

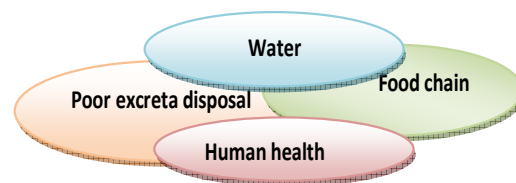
SANITATION IN KIKANDWA VILLAGE: PRACTICE, PRICE AND PROSPECTS

Good sanitation is a prerequisite for development. The impacts of poor sanitation stretch to affect the water resource, human health and economic wellbeing as well as the country's GDP in a wider perspective according to the sanitation fact sheet by UN (2008). In a bid to promote sanitation ATC has established a model village in Kikandwa, Mukono district. Prior to intensification of campaigns a survey was conducted (2011) to ascertain the water, hygiene and sanitation condition of individual households. Among the main sanitation challenge revealed were; collection, storage, treatment and disposal of human excreta. Key questions one may raise from the onset are; *'Whose' and 'Why' sanitation?*

Does it matter any way if 14% of a community has no toilet facilities? Where do they go if nature calls? How do they affect community?

Kikanwda village has evidence of poorly controlled human excreta exposing the entire community to an unpleasant and risky environment. Despite being in a productive age group, majority of households without latrines do not have short term plans to construct and claim that they cannot afford to construct one because of absolute poverty. Besides, they are not aware of the dangers of open defecation and how easily the infection can spread in the home, between people and communities.

Poor excreta disposal inversely affects water, food chain and human health. Scientifically, human excreta are implicated in the transmission of many infectious diseases including cholera, typhoid, infectious hepatitis, polio, cryptosporidiosis, and ascariasis. Poor sanitation gives many infections the ideal opportunity to spread.



Proper sanitation; Health living!



2011 survey: Typical latrine in Kikandwa village

Sanitation can act at different levels, protecting the household, the community and 'society'. In the case of latrines it is easy to see that a given sanitation system acts at a household level. However, poor design (common in Kikanda), inappropriate latrine location and no latrine may lead to migration of waste matter and contamination of local water supplies putting the community at risk. In terms of waterborne sewage the containment may be effective for the individual and possibly also the community, but health effects and environmental damage may be seen far downstream of the original source, hence affecting 'society'.

In Kikandwa village since settlement, the situation is aggravated by the fact that; the available toilets and other sanitation alternatives are largely concentrated at a higher altitude compared to location of most water points. This poses great health risks to humans as well as to the ecological balance of the environment.

Community attitude!

Sanitation issues have not received much public attention countrywide partly because there is a wide misconception of sanitation matters as being household business yet on the contrary it is a public affair. Management of human excreta at the household level has a large impact on communities; People having no adequate means of disposing off their waste is a nuisance and a risk of infectious disease, particularly to vulnerable groups; children and the elderly.