

# waterpoints

vast amounts of qualitative information, using spreadsheets and statistical tools. It consists of a specially-developed analytical framework; a set of commonly-used participatory tools; an ordinal scoring system with descriptive ordinal categories and ordinal rating scales from 0 to 100; a template for easy data entry into an EXCEL spreadsheet; community folders to note qualitative issues which explain the scores given, and basic ordinal statistical analysis. These individual elements are not new, but their combination into a single methodology is the real strength of the MPA.

Advantages of the MPA over other assessment systems include:

- A more holistic approach to sustainability (linking it to gender, poverty, participation and demand-responsiveness at community, institutional and policy levels)
- Supporting documentation of

- qualitative information
- Multiple-use information (for communities, NGOs and project management)
- Descriptive ordinal scoring tables
- Flexibility and adaptability to suit different contexts

Potential applications of the MPA include: decision support (project design, policy performance reviews and community decision-making), and continuous and participatory community-level M&E of project performance (including use with benchmarking, and project GIS and MIS) – producing comparable baseline to endline assessment.

For more information on water and sanitation project applications in Asia, please contact Nila Mukherjee at: nmukherjee@worldbank.org or Param Iyer at: piyer@worldbank.org. For applications to watershed or poverty alleviation projects in India, please contact Christine van Wijk at: wijk@tref.nl or Dr. A. J. James at: ajjames@ndf.vsnl.net.in.

Dr. A. J. James

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## Obituary David Collett, 1934-2000

David Collett, who died on 26 April 2000, was the founder and first Director of WaterAid, a charity dedicated to the provision of safe water and hygiene to the world's poorest people. It was the fledgling charity's luck that a man who, until shortly before his arrival, had been chief executive of the then much larger and well known Voluntary Service Overseas, and wanted the challenge of something new and untested.

For the first couple of years before it began to grow, David, almost single-handedly, was WaterAid. His wealth of international experience and contacts, and unshakeable belief in the potential of poor communities to take charge of their own progress, charted and drove WaterAid's rapid early advancement. His natural but unassuming authority and ability to communicate were equally vital in convincing the British water industry that WaterAid was to be taken seriously and deserved respect and continuing support. In so doing he helped broaden the industry's own horizons and skillfully ensured that privatization did not interrupt this commitment.

When David arrived at WaterAid in 1981 as its first employee, its first year's income was £25,000. When he retired in 1994 the income had grown to £5.8 million with substantial country programmes in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Always a good listener, David's liking for innovation was instrumental in recognizing that not just safe water, but also effective sanitation and hygiene promotion, formed in combination a virtuous trio which has greatly increased the impact of WaterAid's work and its consequent global reputation for good development practice.

After his retirement David continued to be much in demand for his wisdom and advice all over the world. Despite cancer and a series of major operations two years ago, he fought his way back and continued to help the voluntary sector until the very end. He will be greatly missed as a man of stature, courage and vision.

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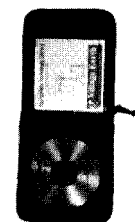
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