

books

Life Skills-Based Hygiene Education

Leonie Postma, Renate Getkate and Christine van Wijk
2004, IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, ISBN 90 6687 045 1, price: € 21.00 or download for free from <http://www.irc.nl/page/10453>

This book is based on two years' experience and exchange of knowledge and skills from school sanitation and hygiene education projects in seven countries on three continents. The IRC/UNICEF co-operation is part of the FRESH (Focusing Resources for Effective School Health) initiative to improve health and learning in all schools across the world. This book, introducing life skills-based health and hygiene education, contributes to one of four areas in the FRESH framework for action.

In a nutshell, the book convinces the reader of the need for a life-skills approach to education, and provides excellent and detailed guidance on the development of appropriate life skills-based hygiene education (LSBHE). It describes practical ways to teach life skills together with primary school sanitation and hygiene education, enabling children to acquire not only knowledge, but also to develop positive attitudes and skills to help them to improve their own lives, and those of their families and communities. The authors invite further sharing of experiences and comments for future revisions of the guidance document.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section provides: a comprehensive introduction to LSBHE including very useful descriptions of the advantages of life skills-based education over traditional methods; an explanation of how children learn and seven golden rules of children's learning; guidelines and methods for participatory learning and examples of suitable methods for younger and older groups of primary school children. It covers major themes and topics of LSBHE and the need to make the knowledge, positive attitudes and skills relevant to the region and key steps to do this. It also gives ideas on how to incorporate sensitive issues. It also covers principles for the development of lesson plans, and a brief overview of the implementation of LSBHE that highlights the need for teacher training, possible activities for family outreach and the child-to-child approach, and monitoring of the approach at the level of the teacher, the lesson, school, and extension to home and community. Good examples and memorable illustrations are provided to help the reader remember key points throughout the section.

The second section provides quite detailed content of LSBHE, comprising the knowledge, attitudes, skills and methods that could be used with younger and older groups of primary school children. This is presented in four theme areas of water, sanitation and waste; personal and food hygiene in schools, home and the community; water and sanitation-related diseases; and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

The third section provides a number of detailed and invaluable teacher-friendly sample lesson plans from the four thematic areas, both for younger and older groups of primary school pupils. These help demonstrate how knowledge, positive attitudes, and life skills can be taught with interesting and lively activities that fulfil the seven golden rules for learning.

Sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS, children's rights, child abuse, gender and local beliefs are gently woven throughout the document in very simple, practical and acceptable ways, suitable for child-friendly approaches even in the most conservative cultures.

The book is very well suited to the needs of government policy- and decision-makers, members of international organizations and NGOs involved in school sanitation and hygiene education. It is a very worthwhile guide for anyone interested in child-friendly primary education, building life skills aspects of primary education, and all involved in school sanitation and hygiene education.

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Urban Stormwater Management in Developing Countries

Jonathan Parkinshon and Ole Mark
2005, IWA London and Seattle, 240pp, ISBN: 1843390574, price for IWA members: £26.25; non-members: £35.00.

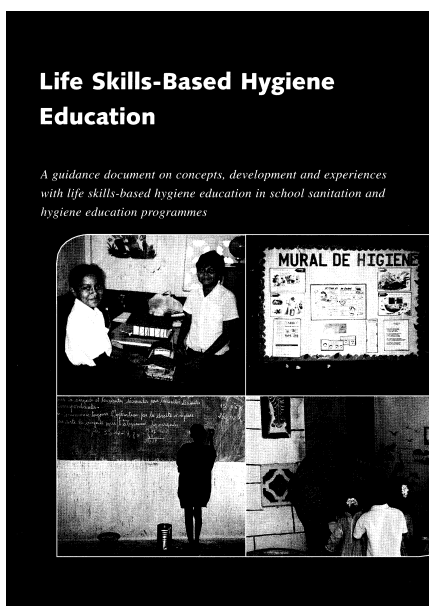
Urban Stormwater has been an important issue in the urban waters facilities in developing countries due to the institutional and technical weakness of some countries, together with fast urbanization and a lack of planning in the urban development of these countries. It has a great economical and social impact on the day-to-day living standards of poor people.

This book covers all the main aspects of the subject in its 12 chapters, starting with the connection between urbanization and urban hydrology, followed by other subjects which are developed in greater depth in the following chapters, such as the relationship between urban development and drainage, climatic factors, institutional and environmental factors. In the second chapter the human vulnerability to urban floods is discussed. For example, in these countries diseases are spread through a lack of a sewerage network, and waste collection services. Chapter 3 introduces the concept of Integrated Water Resource Management in Urban Systems and the implications for urban stormwater. IWRM has been proposed and discussed in many international forums. It is an important issue because of the weakness of the municipal institutional arrangements in these countries. The chapter presents an important link between watershed management and localized stormwater management, together with the other urban water facilities: solid waste, wastewater collection and disposal and household sanitation.

Chapter 4 covers the policies proposed for land use and runoff control and the framework required at different levels

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(national, local and drainage). The following chapter explains how to plan and operate such policies. Chapters 6 and 7 develop the concepts of drainage configurations, hydraulics and works applied in these countries together with environmental aspects. Chapter 8 presents the computer models that can be important tools in evaluation and planning. In the following chapter the operation and maintenance of drainage systems are covered. Lack of maintenance is a common reality in developing countries that compromises the hydraulic capacity of the system. Solid waste is a major problem in this regard due to a lack of other urban services and a population that has not been educated in this matter.

The last three chapters cover non-structural measures, public participation and economic evaluation and mechanisms. These are important aspects strongly interlinked in urban stormwater. In developing countries, law enforcement and management are often weak and management institutions need to understand better the population's willingness to participate. Also they need to use economical instruments in developing sound and sustainable solutions for stormwater management.

This book presents many examples from developing countries around the world that give a good picture of the problems, needs and solutions which ought to help to manage and reduce impacts on the environment. It provides an overview of the main aspects related to stormwater looked at from a hydraulic and water-quality technical perspective; it also presents how sound, integrated and sustainable management could be developed in countries with difficulties in their institutional structure.

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Flowing Upstream: Empowering Women through Water Management Initiatives in India

Sara Ahmed (Ed.)

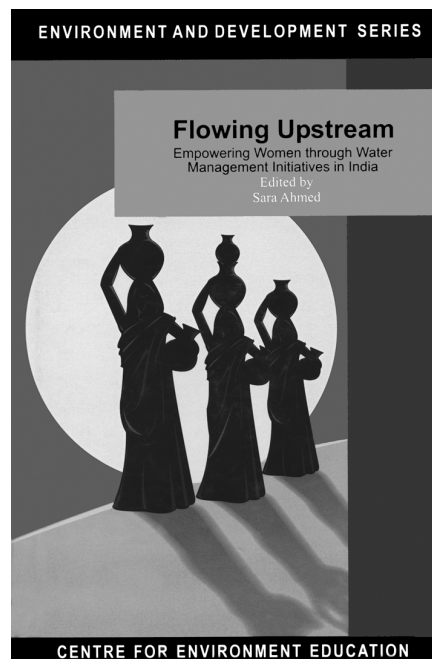
2005, Foundation Books Pvt. Ltd and the Centre for Environment Education, ISBN: 81-7596-262-3, 258 pages,
Price: Rs 550, \$13 plus postage

As is the case in many developing countries, the onus of securing water for household needs lies with women, especially in villages. This is an incredible psychological and physical burden for women, more so when water is scarce. In a scenario where poverty is all pervasive and where women are relegated to the background, where they

should preferably be seen and not heard, the shortage of drinking water makes the curse complete.

Flowing Upstream begins by explaining why equity is important in water management and, through five case studies from three different states in India, analyses situations on the ground and the policy issues that emerge. It concludes with an overview of problems faced by various stakeholders in integrating women's participation and concerns in water management and suggests how these problems can be overcome.

The cases make interesting reading, describing efforts made by NGOs to empower rural women through water management, often by choice, occasionally by default. The PRADAN experiment with women as managers of community lift irrigation schemes in the state of Jharkhand, for instance, was conducted not with the objective of empowering women, but simply because men had failed to get involved. These women were empowered through capacity building at every stage so that they could deal with institutional, financial and technical issues effectively. Just how pervasive is the pressure on women to access drinking water is evident from the experience of SEWA, a trade union that represents the poor women of the informal sector. No matter what the discussions were about, the women raised the issues surrounding accessing drinking water. This led to the launch of a Women, Water and Work Campaign in 1995. The experiences in Participatory Irrigation Management by AKRSP reveal how, in the absence of legal ownership of land, women can only be nominated as members of water user associations and are hence denied voting rights.



Bridging the gap: citizens' action for accountability in water and sanitation

Peter Ryan

2006, London, UK, WaterAid, 28 pp

This report details the experiences of WaterAid and its partner organizations in Africa and Asia in the inauguration of Citizens' Action projects designed to empower local communities. A series of Citizens' Action projects were instigated in 2005, and set to run for the duration of the UN Water for Life decade until 2015, the deadline for achieving the MDGs. Projects are underway in Nepal, Uganda, India, Ghana and Ethiopia, with more soon to start in Bangladesh and Mozambique.

Most of the citizens' action projects in the report began with WaterAid country programme officers and local partner organizations talking to women's groups, faith groups and other civil society representatives. To avoid potential confrontation, local government officials and service providers are invited into the process as early as possible. Although some officials may have been inclined towards scepticism, many recognized this as an opportunity to strengthen their own demands to national governments for increased resources.

Download from: <http://www.wateraid.org/documents/WaterAidReport.pdf>

The book elaborates problems faced by rural women while accessing and managing water in Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. What comes across clearly from the various case studies is that, though marginalized and victims of poverty and deprivation, when organized, these women have challenged institutional systems to ensure they have water for drinking and livelihood purposes. While the book enriches knowledge, a comprehensive and concise conclusion, with a definite agenda on how gender concerns can be smoothly integrated into mainstream water management, would have added value.

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