

Community-Led Total Sanitation – Lessons Learnt

CLTS entails a shift of paradigm and change of power relations

- From teaching to facilitating
- From engineering designs to local designs
- From targets and counting latrines to counting communities ODF
- From big budgets and pressures to disburse to adequate budgets
- From us helping the poor to communities taking responsibility
- From us being sensitive to taboos to communities handling them
- From sanitised words to the crude ones – faeces are SHIT!

What have we learnt?

- We need to change – personally, professionally, institutionally
- No individual household hardware subsidy in rural areas (markets, schools, urban can be different)
- Enough money but not too much
- Natural Leaders are a wonderful resource for spreading CLTS
- Train facilitators and trainers hands-on with communities. Mentor and support them. Beware consultants who screw things up!
- Good trainers and facilitators are special people. Not all can do it
- Post-triggering follow-up with support and encouragement is vital
- If no ODF villages emerge quickly after triggering, it is not good CLTS
- Verification of ODF status must be honest and done well
- Rewards for achieving ODF status lead to false declarations
- Beware misuse of the CLTS label, and confusion with total sanitation campaigns

What do we now need to do?

- ◆ Help sceptics to experience CLTS, seeing it in action
- ◆ Don't rush to scale. The number of good facilitators and capacity for follow-up must determine speed. Go to scale steadily with quality
- ◆ Seek critical and honest feedback e.g. learning workshops (Ethiopia)
- ◆ Network, share experience (Regional Learning Centres proposed in Ethiopia and Nigeria). IDS website.....let's have more
- ◆ Keep the core elements of CLTS and innovate and adapt

CLTS is challenging, fulfilling and fun

ENJOY!