

Abstract

Interventions using Community-led total sanitation approach (CLTS) in developing countries: an analysis of practical experience

Nearly one billion people in developing countries lack an access to basic sanitation facilities and still practice open defecation (OD). In recent years one approach has gained notable popularity among other approaches for improving sanitation, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), which ultimately aims to establish new social norms that determine behavioral change leading to elimination of OD. While many perceive this approach as a revolutionary way of improving sanitation, it is criticized for its use of unethical practices and its effectiveness has been questioned. This thesis assesses opinions and experience of CLTS implementers obtained via interviews with 19 practitioners from 14 developing countries. Interviews were analyzed using qualitative research methods and evaluated in a context of theoretical knowledge concerning behavioral change, sanitation and hygiene. Obtained insights overall showed that practitioners consider CLTS as an effective tool and are satisfied with its application, but at the same time they are aware of limits and controversies associated with it. They are also aware of needs of a constant improvement and modification depending on the given context, even if it may go against its core principles.

Key words: hygiene, sanitation, Community-led total sanitation, behavior change, participatory approach, geography of international development