

books

Joyful Learning on Hygiene, Sanitation, Water, Health and the Environment: a source book for lesson plans

Christine van Wijk, 2004, Series on Participatory Education Activities for Children and Educators (PEACE), International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), The Netherlands

This guide is for teachers and educators, to help them design participatory learning activities for hygiene and sanitation education. It is designed for use as either part of, or in addition to, the school curriculum. It is the result of collaboration by six women, contributing their knowledge and experience, from a range of organizations concerned with School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE), from countries including The Netherlands, Kenya, Zambia, Nepal and Peru.

Part 1 of the guide includes a section on its purpose and nature, with suggestions on how it might best be used. There is a section on the theory and basic concepts behind SSHE and participatory, skills-based education, with acknowledgement of the different content and strategies that will be appropriate for different age groups between the ages of two and 14 years. The main body of the guide contains a number of information sheets for lesson plans. These are divided into three categories: Hygiene (including personal hygiene and food hygiene); Sanitation and Water. Each sheet has a catchy title, to make the activity more memorable, with information at the top of the sheet about the general domain (e.g. hygiene) and the specific subjects (e.g. personal hygiene, health impact etc.), and the age group that it is designed for. Each sheet also gives information on

the participatory methods that will be used, the materials needed, and quite detailed suggestions for the actual activities (e.g. games, story telling, demonstrations etc.). The sheet also contains information on the indicators of learning, and what knowledge, attitudes and skills the children should acquire through the lesson. The lesson plans are all designed to use no-cost or very low-cost materials – relying on things that should already be available.

The guide is intended to be of use not only as a reference document for planning and operationalizing the curriculum and extra-curricular activities for SSHE, but also as an 'ideas' book for inspiration, when planning lessons on specific topics. The latter use may be especially relevant, as lessons would almost certainly have to be adapted to make them appropriate for each local context.

Photographs are used throughout the guide, helping to illustrate the activities being carried out by the children. The *Joyful Learning* source book is also intended as an ongoing project, inviting users to send in their comments and ideas.

The value of the source book could be enhanced even further if it were accompanied by information packs for teachers and students (e.g. in the form of fact sheets), on the subjects that are covered in the guide.

Celia Maier is with the Partnership for Child Development, Imperial College, UK

Child-friendly Hygiene and Sanitation Facilities in Schools: indispensable to effective hygiene education

Jaap Zomerplaag and Annemarieke Mooijman, updated 2004, IRC, 48pp, can be downloaded from <http://www.irc.nl/page/9587>

This booklet is inspired by the first-hand experiences of the authors – an architect/planner and a UNICEF programme officer – whilst working with School Sanitation and Hygiene Education programmes in a number of countries in Central America and Asia.

The booklet covers all the stages of designing child-friendly school hygiene and sanitation facilities, from needs assessment through to operation and maintenance. The booklet is concerned with the design 'space' containing the hygiene and sanitation facilities, i.e. the criteria that should be considered in deciding which option is the most appropriate in each context. It would complement technical information, avail-

able elsewhere, on the actual implementation options and specific designs for hygiene and sanitation facilities.

The booklet covers pre-school, primary and secondary school, and aims to provide practical guidance to stimulate ideas that will help the development of appropriate solutions to hygiene and sanitation facilities in schools. Children and the learning environment are at the centre of this approach.

The booklet opens with ten points that should be considered for child-friendly hygiene and sanitation facilities in schools, such that they:

- are 'interactive' spaces that stimulate children's learning and development
- have operation and maintenance plans
- have well-considered locations.

Each point is then further expanded to cover a number of further areas for consideration.

The booklet is refreshingly straightforward, practical and full of common sense. It raises points that seem obvious, once stated, but are all too easily forgotten, such as:

- Are the facilities located where they will allow the children to feel secure and free from harassment, but also provide privacy?
- How much strength is needed to open the taps, fetch water etc.?
- Is the diameter of the squatting hole appropriate (considering children's fear of falling in)?

The booklet also provides a list of references, a checklist of all the points to consider and a sample set-up for the development of child-friendly hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Although the booklet is designed for policy makers, programme designers and implementers at the field level, it would also be of interest to a much wider readership of people working in the field of child health and child-friendly programme development.

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Asian Water Supplies – reaching the urban poor

Arthur C. McIntosh, 2003, Asian Development Bank, hardcopy price: \$15.00; 198 pp, ISBN: 971 561 380 2, download for free from http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Asian_Water_Supplies/

This is a long-overdue, well-focused guide and sourcebook dealing with water supplies in Asia. The book is divided into 20 'stand alone' chapters so that readers

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can dip into each chapter according to their need for information. A useful feature of this book is that each chapter has an introduction and 'nutshell' summaries. The chapters look at problems and solutions related to a number of important and varied topics, including water resource management, intermittent water supply, private sector participation, sanitation and governance. Chapter 2 of the book binds all the chapters together. While the topics covered are varied and important, in some cases the problems stated and solutions proposed are oversimplified. For example, Chapter 5 discusses issues around intermittent water supply and argues that a 24-hour supply is achievable in most cases. Intermittent supply is in fact unavoidable for the foreseeable future in many towns and cities in Asia, and hence it would have been beneficial to the reader if suggestions on how to improve intermittent supply (particularly in terms of equity and water quality), were provided.

In addition to the chapters, there are three appendices providing thumbnail sketches of the situation in each city examined, lessons learned and also studies that shed some light on the activities of small-scale water providers.

The book identifies governance and tariffs as both core problems and core solutions. A new approach to the development and management of water supplies is proposed, which is based on transparent government policy and regulation and the involvement of civil society.

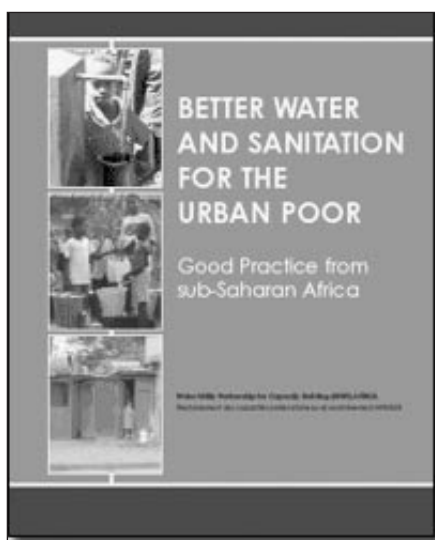
Overall this book is well written and comprehensive in its coverage and will be of great benefit to all those involved in water supplies in developing countries. Everyone can learn something from this book, especially new professionals in the sector, who will find this resource particularly useful in getting up to speed quickly.

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Better Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor – good practice from sub-Saharan Africa

J. Plummer (ed.), 2003, Water Utility Partnership, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, hardcopy plus CD Rom for \$20, download for free from http://www.wupafrika.org/toolkit/resources/bibliography/abstracts/better_water_sanitation.html

Africa is urbanizing faster than any other region. Between 1990 and 2025 the total urban population on the continent is predicted to rise from 300 to 700 million. Simply to meet the Millennium Target for



water supply would mean an 80 per cent increase in the number of urban households with access to water – equivalent to making at least 6000 to 8000 new connections every day. Progress in sanitation needs to be even faster – both on the grounds of basic human dignity and public health. Many African utilities have recognized that doing 'business as usual' is not enough.

The Water Utilities Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa was set up by the Union of African Water Suppliers (UAWS) and with its partners, TREND in Ghana and CREPA in Burkina Faso, has set out to build capacity of utilities in the region. Project Number 5 focused on services for the urban poor, and sought to use African experience, knowledge and ideas to find new innovative ways of serving poor and informally settled households in African cities. The resultant dialogue identified some important principles, most important among them being that while the poor gain access to services in a range of different ways, they need to be treated as legitimate consumers, with the same rights as others.

The good practice guide lays out the African experience, and pulls together practical lessons for operational staff in utilities, civil society and policy makers on the ways in which services can be effectively extended to poor urban communities. From the radical tariff reform undertaken in Côte d'Ivoire, via the Teshi Tankers Association of Ghana, to Mtaa Leaders managing public standposts in Arusha, Tanzania, this well-presented volume provides a wealth of inspiration and ideas. Nor does it shy away from acknowledging the challenges and mistakes of the past – all in all it is a 'must-read' for those seeking to serve the urban poor in Africa and beyond.

Barbara Evans is an independent water and sanitation specialist

The Atlas of Water – mapping the world's most critical resource

Robin Clarke and Jannet King, 2004, Earthscan, 128pp, £12.99, ISBN:1844071332

In the same series as *The State of the World Atlas*, Earthscan have produced an atlas devoted to data relating to water resources and use worldwide. Double-page spreads throughout show world maps displaying particular variables, such as the percentage of the population with access to an improved water source, or countries with different levels of protected wetlands. Each spread is accompanied by a discussion that usually sheds light on the sometimes surprising distributions. For example, why is the domestic use of water lower in the United Kingdom than anywhere else in Europe or North America? This is probably less because the British take fewer baths and more because the British climate allows garden lawns to remain green all summer without the use of a sprinkler.

More seriously, the spread on drought shows the greatest area of 'hyperarid zone' in northern Africa and the Middle East, as one would expect. Perhaps surprisingly, however, the pie chart showing the number of people reported killed by drought and famine (1992–2001) shows Asia bearing by far the greatest burden of 271 000 lives lost, compared with 6400 from Africa. Is this because of underreporting in Africa? Or perhaps this is an example of where the exciting displays of data gloss over much more complex explanations. After all, the economist Amartya Sen has argued convincingly that famine is caused when governments are unresponsive to poor people losing their income, rather than a decline in food production caused by drought.

Generally the maps manage to convey a great amount of data imaginatively, and reading this book is engrossing. Tables at the end of the book supply the raw data and its sources. The world maps are frequently interspersed with maps and informative discussions of particular parts of the world, such as the diversion of China's major rivers by vast dams and lengthy tunnels to meet the growing need for water in northern China.

Altogether, a fascinating read for anyone interested in global comparisons relating to water.

Clare Tawney, Editor