Political Economy Analysis of Sanitation

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SanCOP 10
• "Leadership is a composite of courage and character: courage to take one's society from where it is to where it has never been; and character to withstand the assaults with which the familiar defends itself."
Political Economy Analysis

• ...concerned with the interaction of political and economic processes in a society: the distribution of power and wealth between different groups and individuals, and the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time...

• seeks to understand ... how these combine to affect patterns of power and vulnerability. (ODI)
Political Economy Approach

• ...should incorporate a wide historical and geographical perspective, explain why the relative power and vulnerability of different groups changes over time, and how the fortunes and activities of one group in society affect others. [Analysis is thereby meant to be]... dynamic, broad, longitudinal and explanatory. (ODI)
Diagnostic Framework

COUNTRY CONTEXT
Country’s socioeconomic, historical, and cultural characteristics
Political processes within the sanitation sector

SECTOR ARENA
Stakeholders & institutions:
Economic interests (rents, asset, capture, etc.)
Political interest (authority, clientelism, etc.)

SECTOR PROCESS
Dialogue & decision making
Coalition building
Participation
Public debate & information

Action Framework
Timing, tailoring, and location of investment and operations
Understanding the sector through rigorous analysis
Realigning accountability
Partnership strategy
Public debate and communication
Political Economy Analysis

• Country context – socioeconomic, cultural, historical, political
• Sector institutions – (officially & unofficially)
• Formal sector processes – How are decisions taken?
• Informal influences (culture, vested interests)
• Accountability – Who is making demands & through what channels?
– How does the system work?
– What are the pushes and pulls and the drivers of change?
– Who are the defenders of the status quo? (Influence & Interests)
Social and Political Dynamics

Source: Cunha et al. 2006 (graphic provided by and reproduced by permission of Frederico Turolla).

Source: O Meio Norte 10.12.09 / TV Globo
Social and Political Dynamics

• Ideological tensions unresolved, but hybrid model fits Brazil’s complex reality

• Near-universal water & electricity coverage made sanitation “next in line” priority for peri-urban poor

• Poor coverage source of international embarrassment

• Lula captured a shift in perception of sanitation as an issue of rights / dignity and social mobility / aspiration

Source: Cunha et al. 2006 (graphic provided by and reproduced by permission of Frederico Turolla).

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Sanitation Investment in Brazil

- In December 2009, President Lula caused a storm by describing the mission of his government as being “to get the [Brazilian] people out of the shit”

- Brazilian government now speaks of sanitation as citizenship right – although by 2008 just over 1/2 of households have mains sewer connection (52.5%)
• “After President J.A. Kufuor was elected [in 2001], ... hordes of his party supporters stormed public toilets ... to seize control of their operation. Many Ghanaians were shocked and some pontificated on how ludicrous it was to grab toilets...

• After President Mills was elected [in 2009] ... hordes of his party supporters stormed public toilets all over the country to seize control of their operation.

• I have come to realise that there is real wealth in every flush.”

[Ramblings of a Procrastinator in Accra – Blog – 5 Oct 2009]
• Average tariff of £0.05, £0.10 or £0.15 per use of public toilet with conservative estimate of 500 uses per day translates into UK£9,125 - £18,250 - £27,375 per year for a facility
• “Do you think we really want our names attached to toilets?” (Assembly Member)
• “How can the KMA sign a contract with the Assembly Members? That would be like signing a contract with yourself.”
Simplified service triangle ...

Policy-makers

Community level structures & intermediaries

Providers

Poor households
Is in reality very complex...

Who holds what power?

Owners? | Land tenure?

Poor households

CBOs and local leaders

Ministry Environment

Maputo City Council

Ministry Health

Nat. Dir. Water

Drainage Office

Mun. WatSan Dept.

Mun. Water & San Dept.

Private sector

NGOs
• "Leadership is a composite of courage and character: courage to take one's society from where it is to where it has never been; and character to withstand the assaults with which the familiar defends itself."
Sewerage – Preferred by policymakers, bureaucrats and financiers, but coverage in urban Africa, for example, is typically less than 20%

Considered a household responsibility and outside the public domain, on-site sanitation, with all its public health risks, is the reality for most
Their Mission: To Build a Better Toilet

No wonder they are called conveniences. Flush toilets swirl human waste down the drain quickly and neatly. But the convenience comes with a rising price for all that follows the flush — a cost that is often paid by municipal water and sewage treatment systems.

Now some groups are rethinking the venerable technology of the flush toilet, particularly for regions that lack such systems or for places where water treatment plants, many of them aging, are overburdened by the demands of fast-growing populations.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has begun a “Reinvent the Toilet” competition and awarded $3 million to researchers at eight universities, challenging them to use recent technology to create models that needn’t be connected to sewers, or to water and electricity lines, and that cost less than pennies per person a day to use. Later prizes will include financing for one or more winning prototypes to be tested and produced commercially.

“The present toilet is a 19th-century device that does not meet the needs of a vast part of the world’s population,” said Frank Rijksberman, an executive at the foundation. Instead, he said, about 2.6 billion people without access to sewer-linked systems must use simple latrines, holes in the ground or just the nearest available spot — a situation that can lead to many health problems, like acute childhood diarrhea.

One of the new toilets being financed by the foundation is a compact chamber that runs on solar power from a roof panel and uses built-in electrochemical technology to process waste.

“We can clean the waste water up to technology in Pasadena, who received $400,000 to develop this solar toilet. It uses the sun’s energy to power an electrode system in the waste water; the electrodes drive a series of cleansing chemical reactions, converting organic waste in the water into carbon dioxide and producing hydrogen that can be stored in a fuel cell for night operation.

The cost of each unit, which can be used up to 500 times a day, may initially be as high as $5,000 for a prototype but would drop with commercial production. Operational costs will be only a few cents a day, Dr. Hoffman said.

Dr. Rijksberman said chemical engineers might provide the route to inventing many future toilets. Rather than filling their roles as generalists, they have focused on specific areas of science.

Katherine Foxon, right, a chemical engineer in South Africa, said Katherine Foxon, a member of the team that is working on the technology, Dr. Foxon is a chemical engineer and senior lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. “We’ll process the waste chemically, converting the feces and using that energy to drive the evaporation of urine,” she said.

Dealing with urine alone simplifies waste disposal. The urine can be treated and recycled.

The science of waste disposal, rethought in a worldwide competition.
• What shapes the discourse on sanitation at the global level?
  
  • Shit and Citizenship
  • Shit and Finance / Investment
  • Shit and Public Health Goals
  • Shit and the Environment
  • Shit and the Built Environment
  • Shit and ...

  • How does the system work?
  • What are the pushes and pulls and the drivers of change?
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