

Environment Protection, Using Clean Sanitation Facilities in Schools by Dr NDAYIZEYE MUNYANSANGA Olivier, lecturer at PIASS.

Using clean toilet is still a challenge in many schools. According to the World Health Organization billions of people live without sanitation facilities. It is an issue affecting also schools. As you can imagine, there are many diseases that are related to poor hygiene and sanitation. Serious soil-transmitted diseases and waterborne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery and schistosomiasis can result to not access to sanitation facilities.

Deuteronomy 23:13

You shall have a paddle as part of your equipment have something, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse (cover up your excrement).¹⁴ For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.

This message is clear. It is also a very important regulation in Old Testament which recommends to people to set up a place outside the camp to be used as a toilet area. And make sure that you have a small shovel in your equipment. When you go out to the toilet area, use the shovel to dig a hole. Then, after you relieve yourself, bury the waste in the hole. You must keep your camp clean from bad smell and disgusting things because the LORD is always present in your camp, ready to rescue you and give you victory over your enemies. But if he sees something disgusting in your camp, he may turn around and leave. For Muslims they have very restricted regulations in using toilet,

From the start of human civilization, man has been the only species that cleans its environment. As long as man has lived in human settlements, he has been forced to keep his environment in order or clean.

Research conducted by Jeffrey Campbell, cleaning toilet is one of the most important aspects of running a college or a university building. It showed that the level of toilet cleanliness has a direct impact on the ability to learn. The vast majority (88 per cent) of students reported that the lack of toilet cleanliness becomes a distraction to their learning ability. Access to a safe functioning toilet has a positive impact on public health, human dignity, and personal safety, especially for women.

However, research shows that school cleanliness does affect students' academic performance and success. In fact, cleanliness is so important to productivity that it is considered one of the top 4 most important building elements for a school or learning environment. A clean environment is a more productive environment for everyone. From the classroom to the cafeteria, from sanitary surfaces to shiny floors, students thrive in an environment that is clean, organized and tidy. If you want your students to perform to the best of their abilities, provide them with clean, sanitary school facilities.

Having enough and clean toilet is part of environment protection which represents a powerful sense of destiny and hope for the future. We cannot isolate ourselves from the earth's natural processes and our immediate environment. Every element of our existence is derived from our surroundings. We have to clean our surroundings especially our latrines. You will agree with me that having Proper sanitation facilities (for example, toilets and latrines) promote health because they allow people

to dispose of their waste appropriately. Absence of basic sanitation facilities is catastrophic.

Protection the environment provides many benefits. It heals us and helps us stay healthy. While medicines are derived from the elements of the environment and living organisms, sometimes simply being exposed to sunlight and fresh, clean air makes a difference in how we feel.

From 2013, the UN General Assembly declared World Toilet Day on 19th November was World Toilet Day. There is a World Toilet Organization created in 2001. It aims to promote and to tackle sanitation crisis.

When the culture of hand washing, and ensuring personal and environmental hygiene are adopted, it reduces the number of people suffering from communicable disease linked to poor hygiene and sanitation. Training students on hygiene is also important. For instance, boys should be trained about not urinating on toilets seats and girls about wiping from front to back to avoid spreading germs to their genitals and after all washing hands. Researchers showed that supporting good hygienic practices was ranked as the second most important motivation in the development.

Rwanda government understood the importance of sanitation and hygiene for fighting against poverty. And some programs were set up and they are reflecting policies and strategies for water supply and sanitation, including hygiene (WASH) services prepared by the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Water and Mines (MINITERE). These policies are really coherent with the National Environmental Health Policy. Access to improved sanitation was at the centre of the country's ambitious Vision 2020, and we have now guidelines and standards for building toilet in Rwanda. However, translating policy on sanitation and hygiene into practice is still a challenge.

Having and using clean sanitation facilities is a value. Human being cannot live and survive in waste. A clean environment that includes clean air, water, land and energy, is essential for human existence, conducting all activities. Our planet is our home and it is more fragile than we may think. A simple change in cleaning it can help but without doing it could lead the end of life on earth as we know it.