India WASH Forum

WASH News and Policy Update
Bi-monthly e-Newsletter of India WASH Forum
Issue # 30, June 2013

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India WASH Forum News

India WASH Forum stands for an independent credible voice in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. WASH News and Policy Update is a bi-monthly e newsletter of the India WASH Forum. It is an open platform for engagement on contemporary issues in WASH sector in India and elsewhere. We are pleased to share the 30th Issue of our bi-monthly newsletter. Our newsletter provides an analytical perspective on contemporary WASH issues.

We are conscious of the need to engage with and understand other larger debates in the social and economic development scenario, of which drinking water and sanitation is a part. Hence we include in our news analysis and policy updates, events and developments from other related development fields, besides the WASH sector. We invite readers to share their experiences and reports that can be disseminated from this WASH Policy Newsletter.

A National Workshop on a Programme and Policy Note on Household Water Treatment Systems and Safe Storage is being organised by Development Alternatives on 10th July in their Delhi office. For invitation, please contact Kavneet Kaur – kkaur@devalt.org

Behaviour Change Communication in WASH has been a focus of our Newsletter in the last couple of issues. Why has BCC in WASH Been a Miserable Failure and What Needs to be Done – is one of the longest and best received Linked In Group Discussion in the last 6 months on the WSSCC hosted closed group - http://www.linkedin.com/groupItem?view=&gid=1238187&type=member&item=207640211&qid=bb2d0370-e51c-40f1-a60a-780285615d20&trk=group_most_popular-0-b-ttl%2Eegmp_1238187. The group discussion has received 110 responses till date and has covered theoretical frameworks of BCC in WASH and different approaches. The discussion has dealt with sanitation, hygiene and water treatment. It has produced a good critique of marketing and advertising, Film/Bollywood based Brand Ambassadors and community led approaches in the recent past.

The discussion till date is summarized as follows;

- Commercial marketing approaches usually succeed when there is a product to be sold - hence boiling water, breast feeding and SODIS - are of no interest to private sector and hence no need for creative BCC.
- While not denying the power of commercial advertising in being able to sell people what they do not need - coke, fancy cars, chocolates - by making them aspirational social status(neighbours envy, status symbol of growing rich) and personal gratification(selling happiness not a sugary fatty drink) - can the same approaches be used to make people use toilets? Perhaps yes but then
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you need to spend the same money and use other promotional budgets to compete with so many other products being sold - that this would simply never be sustainable.

- Instead of spending millions of dollars on advertising and marketing for sanitation and hygiene promotion - why not spend the same for more traditional methods of face to face direct awareness raising means? Why is it that the budgets for marketing and advertising and for construction based sanitation and hygiene promotion are increasing but there is no money for field staff to do regular work?

- If there are deeper reasons or barriers that prevent people from building and using toilets, not doing handwashing - maybe because being clean is perceived as the condition of the rich and upper caste/class people and not the labouring power - then perhaps scaring them with the AIDS type barrage of fear of death - will never work. The problem with the prevailing approaches of BCC in WASH is that it is easier to not pose these difficult questions. Most community lead approaches also fail when they become top down IEC type educational sermons, that refrain from getting deeper into social and psychological barriers to behaviour change and then dealing with them.

- Finally, we are not against any one BCC methodology, but we see the hype and money flowing for slick advertising and promotional based BCC work, use of Bollywood filmstars as Brand Ambassadors without understanding what branding they are capable of doing - and fancy frameworks - that need to be challenged. Thankfully there are some good research and studies that already question this approach of treating people as atomised consumers.

We include in this issue the Abstract of Hand Washing and Hygiene Improvement Research that concludes by laying emphasis on factors beyond individual’s knowledge and awareness – “By focussing on determinants of behaviour change, we found hidden and valuable components in HH improvement strategies. Addressing only determinants such as knowledge, awareness, action control, and facilitation is not enough to change HH behaviour. Addressing combinations of different determinants showed better results. This indicates that we should be more creative in the application of alternative improvement activities addressing determinants such as social influence, attitude, self-efficacy, or intention.”

WHO Research on Household Water Treatment Systems is very helpful. Conclusions derived by the report highlight the lessons learnt from experience in employing different approaches in HWTS and why it recommends non commercial BCC approaches should be a priority.

“The goal of scaling up HWTS will not be achieved simply by putting more resources into existing programmes or transitioning current pilot projects to scale. The gap between where we are and where we need to be is too great, given the urgency of the need. What is needed is a breakthrough. The largely public health orientation that has brought HWTS to its present point now needs to enlist the help of other experts: consumer researchers, product designers, educators, social entrepreneurs, micro-financiers, business strategists and policy advocates. The private sector is one obvious partner; it possesses not only much of this expertise but also the incentive and resources to develop the products, campaigns and delivery models for creating and meeting demand on a large scale. At the same time, market-driven, cost-recovery models are not likely to reach vast populations at the bottom of the economic pyramid where the disease burden associated with unsafe drinking water is heaviest.

Three of the ten recommendations of the WHO Report:

1. Improve and expand on boiling. Despite certain shortcomings, boiling is among the most microbiologically effective of HWTS methods; it is also the only approach that has achieved scale. Technological and behavioural research could help overcome some of the shortcomings and potentially expand coverage. The potential for boiling should not be ignored in favour of more commercial approaches.

2. Continue to pursue non-commercial strategies. The vast population that subsists on less than one or two US dollars per day should receive safe, effective and appropriate HWTS products free or at highly subsidized prices as part of a mass distribution campaign. A clear position statement to this effect by the international public health community and standards for eligible products based on field-demonstrated safety, microbiological performance, acceptability and use will advance efforts to scale up the intervention among these populations, as they did for insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

3. Continue to pursue market-driven strategies. Market-driven approaches—used by both for-profit, private companies and non-profit, social marketing organizations—are responsible for achieving most of the coverage to date for HWTS methods other than boiling. They also provide opportunities for leveraging public sector and donor resources by achieving coverage at middle levels of the economic pyramid.”

Floods in Uttrakhand from 14th June were televised 24x7 on national media. In this age of super connectivity, it was
depressing to see that there was no early warning systems for floods that risked the lives of thousands of pilgrims and many more times that of the residents of Uttrakhand.

The South Asia Network of Dams, Rivers and People highlighted the failure of the Central Water Commission, the nodal agency tasked with flood forecasting; “It is strange that CWC, instead of putting its house in order, is acting as a lobby for big dams by making baseless claims about Tehri dam having saved downstream area of floods, as reported by Indian Express on June 25, 2013. This is like adding salt to the wounds of the people of Uttrakhand who are suffering from the ill effects of lopsided developments including dams and hydropower projects. It would be better if CWC tries to improve its flood forecasts rather than indulging in such lobbying efforts at such times of crisis. CWC needs to seriously consider including key sites of Uttrakhand into its flood forecasting sites, even if the duration available for such forecasting is smaller. In times of crisis even a few hours notice can save many lives and also help save other losses.”

The media attention had been on rescue operations of stranded pilgrims. The livelihoods disruption caused by floods is also significant. “The canals are gone, the irrigation system is gone, this has compounded the loss for the villagers,” said Ravi Chopra. The state authorities have said the Kedarnath pilgrimage, which sees hundreds of thousands of pilgrims travelling each year, may not resume for the next couple of years. Most tourists have cancelled plans to travel to Uttrakhand following the tragedy. According to Chopra, the state earns around Rs25 billion a year through tourism."

Let us not forget Perveen Rehman. WASH sector is notorious for raising serious issues but dealing them with a limited narrow project approach, unlike the livelihoods, education and health sectors where a deeper analysis of theory and practice always guides the discourse and programming. Commons, pedagogy, why the poor do not attend to their health and illness – are serious subjects and not seen as behavior change issues to be fixed through programming frameworks.

Gender in WASH, Behaviour Change Communication, Equity and Inclusion, Rights and Justice – dominate the WASH sector but remain thin in substance. WASH is perhaps one of the few development sectors that employs an array of Marketing and Advertising approaches, every year there are a couple of Water Weeks, there is WEDC, SACOSAN and other SANS, and several national and international learning events. Then there is an array of publications, posters, media and communication work. We have Filmstars and sportspersons as Brand Ambassadors. Can Perveen Rehman be our Brand Ambassador for WASH? Why not?

Parveen was not a high-profile person who came much into public view. But she was a woman in a man’s world. A woman who did not don a chaddar or a veil, although she dressed simply and conservatively, with a dupatta always draped over her shoulders completing the shalwar kameez she typically wore. She was a woman who was helping empower an entire community, which included women. There are elements in Pakistani society who do not like that.

In her few interviews Parveen spoke out clearly against the land mafia and the drug mafia, as well as the political parties involved in violence in the city. She was also clear that the violence, while given an ethnic colour, was not due to ethnicity. After her murder, a mutual friend disclosed that the Taliban had in recent months attacked three of her colleagues for their work on school reforms; two were killed and one injured.

“She never sought the limelight and was rarely interviewed but her work had international recognition – she won the United Nations Habitat Award in 2001. It appears that she was aware of the threats to her life and had been so for years, probably because her work impinged on the activities of assorted land mafias and others who exploited the poor”, commented The News in an editorial:

Like Perveen Rehman, Sudha Bhardwaj of Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha, has been a leading figure in civil rights movement of tribal people. She highlights the land grab politics in the state. She gives a comprehensive account of the money and politics of mining in central India.

“We organize in the cement industry. One major corporation is Holcim, a Swiss multinational, that has taken over ACC and Ambuja, though these Indian corporations continue to retain their brand names. Holcim has closed down its Spanish and American plants and has come here. Why? If you look at returns on investment in this industry globally, they are 1.3%. In India, they are 13%. These multinationals have come here with deep pockets, and they have gotten a stranglehold over local administration – the ministers, the officers of the forest, labor, mining and pollution departments – they have that capacity.

In the cement industry, there is a Wage Board Agreement that says no contract labor can be employed in the cement industry except in loading/unloading and packing, and even then they have to be paid at the same rate as regular workers. But actually these multinational plants are using contract labor for all processes of cement production and paying paltry minimum wages, ignoring the law.”
take the struggle to the streets, they use the law against our workers. Ambuja in particular has been very vindictive. One of the leaders in the struggle spent 13 months in jail on a trumped charge of looting a mobile and Rs. 3500 from a Security Officer.

Look at the level of extraction. Contract workers at Ambuja get 180 Rs per day (less then $4), at ACC 200 Rs per day ($4). A permanent worker would get 700 Rs per day ($14). The Swiss worker gets 2500 Rs ($50), and the CEO gets 2.2 lakhs per day ($4400). The largest share holder Thomas Schmidheinney gets 2 crore per day ($400,000).

Even getting basic labor rights is very, very tough and workers realize that the corporations are in an even more intense fight with the peasants and adivasis."

Privatisation of water is now high on the agenda of the Govt of India. The Water Policy 2012 had made oblique references to this but these are now more pronounced and unfortunately, backed with little consultation, are being sought to be incorporated into national legislation. While reports from the states offer a counter agreement – the Khandwa Independent Committee Report. Khandwa Municipal Corporation(KMC) has ignored the local water resources. It has needlessly gone ahead with a highly capital intensive project, handing over water supply to a private company for 23 years. Even before privatisation the elected members of the municipal council were not taken into confidence leave alone any consultations with the local people.

WaterAid has brought out a resource book on Menstrual Hygiene. Menstrual hygiene matters is an essential resource for improving menstrual hygiene for women and girls in lower and middle-income countries. Nine modules and toolkits cover key aspects of menstrual hygiene in different settings, including communities, schools and emergencies. It is available to download free at www.wateraid.org/mhm. The resource brings together examples of good menstrual hygiene practice from around the world; provides guidance on building competence and confidence to break the silence surrounding the issue; and encourages increased engagement in advocacy on menstrual hygiene.

Central Water Commission’s Flood Forecasting – Pathetic performance in Uttarkhand disaster; South Asia Network of Dams Rivers and People; 25th June 2013


Central Water Commission, India’s premier technical body under Union Ministry of Water Resources, has once again failed in the Uttarakhand flood disaster. Even as the Uttarakhand state faced the worst floods in its history, CWC, which has been given the task of forecasting floods across flood prone areas all over India, completely failed in making any forecasts that could have helped the people and administration in Uttrakhand.

First principle of disaster management is prior warning. With prior warning, significant proportion of possible damages and destruction can be avoided. In that respect, one expected that CWC would play a key role in forecasting the floods. SANDRP has been monitoring CWC flood forecasts throughout the monsoon for some years. During June 15-17, when Uttarakhand was receiving the most intense rains, CWC did not make any forecasts regarding Uttrakhand. As far as the most severely disaster affected areas of Ganga basin upstream of Devprayag are concerned (these include the worst affected Kedarnath and Mandakini valley, the Gangotri and Bhagirathi valley and Badrinath in Alaknanda valley), CWC has made no flood forecasts at all this year. Same is the case regarding other affected regions of Uttrakhand including Yamuna basin including Yamunotri and Pithoragarh including Goriganga basin. What is than the role of this premier technical body tasked with flood forecasting?

The only forecast that CWC made for Uttrakhand this June 2013 were for Rishikesh and Haridwar on June 18, 2013. Even in these instances, CWC’s callousness is reflected. For example, by the fact that normally when flood forecasts are made for any site in the first place, the forecasts would be low flood forecast (where water level is between warning and danger level for the site), and only in next stage, would medium flood forecast would be made (water level above danger level). However, in case of both Rishikesh and Haridwar, CWC straightaway made medium flood forecasts, clearly missing the low flood forecasts.

In fact looking at the CWC flood forecasting site (http://www.india-water.com/ffs/index.htm), we notice that in entire Uttrakhand state, CWC has only three flood
forecasting sites: Srinagar, Rishikesh and Hridwar, which means CWC would not be doing any forecasts for the most vulnerable regions of Uttrakhand in any case! Even in case of Srinagar (which actually suffered the worst floods with hundreds of damaged houses), CWC site says the Highest flood level is 536.85 m, amazingly, below the warning level of 539 m! This means that CWC has never forecast flood at that site and even if water level goes above HFL, it won’t forecast any floods since level could still be well below the warning level? Can one imagine a more callous technical body?

The callous performance of CWC does not end there. During June 2-7 this year, CWC flood forecasting site as also the flood forecasting site of NDMA which also depends on CWC, stopped functioning. After numerous emails and phone calls from SANDRP, the website started functioning on June 7, 2013 and Shri V D Roy, Director (Flood Forecasting Management) of CWC wrote to us, “Due to technical reasons, the CWC FF site was not working since 2nd June. With consistent effort, the website was made functional w e f 7th June”.

Pointing out a major blunder of CWC, we had written to CWC on June 12, 2013, “CWC forecast site reported that water level of Brahmaputra river at Neamatighat site in Jorhat district in Assam had reached 94.21 m at 0900 hrs (on June 11, 2013), which was 6.84 m above the highest flood level of the site at 87.37 m. The FF site also forecast that the level will be 94.15 m at 0900 am on June 12, 2013, that is today. Both the recording and forecast were clearly wrong, rather way off the mark. The site or the area in question or upstream and down stream levels do not match with what the CWC site said y’day.” Needless to add there was no floods in Brahmaputra in spite of such forecast by India’s highest technical body! CWC is yet to respond to our emails on this issue.

It is strange that CWC, in stead of putting its house in order, is acting as a lobby for big dams by making baseless claims about Tehri dam having saved downstream area of floods, as reported by Indian Express[li] on June 25, 2013. This is like adding salt to the wounds of the people of Uttrakhand who are suffering from the ill effects of lopsided developments including dams and hydropower projects. It would be better if CWC tries to improve its flood forecasts rather than indulging in such lobbying efforts at such times of crisis.

CWC needs to seriously consider including key sites of Uttrakhand into its flood forecasting sites, even if the duration available for such forecasting is smaller. In times of crisis even a few hours notice can save many lives and also help save other losses.

Uttrakhand tragedy has Hit Livelihoods

“The national media has reported the rain and flood tragedy at the four pilgrim spots, the Char Dham of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. But beyond the pilgrimage spots the tragedy has a lot of ramifications for locals, the most important being loss of livelihood,” Ravi Chopra, director, People’s Science Institute, Dehradun and member (Expert), National Ganga River Basin Authority, told IANS on phone.

According to Chopra, hundreds of men from villages in Mandakini Valley surrounding Kedarnath temple town earn their livelihoods along the 14 km pilgrimage route, working as porters to carry children, women or elderly on their backs, selling knick-knacks like chips or bottled water and raincoats and also run the many dhabas, the eating joints that dot the winding mountain road.

"Many of the menfolk are missing.. Now with the yatra season over, and we don't know when it will resume, the villagers have been hit hard," said Chopra. His colleague had reported that in one village in Guptkashi, 22 km away, 78 men who were working in Kedarnath were missing, said the expert. Besides the pilgrimage season, villagers also depend on the tourism season for their livelihood. "It is their main source of livelihood," said Chopra. Thousands of buildings and homes, bridges and roads have been destroyed in the tragedy, badly hitting the tourism season.

The incessant rains that hit the state over three days from June 14, leading to flash floods and cloudbursts, have led to hundreds of deaths and hundreds others are missing. Over 70,000 stranded people, including pilgrims and tourists, have been rescued by the armed forces.

Another aspect of the human tragedy is that the floods have destroyed not just the farmland but also the irrigation system in the mountains, including the network of canals and irrigation channels, said Chopra whose organisation has been working in the Mandakini Valley for the past 15 years.

"The canals are gone, the irrigation system is gone, this has compounded the loss for the villagers," said Chopra. The state authorities have said the Kedarnath pilgrimage, which sees hundreds of thousands of pilgrims travelling
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each year, may not resume for the next couple of years. Most tourists have cancelled plans to travel to Uttrakhand following the tragedy. According to Chopra, the state earns around Rs25 billion a year through tourism.

Parveen Rehman: Keep the Torch Alight

EPW Vol - XLVIII No. 15, April 13, 2013 | Beena Sarwar Commentary

Parveen Rehman headed the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi and helped empower an entire community, especially women, and spoke out against the land and drug mafias in the city. She was assassinated in Karachi on 13 March because she took on criminal and corrupt forces in Pakistani society on behalf of the poor.

Beena Sarwar (beena.sarwar@gmail.com) is a journalist and documentary film-maker from Karachi.

The cold-blooded assassination of the gentle, soft-spoken development worker Parveen Rehman (56) sent shock waves around her native Karachi, around Pakistan and around the world. Her murder leaves bereft her octogenarian mother, two brothers and a sister (the writer Aquila Ismail). Not to mention other relatives and a huge number of friends, students and admirers, in particular the people of Orangi township, the sprawling low-income locality in the north-west of Karachi to the uplift of which she devoted her life.

‘Dharavi’ of Karachi

Karachi is a sprawling megalopolis of over 18 million, spilling into the rocky desert that surrounds it, the Arabian Sea and the Indus River delta to its south. It is Pakistan’s largest city, business hub and major seaport. The hum of traffic – heavy industrial transport, interspersed with public and private transport, motorised and animal-driven – is a constant background noise. Many of the countless roads and flyovers that criss-cross the city have displaced human settlements inhabited by the urban poor. It was near a flyover known as the Benaras Pul that two masked men riding a motorcycle waylaid Parveen’s vehicle on the afternoon of 13 March as she returned home from work. They shot her at close range and sped away, the targeted nature of the shooting apparent in their leaving alone her driver, Wali Dad. By the time he got her to the hospital, she had breathed her last, hit by at least four bullets. Orangi where Parveen worked competes with India’s Dharavi for the title of “Asia’s largest slum”, winning hands down in terms of land area, 22 square miles compared to Dharavi’s one. Its population of about 1.5 million is a bit more than Dharavi’s million. But Orangi, Parveen Rehman always insisted, is “not a slum”. The word “slum”, she would say, does not do justice to its hard-working people. “People are poor but they are not destitute, they’re working class. It’s one of the poorest settlements. People have arranged their own schools, clinics and water supply. They are a great example of people helping themselves”, she told Dean Nelson of The Telegraph in 2009.

Orangi Pilot Project

Orangi’s development is so, in no small measure, due to the work of the groundbreaking Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) that the legendary development activist and social scientist Akhtar Hameed Khan, who was widely known as Khan Sahib, began in 1980. Parveen had just started working as an architect at a prestigious private firm after graduating from Karachi’s Dawood College of Engineering and Technology in 1981. A few months later, persuaded by Khan Sahib she joined OPP as its joint director in 1982. She had found her calling and she never looked back.

Khan Sahib had set up the OPP along the lines of the participatory rural development programme he had pioneered in Comilla in former East Pakistan in 1959. The model is, through technical guidance, social mobilisation, and microcredit, to help poor people to dig their own sewers or water lines, build their own houses and infrastructure, run schools and clinics, or set up their own businesses. The programme also helps build up partnership between people and government, and mobilises local resources “be it the community’s or the government, so that there is no need for any World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) loans or doles”, as Parveen put it in an interview with Fahad Desmukh in 2011.

A soft-spoken, humble, down-to-earth man, courteous to a fault, Khan Sahib was known as a dervish, uninterested in material gains, focused single-mindedly on uplifting the poor. His courage shone through in his quiet determination to continue his work, come what may. His protégée shared all these qualities in full measure. Khan Sahib was a great believer in the power of women. He compared himself to a grandmother – “not your grandfather, because your grandmother gives love...and through love she’s able to encourage and make people grow”, as Parveen told Steve Inskeep (the author of Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi) of National Public Radio in 2010.

Women are active in Karachi’s development, but “they do not like to publicise their roles”, she said. A woman is in charge of the entire house, [the] entire budge. And if she’s not convinced, no money can be let out for the development. No house can be improved, no child can go and get educated. It’s a woman who [makes] the decision.
But when you go into some house, a man will come and talk and be very upfront and high profile, because by nature the women have been very gentle but persuasive. They know how to persuade their men...to do the things that they want to get done.

That was how the women of Orangi learnt to deal with government officials who they initially found difficult, said Parveen. “If women told an official, ‘You do this, you do that’...he would start avoiding us. There are a lot of things he can’t do. The system is such. But now we go and we say, ‘We want your advice. Please tell us what to do’ and they feel very happy”, she told Steve Inskeep.

“I feel sometimes – not with men and women – with any group, if you come just upfront and try to be...the person taking credit for everything, that’s where things start going wrong. Once you rise up horizontally, you take everybody with you. But if you want to rise vertically, you will rise, but then nobody will be there for you.”

The Mother of Karachi

This nurturing, gentle approach earned her the title of “the mother of Karachi”, as many students and admirers referred to her at a protest outside the Karachi Press Club the day after her murder.

Parveen Rehman had taught at her alma mater Dawood College as well as at the University of Karachi’s Visual Studies Department and the Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Her legacy includes “students who know the difference between a slum area and a squatter settlement”, says a former student Andaleeb Rizvi, a teacher at Karachi University, in a blog entry mourning the loss of “one of the best teachers I had a chance to interact with”.

She taught me how ‘not to hate the poor’; not to refer to ‘katchi-abadis’ as slums and instead ‘squatter settlements’, for she said in her sweet melodious voice, Slums mean poverty, crime, hopelessness, while ‘squatter settlements’ are a hub of hope, cultural diversity, the will to make things better. Don't you think so too? I feel we should not say ‘slums’. It sounds so wrong. She asked if I knew that people in squatter settlements take care of each other more. ‘They stand up to support their neighbour if there is a problem’.

If I am aware of these nuances today, it is because of Parveen. If I disagree with the popular discourse that this country has gone to the dogs, it is because of teachers like her. People like her, who chose not to run away in the face of threats, fears of losing loved ones and being left alone to deal with problems.

Criminality, Politics and Religion

The day after Parveen’s murder, her devastated colleagues made it a point to keep the OPP office open rather than close it in mourning as might have been expected. This in itself is testament to Khan Sahib’s legacy, to Parveen’s fighting spirit and to the OPP team’s determination not to buckle under threats. Hundreds of social workers and activists from all over the city came to Orangi in solidarity.

Khan Sahib had quietly and with dignity faced his share of adversities. Powerful interests, threatened by his work that empowered the urban poor, on two separate instances filed “blasphemy” cases against him, one in Karachi in 1989, and another in Multan in 1990. There was clearly no basis for the complaints, which were clearly meant to harass the elderly social worker.

“No one can help the poor without evoking the ire of one vested interest or the other”, said I A Rehman at the time. Rehman is the director of the non-governmental Human Rights Commission of Pakistan which had taken up Khan Sahib’s case. The cases were eventually quashed just a few years before Khan Sahib passed away in 1999 aged 83. Aamir Mughal, a former intelligence officer who conducted the enquiry on the blasphemy case against Khan Sahib in Karachi in 1991, says that he found that “the land mafia was behind it”.

And now, just over 20 years later, the land mafia is believed to be behind the murder of Khan Sahib’s protégée. She knew she faced threats from not one, but several quarters. Recounting one of those threats (among several) to Fahad Desmukh in 2011 she recalled, “We said all you can do is kill us, yeah? What else can you do? So kill us. We’re not afraid of you. I think that is important.”

But it is not so simple anymore. Over the years, criminality, politics and religion (or rather, the pretence of religion) have become increasingly intertwined in Pakistan. Many of the militants who are engaged in relentlessly attacking civilians and security forces personnel, besides schools, mosques, shrines, marketplaces and government offices around the country, draw sustenance from Karachi.

Extortion, kidnappings for ransom, vehicle and cell phone thefts, burglaries and donations from shopkeepers deluded into thinking that they are contributing to an “Islamic cause” largely fund the “terror network”. In this situation, there are cases of target killings by the “Taliban” at the behest of one or other vested interest.

So it is not surprising to hear that shells from the 9 mm pistol used to kill Parveen Rehman reportedly match a 9 mm pistol found on a suspected Tehreek-i-Taliban...
The outskirts of Karachi community—ed us with the Net Operator Rates—a, which includes shrinking water supplies—ruption that dogs the steps of so ll keep your memory alive—

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Pakistan (TTP) commander’s aide. The man was killed in a police shootout in Manghopir on the outskirts of Karachi the following day, reports The Express Tribune.

The police raid was based on information obtained from their network of informers, who “told the police Bilal was involved in Rehman’s murder. The TTP has said it was not involved. It usually claims responsibility if behind an attack”.

“The bullet shells of a 9 mm pistol used in Rehman’s attack and a 9 mm pistol found on Bilal were sent to the forensics division for a match. The expert who did the match confirmed this and that the record of Bilal’s pistol was also being cross-checked with data of around 9,000 records”, says the ET report.

Even if the TTP has denied responsibility, it is entirely possible that some of their affiliates were involved – instigated perhaps by the land mafia, which includes people from all the political parties.

A Woman in Man’s World

Parveen was not a high-profile person who came much into public view. But she was a woman in a man’s world. A woman who did not don a chaddar or a veil, although she dressed simply and conservatively, with a dupatta always draped over her shoulders completing the shalwar kameez she typically wore. She was a woman who was helping empower an entire community, which included women. There are elements in Pakistani society who do not like that.

In her few interviews Parveen spoke out clearly against the land mafia and the drug mafia, as well as the political parties involved in violence in the city. She was also clear that the violence, while given an ethnic colour, was not due to ethnicity. After her murder, a mutual friend disclosed that the Taliban had in recent months attacked three of her colleagues for their work on school reforms; two were killed and one injured.

“She never sought the limelight and was rarely interviewed but her work had international recognition – she won the United Nations Habitat Award in 2001. It appears that she was aware of the threats to her life and had been so for years, probably because her work impinged on the activities of assorted land mafias and others who exploited the poor”, commented The News in an editorial:

Thus Pakistan loses another brave, devoted and resourceful person who gave her life freely in the service of the poor. Under her leadership, the OPP had managed to avoid the taint of corruption that dogs the steps of so many NGOs. Within minutes of her murder, tributes were pouring in on various social media networks from not just Pakistan but across the world. But tributes, honour and respect are no shield against a gunman’s bullet. The evil forces that killed Parveen Rehman have free range in this country, ruled as we are by the corrupt at every level who are bent on self-interest rather than the uplift of a population that is mostly poverty-stricken, has inadequate sanitation and poor drinking water supplies – all issues addressed by the OPP and Parveen Rehman. Whoever killed her, whether it was a “banned organisation” or thugs working for land mafias and encroachers, is unlikely ever to be caught, much less punished. The culture of impunity that has grown on the cancer of corruption ensures protection for even those committing the most heinous of crimes. Rest in peace, Parveen Rehman – your country is the poorer for your passing but it will only be the poor and your fellow-workers who will keep your memory alive (www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-8-165354-RIP-Parveen-Rehman).

PPP denominated water privatization in Delhi: Letter to the Chief Minister by Retd Justice Rajinder Sachar

Dear Ms. Chief Minister,

You will recall my meeting with you on 28 January 2013 along with office bearers of WPCRC, Shri Anil Nauriya (President), Dipak Dholakia (Gen. Secretary), Shri Depinder Kapur (Member) and also Shri Pratap Samal of SUCI (C) and Shri Prem Singh of Socialist Party (India).

The Right to Water is a Fundamental Human Right. Any attempt to pass on the State responsibility, related to the supply of water in Delhi, to a private company, in any form including Operations and Maintenance contracts, may be unconstitutional. We, therefore, demand there should be no privatisation of water services in Delhi whether directly or indirectly. The argument, that only three pilot projects for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) are taken up to see the results, is not acceptable to us. Your government plans to expand PPP models in other areas as well. This is a continuing breach of the State’s constitutional obligations.

Our team met the CEO, DJB and other officials on 5th April. They presented us with the Net Operator Rates at which the private parties have been awarded the O&M contracts. From the assessment of the DPRs and the Contracts that have been put on the DJB website, we had raised questions on why the private contracts are being awarded at rates higher than the current cost of water service provision by the DJB, what measures have been
introduced to ensure equity in water supply by private operators, why the life-line free water supply has been disbanded and tariffs hiked by 350% in 2010 along with a 10% annual increase? We received a partial and unsatisfactory response and hence this letter.

We would like to bring to your notice that;

1. **There is no justification for O&M privatisation in the name of Efficiency, Equity and 24x7 water supply.** This seems to be a cover for promoting privatisation of the DJB, a public utility.
   
   a) The private agencies have been contracted at a Net Operator Rate (NOR) that is higher than the current operating cost of DJB in Malviya Nagar and Nangloi. In Mehrauli and Vasant Vihar PPP, there is no provision for 24x7 supply; the mere improvement of existing water provision is made by separating the NOR and a Management Fee to the private operator. There is no justification for giving private operators a higher charge in the name of providing 24x7 water in the two areas.
   
   b) Water is life and unless the state government can provide assured intermittent water supply to all residents of Delhi, paying more to private parties for supplying 24x7 water in a few select areas goes against equality of all citizens guaranteed by the Constitution.
   
   c) Under the arrangement made, the DJB remains responsible to provide assured water supply to the private operators. The provision for ensuring equity in the supply of water to all residents of Delhi is supposed to materialise automatically with 24x7 water supply. Despite our suggestion to include provision of equity in the PPP contracts, there is no mention in the contract agreements. There appears to be nothing in the final signed contracts that provides for cancellation of contract in case of inequity in water supply.

2. **The 10% Annual Increase in Water Tariff is unjustified and must be withdrawn immediately.** Salaries do not automatically rise by an assured 10% rate every year. We believe this draconian inflation in water tariffs has been done at the behest of the privatisation initiative of DJB. The private operators of the 3 PPP projects are assured inflation adjusted minimum of 7% annual increase in the NOR. The DJB is passing this on to the consumers through the 10% water annual tariff hike, as a planned measure, ahead of the privatisation of entire water supply for Delhi.
   
   a. Privatisation of water supply services under the PPP model of O&M contracts will result in the DJB water tariffs doubling every 6-7 years. This cannot be justified in the name of efficiency and 24x7 water supply.
   
   b. Free water consumption slab of 0-6 KL/pm, as Lifeline tariff slab, that was similar to the South Africa model, and was withdrawn by the DJB in 2010, must be immediately restored.

3. **The whole PPP is a ploy to make the water business attractive to the private sector on attractive terms and conditions.** Why cannot the DJB undertake 24x7 water supply without privatisation? To claim that the DJB is only privatizing O&M is not correct.
   
   a. All the investment made in providing water to residents of Delhi, including transporting water from Yamuna, Satluj, Beas and Ganga rivers, has been done with taxpayers money. Providing the water thus secured from public investment for private profit at zero cost or Re 1/KL to private operator, is a breach of the Doctrine of Public Trust that binds the government as custodian and enjoins responsibility for public goods and services including drinking water and sewerage. It is _de facto_ privatisation of a public good in the name of O&M contracts.
   
   b. The Delhi government is investing 70% of the total capital in the 3 PPP projects. This is in addition to massive investment in creating District Metering Areas and infrastructure being made.
   
   c. There is a provision of free water and electricity to the private operator in the Nangloi PPP and inflation protection against electricity rates in Malviya Nagar.
   
   d. By making an artificial separation between water supply and sewerage services, DJB is making the terms attractive for the private sector by privatizing only the water supply and taking over the bulk of sewerage service cost.

DJB could have also undertaken 24x7 water services on its own without PPP. There is no reason why the DJB
needs to privatise O&M for water supply in one of the most profitable areas of Malviya Nagar and Vasant Vihar. We see this as an attempt to show positive results and propaganda for privatisation of entire water service in Delhi.

4. **The assurance that none of the DJB staff will be retrenched is misleading.** There has been a freeze on recruitment of DJB staff – an adequate number of technical staff, operators and maintenance staff, billing and customer services staff are not there. Instead of addressing these gaps, the Delhi government is pushing for privatisation and reducing the DJB to a private contracts management agency.

We want to bring to your attention the risk in handing over basic water and sanitation services to private agencies under the illusory logic of efficiency. This will be achieved by hiring cheap contractual labour and risking the O&M services to a regime where the private operator will at best lose a contract only after 15 years. We bring to your notice the experience of France and several other countries where privatisation has been practiced for many years. These countries are now remunicipalising water services after finding out that the private operators were making heavy profits. In the case of Delhi and the DJB, the private operators share virtually no risk since they are not managing the water supply from the canals or from the river bed of Yamuna.

5. **Non-transparent and unreasoned Service Charge in the DJB tariff billing.** We wish to bring to your notice the unreasonable and unexplained tariff charge called service charge that is in addition to the volumetric charge on water supplied.

The manner in which the so-called Service charge has been imposed is non-transparent, unreasoned and unexplained. A service charge can never be higher than the substantive charge for the water supply. This is because, even in a slab system the service provided can only be charged for as a fractional percentage of the substantive charge. In actual fact, the so-called service charge, in case after case, is seen to be higher than the substantial charge for the supply of water. This is clearly iniquitous and arbitrary and lacking in reason. This really amounts to imposing an additional levy or a charge lacking in a logical foundation and under the garb of calling it a ‘Service charge’. We, therefore, demand that the Service charge be deleted.

We firmly believe that these provisions have been made with a view to encouraging private bidders to come and earn huge profit. We oppose this anti-people plan of depriving people of their Right to Water enshrined in the Constitution of India.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely.
(Rajindar Sachar)
2nd June 2013

**Panel calls for halt to water privatisation in Khandwa: Rehmat, Gaurav Dwivedi**

The recently formed independent committee by the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GoMP) to look into the objections of the residents of Khandwa regarding privatisation of water services in the town has stated in its report that the concession agreement between Khandwa Municipal Corporation (KMC) and private company, Vishwa Utilities, handing over water supply to the private company should be cancelled. The committee has rejected the entire water privatisation project due to the irregularities in the concession agreement and tendering process. As an alternative to the private water supply project the committee has recommended to the state government to form a water board. The independent committee has also rejected the condition to hand-over monopoly rights to supply water to the private company in the town.

It needs to be remembered that, the local community in Khandwa has been campaigning against the privatised water supply project since April 2012. The campaign has been supported widely by the local social organisations, district lawyer’s association, pensioner’s association, traders association, citizen groups, local media, political representatives, etc. Manthan Adhyayan Kendra has been monitoring and studying the project since last 5 years when the project was in the proposal stage. The findings of Manthan’s research on the project have been used to disseminate the ground realities and long-term impacts of the private water project among the local groups and individuals. During the campaign Manthan has continuously been in touch with the local community, media and groups in Khandwa and is closely monitoring and responding to the new developments that are unfolding in the town.


The local residents and various social and political groups are campaigning against the privatisation of water services in the town. The KMC notification giving legal shape to private control of water supply was objected by more than 10 thousand households in the town, more than 60% of the regular water connection holders. GoMP has formed a 7 member independent committee to resolve the objections against privatisation under the chairmanship of Shri Tarun Pithode, CEO, Zila Panchayat, Khandwa on 22rd March 2013. The committee presented its final report to the District Collector, Khandwa on 3rd June 2013 and the report was made public on 14th June 2013.

The independent committee has revealed the collusion of KMC with the private company Vishwa Utilities, and the facts related to KMC illegally benefiting the private company in its report. It has also mentioned in its report about the KMC collusion with the private consultancy firm Mehta and Associates and providing it with uncalled for financial benefits.

The Private Water Supply Augmentation Project in Khandwa has been implemented under the central government sponsored Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). While implementing this project KMC has ignored the local water resources. It has needlessly gone ahead with a highly capital intensive project, handing over water supply to a private company for 23 years. Even before privatisation the elected members of the municipal council were not taken into confidence leave alone any consultations with the local people.

The independent committee has commented on the working of the private company stating that, how the town’s water supply system can be handed over to a private company for 23 years that cannot complete a construction work of 2 years in 3 and ½ years. The report has also pulled the Mayor-in-Council (MIC) of KMC in the dock noting that MIC only had financial powers related to the private project, however it changed the mode of the project due to vested interests.

The first attempt to privatise water supply in Madhya Pradesh is in Khandwa. However, the local campaign against privatisation and the report of the independent committee has put a question mark on the future of the private project. A new phase in the campaign against the private water project has begun in Khandwa after this report. This is an important development, the broad impacts of which might be seen in other towns and cities of the state and the country. Down to Earth Report http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/panel-calls-halt-water-privatisation-khandwa

Scaling Up Household Water Treatment Among Low Income Populations; WHO, 2009

The goal of scaling up HWTS will not be achieved simply by putting more resources into existing programmes or transitioning current pilot projects to scale. The gap between where we are and where we need to be is too great, given the urgency of the need. What is needed is a breakthrough. The largely public health orientation that has brought HWTS to its present point now needs to enlist the help of other experts: consumer researchers, product designers, educators, social entrepreneurs, micro-financiers, business strategists and policy advocates. The private sector is one obvious partner; it possesses not only much of this expertise but also the incentive and resources to develop the products, campaigns and delivery models for creating and meeting demand on a large scale. At the same time, market-driven, cost-recovery models are not likely to reach vast populations at the bottom of the economic pyramid where the disease burden associated with unsafe drinking water is heaviest. As WHO ultimately concluded in the case of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, mass coverage among the most vulnerable populations may be impossible without free or heavily subsidized distribution. For this population segment, the public sector, UN organizations and NGOs that have special access to these population segments must engage donors to provide the necessary funding and then demonstrate their capacity to achieve both scale and uptake. Governments and international organizations can also help encourage responsible action by the private sector by implementing performance and safety standards and certification for HWTS products; reducing barriers to importation, production and distribution of proven products; and providing incentives for reaching marginalized populations.

It may be possible to accelerate the pace of scaling up HWTS. Below are 10 steps that warrant particular priority. Notably, they seek to engage not only public health officials, but also policy makers, donors, regulators, private companies, NGOs and householders themselves. They are presented in greater detail in the final section of this report.

1. Focus on the users. Focus on those who could most benefit from the intervention. Find out what they really want, need and will use, and deliver it.
2. Develop and use partners. Creative collaborations between the private sector, public sector and civil society have particular potential for overcoming the challenges of getting safe, effective and acceptable HWTS products into the homes of the most vulnerable populations.
3. Improve and expand on boiling. Despite certain shortcomings, boiling is among the most microbiologically effective of HWTS methods; it is also the only approach...
that has achieved scale. Technological and behavioural research could help overcome some of the shortcomings and potentially expand coverage. The potential for boiling should not be ignored in favour of more commercial approaches.

4. **Continue to pursue non-commercial strategies.** The vast population that subsists on less than one or two US dollars per day should receive safe, effective and appropriate HWTS products free or at highly subsidized prices as part of a mass distribution campaign. A clear position statement to this effect by the international public health community and standards for eligible products based on field-demonstrated safety, microbiological performance, acceptability and use will advance efforts to scale up the intervention among these populations, as they did for insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

5. **Continue to pursue market-driven strategies.** Market-driven approaches—used by both for-profit, private companies and non-profit, social marketing organizations—are responsible for achieving most of the coverage to date for HWTS methods other than boiling. They also provide opportunities for leveraging public sector and donor resources by achieving coverage at middle levels of the economic pyramid.

6. **Leverage existing local strengths.** Take advantage of existing manufacturing capacity and supply chains in targeted countries that reach even the most remote locations. Provide investment and technical assistance to improve the quality of locally produced products and develop local skills.

7. **Initiate and use relevant, practical research.** While existing HWTS methods are effective in improving water quality and preventing disease, all have certain shortcomings. A breakthrough in HWTS technology, like the long-lasting insecticide-treated bed net for malaria, could contribute significantly to achieving scale of effective HWTS. Research can also make valuable contributions to improving the efficiency of boiling, increasing coverage and uptake of this and other solutions, and building the case for HWTS as an intervention worthy of support by policymakers and donors.

8. **Overcome public policy barriers to advancing HWTS.** The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) of WHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund should clarify the contribution that safe and effective HWTS can make towards advancing health, even though, for policy and methodological reasons, it should not count towards the MDG water target. National governments should embrace the intervention while they work to extend piped-in supplies of treated water.

9. **Engage national and regional governments.** Take steps to inform governmental officials about the benefits of HWTS and show them how the intervention can leverage their own conventional efforts in water and health by reducing outlays for health costs. Activate governmental champions for HWTS wherever they arise, and give them the tools and knowledge to become advocates.

10. **Engage international leadership to support HWTS.** Establish and maintain a higher international profile for diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases. Highlight the progress to date—especially success stories in Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Cambodia and Kenya—to demonstrate the potential for achieving scale and the contribution that HWTS can make as part of an integrated water, sanitation and hygiene strategy. Demand funding to promote HWTS that is commensurate with the contribution it can make to reducing a substantial burden of diarrhoeal disease.

**Menstrual hygiene matters - a free and comprehensive resource for practitioners**

Menstrual hygiene matters is an essential resource for improving menstrual hygiene for women and girls in lower and middle-income countries. Nine modules and toolkits cover key aspects of menstrual hygiene in different settings, including communities, schools and emergencies. It is available to download free at [www.wateraid.org/mhm](http://www.wateraid.org/mhm).

The resource brings together examples of good menstrual hygiene practice from around the world; provides guidance on building competence and confidence to break the silence surrounding the issue; and encourages increased engagement in advocacy on menstrual hygiene. Globally, approximately 52% of the female population (26% of the total population) is of reproductive age. Most of these women and girls will menstruate each month for between two and seven days. To manage menstruation hygienically and with dignity, it is essential that women and girls have access to water and sanitation. They need somewhere private to change sanitary cloths or pads; clean water and soap for washing their hands, bodies and reusable cloths; and facilities for safely disposing of used materials or a clean place to dry and store them if reusable. There is also a need for both men and women to have a greater awareness of good menstrual hygiene practices.

Menstruation is a natural process, but in most parts of the world it is rarely talked about due to cultural taboos and embarrassment. It has also been largely neglected by the WASH sector and other sectors focusing on sexual and reproductive health, and education. As a result, the practical challenges of menstrual hygiene are made even more difficult by socio-cultural factors and millions of women and girls continue to be denied their rights to WASH, health, education, dignity and gender equity.
India WASH Forum

The resource was produced by WaterAid, with funding from SHARE and is co-published by 18 organisations. In her foreword, Catarina De Albuquerque, UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, states: "This resource brings together, for the first time, accurate, straightforward, non-judgemental knowledge and practice on menstrual hygiene programming from around the world to encourage the development of comprehensive and context specific approaches to menstrual hygiene."

Thérèse Mahon
Regional Programme Manager - South Asia
WaterAid

Synergy turns poop into profit in Kenya’s Slums

http://money.cnn.com/2012/12/03/technology/innovation/sanergy-toilets/index.html

Kenyan entrepreneur Agnes Kwamboka operates a Fresh Life pay-per-use toilet franchise.

NEW YORK (CNNMoney)

In China's Hunan Province, using the bathroom often means squatting over a dirty hole in the ground. An estimated 2.5 billion people around the world lack adequate sanitation -- more than a third of the global population -- and 2 million die each year of diarrheal disease.

To David Auerbach, that is both a human-rights crisis and an entrepreneurial gold mine. He and his business partners hatched a plan for profiting on both ends of a messy problem: Sell pay-per-use toilets to local entrepreneurs, then collect the waste and sell that too, after converting it into fertilizer.

Auerbach spent several years in China teaching English after college, then moved on to stints at the Clinton Foundation and Endeavor, a non-profit that supports entrepreneurs in emerging markets. At MIT's Sloan School of Management, he teamed up with fellow grad students Ani Vallabhaneni and Lindsay Stradley. Vallabhaneni had worked with a chain of dialysis clinics for low-income patients in the Philippines, and Stradley was a veteran of Teach for America and Google.

On a trip to Kenya, the trio saw locals paying about 5 cents to use an unlined pit latrine. Even more common were "flying toilets" -- plastic bags used as a toilet, tied off and then thrown outside. The ground is often covered in them.

When they returned, the three cofounders -- all 31 now -- wrote the business plan for Sanergy and its brand of Fresh Life toilets. Their vision won the 2011 MIT $100K Entrepreneurship Competition and landed the $100,000 Diamond Prize at the 2011 MassChallenge Startup Competition and Accelerator.

A Fresh Life toilet is 3’ x 5’ and made of prefabricated concrete. The floor has a squat plate and two holes, one for urine and one for solid waste, that lead down to removable waste cartridges. The toilets are sold at cost for $500, which includes installation, painting and daily waste collection. Owners are considered franchisees and have to supply toilet paper, soap and a hand-washing stand.

Right now, Stradley says, there are 150 toilets operating in Nairobi's crammed Mukuru slum, and the company is selling another five to 10 toilets per week. About a third of Fresh Life operators have already purchased an additional unit. Bob Orengo, a franchisee in Mukuru, sees about 47 customers a day. At five Kenyan shillings a pop, that's about U.S. $19 a week. "It's a good way to start your own business and be self-employed," he told CNNMoney through an interpreter.

Another Fresh Life operator in Mukuru, Esther Munyiwa, has about 96 customers a day and makes around $40 a week. The big benefit, she says, is that the area around the toilet is clean: "Some people think the toilet is so clean that they could eat in there too."

Joshua Boger, the former CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, was one of Sanergy's judges in the MassChallenge competition. He says one of the company's biggest challenges now is how fast to scale up. "You don't build a fertilizer plant for a million people if you only have 100 customers, so they have to go slow -- but not too slow," he says.
Related story: 7 best new global cities for startups

Sanergy collects about 1.5 tons of waste each day and sold its first batch of fertilizer in July -- two tons at market price, which generally runs $300 to $600 a metric ton, Stradley says. That's about twice the global price because, thanks to a local fertilizer shortage. It's badly needed by Kenya's huge horticulture industry, one of the largest flower exporters to Europe.

It takes Sanergy four to six months to change raw human waste into fertilizer. The process could be sped up with an investment in infrastructure, and Stradley says the company plans to build a high-tech waste management facility within the next year.

The same waste can be used for both fertilizer and biogas, but the company isn't operating at a scale yet where it makes sense to generate electricity to sell back to the grid, Stradley says: "We need about a thousand toilets to have enough waste to do that." If Sanergy's plans pan out, that won't be a problem. Within five years, the company's founders want to provide toilets to more than half a million Africans, generating 11,000 tons of fertilizer annually and 7.5 million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Their aim is to be profitable within 18 months and to raise an equity investment round of $2 million in early 2013. But investors might question whether the model is sustainable, says Jenny Aker, an assistant professor of development economics at the Fletcher School at Tufts University whose research focuses on West Africa. "If sanitation services aren't commonly used or culturally appropriate, would the community be willing to pay for it?" she asks. If Sanergy expands into rural areas, the impact will probably be much lower than in urban zones , simply because there are fewer potential customers, says Aker.

And there's the issue of using human waste as fertilizer. It's fine if it's just used in the flower industry. "What would people think about using human manure as part of growing their food?" Aker asks. "That's something to consider long-term."

A systematic review of hand hygiene improvement strategies: a behavioural approach

http://www.implementationscience.com/content/7/1/92

Abstract

Many strategies have been designed and evaluated to address the problem of low hand hygiene (HH) compliance. Which of these strategies are most effective and how they work is still unclear. Here we describe frequently used improvement strategies and related determinants of behaviour change that prompt good HH behaviour to provide a better overview of the choice and content of such strategies.

Methods

Systematic searches of experimental and quasi-experimental research on HH improvement strategies were conducted in Medline, Embase, CINAHL, and Cochrane databases from January 2000 to November 2009. First, we extracted the study characteristics using the EPOC Data Collection Checklist, including study objectives, setting, study design, target population, outcome measures, description of the intervention, analysis, and results. Second, we used the Taxonomy of Behavioural Change Techniques to identify targeted determinants.

Results

We reviewed 41 studies. The most frequently addressed determinants were knowledge, awareness, action control, and facilitation of behaviour. Fewer studies addressed social influence, attitude, self-efficacy, and intention. Thirteen studies used a controlled design to measure the effects of HH improvement strategies on HH behaviour. The effectiveness of the strategies varied substantially, but most controlled studies showed positive results. The median effect size of these strategies increased from 17.6 (relative difference) addressing one determinant to 49.5 for the studies that addressed five determinants.

Conclusions

By focussing on determinants of behaviour change, we found hidden and valuable components in HH improvement strategies. Addressing only determinants such as knowledge, awareness, action control, and facilitation is not enough to change HH behaviour. Addressing combinations of different determinants
showed better results. This indicates that we should be more creative in the application of alternative improvement activities addressing determinants such as social influence, attitude, self-efficacy, or intention.

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Success Story of “ARSENIC RESEARCH UNIT” of SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA, INDIA

- School of Environmental Studies (SOES), Jadavpur University, Kolkata started in 1988.
- From 1994 onwards “Arsenic Research Unit” of SOES is self funded. It neither applies for fund from the Govt., national or international agencies nor accepts any donation. Almost last 20 years, it has been completely surviving on the basis of the money it earns.
- “Arsenic-Research Unit” of SOES works on assessment of drinking water quality and its management.
- During the last 20 years, from the earnings of “Arsenic Research Unit”, SOES has so far spent rupees in crores (10 million = 1 crore) for
  a) Arsenic and Fluoride research in the Ganga-Meghna-Brahmaputra (GMB) Plain.
  b) Analysis of arsenic for the common people, NGOs’, Hospitals, Schools, free of cost who are unable to pay the cost of analysis.
  c) Helping scientists from University, Research Organisations including CSIR-Institutes for their arsenic analysis at the exact cost of analysis.
  d) Helped Bangladesh to discover & analyse the arsenic content in all 64 districts in collaboration with Dhaka Community Hospital and did not charge for that analysis (total sample analysed 54000).
  e) Helping many poor arsenic affected families in West Bengal to run their livelihood.

- At present “Arsenic Research Unit” of SOES is recognized internationally for Arsenic Research. SOES-Arsenic Research published more than 100 publications only on arsenic in the peer-reviewed international journals and organised 5 International Conferences on Arsenic. Three Patents have been done & one is International
- The h-index of Dipankar Chakraborti [the former Director of SOES and at present Research Director] is 42 (Annexure-1) and has over 200 publications including various chapters in Books.
- During last 20 years Dipankar Chakraborti of “Arsenic Research Unit” of SOES has saved 1.22 crore (12.2 million) Indian rupees and has kept that money as Fixed Deposit in the bank jointly with Jadavpur University.

Court Council of Jadavpur University has permitted (Annexure-2) to continue “Arsenic Research Unit’s” research and other activities through “DC Research Foundation” and the interest of 1.22 crore of rupees will help to run it. At present Arsenic Research Unit of SOES also earns a good amount of money through various activities.

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Correction for Newsletter # 29
The interview with Piers Cross, which was published in E-Source of IRC in their newsletter http://www.source.irc.nl/page/77716, in the April newsletter of the India WASH Forum. It was, however, published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike.

By mistake on page 4, the interviewee is referred as Piers Cairncross instead of Piers Cross.
India WASH Forum

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About India WASH Forum

India WASH Forum is a registered Indian Trust since 2008 with Trustees from all over India. It is a coalition of Indian organizations and individuals working on water, sanitation and hygiene. The coalition evolved out of WSSCC support to national WASH sector advocacy.

In order to undertake credible independent WASH advocacy work in India, the national coalition got registered as an Indian charity in 2008 and has undertaken a number of significant research and advocacy work that includes:

Knowledge Networking and Advocacy initiatives undertaken by India WASH Forum;

- Gender and Sanitation South Asia Workshop with National Foundation of India in Delhi; 2005
- Review of Swajaldhara and TSC Programme Guidelines; 2007
- Input to the Technical Expert Group set up to review the National Drinking Water Mission (NGNDWM); 2007
- Civil Society Input, Urban Sanitation Policy 2009
- Review of TSC in 4 states of India 2009
- Organisation of SACOSAN 3 in Delhi. CSO session and a CSO Statement of Action, 2009
- National Right to Water and Sanitation Workshop 2009 with participation from the Ministry and CSOs
- Start up of the GSF programme in India
  - Launch workshop 2009 with stakeholders in Delhi, 2009
  - Developing and finalising the Country Programme Proposal, 2010
  - Leading the PCM of GSF, as an institutional host and Chair and Convener.

- Providing oversight for programme review.
  - Member Govt of India 12th Five Year Plan Working Group on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2010. Recommendations on behaviour change priorities and staffing for national sanitation programme.
  - Recommendations for Urban and Rural Water and Sanitation inputs: national consultations on drinking water and sanitation by Planning Commission Govt of India and Arghyam 2010
  - National Pro poor Urban Water and Sanitation Consultation, 2010
  - National report and a South Asia Report for SACOSAN 3: Peoples Voices – a National Study project, Reports for India and South Asia, 2011
  - Formal Input to the National Water Policy 2012, with a focus on drinking water and sanitation
  - FANSA-IWF Review of national commitments and progress since Sacosan 4, and preparation for World Water Forum 2012
  - School Sanitation Baseline Research by GIZ for Tirupati and Mysore, 2012

A unique feature of IWF is its non-hierarchical set up. Most of the Trustees of India WASH Forum are represented in their individual capacity and do not represent the organisations they are associated with. The agenda and activities that India WASH Forum are determined at the initiative of the Trustees and support from organisations and individuals.

Since 2010, India WASH Forum is actively engaged in the Global Sanitation Fund(GSF) and currently hosts Programme Coordination Mechanism(PCM), of the GSF in India. The role of the PCM is to provide a governance oversight to the GSF Programme in India. The Programme is being implemented by an Executing Agency called Natural Resources Management Consultancy(NRMC) that makes NGO sub grants in the two states of Jharkhand and Assam. The Programme is managed directly from WSSCC Geneva and with the support of the PCM and an Auditor(called the Country Programme Monitor) that is KPMG for India.

The mandate/charter of India WASH Forum is Hygiene and Health outcomes from sanitation and water sector;

- Promoting knowledge generation through research and documentation which is linked to and supported grassroots action in the water-sanitation-hygiene sectors. Special emphasis is
given to sector-specific and cross-cutting thematic learnings.

- Supporting field-based NGOs and networks in their technical and programmatic work. The IWF would also consistently highlight gender and pro-poor considerations, and provide a national platform for interest groups working in the sector to come together.

- Undertaking policy advocacy and influence work through
  - Monitoring and evaluations
  - Media advocacy and campaigns, and
  - Fact finding missions

- Undertaking lobbying and networking to promote common objectives in the sector.

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