Health and Sanitation
Towards ODF Habitation- Driving Behaviour Change amongst Households and School Children
Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
Munger, Pune, Sehore, Virudhanagar, Coimbatore, Krishnagiri
We Care Society
October 2016 – January 2017

Executive Summary

Objective(s):

The study aims to conduct a rapid assessment on usage of the IHHTs along with the toilets constructed in schools to assess the condition of the infrastructure provided, systems in place for maintenance of sanitation infrastructure, ascertain pattern of household usage, and general awareness on WASH.

Key Findings:

- Use of household toilet constructed was found to be over 90% for both males and females in all districts with usage higher among females than males in all the districts. The percentage of girls using school toilet as an option along with the house toilet is higher than the boys in all the states except Munger in Bihar. Most children were found to use house or school toilet and were aware of the sanitation practices and ill effects of open defecation.
- 2. The main reason for not using household toilets by adult male is personal preference in Krishnagiri, Coimbatore, Munger and Sehore. However, in Munger, malfunctioning of latrine is also an important reason for non-usage of toilets. In Sehore and Pune, many farmers or agricultural labourers said that they defecate in open when they work in field as field is far away from house and no latrine is available there.
- 3. Most of the toilets in the study were functioning and had no problem. Everyday cleaning was found to be most common practice in Krishnagiri, Coimbatore, Virudhanagar of Tamil Nadu and Pune of Maharashtra. In Munger, however most of the respondents said that they clean their toilets twice a week.
- 4. In terms of advantages, privacy and safety for woman came on top of the list in all districts: around 97% of women said that privacy has increased due to construction of toilets and another 95% felt safer because of toilets. Saving of time was the most important factor mentioned by men since walking long distances was not necessary.
- 5. Most of the beneficiaries washed their hand two to three times a day except in Sehore where most of the respondent said that they washed their hand once a day. Most of the respondent said that they wash their hands after defecation.
- 6. The students were found to have good knowledge of hand washing techniques. All were aware that they need to hand wash after and before eating food.
- Before construction of toilets, children (0-12 yrs) suffered more from various diseases like cholera, dengue, typhoid, acute respiratory infection and more importantly diarrhea. Previously open defecation was widely spread in these areas which may be cited as the reasons between water

borne infectious diseases. Children were mainly affected by these diseases. After construction of toilet, incidence of disease reduced manifold in all the districts.

In case you would like to know more on the study please mail your details to itcmsk@itc.in