



SANITATION NEWS

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Dear Readers,

Our greatest pleasure is knowing that you enjoyed hearing from FINISH about Sanitation.

We would like to place in records our sincere thanks for the contribution received and hope to get more contribution for the next issue of the Newsletter so that we can add more value to the Newsletter and readers can get more quality knowledge from FINISH Newsletter.

We eagerly await for your feedback and comments. So please do pen down a few words and mail us at csenggmukul@finishsociety.com.

Lastly I will like to offer my apologies for the delay in the circulation of the FINISH Newsletter because of some unforeseen events. I will make every effort to issue next Newsletter within 20 days after the end of the quarter.



Mukul Singhal

News on Sanitation

India, Tamil Nadu: Public toilets in disrepair, villagers suffer

Public toilets constructed seven years ago in an Indian village, soon fell in disrepair because the pump that provided the water supply stopped working, and did not get repaired. Now the 2,500 inhabitants of Kokkarapati village, in Trichy district, Tamil Nadu, are deprived of any sanitation facilities.



The villagers have been demanding their administrators to undertake the necessary work, but their requests remain unanswered. The majority of the villagers are poor, and the public toilets were the only sanitation they could rely on, and they are now left with no other choice than defecating in the fields, or in any space where they can afford a bit of privacy.

Margaret Jeoji, a community correspondent in the area, posted a video about the lot of the villagers, who have been left without toilets for the last 5 years. "The situation is particularly difficult for women; because they feel ashamed when they have to go in the open. So they go late in the evening or very early morning," explains Margaret. "During every election campaign, politicians come to the village and promise that the toilets will be repaired, but once they are elected nothing happens," she adds. Margaret, a long time activist, is determined to make change happen. As soon as possible, she wants to show her video to the Block Development Officer, to confront him with his responsibilities, and to the villagers and local women groups, to help them mobilize to get their rights fulfilled. *Source: sanitationupdates.wordpress.com*

In India, More Women Demand Toilets Before Marriage

An ideal groom in this dusty farming village is a vegetarian, does not drink, has good prospects for a stable job and promises his bride-to-be an amenity in high demand: a toilet.

In rural India, many young women are refusing to marry unless the suitor furnishes their future home with a bathroom, freeing them from the inconvenience and embarrassment of using community toilets or squatting in fields.

About 665 million people in India -- about half the population -- lack access to latrines. But since a "No Toilet, No Bride" campaign started about two years ago, 1.4 million toilets have been built here in the northern state of Haryana, some with government funds, according to the state's health department.

Women's rights activists call the program a revolution as it spreads across India's vast and largely impoverished rural areas.

"I won't let my daughter near a boy who doesn't have a latrine," said Usha Pagdi, who made sure that daughter Vimlas Sasva, 18, finished high school and took courses in electronics at a technical school.

"No loo? No 'I do,' " Vimlas said, laughing as she repeated a radio jingle.



"My father never even allowed me an education," Pagdi said, stroking her daughter's hair in their half-built shelter near a lagoon strewn with trash. "Every time I washed the floors, I thought about how I knew nothing. Now, young women have power. The men can't refuse us."

"I will have to work hard to afford a toilet. We won't get any bride if we don't have one now," said Harpal Sirshwa, 22, who is hoping to marry soon. Neem tree branches hung in the doorway of his parents' home, a sign of pride for a family with sons. "I won't be offended when the woman I like asks for a toilet."

Satellite television and the Internet are spreading images of rising prosperity and urban middle-class accouterments to rural areas, such as spacious apartments -- with bathrooms -- and women in silk saris rushing off to the office.

With economic freedom, women are increasingly expecting more, and toilets are at the top of their list, they say.

The lack of sanitation is not only an inconvenience but also contributes to the spread of diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid and malaria.

"Women suffer the most since there are prying eyes everywhere," said Ashok Gera, a doctor who works in a one-room clinic here. "It's humiliating, harrowing and extremely unhealthy. I see so many young women who have prolonged urinary tract infections and kidney and liver problems because they don't have a safe place to go."

Previous attempts to bring toilets to poor Indian villages have mostly failed. A 2001 project sponsored by the World Bank never took off because many people used the latrines as storage facilities or took them apart to build lean-tos, said Ranjana Kumari, director of the Center for Social Research in New Delhi, who worked on the program.

But by linking toilets to courtship, "No Toilet, No Bride" has been the most successful effort so far. Walls in many villages are painted with slogans in Hindi, such as "I won't get my daughter married into a household which does not have a toilet." Even popular soap operas have featured dramatic plots involving the campaign.

"The 'No Toilet, No Bride' program is a bloodless coup," said Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International, a social organization, and winner of this year's Stockholm Water Prize for developing inexpensive, eco-friendly toilets. "When I started, it was a cultural taboo to even talk about toilets. Now it's changing. My mother used to wake up at 4 a.m. to find someplace to go quietly. My wife wakes up at 7 a.m., and can go safely in her home."

Pathak runs a school and job-training center for women who once cleaned up human waste by hand. They are known as untouchables, the lowest caste in India's social order. As more toilets come to India, the women are less likely to have to do such jobs, Pathak said. **Source: EMILY WAX, Washington Post**

Access to safe water and sanitation among top global public health achievements

Access to safe water and sanitation are among the ten top global public health achievements in the first decade of 21st century identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

CDC asked experts in global public health to nominate noteworthy public health achievements that occurred outside of the United States during 2001–2010. CDC selected ten of these achievements and published an overview in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* of 24 June 2011.

Between 2000 and 2008, CDC reports that an additional 800 million people gained access to improved drinking water sources, and additional 570 million people gained access to improved sanitation. In addition, education and safe water technology have eradicated Guinea worm in all but four countries (Southern Sudan, Mali, Ethiopia, and Ghana), with complete eradication expected in 2012.

Below is the full text of the section on Access to Safe Water and Sanitation

Water-related diseases, principally the 2.5 billion cases of diarrhoe that occur annually, are the second leading cause of childhood mortality worldwide. Diarrhoe, almost 90% of which is related to inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), kills 1.5 million children aged.

During the previous century, in Europe, North America, and Japan, drinking water treatment virtually eliminated waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. More recently, although improved WASH access has resulted in significant progress in controlling water-related disease in certain countries (e.g., Mexico and Chile), neglect of WASH infrastructure has contributed to large, deadly, outbreaks of waterborne diseases in others (e.g., cholera in Zimbabwe). Continued improvements in global WASH coverage require intensifying current efforts, including long-term, multisectoral commitment to constructing and maintaining water and sanitation systems, behavior change promotion, and WASH-related disease surveillance.

The nine other public health achievements listed by CDC were:

- *Reductions in Child Mortality*
- *Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*
- *Malaria Prevention and Control*
- *Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS*
- *Tuberculosis Control*
- *Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases*
- *Increased Awareness and Response for Improving Global Road Safety*
- *Improved Preparedness and Response to Global Health Threats*

Source: Ten great public health achievements – worldwide, 2001–2010. In: [Morbidity and mortality weekly report \(MMWR\)](#)

Family got inspired to construct toilet after viewing FINISH Film- Bharthi Women Development Centre (BWDC)

Dhanalakshmi is a member of Thirumahal Sakthi JLG at Koomur village. Koomur is small hamlet surrounded by agri land, having 16 houses and 1km. away from a main village Mutharasapuram. Non of the house is having toilet facility except a RCC house. People are using the road side for open defecation. Dhanalakshmi is living in the same village for the past 10 years. Her family average income is Rs.25000/- Dhanalakshmi's husband Mr. Ramdoss is the bread winner of the family. She has two female children, studying 10th and 9th std. They need a toilet and they are pressing their mother to construct a toilet at home.

After the intervention of BWDC, they have given orientation about the safe sanitation system and finance to the members and also showed the FINISH film, the family members were very much impressed with the Film but nobody shown interest to invest the borrowed money for toilet construction. However Dhanalakshmi and her daughters had taken a firm decision to have a toilet through micro finance. Then they started motivating their neighbours. Finally, five families have agreed to construct the toilets and approached BWDC. All were given loan of Rs.10000/- each. All the five families jointly procured the materials and organised masons, labour etc. They used hollowblocks for the construction. Due to their joint effort the construction have come pucca and cost effective. They spent a maximum of Rs.9500/- for a unit instead of more than Rs.12000/- for the similar one by others.



Now, all five families are happy and using the toilets properly. The other families have also understand the importance of toilet and have approached BWDC for toilet loan.

Message on Water and Sanitation by Bullock-cart Worker's Development Association (BWDA)

Waste not want not.

Add fluid add energy.

Tested water tastes better.

Even usage effective health.

Regular intake revitalize energy.

AND

Safety makes healthy survival.

Awareness adds to better living.

New methods nurture good health.

India needs innovation.

Trials and testing help to score.

Aim to achieve basic goals.

Team work helps total development.

Industrious nature induces success.

Open toilets open up issues.

Toilet loan has made the house construction possible- Navya Disha

This article covers the story of Shakunthamma resident of Doddaaladamara village, Sira taluk, Tumkur district who got persuaded to construct a toilet and how this toilet has affected his life. This story also covers the expenditure he has done on the construction and also his source of inspiration for this construction.

If you want to have full access of this article, then please click on the following link.

<http://www.finishsociety.com/detail.php?page=Rpub&id=15>