ENV 101: Environmental Issues in Real Estate

Topic 4: Sanitation System

Nafisa Farid Moumi Lecturer, Department of Real Estate, DIU



Sanitation System

Sanitation involves the following hygienic measures:

- Safe and reliable water supply
- Proper disposal of all "human waste"
- Proper drainage of wastewater
- Prompt removal of solid waste

Classification of Sanitation System

- On-site Sanitation System: When the wastes are collected at or close to the point of generation. The collected waste is either treated in situ (within site) or transported to a Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) for treatment and disposal.
- Example: Pit latrines (rural area, urban slums); and Septic tank system (urban)
- Off-site Sanitation System/ Sewerage System: When the wastes are collected and transported to somewhere else for treatment and disposal. In Bangladesh, it is provided only in Dhaka city, and covers around 20% population.



On-Site Sanitation System



Fig 2: Septic tank system

Fig 1: Pit latrine

On-Site Sanitation System

Basic Principle:

- Liquids **infiltrate into the soil** (infiltration capacity of soil, and location of groundwater table are important issues)
- Solids are retained (confined) and digested in-situ or
- Transported to a facility (Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant- FSTP) for treatment

Features:

- Designed to dispose of human waste only
- Wastewater from other sources (kitchen, washing, bathing) has to be disposed of separately
- Suitable for sparsely settled rural areas with low population density, and low water consumption
- Not feasible in areas with (a) high population density, (b) low infiltration capacity of soil

On-Site Sanitation System with Fecal Sludge Management (FSM)



Off-Site Sanitation System

Features:

- Collection and transportation of waste through a sewer system requires the waste to be diluted by water.
- Hence **piped water supply** is essential
- Most satisfactory system of waste disposal
- Because of the **high cost**, it is preferable to introduce gradually; where possible the existing sanitation system (e.g., septic tank system) should be upgraded and improved

Suitability of Sanitation System

Two important factors affect the suitability of the sanitation system: Level of Water Supply:

- Pit latrines would not be appropriate with piped water supply
- Conventional sewerage system is not feasible with bucket-carried or hand pump water supply

Population Density:

- On site systems are more appropriate for low-density rural settings, and low-density urban areas
- Off-site systems are suitable for high-density urban centers

Global Context: Many parts of the world will continue to lack access to sewers



Note: countries in gray do not have data reported Source: JMP 2017 Report; BCG analysis

What is Hygienic Latrine?

- A "hygienic latrine" is defined as a sanitation facility, which effectively **breaks the cycle of disease transmission.**
- A hygienic latrine would include all of the following:
- 1. Confinement of waste

2. A **barrier (e.g. water seal)** in the passage between the squat hole and the pit to effectively block pathways for insect vectors, thereby breaking the cycle of disease transmission, and

3. Venting out of foul gases generated in the pit through a vent pipe to keep the latrine odor-free

Typical Sanitation Facility in Rural Area





On-Site Sanitation System



2 commonly used options for On-site sanitation:

1. Pit Latrine (for areas with limited water supply)

2. Pour Flush Latrine

Types of Simple Pit Latrine



Advantages

- Least costly
- Easily constructed
- Better solution than open defecation

Disadvantages

- Not hygienic, spreading disease
- Odor nuisance
- Aesthetically less attractive

Pour Flush Latrine

- Improvement over "pit latrines", through incorporating a manual "pour flush" system.
- An important precondition for such latrines is the availability of some water (about 2 to 5 liters per use) for cleansing and flushing
- The most vital part is the "water seal" incorporated in the latrine pan/ slab, which eliminates odor and insect problems



Water seal



Two types of water seals:
1. Gooseneck type / U type
2. P-type/ U-bend type

Water Seal in Pour Flush Latrine

- For "Direct pit pour flush latrine" (pit directly below the latrine), Gooseneck trap is used.
- For "Offset-pit pour flush latrine" a P-trap is used. It requires more water to flush.
- 15-25 mm is the optimum depth of the water seal.





Types of Pour Flush Latrine

1. Direct Pit Pour Flush Latrine:

- Pit directly below the latrine
- Gooseneck trap is more used



2 (a). Offset Pit Pour Flush Latrine (Single pit):

- Pit fully offset from the latrine
- P-trap is more used



Types of Pour Flush Latrine: 2 (b). Offset Pit Pour Flush Latrine (Twin pit)

- In this system, two pits are used alternatively.
- When one pit becomes full, the flow of waste is diverted to the second pit through a Y junction.
- Contents of the first pit decomposes to safe humus within 18-24 months. Then the first pit can be cleaned and becomes ready for reuse.





Advantages of Pour Flush Latrine

- A properly designed pour-flush latrine is a "hygienic latrine". It reduces odor through a vent pipe, and the water seal ensures a barrier for insects.
- Require low volume of water (2-5 L per flush). So tubewell-based water supply is sufficient.
- The latrine can be located inside the house (if the pit is offset)
- The digested sludge (especially in twin pits) can be used as a soil fertilizer. Challenges of Pour Flush Latrine
- For single pit latrine, desludging is difficult.
- Risk of groundwater pollution (especially in high water table areas). According to BNBC, the minimum distance of a water source from a pit is 15m.

Construction of Pit

Dimension of each ring:

- Diameter: 3 feet
- Height: 1 feet
- Wall thickness: 1.5 inches

Depth of Pit:

• 5-6 rings (5-6 feet)

**All the dimensions are approximate



Septic Tank System

- Commonly rectangular tanks are used with lengths three times the width.
- Depth is usually 1-1.5m.



Fecal Sludge Management System

• Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) refers to a system that includes mechanisms for emptying, collection, transportation, treatment, and disposal of sludge produced in onsite sanitation systems such as septic tanks and pit/pour-flush latrines.



Emptying/ Collection of Fecal Sludge

• Mechanical emptying service was first introduced in Dhaka in the year 2000, with support from DWASA and Water Aid using **vacuum tanker (vacutugs)**.





Transportation of Fecal Sludge







Mechanized Transporter (Mounted on Tri-Wheeler Diesel Engine Driven Vehicle); Capacity: 1000 Liters



Mechanized transport of fecal sludge

Fecal Sludge Treatment and Disposal

- Solid Liquid Separation through **drying beds**
- The dried sludge is stored or processed (ex: composting)
- The liquid is treated in many steps and disposed in the surface water channel



Fecal Sludge Treatment and Disposal



Drying bed in Faridpur Paurashava







Composting of dried sludge

THANK YOU!

Email: <u>Nafisa.bre@diu.edu.bd</u> Phone: 01943685750