

Enclose Sustainable Sanitation of Rural Pooors

A case of Balon Village of Kuwakot Village Development Committee of Nepal

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ABSTRACT:

Open defecation is a socially accepted common practice in rural community in far west of Nepal. It is a challenge to establish sustainable sanitation system in poor household. Considerable efforts have been made to promote sustainable sanitation in Nepal since several decades by different government and non-governmental organizations. It is a bitter reality however sanitation situation is gradually improving.

Demand creation sanitation is complex and overshadowed by cultural taboos. Similarly, the unconnectedly construction of latrines is a costly affair in a situation where people are talking about food but not talking about excreta. We cannot create demand by telling people and sanitation practice by 'giving' only latrine to people.

Considering sanitation problem, open defecation, unmanaged animal waste, unsafe utensil cleaning Government of Finland supported Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP) introduced Eco-san village concept in 2007 in Balon village of Kuwakot Village Development Committee (VDC) of Far Western Nepal. RVWRMP developed and designed enclose sustainable sanitation package with appropriate technology for the rural poor. The entire package consists of water supply tap, household latrine, school urine diversion latrine, solid waste disposal pit, vessel drying stand, animal waste pit, smokeless improve cooking stove, hand washing and precautionary sanitation management system. After completion of all attach sustainable sanitation component, the scenario of Balon village has been changed and the facts reveal that economic status of people is increased through using water fetching saved time, waste water using in kitchen gardening. Health status is improved and school enrolment ratio of girl child increased and dropping out ratio is decreased due to well toilet facilities of school toilet and urinal.

After the high acceptance by the community, it is replicated in other part of the village. The attach Sustainable Sanitation of Rural Poor's package pioneered by RVWRMP has been successes landmark sanitation in Nepal.

KEYWORDS: Sanitation, Rural Poor, Enclose, Sustainable

INTRODUCTION

Sanitation promotes good health, self respect and dignity of people. It has direct effect of economy of people. Rural poverty is impossible to decline with out proper sanitation. Treatment cost of diseases may be reduced through improved enclose sustainable sanitation.

Open defecation is a socially accepted common practice in Nepal. General thinking of people is that investment in latrine & sanitation is worthless. It is not a demand driven issue rather demands creating. To break such attitude and practices is challenging task. Implementation of sanitation program specifically, in rural poverty areas is also very complexity. A combination of software, hardware, mind-ware and org-ware is important for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Nepal Country Paper for Third SACOSAN: 2008). The

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situation of Far and Mid & Western regions of country is further worse in relation to health, hygiene, sanitation and rural poverty. Sanitation is not taken up as a significant of public health also.

In this context, The International Year of Sanitation 2008 has been a good tool towards sustainable sanitation for health, environment and dignity. Globally, IYS-08 focuses to meet millennium development goal of poverty reduction (MDG). It looks for more investment and different technical option and innovative work for actions. The sustainable sanitation system should consider health, environment, natural resources, socio-cultural, institution, finance and economic as basic principles. On the other hand, sanitation targets are ambitious, particularly national goal of aiming to achieve 100% sanitation coverage by 2017. To meet the Millennium Development Goal, the nation needs to reach 53% sanitation coverage by 2015.

RVWRMP is a bilateral project, funded by Government of Nepal & Finland. Water supply and sanitation are major priority programs of RVWRMP in 10 districts of Far & Mid Western development regions of Nepal. Far and Mid Western regions of Nepal were highly affected areas of conflict, remains high in poverty. Due to cultural and deep rooted traditional faiths, challenges remains with utilization of human faeces and urine.

The main objective of the poster paper is to disseminate the successful implementation of enclosed sustainable sanitation programs for rural poor in Balon village of Kuwakot VDC of Far western Nepal

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Balon is located at eastern border of Baitadi District in Far Western Development Region of Nepal. It has 43 household including 6 dalit (so called untouchable cast) with a total 291 population. Agricultural and livestock are main sources of survival in Balon village. Sanitation situation in Balon was extremely poor. People used to defecate openly either in the forest or on the nearby farm. Non household had toilet for defecation. Every household spent half an hour to fetch water their cattle and domestic use. In general, women were responsible for water fetching and cattle feeding. Average people survive only 3 months from their own production. Male were out of village at least 9 months in off-season agricultural farming for other source of income in nearest town. They were less conscious about balance diet because they were struggle for just survival only. Dairy product liquor cord was used as common curry. Overall health condition was also found poor in Balon. There is no proper place for washing and drying of daily use domestic utensils. None smokeless stoves are not in used and most of the households dump solid waste and animal waste in an irrational manner.

METHOD

Considering above facts and having 15 years lessons learnt from Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Support Program from western Nepal, RVWRMP has been initiated enclosed sustainable sanitation. It includes an Environmental Sanitation Package led by community, school and VDC. The modality is being focused to make local governments more responsible. Community and schools are major key players to implement the program as implementer as well as beneficiaries. All components are user and environmental friendly with economical viable. Different technical options are used as per their requirement and availability. Basic working methods and strategies are as follows.

Integrated package: Different components are linked with the system. It encompass water supply system, household latrine, school latrine, solid waste disposal pit, vessel drying stand,

animal waste pit, smokeless improve cooking stove, hand washing and precautionary sanitation management system and income generation etc. It helps to improve economic status of people.

Eco- friendly Technological options: Nepalese people have high sympathy to preserve natural resources. The deteriorated situation is created by the rural people due to that dependency on the natural resources. Similarly, being an agricultural country, it has wider scope of ecological sanitation. However, challenges are remaining to utilize human feces and urine. People have choices for wet eco- latrine and Sulav (double pit) may use compost in the agricultural from the latrine.

Waste as Resources: Recycle, reuse, reduce at source and site management is basic principal of RVWRMP. It includes sustainability through ecological sanitation system and decentralized management. In this process households are focused to manage toilet waste, animal waste, kitchen waste and other waste to make compost and reuse it.

Local resource mobilization: Matching fund from District development Committee (DDC), Village Development Committee (VDC) and beneficiaries is mandatory. Similarly, local materials are highly used to construct latrine and other components of sanitation.

Financial Support: People are encouraged to build the sanitation component by themselves. Considering the quality of permanent structure, financial support is provided to households and schools. Support is distributed based on communities' ability to pay categorizes by the mass meeting as very poor, poor and medium poor. The maximum support is provided for poorest of the poor.

Users' as manager and implementer: User committee is apex body selected by all beneficiaries having overall responsibility to procure materials and manage the fund. Local materials should be contributed by the beneficiaries' people.

Behavior change: Several tools and technique are used for behavior change such as Poster, pamphlet and video show etc.

Sustainability: Sustainability includes many aspects like social, cultural, economical, technological and institutions. In this process, RVWRMP works together with local governments, NGOs and User's Committee. Household, users committees, VDC and school are prepared and enhanced for continuity of services in sustainable manner. Technical local human resources and operation & maintenance fund plays essential role to sustain the program.

Employment opportunity: Local latrine Builders (LLB), Village Maintenance Worker (VMW) and smokeless improved cooking stove mistry (Figure-1) are main source of human capital. These skilled human resources are paid by the households and committees. The picture shows cooking stove training on going.



Figure-1 Smokeless improve cooking stove mistry training

Research and development: It is continued being focused to ecological sanitation towards poverty reduction, technology development, and sustainability.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Glance of Balon village has been remarkable changed in sanitation condition with miner support of RVWRMP in the short period of time. Now Balon has safe drinking water supply system with basic sustainable component which are household toilet (Figure-2), school toilet, animal waste composting pit, solid waste composting pit etc.



Figure-2 Household toilet

Similarly, every household has smokeless improve cooking stove, solid waste composting pit, utensil washing plate (Figure-3) and vessel drying stand also. Kitchen gardening is very



Figure-3 Utensils washing plate, vessel drying stand and waste composting pit

widely started with utilization of waste water and animal waste composting. People are conscious about their health and proper management of all sanitation components as well as hand washing with soap. Production of green vegetable has been started for their own use and source of income. Every household have utilized their water fetching by 2 hours. Each household are properly using their saved time for sanitation and agricultural production. Economic status of people is gradually increased through less investment of medical expenses and raise from of agricultural production. Health status is improved and School enrolment ratio of girl child is increased (Figure-4) and dropping out ratio is decreased.

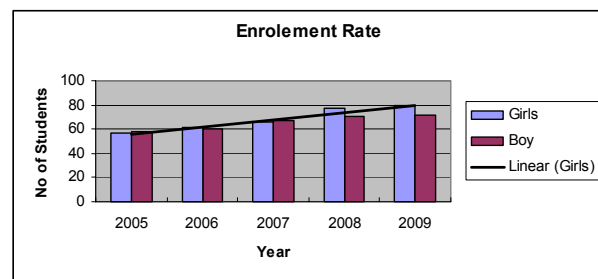


Figure-4 Girls enrolment rate incensement (Data from Latinath Primary school)

Conclusion

Balon is an exemplary case of Eco village through enclosed sustainable sanitation. The program is an environmental friendly, technological and financial viable so it become replicated in another rural village as well. The sanitation status of the community is appreciable and people of Balon are healthier & living with dignity. Community is being able to declare sanitize village. Like as Balon, RVWRMP is conscious for supporting to meet the target of MDG. The successful implementation of enclosed sustainable sanitation rural poor program in Balon became a key discussion issue in the central government to endorse sanitation model VDC approach program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rural Village Water Resources Management Project team participating the Third International Dry Toilet Conference 2009 gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland, and the Finnish Consulting Group International. We also thank our colleagues and villagers in Mid and Far Western Nepal for continued inspiration and encouragement.

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