

Fresh water availability is already a major environmental problem in several areas of the world and will become a global problem soon. That is why it is foolish to continue to flush billions of liters of treated fresh water down our toilets everyday. Since 40% of the 6 billion people on earth use toilets, it is a lot of water. Rohit embarked on a project to redesign the water closet / flush to reduce the consumption of water. He made this possible with a simple mechanism added to the conventional closet that creates a partial vacuum when the user pushes down the flush lever. He called it the Vacu-Flush.

What global issue was Rohit concerned about?

In parts of India the sanitation system is under a lot of pressure to keep up with rapidly growing population. In other parts of India there is little sanitation at all.

Why did it matter to him?

The lack of water, due to droughts, to keep the system working properly becomes a real problem and people fall ill through coming into contact with open sewage.

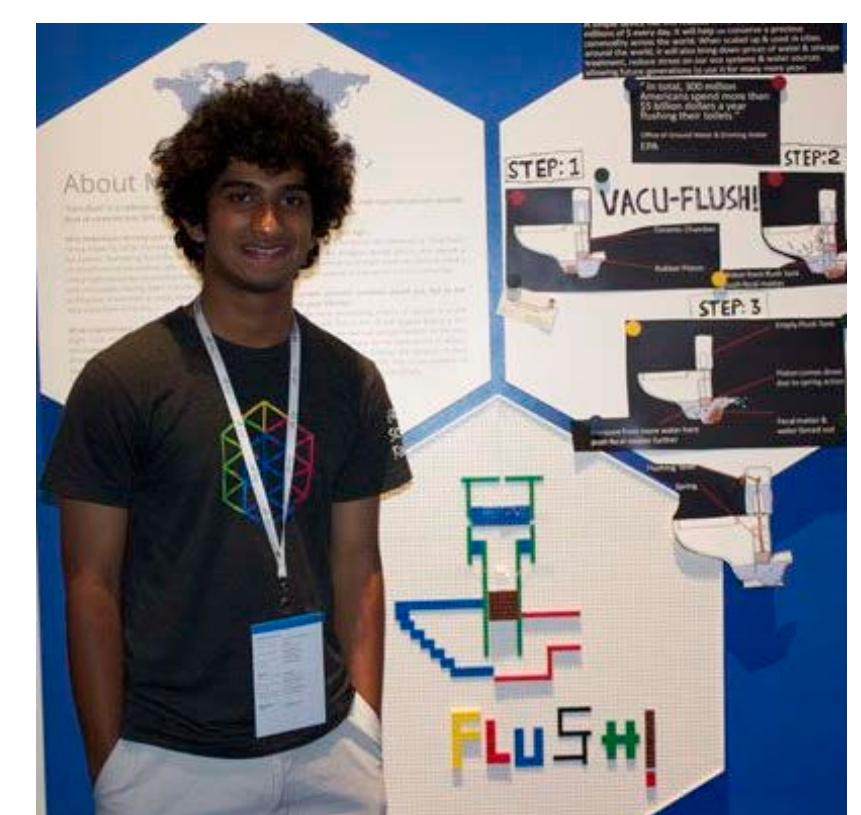
What did he do about it?

When Rohit was 16 he became aware of the problems India was facing in regard to the lack of clean water. He says, "This sparked in me the desire to come up with a hygienic, reliable, cheap and water efficient solution to the problem."

Rohit designed and tested a toilet that used a pedal mechanism to save 50% of the water conventional toilets use, reducing the amount of water used from 6 litres per flush to around 3 litres, and called it the Vacu-flush – winning the Google science prize in 2011.

What's next for Rohit?

"In the future, I would like to do more projects concerning the environment. For example, my biggest dream is to build a greenhouse made of waste materials."



Rohit in action

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjMPLL8n4Kc>



Now it's your turn!

What will you do to make a difference for the Global Goals?

