



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 7 May 6, 2011 | Focus on Gender and WASH

This *WASHplus Update* contains links to some of the most recent journal articles and reports on gender issues. Water and sanitation practitioners recognize the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into WASH programs. A gendered approach can create a framework of cooperation between men and women, so that the insights and abilities of both men and women help to shape programs and meet objectives. Included in this issue are studies from Nepal and Senegal that show the importance of men in hygiene promotion programs. Also included is a UNICEF checklist for managers of water and sanitation programs of 10 key points to check for gender equity. An urban sanitation study in Indonesia gives steps to make sanitation services gender-balanced and fairer to the poor.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Gender Water Networks: Femininity and Masculinity in Water Politics in Bolivia**, IN: *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, January 2011. ([Link to full-text](#)) This article explores how transnational networking around neoliberal water policies intersects with drives to mainstream gender. It examines how understandings of gender are constructed through water conflicts and demonstrates how complex contemporary gendered water experiences are reflected in a variety of networks operating at and across different scales.
- **Hygiene Promotion for Men: Challenges and Experiences from Nepal**, IN: *Waterlines*, October 2010. ([Link to abstract](#)) Men have an important role to play in family and community health improvement. However, most hygiene promotion programs focus on women only.
- **Safe Access to Safe Water in Low Income Countries: Water Fetching in Current Times**, IN: *Social Science & Medicine*, March 2011. ([Link to abstract](#)) Population growth, weather fluctuations and social upheavals have made the daily chore of carrying water highly problematic and a public health problem of great magnitude for many, especially women. This paper considers gender differences in

water carrying and summarizes data about water access and carrying from 44 countries. Women and children are the most common water carriers, and they spend considerable time (many trips take more than an hour) supplying water to their households.

- **Sustainable Water Management: A Case Study on Saving Behaviour of Turkish Women for Domestic Water Usage**, IN: *European Journal of Social Sciences*, October 2010. ([Link to full-text](#)) This study explores women's water saving behavior for domestic water usage in a Turkish sample. The sample consisted of 170 women in Ankara, Turkey. The water saving behaviors of women was measured with a three-point scale for 31 saving behaviors. It was found that the women in this sample generally adopt water saving behaviors in their domestic arena.
- **Women and Decentralised Water Governance: Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward**, IN: *Economic & Political Weekly*, April 30, 2011. ([Link to full-text](#)) Based on a study of water rights and women's rights in decentralised water governance in Maharashtra and Gujarat, this paper argues that decentralisation will fail to meet its desired objectives unless the value systems, culture and the nature of institutions, including the family, change.

REPORTS/WEBSITES

- **Developing an Environmentally Appropriate, Socially Acceptable and Gender-sensitive Technology for Safe-water Supply to Households in Arsenic Affected Areas in Rural Bangladesh**, 2011. ([Link to abstract](#)) The overall objective of the research was to develop a socially appropriate and gender-sensitive household-level arsenic removal filter. Technical, socio-economic and cultural aspects were incorporated in this research to assess the development of a sustainable innovation through multi- and interdisciplinary approaches.
- **Female Political Leadership and the Prevalence of Water Borne Diseases: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India**, 2010. Ambrish Dongre, Centre for Policy Research. ([Link to full-text](#)) This paper examined the relationship between prevalence of water borne diseases and gender of the head of the village councils. The study found that the female council heads from the upper castes were able to reduce the prevalence of water borne diseases significantly, while villages which have women as the council heads from the disadvantaged sections of the society, showed no such effect.
- **Gender and Poor-inclusive Community-managed Sanitation and Hygiene in Urban Indonesia**, 2010. R. Mozar, Urban Sanitation Development Program and C. Sijbesma, IRC. ([Link to full-text](#)) Community empowerment with gender- and poor-inclusive approaches can be integrated into all stages of urban sanitation development, i.e. (1) the organizational development, (2) review of related existing projects and services, (3) formulation of an overall city sanitation strategy and program, and (4)

local project planning.

- **Gender in Water and Sanitation**, 2010. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Link to full-text](#)) A gendered approach can create a framework of cooperation between men and women, so that the insights and abilities of both men and women are available to shape programs to meet their sector objectives.
- **Involving Men in Handwashing Behavior Change Interventions in Senegal**, 2010. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Link to full-text](#)) Preliminary observations indicated that men are interested in handwashing promotion because of its potential impact on their children's health and well being. Senegalese men expressed frustration at not being included in handwashing promotion discussions. Thus, both men and women should be targeted in handwashing behavior change promotions.
- **IRC: Gender and Equity**. ([Link to website](#)) If water and sanitation projects and programs are to be sustainable, equitable and effective, they must be gender-balanced and provide access for all.
- **To Treat or Not to Treat: What Drives Water Treatment Behavior in a Mumbai Slum?** 2010. Pronita Saxena, University of California/Berkeley. ([Link to full-text](#)) This paper assesses the degree to which household characteristics such as income, expenditure, education, knowledge about disease transmission, perceived water safety, and expenditure on diarrheal treatment coupled with financial decision making structures impact the likelihood of household water treatment.
- **UNICEF - 10 Key Points to Check for Gender Equity**. ([Link to website](#)) A gender checklist for managers of water and sanitation programs.
- **Women's Role in Managing Household Water in Rural Bangladesh**, 2010. BRAC. ([Link to full-text](#)) The study explores women's role in managing household water i.e. collecting and storing water and maintaining cleanliness of the tubewells. Participants were selected through a two-stage sampling procedure. Respondents were the women of the households who had knowledge of the household day-to-day activities related to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- **World Bank - Indicators for Gender Issues in Water and Sanitation**. ([Link to website](#)) These indicators are divided into two sections: indicators which can be used during project monitoring and those which can be used during project evaluation. Within each section indicators are subdivided into categories such as involvement, benefits and community management.

WASHplus Updates will highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Quality, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus Knowledge Resources Specialist, at dacampbell@aed.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air quality (IAQ). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or contact: washplus@aed.org.

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