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**Course: Diploma in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

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**Final Examination**

**1. Sanitation**

Sanitation refers to the management of human excreta, all conditions that affect health, especially with regards to dirt and infection and specifically to the drainage and disposal of sewage and refuse from houses.

Another part of sanitation is environmental sanitation, which includes the control of community water supplies, excrete and wastewater disposal, refuse disposal, control of disease vectors, housing condition, food supplies and handling, atmospheric condition, and the safety of the working environment.

**Hygiene**

This refer to the behaviors/measures, including but beyond the management of human feces, which are used to break the chain of infection transmission in the home and community. This is the maintenance of healthful practices which are required in several aspects in life.

**2.** When you put water, sanitation and hygiene together in a project to achieve a common overall objective in a community, it is term WASH meaning water, sanitation and hygiene. WASH situation in a community has great effects to health and poor health impacts the development of the nation. Therefore improved WASH plays a great importance in health, education, social and economic development. For community growth, resilient, and long sustainability, water, sanitation and hygiene projects has to be taken a first priority.

**3. Open defecation**

This is one of the Sanitation technologies where there are no latrines and people defecate in the open. This may be indiscriminate or special places for defecation generally accepted by the community, such as defecation fields, rubbish and manure heaps or under trees. Open defecation encourages flies, which spread feces-related diseases. In moist ground the larva of intestinal worms develop, and feces and larva may be carried by people and animals.

Surface water run-off from places where people have defecated results in water pollution. In view of the health hazards created and the degradation of the environment, open defecation should not be tolerated. Since there are other options available that confine excrete in such a way that the cycle of reinfection from excrete-related diseases is broken.

**4. Sanitation marketing**

This is an emerging field that applies social and commercial marketing approaches to scale up the supply and demand for improved sanitation facilities. It involves strengthening the supply system by building the capacity of the local private sector to motivate households to build toilets.

It explores all the insights to create, communicate and deliver the benefits that a target population desires in exchange to adopt a behavior that profits the society through social marketing. It involves both the improvement of formal and informal supply chain and services to expand the delivery of affordable basic sanitation products.

**5. Biggest challenges in teaching hygiene and sanitation**

**Menstrual hygiene education**: This is tough, first and foremost a man works away when he hears it, yet they are supposed to be involve for improvement. Management is difficult, the community do not have the knowledge resulting for infections affecting reproductive health.

**Community mobilization**: To achieve a common goal like open defecation free, there should be a complete community mobilization. This calls for experience and strong communication skills and follow up.

**Practices**: Awareness and knowledge only may not be effective in prevention of WASH related diseases, it is better to put in practice the knowledge to do agreed doable actions in house hold visited. When actions are not taken, provision of facilities alone cannot break the chain of infections.

**Cultural Taboos**: In hygiene and sanitation education, this is a problem. For example in south Sudan some cultures a woman is not to use a toilet because pregnant women might lost a baby in to the toilet. So elders restricts use of toilet

**Language barrier of the facilitator**: Community’s uses different languages, luck of understanding comes in when the facilitator uses one language yet s/he has to talk to a community of different ethnicity.

**6. Sustainable sanitation**

When you look to the objective of any sanitation system, it is to protect and promote human health by providing a clean environment which breaks the cycle of infections from diseases. In deciding to select a type of sanitation for a community, their participation is important so that a simple technology is chosen which they are able to maintain and that system should take in to account protection of the environment and the natural resources. This system selected should also be economically viable, socially and culturally acceptable and institutionally appropriate.

**7. Planning and implementing a successful WASH behavior change campaign**

**Focus of the organization**: Before we start to plan behavior change campaign, we need to define the organizational areas or priorities for intervention. For example if it is a hygiene promotion intervention, what goals, objectives you want to achieve, when and how. Are there resources for the intended intervention?

**Feasibility study of the location and scope**: when you have confirmed that the resources are in place, a visit to the site is done to have an overview if it is relevance to go and intervene in the area and the scope is defined.

**Assessment**: In depth assessment has to be carried out to find the needs of the community, these needs may be more than one hence is good to prioritize. The team should consist of experienced people in order to collect relevant data which implies the exact situation of the beneficiaries.

**Analyze the assessment report**: when assessment is done it has to be analyzed for clear finding and ratting the key needs and problems which the project will address. The report has to be shared with the actors, all stakeholders and the beneficiary representative.

**Develop a strategy**: This answer the question of what approach or methodology will be used in implementing the appropriate solutions to the identified issues. It has to be planned in such a manner that the first actions give a move to achieve the next objective in a chronological or sequential manner leading to the overall objective of the project.

**Team formation**: A human resource is formed, this should comprise experience people in the field. The team should match the characteristic of the community in which they are going to work and gender sensitive. Members from that community has to incorporated in the team to build trust hence relevant information can easily be got from the community.

**Training of team**: The capacity of the team is built in relation to the activities of the project so that they suits well for the implementation. The new technologies to be used need capacity building of the team and good understanding of the project so that everyone in the team works to achieve a common goal.

**Deploy/Implementation**: when all the provisions are check listed and confirmed all the tools, assets, finance are in place, people are deployed for implementation of the project.

**Monitor:** In the ongoing implementation, you need to monitor if the activities are in track to the desired objectives, what challenges are there, is there need to revise the log frame, how is the progress in term of project period.

**Evaluate**: The whole cycle is evaluated to understand if the objectives are achieved and the level of impact of the project output in the community. The lesson learnt are documented for future improvement.

**8. Challenges faced by WASH Projects in Africa**

**Funding limitations**: WASH take or needs huge amount of money, the government alone cannot sustain if not aided with external aid in term of funding. This funding is not always enough for a longer period and sustainability.

**Insufficiency of untrained personnel**: These projects aimed to improve the heath status of the community; a level of expertise and experience is needed to obtain this goal. These personnel are not there in large numbers making it hard to cover a wide area and impact awareness to the population.

**Operations and maintenance**: A project has its period, once it has phased out; there is no sustainability due to O&M problems. Emphasis has to be made during the design stage that the communities should be responsible to operate and maintain all the installations of the project once phased out. They should be capacity built on operations and maintenance.

**Logistics:** In this regards am going to argue on transportation and supply, this affects WASH projects very much in Africa. Adequate time has to be taken in planning to examine the nature and geographical scope of the project for right decision-making. There is registered much delay in supply and transportation in projects to meet dead line. What means and timing to supply materials to site has to be done early enough to reduce additional cost which leads to no achievement of the desired project goals.

**Insufficient health education efforts**: health and hygiene education was not enough or delivered by an experience person. A change of habit or an adaptation to a habit is a life long process; time is needed with follow up for a longer period. Inadequate cost-recovery framework

**Climate change adaptation and WASH**: This is a challenge because when you take a borehole in certain season of the year, it will have low yield of water due to change of climate, diarrhea and malaria intensify in some season due to climate changes, which need to be studied and adopted to in the panning if a project is the have an impact in the community.

**Transparency and accountability**: This happens at all level of management. Every project personnel have to be transparent and accountable. A grant is an aid to help the community, and is a bad practice to mismanage project money.

**Non-involvement of communities**: right from the project design, the communities have to be involved in decision-making. This has become a challenge in a situation where they are imposed on a technology where they do not have the capacity to maintain and operate leading to failure of project. Consent of the community has to be sought and appropriate technology to their capacities has to be chosen by them for sustainability.

**Achieving operational sustainability**: most WASH project in Africa proved to have less impact to the communities due to luck of sustainability. For example in the sector of water supply, many boreholes are drilled and many a not in use or abundant just because of sustainability before reaching the desired life span. This affects projects in terms of financing.

**Insufficient institutional framework**: In the government of south Sudan, there are no documented guide lines or regulations defining the level of WASH to be achieved by 2020, this is a challenged because the country do not have a strong base in WASH which is a cross cutting sector affecting the ministry of health, agriculture, education and last the economy of the nation. There is need for capacity building in the most affected ministries so that WASH issues are not ignored since they cut-across.