

Strategia Netherlands Online Studies
Course; Post graduate diploma in Water
Hygiene and sanitation

Assignment 6

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Supervise by Course Instructor

Assignment

1. Explain four examples of potential benefits and four examples of possible drawbacks from public–private partnerships in urban sanitation and waste management.

Good sanitation benefits the government, individual people and businesses so all three groups have an interest in promoting improved sanitation. The government can facilitate development of the sanitation market through a number of activities:

- ✓ developing promotional materials to help create a demand for the products and services
- ✓ providing subsidies to customers, where appropriate
- ✓ Working with the private sector to provide better financing to the customer – both by directly providing access to lower-cost funds and through policy changes that enable the private financial sector to offer more and lower-cost funds.

The government can also enter into direct public–private partnerships (PPPs). They can be defined as public services which are funded and operated through a partnership between national, regional or local government and one or more private sector companies. The private sector businesses are motivated to provide a good service by the potential profits they can make and the public sector offices are relieved of the responsibility to provide the service.

The Ethiopian government has highlighted the potential of PPPs as well as the willingness of entrepreneurs to develop sanitation businesses and fill the existing gaps in service delivery (for instance in schools). By working with the private sector, local government investment in sanitation marketing supports businesses to sell affordable, desirable products and services to low-income households which enable them to

expand their businesses. Local government efforts also support scaling-up of sanitation services by encouraging greater household investment in improved sanitation and by working with local businesses to respond to increased demand (Pedi et al., n.d.).

Many economists say that the main advantage of involving the private sector is that it will be more efficient than the public sector in providing services at lower cost and with higher standards. This is because private sector organisations:

- ✓ Can access capital (from loans or reserves) in order to purchase the most suitable equipment to manufacture sanitation products and they can buy raw materials in bulk, minimising their business expenditure
- ✓ Often specialise in a small number of services and so have considerable expertise in these fields
- ✓ Are motivated by profit and have greater freedom to use their finances in ways that promote competition with other providers.
- ✓ However, it is very important to be familiar with the drawbacks if the interactions with private companies are not managed well. Potential drawbacks include:
 - ✓ Private companies can ‘walk away’ from a contract if it proves less profitable than they expected, leaving householders without the service
 - ✓ The risk of a monopoly situation developing, so that there is no alternative to one particular service provider – who can then increase prices and/or reduce standards without fear of losing the contract
 - ✓ Corruption (bribes paid to inspectors and officials to award contracts to a particular firm or to overlook shortcomings and associated penalties) can happen.

As you have seen in this study session, sanitation as a business goes beyond selling latrine slabs. It is crucial that private sector sanitation entrepreneurs develop business plans that will lead to viable businesses. Public–private partnerships must be very carefully designed, the roles of each partner clearly determined and spelled out, and the

needs and expectations of each stakeholder addressed. This needs time and effort. Building partnerships is time-consuming and requires champions within participating organisations, but can result in improvements to people's health and the environment while stimulating the local economy.

2. Briefly describe the main activities needed for planning improvements in sanitation and waste management in local institutions.

To give guidance on how to improve this situation, a design manual has been published jointly by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Water and Energy in collaboration with UNICEF (MoH et al, 2012). The manual gives recommendations for safe water supply in schools and the volume of water that should be available per person per day. It also establishes the principles for sanitation and hygiene provision in schools, which are outlined in the following sections.

The following step-by-step actions are important when developing a plan for an improvement programme:

- ✓ Know the scope of activity by identifying the institutions to be included.
 - This requires the identification of institutions by type and number in your working area.
- ✓ Assess the existing sanitation and waste management situation and identify the main problems.
 - A survey to assess the conditions and gather data on any existing problems should be undertaken. This is similar to the assessments you learned and it will provide baseline data that is useful for analysing any problems and setting priorities based on the situation.
- ✓ Identify the possible partners that you can work with. It is useful to identify partners in order to work together and bring improvements from mutual efforts. Depending on the type of institutions, partners are likely to be government offices such as county administration, health office, education office, water utility, school administration, school parents committees, school WASH clubs, traditional leaders or police and court desks. It

is also important to include authorities of religious and other local institutions/organisations.

- ✓ Identify and prioritise activities taking account of available resources.
- ✓ In collaboration with partners and in consultation with potential beneficiaries, proposed activities can be identified and then plans developed. There will need to be careful assessment of the resources required. Improving sanitation, waste management and hygiene so that they meet recommended requirements is challenging. For example, if a school has no latrine and the school head is advised to install latrines for students, they cannot do it immediately. They need time and budget. If the school has latrines but they are in poor condition then improvements can be made more easily and require fewer resources. Other activities that may not require many resources include establishing WASH clubs, hygiene education for students, and periodically conducting personal hygiene inspections.
 - ✓ Develop and implement the plan of action. This will depend on the number and type of institution. The plan should indicate the list of activities, the timescale for implementation, the frequency for regular events like inspections, and who is responsible. It should also include appropriate follow-up activities after improvements have been made.

3. Composting is an example of waste recycling but it could also be described as an example of recovery from waste. Explain why this statement is true.

Composting is an example of recycling because the waste is reformed into a new material, compost, which is different from the original waste. It is also an example of recovery because the compost has value as a soil improver and has been recovered from the waste.

Composting is the process where biodegradable organic wastes (food and garden waste) are converted into compost in a natural biological process. Composting can be done by individual householders and community groups or on a commercial scale. On the larger scale, the waste from an entire town or city could be composted if sufficient land, labour and equipment is available. The benefits of composting are not only the reduction of waste, but also the production of compost which is a valuable soil improver. Soils treated with compost are better able to withstand droughts and are more fertile because plant

nutrients are returned to the soil, which reduces the need for manufactured fertilisers. It is possible to add a certain amount of animal manure to residential waste for composting, which may help with other waste problems in the community and adds to the amount of useful soil improver that is made.

Composting is an aerobic process, so the pile needs to be turned regularly to introduce air. This means dismantling it, mixing the waste to introduce air and then rebuilding the pile. The first turning-over of the heap should be done after two to three weeks and then every three weeks or so. The composting process will be complete within three to six months. The composting process generates heat, so it is normal to see steam coming out of the pile. The process is complete once the pile no longer heats up after mixing and rebuilding. The final product should be brown and crumbly and look like a good soil. If it still contains identifiable items, the process is not complete.

4. Imagine there is a local NGO working in the town you are assigned to that wants to develop a school WASH programme. While preparing the project documents, the delegates of the local NGO come to your office and ask you to support them. Describe the minimum requirements that you will advise them to include in the sanitation and hygiene part of their programme.

The advices to the NGO needs to suggest for are:

To give guidance on how to improve this situation, a design manual has been published jointly by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Water and Energy in collaboration with UNICEF (MOH et al, 2012).

- ✓ Separate latrines for boys and girls should be provided that are located in a convenient place in the school compound, give privacy to users, are easy to clean and agreeable to use.
- ✓ The number of latrines should be calculated based on the number of students (one cubicle per 100 students) with a minimum of two cubicles for girls and two for boys, with urinals as well.

- ✓ Latrines should be designed and constructed to be appropriate for children of the age at the school; small children will need facilities they can reach and feel comfortable using.
- ✓ There should be appropriate latrine and hand washing facilities for students with disabilities.
- ✓ Hand washing facilities with soap should be provided very close to the latrines with separate facilities for boys and girls. The supply of water for hand washing must be maintained at all times.
- ✓ There should be appropriate provision of menstrual hygiene management facilities that ensure privacy for girls and allow them to dispose of or wash used menstrual pads hygienically.
- ✓ Facilities should be designed to be appropriate for the size of the children in the school. For example, for young children door handles and wash basins need to be lower.

5. Giving examples explain three examples of ways of encouraging or supporting an ISWM approach.

ISWM helps to safeguard public health, improve the environment and gives a better image to the city. Hence improving waste services is a priority for many stakeholders- the government, NGO, health and environment ministries and city council.

However, developing and implementing ISWM needs start-up capital and on-going revenue scheme. It needs investment in equipment and in the training and development of skilled staff. ISWM also requires effort from all the stakeholders.

Therefore, it is sometimes necessary to encourage people to develop and implement ISWM by providing incentives. These incentives may be financial benefits or the offer of some other sort of reward for adopting an ISWM approach.

It is the local level where encouragement and investment need to be provided.

This is a task for national or local government and can take a number of forms for examples:

- ✓ National government could allow municipalities that perform well in terms of waste collection and treatment the flexibility to spend more of their budget on waste.

- ✓ Local authorities could reward best performing individuals, institutions or environment clubs through various mechanisms including media coverage and awards.
- ✓ Financial support could be given to environmental groups and small-scale private sector enterprises that encourage in waste collection, composting and recycling. This support could be provided through the saving achieved by the municipality in its collection, transport and disposal costs.
- ✓ Organising promotional campaigns to raise awareness of the 3 Rs among all members of the community.

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