

Impact study report

“Development of Community Infrastructure” Implemented by Atul Foundation

March 2026



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Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Atul Ltd. and Atul Foundation for entrusting us with an impact study of the “Development of Community Infrastructure” Project. We would especially like to thank the project team members for their continued support throughout the study.

We are grateful to all the community members and school management for providing their time and input during field-level interactions.

Environmental Vibrations Foundation, Ahmedabad
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Abbreviations

CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
KII	Key Informant Interview
KM	Kilometre
MM	Millimetre
Sq. Ft.	Square feet
Sq. Mt.	Square metre
RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete

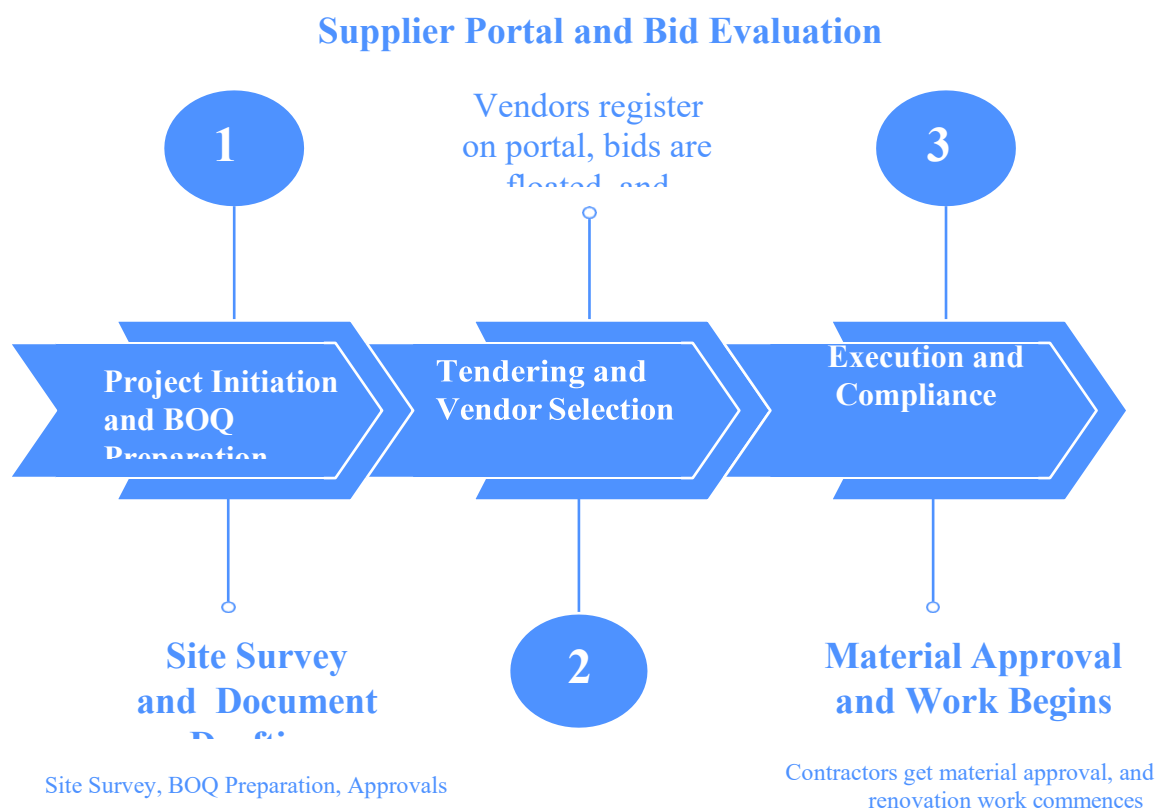
Background

Atul Foundation actively develops community infrastructure to improve the standard of living in rural and semi-urban areas, primarily in Gujarat.

This study evaluates 2 interventions:

- Infrastructure improvement at Kalyani Shala (school located in Atul, Gujarat) as part of its "Child-friendly Infrastructure" initiative.
- Compound Wall/Fencing near Atul Factory

Project Process



Impact Study Approach and Methodology

Study objective and framework

Objective of proposed study:

- a. Technical assessment of structural renovation of school building and Fencing (Atul village)
- b. Assessment of the impact of physical interventions on the community (children, school staff, road users, etc)

Specific areas of inquiry

A. School renovation

Physical Infrastructure and Facilities: Current Status and Quality: Evaluating the condition of the renovated structures, materials used, and overall build quality.

Functional Performance and Design: Assess how well the renovated space serves its intended purpose and the needs of its users- safety, hygiene etc

Suitability of Design: Evaluating if the architectural design supports diverse educational needs

Stakeholder Perception and Engagement: user satisfaction, community involvement, teacher/staff feedback

B. Fencing

Physical Infrastructure: Current Status and Quality, design and material

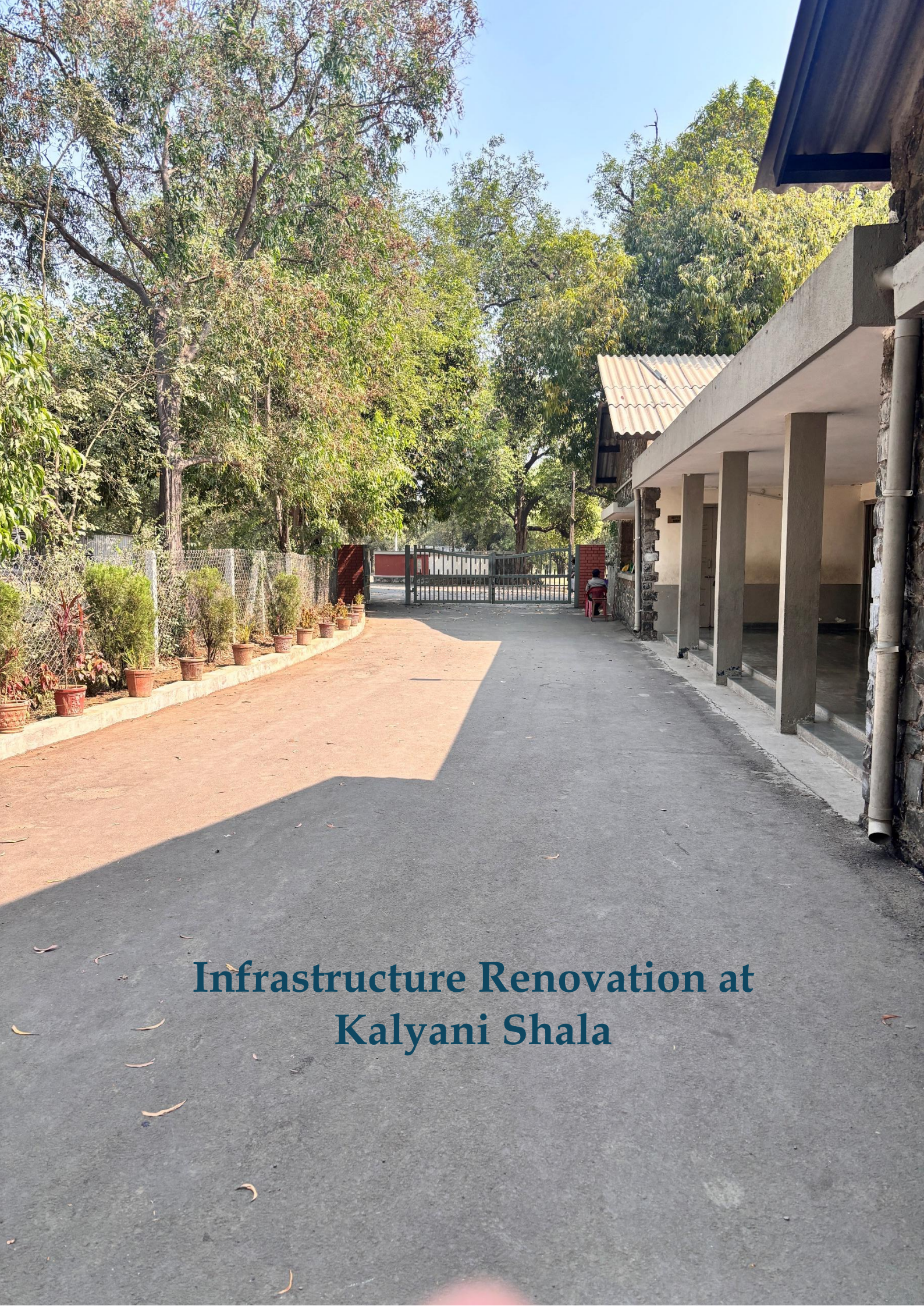
Impact: safety and security, visibility, hazard prevention, increased traffic management etc.

Study methodology

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, structured around a Post-Usage Evaluation (POE) framework, is used. The assessment covers the physical condition, its functional performance, and the impact on users

Structural assessment is done through visual inspection of both structures.

Qualitative assessment is done through FGD with children group, school teachers, road users etc.



Infrastructure Renovation at Kalyani Shala

About Kalyani Shala

Kalyani Shala is a private aided, co-educational school located in Atul, Gujarat. Established in 1953 by the Atul Foundation, it aims to provide quality and affordable education to the children of Atul team members and those from surrounding villages. has a current student strength of approximately 1800 students.

It comprises of Balmandir, primary, secondary, and higher secondary sections.

Project Interventions and Key Findings

Kalyani Shala faced issues of building dilapidation with slab leakages, paint peel off, lack of hygienic sanitation facilities, etc. To provide a safe, modern, and child-friendly learning environment for students, infrastructure upgradation works have been undertaken since 2024.

Major works have been carried out in Balmandir and Primary Section, while works are still ongoing in secondary school with completion of only water proofing and painting.

A. Civil and Structural renovation works

1. Classroom upgrades

Renovations focused on sub-base preparation and the installation of durable Kota stone flooring across a total area of 4,893 sq. ft. (2,188 sq. ft. in Primary; 2,705 sq. ft. in Balmandir).

- Key Areas: Standard 5 division A to C, Computer Lab, Storeroom, Balvatika Division A to C, and Standard 1 Division A, and Balmandir Division Jr. Kg A to B and Sr. Kg. A to B.
- Status: Work is structurally sound; no settlement, no cracking, or moisture ingress observed.

2. Waterproofing and Painting

Significant interventions were made to rectify the lack of historical leakage found in secondary school.

- Key Areas: 12 Ground Floor classrooms underwent inside/ outside painting, 16 classroom roof and wall junction water proofing, specialized roof treatment in secondary Ground + first floor terrace slab building.
- Result: 330 sq. mt. of roofing sheets were replaced.
- Status: No leakages were recorded during the 2025 monsoon, confirming the efficacy of the new waterproofing membranes. Chipping is found in a few spots in the computer lab of the secondary school (not in the current scope of work), which can be rectified in a later phase.

B. Infrastructure and External development

The school's exterior has been transformed to improve logistics, safety, and drainage:

- **Transportation:** Construction of a 5,200 sq. mt. tar road and a 603 sq. mt. optimized parking area.
- **Water management:** Integrated storm water drainage (16m) and 5m-wide arterial roads have eliminated waterlogging during peak rainfall.

- **Security:** Installation of 15 fabricated MS gates, providing dedicated access points for Primary, Balmandir, Secondary and cricket ground sections.
- **Status:** Smart drainage and proper sloping keep the entire area dry and free of puddles, no waterlogging even during heavy rain. The well-built roads, paths, and gardens stay in perfect condition, making the space both safe and beautiful.



Figure 1 Portable Toilet

C. Facility Enhancements and Sanitation

1. General improvements

- **Interiors:** Modification of wooden windows (removal of old windows and installation of new windows), along with carpentry works, is done. Solid parts of windows are replaced by transparent glass, allowing more natural lighting in side classrooms. Polishing of wooden benches (6,150 sq. mt.). is undertaken in the primary school.
- **Technology:** Installation of new computers and upgraded CCTV systems.
- **Landscaping:** Revitalized gardens and new plantations.

2. Sanitation

5 portable toilets (one common and two separate) are constructed for the primary school (two for boys and two for girls) and Balmandir (One porta cabin for 3 to 6 yrs. Kids with staff). Portable toilets are well-maintained, and adequate facilities have been provided. Few operational gaps remain:

- **Hygiene gaps:** Absence of hand soap, inadequate waste management (larger bins required), and need for improved cleaning protocols.

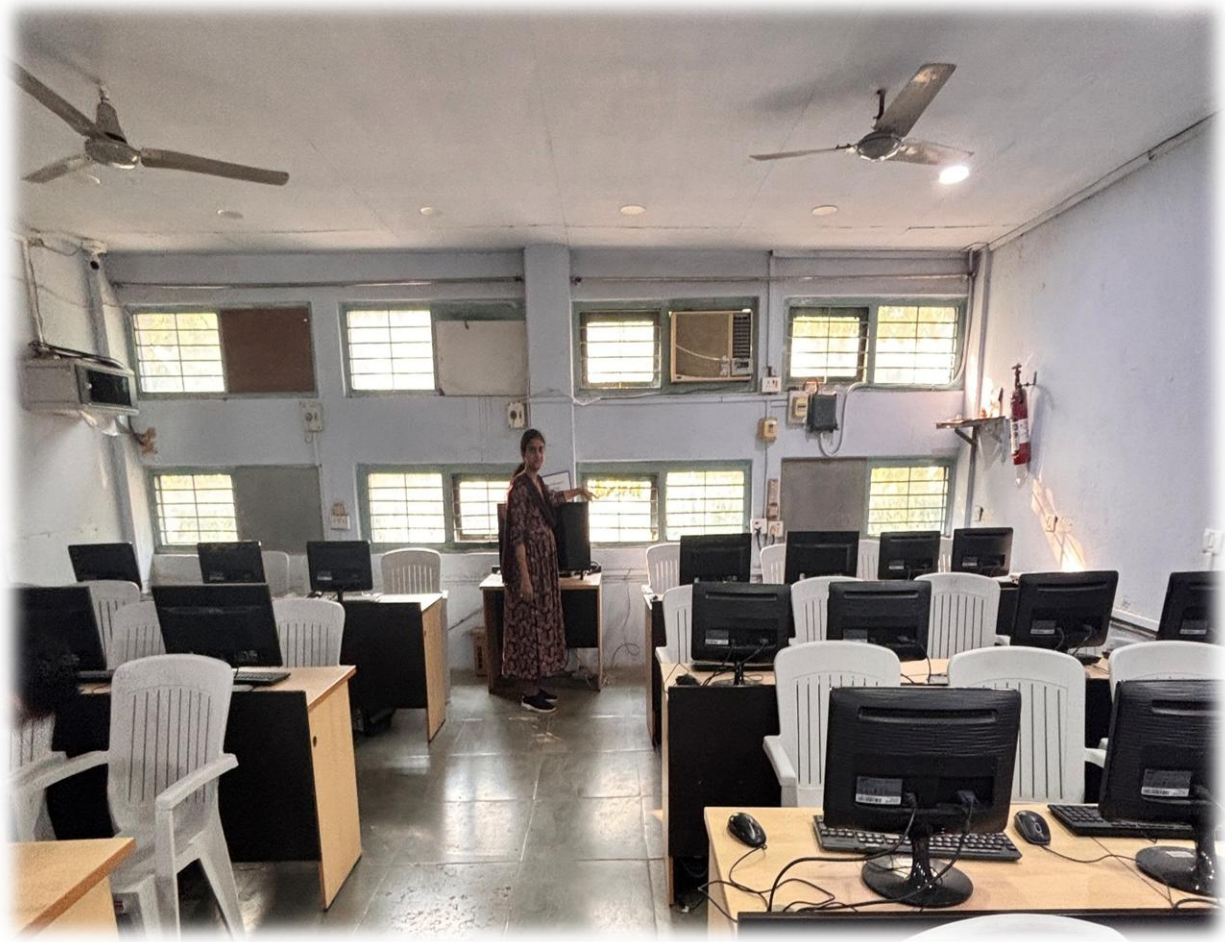


Figure 2 Renovated Computer Lab

Project Impact

The renovations have significantly shifted the school environment from a state of "maintenance recovery" to a functional, modern learning hub.

1. Academic and Psychological Impact

- **Enhanced focus:** The elimination of roof leakages and moisture ingress has led to the reduction/elimination of classroom disruptions and damp odors during monsoon seasons.
- **Improved learning vibe:** Kota stone flooring and fresh painting have created a cleaner atmosphere, while modified windows have led to better natural lighting, reducing eye strain and boosting student alertness.
- **Technology readiness:** New computers and upgraded CCTV have enabled a safer, digitally equipped environment for both staff and students.

Many students expressed increased motivation to attend school due to improved infrastructure.

2. Improved sanitation

- **Enhanced Focus and Learning:** A hygienic, safe environment has led to children focus on studies rather than the discomfort or fear of using inadequate toilets.
- **Health education:** proper facilities has fostered good personal hygiene habits (handwashing).
- **Safety and Dignity:** Private, secure, and clean facilities provide privacy specially for girls, which has led to reduced anxiety and risks of bullying

3. Logistics and Safety impact

- **Seamless commutes:** The 5,200 sq. mt. tar road and optimized parking eliminate mud, water logging and traffic bottlenecks during drop-off/pick-up.
- **Reduced congestion:** Noise pollution and congestion are reduced due to the new parking constructed, the pathway and the safety of students is improved.
- **Health and Safety:** The storm water drainage has ended waterlogging, removed slip hazards, and prevented the breeding of water-borne insects.
- **Controlled access:** The MS gates allow staff to manage student movement more securely across different school sections

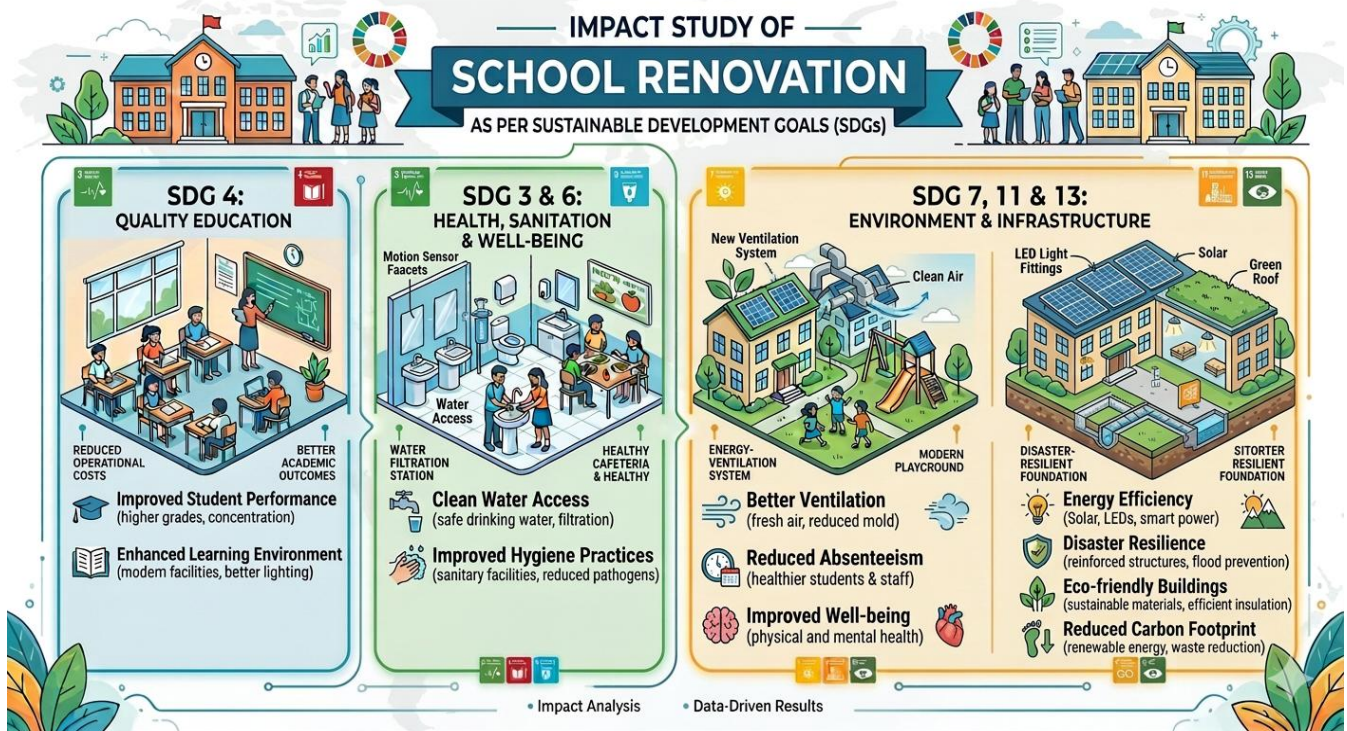
4. Sustainable infrastructure

- **Energy efficiency:** Improved wall painting and lighting, as well as ventilation, have led to improved energy efficiency
- **Safe places and disaster resilience:** renovations have created safe, inclusive, and disaster-resilient spaces that protect students and the community during environmental challenges.

The renovation of Kalyani School has successfully modernized the learning environment and addressed critical structural deficits. The transition to high-quality flooring, reliable

waterproofing, and improved external infrastructure has had a tangible positive impact on student morale and staff productivity.

Addressing sustainable development goals through school renovation



Way Forward

Suggested corrective or preventative action:

- **Safety risks:** A switchboard mounted on a moisture-affected wall near the computer lab poses a fire hazard and can be replaced.
- **Maintenance:** Minor termite activity in one classroom, missing door stoppers, and poor lighting/ventilation in the Biology and Chemistry labs can be considered. Window curtains can be provided in every classroom for reduced glare on the blackboard/digital board.

Strategic recommendation

To ensure the sustainability of these investments, the following actions are recommended:

- **Safety protocols:** Strictly barricade ongoing construction zones. Ensure all contractors undergo police verification and comply with insurance mandates.
- **Administrative systems:** Implement classroom-level inventory labelling and a formal warehouse management system for school assets.
- **Well-being:** Establish a dedicated Girls' Common Room equipped with first-aid and sanitary supplies.
- **Operational readiness:** Conduct regular fire and gas leakage drills.



Compound wall renovation

Project Interventions and Key Findings

- A 2.1 km boundary wall/compound has been constructed at Atul extending from the Atul Trust gate to Coconut Circle, specifically surrounding the Kalyani School (Down Colony) and staff quarters.
- The design replaces the previous wire mesh fencing to enhance safety, animal protection (cattle), and control over unauthorized parking and student entry/exit.
- Wall specifications and Dimensions:
 - Total Length: 2,100 meters (2.1 km).
 - Height: From Ground Level- 2100 mm, From Road Level – 1800 mm
 - Structural Elements:
Foundation/Structure: RCC pile/column (230 mm) for structural stability.
Wall Body: Exposed Brick wall (115 mm thickness).
MS (Mild Steel) painted Jali 3000 mm x 1400 mm has been installed between brick walls.
- Key Findings on Structure:
 - No cracks or settlement observed.
 - No dampness or seepage found.
 - No brick efflorescence visible (minor white spots below trees due to leaf deposits).
 - No tree roots damaging the wall; trees preserved at certain points.
 - Expansion joints are provided at approximately every 30 meters.
 - Weep holes provided (currently covered by rubble masonry).
 - Three culverts were constructed along the wall.



Overall, the compound wall is structurally sound and well-maintained.

Project Impact

The installation of the new boundary wall creates a more structured and secure environment for the Kalyani School community through several key impacts:

- **Physical safety and Child protection**
 - Regulated access and preventing Accidents: By replacing wire mesh with a wall, the school eliminates "shortcuts" and ensures students stay within the safe confines of the campus.
 - Animal and Intruder Deterrence: The robust RCC and brick design prevents stray cattle and unauthorized outsiders from entering the "Down Colony" school and residential areas, reducing hygiene risks and
 - potential for harm.
- **Psychological impact on students**
 - **"Safe Space" mentality:** A clearly defined boundary helps reduce anxiety and fear in students. When students feel physically safe, they can better focus on learning and social development.
 - **Transparency without isolation:** Despite the increased security, the MS-painted Jali sections maintain visibility and airflow, preventing the quarters from feeling isolated. This keeps students connected to the outside environment while remaining protected.
- **Operational impact on users and staff**
 - **Regulated traffic flow:** The wall physically blocks unauthorised parking, which previously caused congestion and noise near the school entrance.
 - **Controlled entry /exit:** School administration can now more effectively monitor visitor access at the Atul Trust gate and regulate student movement during peak hours.
 - **Privacy for staff quarters:** For residents in the staff quarters, the wall provides a "private sanctuary" effect, shielding their living spaces from the prying eyes of passersby along the main road.
- **Long-term durability for the community**
 - **Low maintenance:** Unlike wire mesh, which can sag, rust, or be cut, the exposed brick and RCC structure are built for a long service life with minimal upkeep.
 - **Aesthetic pride:** The "Exposed Brick" finish contributes to a professional and polished appearance for the Atul campus, which can foster a sense of pride among students and employees.

Annexure 1: Details of stakeholder consultation

Name	Designation	Tools used
Ms. Swati Lalbhai	Trustee, Atul Foundation	key informant interview
Ms. Taral Lalbhai	Trustee, Shree Atul Kelavani Mandal	key informant interview
Mr. Anurag Srivastava	Senior Manager CSR Atul Ltd.	key informant interview
Mr. Jatin Panchal	Joint Manager, Civil, Atul Ltd.	key informant interview
Mr. Sumay Banerjee	Manager, Civil, CMO, Atul Ltd.	key informant interview
Student groups- gender segregated	2 groups	focus group discussion
School teachers and Principal		focus group discussion
Road Users near Compound Wall		focus group discussion