sustainable hygiene

were not functional. Hygiene promotion, especially on personal hygiene and cleaning of the school compounds, was dependent on duty rosters developed by the teachers. Our Kenyan colleagues therefore had to remove the questions on school health clubs. In India, we found that the observation checklist and the questions were good at generating the required data, but the pictures for the pocket voting needed to be redrawn.

Using the tools

The findings from the first round of data collection suggested new avenues of enquiry in the second round. In Nepal, when we tested the hypothesis that women's educational level had an impact on hygiene behaviour, we defined the cut-off point as 'having had five years of primary level education'. The first round of data collection revealed that only three out of 150 women had this level of education, so that testing the hypothesis as it stood was useless. We therefore changed the cut-off point into 'being literate through a few years of formal education or attending an adult literacy programme'. Likewise there was no point in testing a hypothesis about water availability and handwashing before eating, since handwashing before eating is customary and almost universally practised in Nepal. It appeared much more useful to find out about handwashing after handling children's faeces.

Conclusion

The purpose of the study was not to compare the effectiveness of hygiene promotion between countries, but to look at its effectiveness over time within countries. This allowed us to design our own study and to develop our own tools. We realized that the quality of the tools is one of the major determinants of the quality of the research data.

About the authors

Joan Awunyo-Akaba and Emmanuel T. Nyavor are with the Volta Region Community Water and Sanitation (VRCWSA), Ghana; Renuka Rai is Head of the Social Development Division and Saraswati Khanal is Head of the Health Section of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH); and Suma Zachariah and Beena Govidan are with the Socio Economic Unit Foundation (SEUF), Kerala,

webwatch

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There are plenty of websites relating to improving hygiene behaviours and here are some of them.

NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation

NGO Forum's 'Community mobilizing activities' are targeted to ensure WatSan and hygiene promotion, community mobilization and capacity building to effect behavioural and attitudinal change in the community and among partners. The website outlines the different promotional and mass awareness activities and capacity building of these audiences.

www.ngo-forum.org

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

IRC's thematic section on hygiene promotion features training events, an update on UNICEF/IRC's online resource centre on School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and a link to 'The sustainability of changes in hygiene behaviour' project described elsewhere in this edition of Waterlines. www.irc.nl/projects/susthygb/

Sanitation Connection

Prepared by the EHP project, the hygiene behaviour topic node of the Sanitation Connection web portal provides access to key documents and publications on the subject, many of them available in full text downloadable format. There are also descriptions and links to useful, relevant websites and mailing lists.

www.sanicon.net/titles/topicintro.php3?topicId=19

The Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap

This is a global initiative to promote handwashing with soap to reduce diarrhoea. It aims to get private industry and the public sector working together to develop programmes to promote handwashing, open to all interested parties, targeting those most at risk through mass media, direct consumer contact and government channels of communication.

www.globalhandwashing.org

The SKAT Foundation Resource Centre for Development

This resource centre promotes exchange of knowledge and experience in development co-operation. 'Health', 'Hygiene behaviour, education and promotion' are all featured as part of their '20 basic books' initiative. www.skat-foundation.org/resources/downloads/htm/ws/20BB/ 20BB_health.htm

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) 'Drawers of water' page covers water-related infectious diseases, sanitation, hygiene behaviour and the determinants of diarrhoea.

www.iied.org/sarl/dow/summary/chapter9.html

EHP Environmental Health Project

This searchable website allows access to 'The hygiene improvement framework' for diarrhoeal disease prevention, other EHP research and publications, news and related sites.

www.ehproject.org

WSSCC WASH Campaign

The WSSCC site explains the history and the political and social imperatives behind the WASH Campaign. The range of information covers WASHrelated activities, publications and advocacy materials.

www.wsscc.org/index2.cfm?CFID=6470&CFTOKEN=33118248

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Val Curtis is Senior Lecturer in Hygiene Promotion at the LSHTM. This site covers her current research on hygiene promotion, sanitation and washing with soap, and lists a range of publications on the subject.

www.lshtm.ac.uk/dcvbu/staff/valspage.htm

This site features 13 case studies from each of the countries that WaterAid works in and each tells the account of a person or community whose lives have been changed by WaterAid's water, sanitation and hygiene education

www.wateraid.org.uk

Compiled by Julie Fisher, Water, Engineering and Development Centre, UK.

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