

Exploring the potential acceptability of different menstrual hygiene materials in the rural villages of Podor, Senegal

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is often neglected in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions yet menstruation is a monthly reality for millions of women and girls around the globe. In the rural villages of the department of Podor in the north of Senegal, there is a lack of safe and affordable menstrual hygiene materials for women to manage their periods. This dissertation aims to explore the acceptability of alternative menstrual hygiene materials in this context to inform a future MHM intervention. Alternatives considered in this study are reusable menstrual pads, menstrual underwear and the menstrual cup. Focus groups discussions and structured key-informant interviews were conducted with local women in four different villages as well as a focus group discussion with WASH practitioners working in the region. Through these qualitative methods current MHM practices and challenges were first explored after which the acceptability of the alternative menstrual materials was assessed. Findings highlighted three key existing challenges: limited mobility for menstruating women, risk of potential urogenital infections, and impacts on sanitation systems and the environment from poor disposal of sanitary pads. Regarding the alternative menstrual materials, there was a clear preference for external absorbents as both reusable menstrual pads and menstrual underwear were widely accepted among participants while the menstrual cup was generally met with rejection and apprehension. Affordability concerns expressed by participants point to reusable menstrual pads as the most appropriate alternative as it is noticeably cheaper than menstrual underwear.

Risk Factors for Taeniasis Prevalence in Rural Sichuan Province, China

Background

Taenia solium taeniasis is a foodborne illness caused by the consumption of pork that has been infected with juvenile tapeworms. While taeniasis is contained to the small intestine and often presents asymptotically, it is the necessary precursor to cysticercosis: a debilitating disease of the min

Small places, big problems: Understanding environmental health in smaller African urban centres

The case of Karonga Town, Malawi 2016-2017

to occur south of the Sahara Desert, where as much as 40% of the urban population is estimated to live in small towns and cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. These smaller urban centres are also expected to accommodate a growing share of future urban growth with urbanisation. But many suffer from a lack of capacity to plan and manage urban growth, provide basic infrastructure and services, and adapt to emerging environmental hazards (including disasters and climate change). Levels of poverty also tend to be high in smaller urban centres, with levels of health care often similar to rural areas.

Environmental health may therefore not only be especially poor in smaller African urban centres, it may also be worsening. Yet virtually all research on urban environmental hazards comes from the largest cities. Consequently, very little remains known in smaller urban centres about what the most serious environmental hazards are, even less about whose health is most at risk and why, or how urban planning and public health can effectively respond.

At the same time, existing knowledge on the relationship between urban planning and public health remains overwhelmingly based on research in Europe and North America. There are serious concerns as to whether this knowledge is appropriate in the global South, where the assumptions of urban planning do not necessarily apply. In this context, this study addressed the disconnection between (a) existing evidence on environmental health p0008870ETq.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 reW*nBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 340

