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 provides 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.
The small village of Bopgaon is situated in the outskirts of Pune City. Home to approximately 1,500 villagers, the school provides core education and meal facilities to 152 girls and boys. Village homes and the school receive water from an open well which is stored in an overhead tank. Pipelines running from the tank supply houses and schools, but the well is open, making the water they receive very polluted with a variety of environmental contaminants. Water filtration at the home is too expensive for these families, so they drink contaminated water.

Farming is the primary occupation with very low income even with both parents working. The extreme poverty and lack of free time often makes it difficult to adequately attend to their children’s health when they become ill from drinking water.

Filtering existing water source will set children on the path to a healthy future in this small farming community school
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 studying in the fourth grade here. We have seen many students falling ill due to dirty water. If we get a water filtration system, this would be very helpful. With this pure water we all will be healthy and come regularly to school.”
– Prithviraj Sopan, student