

WallBo

Your handwashing Buddy

Amol Desmukh

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Project profile

What is your idea

Our vision is to transform handwashing for children in schools with our wall mounted social robot, WallBo, in both developing and developed countries. WallBo encourages, monitors and teaches handwashing in a fun and engaging way using behavioural science and artificial intelligence. WallBo will prevent germ transmission, reduce spread of COVID-19, save healthcare costs and save lives. WallBo can provide a 60-fold return on investment on healthcare costs annually in UK schools alone and increase hand hygiene compliance by 40%.

What problem are you solving

Globally nearly half a million children die annually from diarrhoea and respiratory diseases and further 8 million are infected. Effective Handwashing can save 50% of these deaths and infections. The societal and economic consequences of these infections are enormous, impacting schools, parents, children and healthcare systems. Children often lack motivation and know how to wash their hands regularly. Currently Handwashing training and monitoring in schools is highly labour intensive. WallBo offers a novel, much more efficient solution, to these problems.

What is your progress to date

Our first trial with a school before COVID-19 showed a 40% improvement on hand hygiene compliance with 100 children which sustained 6 days after WallBo was removed. Our award winning idea has also been reported by the BBC news and received global media attention. We are undergoing school trials in the UK and India. Our market research shows, 90% of the schools agree that WallBo will help with their challenges with handwashing and they are likely to buy the robot.

What resources can help you grow

We are seeking to expand our team with programmers, designers, engineers for technical development required to build our MVP. In addition, guidance from business and commercialisation advisors for our supply chain, branding, marketing and sales strategy. Partnerships and sponsorships with key stakeholders and NGOs involved in handwashing programs globally such as UNICEF, Unilever, WaterAid, Oxfam. Also partnerships with healthcare and education services will help us with our route to market.

How will you spend the £50k money

- Software development of computer vision algorithms, Graphics design and website. - £35K
- Product design consultation, i4pd - £10K
- Hardware Equipment and prototyping - £5K

About your team

- Founder: Dr Amol Deshmukh the inventor of WallBo.
- Advisors: 1) Dr Mary Ellen Foster, expert in socially intelligent robot systems. 2) User Experience (UX) Advisor/consultant: Alexander Muir. Business mentors: Dr John Gordon and Dr Anna Lito Michala.
- Partners: Glasgow City Council Education Services, <https://www.classroomsformalawi.co.uk/>, WeRobotics
- International business development: The Challenges Group

