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Indore school turns into garbage dump; parents keep wards away

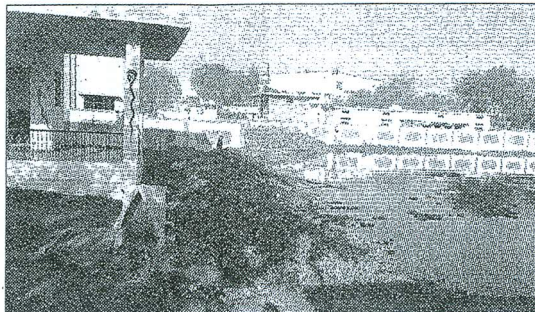
Milind R Lashkari

milind.lashkari@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: A government school located five kilometres from the spot where chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the "Clean Indore, Healthy Indore" campaign last week has been turned into a garbage dumping ground, prompting parents to keep their children away from classes.

The attendance in the high school at Lasudiya Mori was reduced to just 15% on Monday, as only 124 of its 900 students attended classes. Heaps of garbage have been dumped outside the school's main entrance, scaring parents who claimed their children might contract swine flu in the unclean surroundings.

It could not immediately be ascertained who had dumped the garbage but officials of the school claimed it was done by local residents. The Indore Municipal Corporation is responsible for collecting garbage in Lasudiya Mori area.



■ The dirty pond close to the boundary wall of Lasudiya Mori Government High School in Indore.

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up the city.

One of the parents, 45-year-old Suman Yadav, said it was better to keep children at home than to send them to school. "Pigs and stray dogs roam around the garbage heaps outside the school campus. It is scary," said Yadav, whose two daughters study in the government school.

The parents have another reason for their fears. A water tank known as Talavali Chanda, located near the school, has become a

haven for some people who enter the campus after classes are over to drink and gamble.

School principal Asha Patel said its management had complained to the education department several times but no action had been taken. She said she was hopeful that the Indore Municipal Corporation will act as the school now comes within the municipal limits.

Kaushal Kishore Pandey, joint