

WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND

Up-scaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor (UBSUP)

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| **Training Programme for Sanitation Marketers** |

**Day 2: Religious Aspects of Sanitation**

**Background Information:**

According to the qualitative and quantitative study that was carried out by the UBSUP team, religion plays a significant role when it comes to personal hygiene and anal cleansing methods. Although a majority of all responding households use tissue paper for anal cleansing, many households use newspapers or water which can be seen in the table below. Among Muslims, significantly a higher percentage use water for anal cleansing as compared to Christians or Hindus. The study also shows (see table 2) that although even among Christians the use of water is quite common, the use of tissue paper is more common among Christians than among Muslims. During the qualitative study, the use of newspapers and water for anal cleansing among Christians was found to be driven by low income levels (tissue is seen by many as an affordable luxury). Among the Muslim community, however, the use of water for anal cleansing is not determined by economic status as Muslims are expected to use water for anal cleansing.[[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Materials used for anal cleansing:** | | **Frequency** | **Percentage** | **Valid Percent** | **Cumulative Percent** |
|  | Water | 315 | 27,8 | 27,8 | 27,8 |
| Tissue Paper | 633 | 55,8 | 55,8 | 83,6 |
| Newspapers | 172 | 15,2 | 15,2 | 98,8 |
| A combination (water and paper) | 7 | ,6 | ,6 | 99,4 |
| Leaves | 7 | ,6 | ,6 | 100,0 |
| Total | 1.134 | 100,0 | 100,0 |  |

Table 1: Anal cleansing methods & materials used (Source: Social survey)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Religion** | | | **What's used for personal hygiene?** | | | | | **Total** |
| Water | Tissue Paper | Newspapers | Combination (water & paper) | Leaves |
|  | Christian | Count | 106 | 616 | 166 | 2 | 7 | 897 |
| % | 11,8 | 68,7 | 18,5 | ,2 | ,8 |  |
| Muslim | Count | 202 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 221 |
| % | 91,4 | 4,5 | 1,8 | 2,3 | 0,0 |  |
| Hindu | Count | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| % | 25,0 | 75,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |  |
| No religion | Count | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| % | 50,0 | 40,0 | 10,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |  |
| Other | Count | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| % | 50,0 | 50,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 | 0,0 |  |
| Total | | Count | 321 | 639 | 172 | 7 | 7 | 1.146 |

Table 2: Anal cleansing methods & materials by religion (Source: Social survey)

Religion is thus considered to be crucial to the sanitation of an area and the sanitation facilities that will be constructed. The social animators therefore, need to understand what role does religion play in the SafiSan programme and how to address some issues that may crop up because of the religion of people living in an area.

**Task 1: Questions to be discussed**

**Activity: The Social Animators go into groups of 2 to 3 and discuss their answers to the questions below:**

1. What role does religion play in sanitation?
2. What is the religious orientation of the area?
3. What is the likely technical option that the residents will adopt, given their religion?
4. What are the main methods & materials that are used for anal cleansing?
5. What factors should we consider when carrying out the social marketing in line with the main religion(s)?

When the questions have been discussed the answers can be presented!

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1. Muslims are allowed to use tissue paper or any other materials for anal cleansing in areas where water is very scarce. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)