



A Study on “Sanitation behavior of Users using Public toilets in North Ahmedabad”

Abstract:

This research paper helps to know the Sanitation behavior of the users using public toilet. It helps to understand the importance of using public toilets. As Gujarat has been declared Open Defecation Free state, so this paper is just in according to it to know the user behavior. Construction of Public Toilet, Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) & Community Toilets has been on top list. But only construction would not help so there has been need to change the behavior of individual towards sanitation habits.

Key words: Sanitation, Public Toilets, defecate

Introduction:

While compared to other countries in the world, India ranks first in open defecation. 82% of one billion people are practicing open defecation are from 10 countries. Globally India almost consist of 60 % almost 600 million people who defecate in open as stated by UNICEF and WHO reports. The other countries who also have highest number of people practicing open defecation and are included in Top 10 list are as follows. They are Nepal, Niger, China, Sudan, Pakistan, Mozambique, Nigeria, Indonesia and Ethiopia.

In 2014 – 2015 report India still top the list of countries in Open defecation.

While countries like Nepal, Vietnam and Bangladesh have taken steps like construction of toilets and other users friendly policy which help them to free from problem of open defecation to great extent.

While coming to India, there has been many reasons disclosed by people why they respond their natural calls in open. The list of reason are many, but main reasons can be lack of proper connection, lack of drainage policy, culture and poverty.

The central government has been trying to overcome issue of poverty by providing monetary help schemes or subsidy in construction of individual house hold latrines (IHHL), community toilets and public Toilets.

Many schemes has been implemented in rural and urban India by central and state government, but has been failed miserably.

Many toilets has been constructed under various scheme, but usage of the same has not been started. The reasons behind it is lack of knowledge, lack of awareness and lack of education.

Many deadly diseases happen due to open defecation. Lack of sanitation is mainly responsible for various deadly disease like cholera, diarrhea, typhoid hepatitis and others

Every 40 seconds one child die due to diarrhea under the age of five year and almost 2000 children die every day.

The situation gets worst where there is huge population and several parts of rural India.

Objectives of the Study: To study the behavior of individuals using public toilet.

Research Methodology: The method used for our study was questionnaire and interview of the people using public toilets & also people who defecate in open.

Type of Research - Descriptive research is used in this study in order to identify the behavior of people using public toilets.

The research is based on both types of data primary and secondary.

Primary Data: – Observation Method; Interview Method; Structured Questionnaire.

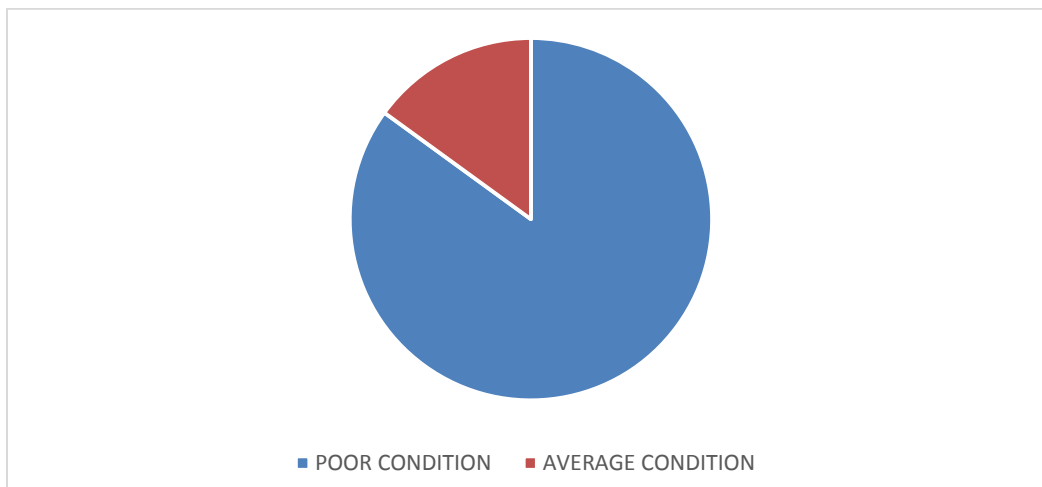
Secondary Data: - Books; Articles and Research Papers; Internet; government sites, etc.

Sampling Unit and Sampling Size: 20 public toilets have been selected for sample in North Ahmedabad. Interviews and observation of 500 individuals have been taken.

Limitations of the Study: – The study is based on the data of North Ahmedabad.

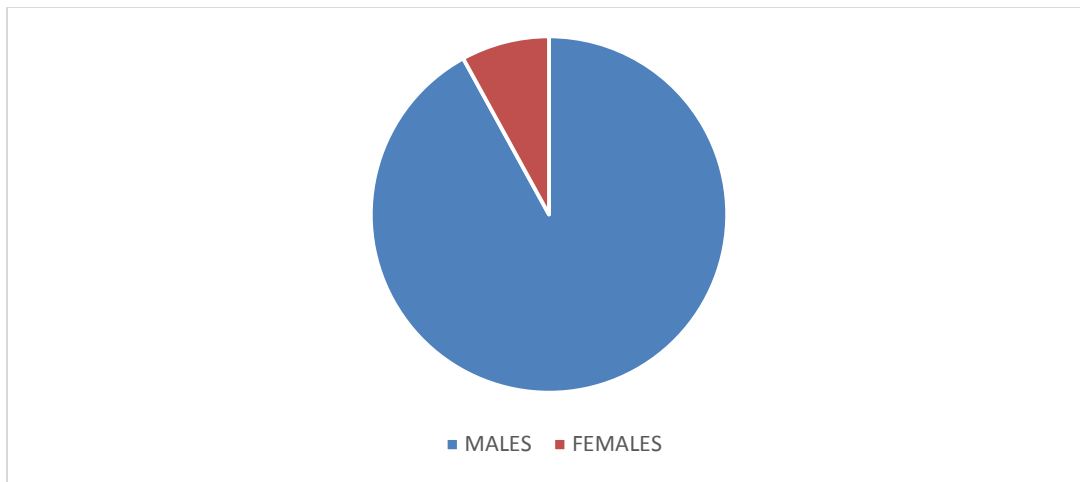
Data Analysis and Interpretation:

In this study, 85% of users rated the condition of public toilets in the study area as very poor.

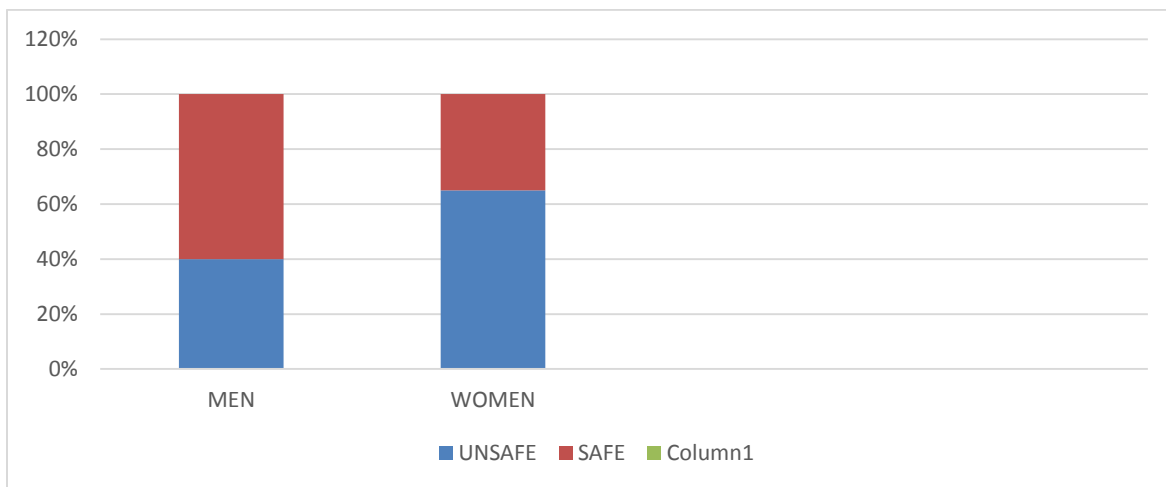


While more than 80% of respondents identified dirty environment and bad odor as the major challenges in using public toilets.

92% males used public toilet while only 8% females used public toilets.



Almost 65% females considered it unsafe to use public toilet, while 40% males considered it unsafe.



70% of users are willing to pay for cleanliness.

Due to lack of proper facility & unhygienic condition 73% would prefer to go in open then public toilets.

Conclusion:

There has been inadequacy of public toilets.

The absence of toilets forces many people to defecate and urinate in open spaces.

The available public toilets are dirty and unhealthy for users.

Because of this people use open spaces when they need to relieve themselves.

Because of open defecation, the human waste which is in open is creating unhygienic condition & is the main cause of creating deadly diseases.

Defecating in open poses a great threat to human health.

Adequate sanitary facilities are essential in order to improve the hygienic condition of cities, but due to above listed reasons it's not able to achieve.

There are few toilets which are maintained but many of users don't feel like using it because they believe they cannot get fresh in closed rooms or they need to go out to freshen up.

Recommendation:

The study recommends hygiene education among users.

There should be awareness drive every month or fortnightly so that all can be aware about effects of open defecation and why one should use toilets.

Children's should be targeted by keeping plays, puppet shows and drama in schools about sanitation and its effect.

The practical training of operators/cleaners should be done on how to keep public toilets clean and hygienic.

Ahmedabad Municipal corporation should try to maintain and upgrade existing toilets by providing proper and basic facilities like water, soap, cleanliness, etc.

To achieve good and hygiene environment in public toilets, the collective efforts and commitment of the People, Private and Public (3Ps) sectors are crucial.

For sustainable sanitation facilities public private partnership can be done which can include strategies making on incomes and expenses to maintain proper hygienic condition.

Cleanliness only cannot be maintained by caretakers or cleaning staff, it has to be maintained by users, so agency can place information boards, notices, etc. to make users aware about usage, waste, etc.

Proper drainage facility need to be implemented, so basic hygiene can be maintained.

There is urgent need to keep ladies care taker available, so females can feel safety.

There can be an option to place annual contract for cleanliness so proper cleanliness & hygiene can be maintained.

References:

- I. "Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: Special Focus on Sanitation," Geneva: World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, 2008.
- II. "A Snapshot of Sanitation in Africa, a report presented at Second African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene", Durban, 18-20 February 2008.
- III. "India Assessment: 2002, Water Supply and Sanitation, New Delhi: Planning Commission, Government of India, 2002".
- IV. "Guidelines on Central Rural Sanitation Programme: Total Sanitation Campaign, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural and Urban Development." Government of India, December 2007."

- V. "Sanitation in India, The final frontier," New Delhi, 19 July 2014."
- VI. "Why it is so hard to fix India's sanitation," The Economist, July 2017."
- VII. "Information about sanitation situation in Ahmedabad District Gujarat State, <http://www.swachhbharaturban.in/sbm/home/#/SBM>"
- VIII. "Diarrhea remains a leading killer of young children, despite the availability of a simple treatment solution". UNICEF. Retrieved 2 August 2016.\

Supreetsingh G. Khanuja
Calorx Teachers University
Ahmedabad

Copyright © 2012 - 2017 KCG. All Rights Reserved. | Powered By: Knowledge Consortium of Gujarat