

Lesson Plan: Correct Use and Maintenance of Latrines 50 minutes total

Lesson Description



This lesson introduces participants to latrine cleanliness, maintenance activities, and the frequency in which they should occur.

Learning Outcomes



At the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of a clean latrine
2. Identify activities to maintain a latrine and their frequency
3. Discuss solutions to dealing with a full latrine

Materials



- Flip chart paper
- Tape
- Markers

Preparation



- Draw the following tables on 4 different flipchart paper (1 for each activity)

Activity	How	Frequency	Why
1. Wash slab and toilet			

Activity	How	Frequency	Why
2. Tidy area around the outside latrine			

Activity	How	Frequency	Why
3. Wash door handles and lock			

Activity	How	Frequency	Why
4. Wash handwashing station and ensure there is soap and clean water			

Introduction

5 minutes



1. Tell participants the following story:

There once was a man named John [insert local name] who built a latrine. He was very proud that he was no longer defecating in the open. He was proud that he belonged to a community that was officially Open Defecation Free. After a few months of using his latrine, his latrine was becoming very dirty and smelly. You could smell it from far away. People were becoming afraid of visiting him because they would maybe have to use his latrine. John could not stand using a smelly, and hot latrine, so he returned to defecating in the open air where the air was fresh and cool.

2. Ask the participants: "Have you heard a similar story?"
3. Invite some participants to share their similar stories.
4. Present the lesson description or learning outcomes.

Latrine Cleanliness and Maintenance

25 minutes



1. Ask the participants: "What are the effects of having a dirty latrine?"

- *Bad smell*
- *People don't want to use it*
- *Disease transmission*
- *Bad impression from other community members*
- *Shame*
- *Return to Open Defecation*

2. Explain to participants that as Community WASH Promoters, it is their role to encourage users to maintain their latrine so that these things do not happen.
3. Explain to participants that they will now work in groups to discuss specific activities people should do to maintain their latrine, how to do them, how often they should do them, and why those specific activities are important.
4. Explain to the participants that the recommended frequencies are flexible and depend on the local situation. For example, communal latrines or household latrines for a large family require more frequent cleaning.
5. Divide the participants into 4 groups and give each group one of the activities from the table. Ask the participants to fill in their table.
6. When participants are done filling in their table, ask them to stick it on the wall, side-by-side vertically for everyone to see the complete table. Ask each group to present their table.

Answers:

Activity	How	Frequency	Why
1. Wash slab and toilet	Scrub with soap and water	Weekly or as needed after use (for example, if somebody defecates on the toilet or slab)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps latrine smelling good • More pleasant to use • Urine and feces that missed the toilet won't be stepped in

2. Tidy area around the latrine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up waste • Trim bushes and grass 	As needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps away insects and snakes • Shows pride • More pleasant to use
3. Wash door handles and lock	Scrub with soap and water	Weekly or as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathogen transmission route, especially if people aren't washing their hands every time they use the latrine
4. Wash handwashing station and ensure there is soap and clean water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub with soap and water • Make sure there is no buildup of stagnant water 	Weekly, or as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing your hands directly after using the latrine is crucial and it is important to maintain its correct use


7. Ask the participants: "As a Community WASH Promoter, what can we do to support people in reminding them of the importance of maintaining their latrine?"

Full Latrines


15 minutes



1. Ask the participants: "After a household has been using a latrine for 3-4 years, what is the biggest concern?" *The latrine becomes full.*
2. Ask the participants: "What happens when the latrine is full? Why is this a bad thing?" *People no longer have a latrine, it becomes very smelly, there is runoff into the environment where it can contaminate the area around the latrine (this defeats the purpose of having a latrine), it will attract flies and other insects.*
3. Explain to participants that when a latrine is full, there are only 2 safe solutions that households can do. Write the following 2 steps on the flipchart paper.
 - **Cover up the latrine, and build a new one.** (Mostly only possible in rural settings where there is more room. They can also plant a tree in the pit to cover it; this is called Arborloo).
 - **Empty the pit.** (Either by themselves with shovels and protective equipment, or hiring someone to do it for them. The problem is still that there are only a few safe treatment sites available, and they can be far away; so where do the emptiers bring the fecal sludge? Ask the participants to share if they know of someone who has done this or know of services offered in the region).
4. Explain to participants that you will be brainstorming solutions when they encounter full latrines.
5. Ask the participants: "What can you do as a Community WASH Promoter when you come across a full latrine?". Write their answers on flipchart paper.
 - Inform the household on the repercussions of using a full latrine
 - Advise them on covering their latrine and building a new one
 - Advise them on options to empty their latrine pit
 - Advise them to use a neighbour's latrine until theirs is emptied or they have built a new one
 - Tell your supervisor or manager at your organization

- Inform the village leaders, government representatives, etc.
6.  Explain to participants that as a Community WASH Promoter, they will not always have all the answers; but they can be a very important messenger to the people who do. If a household has a full latrine, one of the best things you can do is to ask and inform others. A full latrine is very dangerous for the community as it spreads pathogens and diseases.

Review**5 minutes**

1.  Ask the participants to close their eyes and image using a perfect latrine or bathroom that they would like to use.
2. Ask the participants to think of the specific reasons why that latrine is perfect for them.
3. Ask a few participants to share their criteria that what makes their latrine or toilet, perfect.
4. Explain to participants that for the sake of the health and pride of the community, as a Community WASH Promoter, it is important to support people in achieving to get that perfect latrine.

Reflections on Lesson