

Lesson Plan 2: Talking About Sanitation



15 minutes total

Lesson Description



In this lesson participants will get comfortable talking about sanitation. This lesson is extremely important to get the participants to easily talk about feces, urine and defecation for the rest of the workshop. People are often uncomfortable saying words related to feces or defecation.

Learning Outcomes



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

1. Discuss the personal and sensitive nature of sanitation, particularly defecation practices.
2. Identify appropriate words to talk about defecation, feces and urine.

Materials



- Flipchart paper
- Tape
- Markers

Preparation



- Write the heading “*Feces*” on flipchart paper
- Write the heading “*Urine*” on flipchart paper
- Write the heading “*Defecation*” on flipchart paper
- Ask your host for common words in the local language that are used to describe feces, urine and defecation
- Optional: Write the learning outcomes on flipchart paper

Introduction

3 minutes



1. Ask the participants to list words that people use to explain when something is great.
 - *Wonderful, excellent, awesome, good...*
2. Ask the participants to turn to the person next to them and say how great this workshop is using one of the words.
3. Present the lesson description or learning outcomes.

Local Vocabulary**10 minutes**

1. Ask the participants “How do people in your culture and community feel about openly discussing sanitation and why?”

- *In many cultures and communities people don't like talking openly about sanitation because it is considered dirty and private. People feel embarrassed.*
- *Sometimes men and women won't talk about it together.*



2. Ask the participants to identify some of the implications to projects if people are not comfortable discussing sanitation and their personal practices.

- *Difficult to access and observe people's homes, harder to understand current practices and baseline conditions (e.g., people won't tell the truth or not speak in interviews or surveys), difficult to identify needs and motivators for behaviour change, difficult to get your project started if people won't be willing to talk*

3. Explain that we will be talking about sanitation for next five days. We need to become comfortable talking about it for the workshop and for the future as you go into the community. If you are embarrassed to talk about it, other people will be embarrassed to talk to you.



Note: It's important that when you talk about feces, urine or defecation that you speak confidently. A good way to make people feel comfortable is to get them to laugh as you go through the rest of this lesson.

4. Ask the participants “What words can be used to describe feces, urine or the act of defecation?” Record answers accordingly on the “*Feces*”, “*Urine*” or “*Defecation*” flipcharts. If no one is forthcoming, then use a local word that you have learned from the host in advance to start the list.

- *Shit, crap, poo, poop, pee, caca, diarrhea, taking a dump, going to the toilet...*



Note: Depending on the local context and language, there may be only a few words that are used or there could be a long list.

5. Ask the participants “Are there any words or phrases for feces, urine or defecation that people find extremely uncomfortable or offensive?” Cross these words off the flipchart papers.

6. Tell the participants that it is time to get them laughing. Explain that we are going to say or sing all the words for feces, urine and defecation together so nobody has to say them alone. Ask the participants to chant or sing the list of words with you.



Note: You may have to say a few on your own to try and get participants started.

7. In pairs, ask the participants to use different phrases and words to express something similar to “I enjoy a good poop every day”. Ask them to try saying a few different phrases to each other.
8. In pairs, ask the participants to discuss the importance of finding out what words are used locally and being sensitive and confident to help people feel more comfortable to talk about sanitation.

Review

2 minutes



1. In pairs, ask the participants to pretend they are very serious professors and say to each other the phrase “Today we are going to talk about” and fill in the end with a word or phrase from one of the lists.

Reflections on Lesson