



Community-Led Total Sanitation

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What is CLTS

- Pioneered by Kamal Kar, CLTS began as an experiment in Bangladesh in 2000.
- Powerful participatory approach that analyses and unpacks the sanitation profile in a community and the spread of faecal-oral contamination
- Strong emotions (disgust/ shame); humour and self analysis that everyone is ingesting each other's 'shit'
- Collective decision to stop OD build and use toilets without upfront hardware subsidies

Tackling behaviour change



Mapping



In a well facilitated CLTS triggering, villagers in Tanzania calculating household shit, the ignition point is often reached while they are doing this



'Who shits where?'
Community members in Tororo, Uganda, map places used for open defecation. Photo: Philip Otieno, Plan Kenya.

Transect walks



Walking through the bush to find the stuff! Rural community near Awassa, Ethiopia leading a OD transect team.

Slums in the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia – locations where sources of water get contaminated with human excreta are important points to stop during a defecation area transect and discuss with the community.



Where is CLTS now

- Rolled out in over 54 countries – outreach in over 100 countries
- In sanitation strategy of many countries ,
- Entry point to address other MDGs and enhance livelihoods
- Making of a development success story – key approach in the sector used by main donors (e.g. UNICEF, WSP, WSSCC and bilateral agencies)

Actors, institutions and processes

- Kamal Kar, Pioneer; WSP; UNICEF: DFID; WaterAid; Plan
- Learning and exchanges – 2002 BD workshop; exchange visits for officials
- Regional processes (Sacosan; Africasan)
- Research, Action learning and networking

Diverse pathways of spread and going to scale

- Diverse experiences – BD, India, Indo
- Role of trainers and facilitators
- Role of champions
- Different institutional homes (MoH v/s RD)
- Different experiences with subsidies

CLTS – the India story

- WSP – introduction to key policy makers
- High level champions (e.g. B C Khatua; Deepak Sanan; Amit Agarwal & Nipun Vinayak)
- Total Sanitation Campaign / Nirmal Gram Purushkar (
- HP/ Haryana / Maharashtra (best performing
- The subsidy story/ official resistance
Million missing toilets

Challenges of scaling up targets v/s quality



Institutional challenges, subsidies and RTS



Inclusion/ exclusion



Self-spreading movement?



Gender and natural leaders



Community action/ rights



Natural leaders/ livelihood generation



Sustainability issues



What does it go?



Conclusions

- CLTS challenges conventional mindsets regarding financing/ help/ subsidies and the role of communities
- People as agents of change, rather than institutions, things or bureaucracies
- Implications for right to sanitation
- Scaling up through process and people
- Challenges of quality, sustainability and inclusion

SHIT MATTERS

The potential of
community-led total sanitation

Edited by Lyla Mehta and Synne Movik

