

DISCUSSION PAPER

TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SANITATION ACCESS



No. 12, March 2016

ZACHARY BURT, KARA NELSON AND ISHA RAY

The UN Women discussion paper series is a new initiative led by the Research and Data section. The series features research commissioned as background papers for publications by leading researchers from different national and regional contexts. Each paper benefits from an anonymous external peer review process before being published in this series.

This paper was produced by Zachary Burt, Post-doctoral Scholar, Blum Center for Developing Economies, University of California Berkeley; Kara Nelson, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California Berkeley and Isha Ray (corresponding author), Associate Professor, Energy and Resources Group and Co-Director, Berkeley Water Center, University of California Berkeley, to provide policy guidance on key emerging areas in the gender and sanitation nexus. This paper was featured at an event on Emerging Issues in Gender and WASH held during the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

UN Women would like to thank the Governments of Singapore and Germany for their financial support for the research, which made this Discussion paper possible.

© 2016 UN Women. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-63214-043-2

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Produced by the Research and Data Section
Editor: Margo Alderton
Design: dammsavage studio

DISCUSSION PAPER

TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SANITATION ACCESS



No. 12, March 2016

ZACHARY BURT, KARA NELSON AND ISHA RAY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY/RÉSUMÉ/RESUMEN	i
------------------------	---

1. INTRODUCTION	1
-----------------	---

2. SANITATION ACCESS AT THE START OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ERA	3
--	---

3. PRIVATE SANITATION	6
-----------------------	---

3.1 Private latrine “access”	7
------------------------------	---

3.2 The design of infrastructure and the planning of projects	9
---	---

3.3 The design of government policy and financial plans	11
---	----

4. PUBLIC SANITATION	12
----------------------	----

4.1 Public latrine “access”	12
-----------------------------	----

4.2 The design of infrastructure and the planning of projects	13
---	----

4.3 The design of government policy and financial plans	15
---	----

5. DIGNITY, “CLEANLINESS” AND MANUAL SCAVENGING	17
---	----

6. MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT	21
---------------------------------	----

7. CONCLUSION	24
---------------	----

8. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESEARCH GAPS	25
---	----

REFERENCES	28
------------	----

SUMMARY

This discussion paper reviews the extensive literature on sanitation to show that inadequate access to this basic service prevents the realization of a range of human rights and of gender equality. We recognize that “dignity” is a highly culture- and gender-specific term; we therefore argue that sanitation for all—sanitation that serves all genders equally—must be designed and planned explicitly for the unique needs of women and girls. We cover sanitation design, planning and financing for hygienic defecation, and for relieving oneself during the day at work or school. These needs are sometimes euphemistically referred to as nature’s “long call” (defecation) and “short call” (urination); the absence of safe facilities for these needs disproportionately affects

women and girls. In addition, women and adolescent girls menstruate, and they need safe sanitation services to manage, hygienically and with dignity, this “monthly call”. We review the findings of the small but rapidly growing literature on menstrual hygiene management, with emphasis on menstruation management and a girl’s right to education. Finally, we review the work and life conditions of those working the “back-end” of the sanitation system, such as manual scavengers and sanitation workers. Our paper concludes that safe sanitation is a gateway service for dignity, health and gender equality. In particular, sanitation in public or shared spaces must become a priority-planning sector for sustainable development.

RÉSUMÉ

En este documento de debate se analiza la extensa bibliografía disponible sobre saneamiento, con el fin de demostrar que un acceso inadecuado a este servicio básico impide la realización de diversos derechos humanos y el logro de la igualdad de género. El autor y las autoras reconocen que la definición del término “dignidad” depende en gran medida de la cultura y presenta una fuerte dimensión de género. En consecuencia, argumentan que el saneamiento para todas las personas —es decir, que sirva por igual a ambos géneros— debe diseñarse y planificarse explícitamente de manera que responda a las necesidades específicas de las mujeres y las niñas. En el artículo se aborda el diseño, la planificación y la financiación del saneamiento para favorecer una defecación higiénica y para que las personas puedan aliviar sus necesidades en el trabajo o en la escuela. En ocasiones estas necesidades se denominan de forma eufemística “aguas mayores” (defecación) y “aguas menores” (micción); la ausencia de instalaciones seguras para satisfacer

estas necesidades afecta de manera desproporcionada a las mujeres y las niñas. Además, a partir de la adolescencia, las mujeres menstrúan y necesitan servicios de saneamiento seguros para gestionar esta situación mensual de un modo higiénico y con dignidad. El autor y las autoras examinan las conclusiones de la literatura —aún breve pero en rápido crecimiento— sobre la gestión de la higiene menstrual, haciendo hincapié en la gestión de la menstruación y en el derecho de las niñas a la educación. Por último, también se estudian las condiciones laborales y de vida de las personas que trabajan en el último extremo del sistema de saneamiento, como las y los vaciadores de letrinas y operarios de saneamiento. El artículo concluye señalando que el saneamiento seguro es un servicio imprescindible para la dignidad, la salud y la igualdad de género. En particular, el saneamiento en los espacios públicos o compartidos debe convertirse en un sector prioritario de la planificación para el desarrollo sostenible.

RESUMEN

Ce document de travail examine la volumineuse documentation relative aux services sanitaires afin de montrer qu'un accès inadéquat à ce service essentiel entrave la réalisation effective des droits de l'homme et de l'égalité des sexes. Si l'on admet que le terme « dignité » a des connotations culturelles et sexospécifiques importantes, il importe de concevoir et de planifier des services sanitaires qui répondent spécifiquement aux besoins particuliers des femmes et des filles – des services adaptés aux deux sexes. Nous examinons la conception, la planification et le financement des équipements sanitaires qui permettent de déféquer de manière hygiénique et de se soulager durant la journée de travail ou scolaire. Ces besoins sont parfois pudiquement qualifiés d'« appel long » (défécation) et d'« appel court » (miction). L'absence d'installations sûres permettant de répondre à ces besoins affecte de manière disproportionnée les femmes et les filles. Les femmes et les adolescentes

ayant des menstruations, il leur est indispensable de disposer d'installations sanitaires sûres pour gérer, hygiéniquement et dans la dignité, cet « événement mensuel ». Nous examinons les conclusions figurant dans la documentation – qui, bien que limitée, s'étoffe rapidement – relative à la gestion de l'hygiène menstruelle, en mettant l'accent sur la période menstruelle et le droit des filles à recevoir une éducation à ce propos. Nous examinons enfin les conditions de travail et de vie de celles qui travaillent « dans les coulisses » du système sanitaire, en vue notamment d'assurer l'évacuation manuelle des excréments ou d'entretenir les installations sanitaires. Notre document conclut que des installations sanitaires sûres sont indispensables à la dignité humaine, la santé et l'égalité des sexes. La construction de services sanitaires dans les lieux publics et communs doit être planifiée de manière prioritaire dans le cadre du développement durable.

1.

INTRODUCTION: SANITATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Safe sanitation is a human need and access to safe sanitation is a human right. In 2010, and again in 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations formally gave voice to this right. The 2010 resolution recognized the universal right to clean water and safe sanitation by a vote of 122 in favor and none against.¹ The arguments behind the 2010 resolution were fully explained in Fact Sheet 35 on the *Right to Water*, jointly prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Habitat and the World Health Organization (WHO), with its eloquent opening: “Water is the essence of life. Safe drinking water and sanitation are indispensable to sustain life and health, and fundamental to the dignity of all.”² This discussion paper frames sanitation access as first and foremost an issue of equality and dignity for all and focuses specifically on gender equality.

Following the rich tradition of feminist writing that separates sex from gender, we define “sex” as a biological category (male, female or intersex) and “gender” as primarily a social and relational category.³ In this paper, we argue that sanitation needs are gendered because the differences stem both from biological bodies as well as the norms, expectations and taboos surrounding them.⁴ Gender equality in sanitation cannot be achieved by facilities and sanitation programmes alone: changing social norms and expectations are at least as important. Our paper focuses on safe and accessible sanitation facilities, recogniz-

the realization of a range of human rights and of gender equality. We review sanitation needs and access for urination, defecation and menstruation. Space constraints prevented us from including bathing and washing, though these are also important for health and dignity. We cover sanitation design, planning and financing for hygienic and private defecation (i.e., using a pit or bowl, as opposed to defecating directly on open land or into water bodies), and for relieving oneself during the day at work or school. These needs are euphemistically referred to as nature’s “long call” (for defecation) and “short call” (for urination) in

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_22111

