

IWP RESEARCH SEMINAR

BEYOND JUST TOILETS: FAST TRACKING AN OPEN DEFECATION FREE INDIA

The magnitude of the challenge that India and its flagship program 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' aims to conquer is massive. It houses the world's largest number of people (600 million) practicing open defecation. In 1981, only 1% of rural households reported toilet use. By 2011 this had increased to barely 31%. This slow improvement is related to the policies it has adopted to confront the challenge. India's sanitation policies have stubbornly remained fixated on the provision of toilet construction subsidies as their pivot despite the recognition of the fact that collective behaviour change is the key to securing an open defecation free environment.

The current Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is packaged as a result-oriented and time-bound programme to create an open defecation free India. It recognizes the importance of community approaches, primarily Community led Total Sanitation (CLTS) but continues to keep faith with toilet subsidies. While neighbouring country Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan have achieved their MGD sanitation target, India lags far behind. Will this new policy focus yield the desired results? What are the current challenges that the SBM continues to struggle with? What would be the ideal policy design and strategies for increasing sanitation coverage in India? Dr Kamal Kar will also share experiences from many African nations on their initiative towards achieving open defecation free national status.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr Kamal Kar

Founder Chairman, CLTS Foundation, Pioneer – Community Led Total Sanitation

Dr Kamal Kar, a specialist in livestock production, agriculture and natural resources pioneered the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach in Bangladesh in 1999-2000. The CLTS methodology which is based on a no-subsidy policy and rooted in a model of community empowerment and mobilisation, has radically transformed global sanitation policy focus from toilet construction to the process of collective behaviour change. It has spread to more than 69 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America where more than 40 million people are now living in open defecation free (ODF) environments. CLTS has also been mainstreamed in the sanitation policies of more than 25 countries in these regions.

Over the last 15 years, Kar has played an instrumental role in the spread of CLTS globally by providing capacity building, policy advice and process support to national governments and international agencies like, WSP, DFID, UNICEF, WSSCC, Irish Aid, WHO, Plan international, Water Aid, CARE and many more. After introducing the approach in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Pakistan and a few other countries in Asia, Kar introduced the approach in the countries in Eastern and Southern Africa from 2006, which included Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Eritrea and Sudan, Ghana, Madagascar. He took the approach to West Africa in 2007 by facilitating major training workshops in Sierra Leone, Mali, Nigeria and Chad in 2009.

The Hand Book and the Trainers Guide on CLTS written by Dr Kar has been translated in to more than ten different languages. Additionally, he has authored several practice papers on CLTS. The prestigious *Foreign Policy Magazine* of Washington DC selected Dr Kar amongst the Top Hundred Global Thinkers of the World in 2010. The Asian Development Bank declared Dr Kar as the Water Champion of 2011. Dr Kar is the recipient of Sarphati Sanitation Lifetime Achievement Award 2015 given by World Waternet, Netherlands Water Partnership at Amsterdam last year, which is a recognition of the immense work he has done in the sanitation sector spanning many continents, governments and communities.

CHAIR

Prof Dale Whittington

Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Wednesday, 17 February 2016 5:15pm-6:30pm

Seminar Room 3-5, Level 3, Manasseh Meyer Building, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
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Admission is free. Please register at lkyschoolevents@nus.edu.sg

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