

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL THEME: WATER, HEALTH AND SANITATION

The Context (4 minutes)

Diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of worldwide death among children under five. Every year diarrhoea kills around 760 000 children.

Tragically, many of these deaths are preventable. There are strong links between the practice of defecating in open spaces (ie in nearby fields) and the spread of diarrhoeal disease and contaminated water sources.

For this reason – stopping the practice is important.

Studies also show that washing hands with soap can reduce diarrhoeal disease rates by up to 50 per cent. This makes hand washing with soap one of the most cost-effective interventions for reducing illness and preventable deaths among children.

Pre-Activity (3 minutes)

The Sanitation Ladder is used by development agencies to plot the steps that can be taken to achieve safe sanitation practices in communities around the world.

As a group, place the steps in what you think are the correct order.

Activity 1 (5 minutes)

You are part of the Water and Sanitation Program team and your task is to encourage community members to use the toilets to reduce the incidence of disease.

Key Question:

Why would a community be resistant to using a new pit toilet?

As a group, write some possible answers to this question on the butcher's paper provided:

Activity 2 Role Play (5 minutes)

Here are five cards highlighting perspectives from the local community.

Five students are to take a card and read their perspective loudly to the group.

Development Scenario

A local village in Papua New Guinea has traditionally used 'over hang' toilets into the ocean in their coastal village. The community have agreed to move away from that practice as it is polluting their coastline and important food sources.

Through a local Water and Sanitation program they received three pit toilets for their village. There is a tap outside the toilets with space for soap.

Whilst the community embraced the implementation of taps and a gravity fed water system a few years back, they are not using the toilets as expected and no one seems to be buying or using the soap – the containers are empty.

Activity 3 (3 minutes)

You've listened to the characters above so you understand their concerns. Re-write your answers on the butcher's paper now that you understand the perspectives of the local community.

Compare your answers – are they different?

Post Activity Discussion & Evaluation (3 minutes):

A strong community development approach makes sure all members of the community are listened to and their concerns taken into consideration.

Likewise, research suggests the best way to encourage use of toilets is to ensure the whole community understands the underlying reasons fixed point toilet use help stem the flow of disease - because it won't always be convenient or easy for the community to change their behaviour.

Listen to this short video about a current development methodology being used to change behaviours about open defecation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v031PPjRVNM>