. For drinking, water is purchased at INR 30 (.40 cents US) per 20 liters, or they have to travel around 4 kilometers to get drinking water from the government source and carry it back home. Water from government sources and the extensive trip lasts, at most, two days.

The villagers earn an unreliable living by working on construction sites as a plumber or unskilled laborer on a demand basis. The approximate monthly income is less than INR 10,000 per month ($140 USD).
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 that focuses on the world’s critical need to bring an end to water poverty.

“I am happy that Gyaneshwari will have good water in the school and that our children will no longer drink contaminated water that makes them sick. Thank you so much from our family.”
– Mrs. Madhuri Hinge, fourth grade student mother