



THE COMMUNITY DIMENSION OF SANITATION BEHAVIOR: A CASE STUDY OF BVISHNUPUR DISTRICT OF MANIPUR

Home Science

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ABSTRACT

The present paper highlights the relationship between community dimension and sanitation behaviour in Bishnupur district of Manipur. The community dimension of sanitation behaviour includes disposal of human excreta, dirt, garbage, litters etc drainage and sewerage, disposal of wreckage and stagnant water and control of spitting at common places like roads, offices markets bus stands, railway stations, airports, common fields, fair grounds, cinema halls, educational institutions, etc. These public practices comprise the environmental sanitation in community or society and also affect the living and health of all the families in its surroundings and the individuals who visit these places of common use.

1. OBJECTIVES:

- To find out the relationship between community and sanitation behaviour;
- To study the corelationship between community, religion and sanitation behaviour.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: Focus group discussion with the community, Interview with the key persons like health officials, community leaders, reviewed literatures etc. And, the present study used both the published and unpublished materials pertaining to the present study.

KEYWORDS

Sanitation Behaviour, Community, Religion etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The community dimension of sanitation behaviour includes disposal of human excreta, dirt, garbage, litters etc drainage and sewerage, disposal of wreckage and stagnant water and control of spitting at common places like roads, offices markets bus stands, railway stations, airports, common fields, fair grounds, cinema halls, educational institutions, etc. These public practices comprise the environmental sanitation in community/ society and also affect the living and health of all the families in its surroundings and the individuals who visit these places of common use. The environmental sanitation is function of both the culture and the sanitation prevailing at personal and family levels and the institutional arrangement of the community/ society

operative for sanitization of the environment. Therefore, this section analyses the sanitation conditions in the surroundings of households and public places among the respondents.

I. Cleaning of Household Surroundings

Household surrounding is cleaned daily by the householders and the other places are cleaned by the job card holders in the community twice or thrice a week in the rural area. In the town the community surroundings are cleaned daily by sweepers and garbage cleaners employed by the municipality. Frequency of cleaning surroundings of house among the respondents by gender and religion is given in the following table:

Table 1.1 Frequency of Cleaning Household Surroundings among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)

Frequency of cleaning of house surrounding	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Regularly/daily	64 (56.64)	70 (66.04)	134 (61.19)	30 (96.77)	27 (100)	57 (98.28)	26 (81.25)	28 (82.35)	54 (81.82)	120 (68.18)	125 (74.85)	245 (71.43)
Sometimes	49 (43.36)	36 (33.96)	85 (38.81)	1 (3.23)	--	1 (1.72)	6 (18.75)	6 (17.65)	12 (18.18)	56 (31.82)	42 (25.15)	98 (28.57)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The table shows that about three fourth (71.43%) respondents clean their household surroundings regularly while over one fourth (28.57%) respondents clean it sometimes. The pattern is similar among the respondents across religious and gender categories. Thus, most of the respondents clean household surroundings regularly/ daily.

II. Community Garbage/Waste Disposal

Community waste/ garbage are disposed in many ways, depending on the place where the garbage is found and the amount of the garbage to be disposed; namely burning and throwing away in the meadow in rural area and collection in municipal vehicle in urban area. Modes of community waste/ garbage disposal among the respondents by gender and religion are given in the following table:

Table 1.2 Mode of Community Garbage/Waste Disposal among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)

Mode of community garbage/waste disposal	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Burnt	73 (64.60)	69 (65.09)	142 (64.84)	7 (22.58)	11 (40.74)	18 (31.03)	25 (78.13)	22 (64.71)	47 (71.21)	105 (59.66)	102 (61.08)	207 (60.35)
Thrown away in meadows	15 (13.27)	9 (8.49)	24 (10.96)	24 (77.42)	16 (59.26)	40 (68.97)	7 (21.88)	6 (17.65)	13 (19.70)	46 (26.14)	31 (18.56)	77 (22.45)
municipal vehicle collected it	25 (22.13)	28 (26.42)	53 (24.20)	--	--	--	--	6 (17.64)	6 (9.09)	25 (14.20)	34 (20.36)	59 (17.20)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The table shows that about three fifths (60.35%) of the respondents disposed of community garbage/waste by burning it; about one fifth (22.45%) by throwing it away in the meadows and nearly one fifth (17.20%) by allowing community vehicle to collect it. Most of the Hindu (64.84%) and Christian (71.21%) respectively burnt it while most of the Muslim (68.97%) respondents threw it in the meadow. Thus most respondents dispose community garbage/ waste by burning.

Both males and females are employed by the municipal council for cleaning home surroundings in the town. This includes local road, inter-village road, markets and other public places. In the villages cleaning of surroundings is done by the job card holders of that area. Gender of the persons cleaning home surroundings among the respondents is given in the following table:

Table 1.3 Gender of the Persons Who Cleans Household Surroundings among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)

Gender of the person who cleans home surroundings	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total(%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Male only	41 (36.28)	13 (12.26)	54 (24.66)	5 (16.13)	--	5 (8.62)	8 (25)	4 (11.76)	12 (18.18)	54 (30.68)	17 (10.18)	71 (20.70)
Female only	6 (5.31)	--	6 (2.74)	4 (12.90)	10 (37.04)	14 (24.14)	--	6 (17.65)	30 (45.45)	10 (5.68)	16 (9.58)	26 (7.58)
Either of the two	66 (58.41)	93 (87.74)	159 (72.60)	22 (70.97)	17 (62.96)	39 (67.24)	24 (75)	24 (70.59)	24 (36.37)	112 (63.64)	134 (80.24)	246 (71.72)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The table shows that in case of nearly three fourths (71.72%) of the respondents household surroundings are cleaned by either male or female in their families and in case about one fifth (20.70%) it is done by males only. Among the Hindu (72.6%) and Muslim (67.24%) respondents it is done by either of the genders while among the Christian respondents it is largely done by females (45.45%) followed by either of the genders (36.37%). Thus either of the two can clean the household surroundings mostly.

Toilets for gents in the community are cleaned by gents and those for ladies by females and accordingly cleaners or sweepers are employed. It depends on the nature of work as well. Heavy work like collection of garbage with municipal vehicle door to door is done by male employees only. Sweeping and cleaning of community surroundings are done by both the genders. Reasons for home surroundings cleaned by other gender among the respondents are given in the following table:

Table 1.4 Reasons for Surroundings' Cleaning Done by a Particular Gender among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)

Reason for a cleaning of surrounding done by particular gender	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
It is assigned to male	14 (12.39)	2 (1.88)	15 (6.85)	3 (9.68)	--	3 (5.17)	1 (3.13)	--	1 (1.52)	18 (10.23)	2 (1.20)	20 (5.83)
It is assigned to female	5 (4.42)	--	6 (2.74)	4 (12.90)	7 (25.93)	11 (18.97)	--	2 (5.88)	2 (3.03)	9 (5.11)	9 (5.39)	18 (5.25)
Either of the two	94 (83.19)	104 (98.12)	198 (90.41)	24 (77.42)	20 (74.07)	44 (75.86)	31 (96.87)	32 (94.12)	63 (95.45)	149 (84.66)	156 (93.41)	305 (88.92)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The table tells that in case of over four fifths (88.92%) of the respondents surroundings are cleaned by either of the two genders; in few cases (5.83%) it is done by male only and female only (5.25%). It is observed across the religious and gender categories but Muslim respondents who are assigned the task of cleaning surroundings are greater (25.93%) than their Hindu (12.9%) and the Christian (3.03%) counterparts.

Waste water drains in home surroundings are cleaned by digging out or by flushing with water in most of the households in Bishnupur district. A few people do not clean the waste water drains of their home surroundings in some rural area and these are left to be cleaned by rain water. Some households do not have proper drain to carry waste and rain water in their home surroundings. Modes of cleaning waste water drains in home surroundings among the respondents are given in the following table:

III) Cleaning of Drain in Home Surroundings**Table 1.5 Modes of Cleaning of Drain outside House among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)**

Mode of cleaning drain outside house	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Water flushing	29 (25.66)	38 (35.85)	67 (30.59)	2 (6.45)	7 (25.93)	9 (15.52)	16 (50)	16 (47.06)	32 (48.48)	47 (26.70)	61 (36.53)	108 (31.49)
Digging outward	82 (72.57)	67 (63.21)	149 (68.04)	29 (93.55)	19 (70.37)	48 (82.76)	16 (50)	18 (52.94)	34 (51.52)	127 (72.16)	104 (62.28)	231 (67.35)
Cleaned by rain water	2(1.77)	1(0.43)	3(1.37)	--	1(3.70)	1(1.72)	--	--	--	2(1.14)	2(1.19)	4(1.16)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The data indicates that over two thirds (67.35%) of the respondents have habit of cleaning drain outside house by digging outward and about one third (31.49%) by flushing water. Thus most respondents clean drains outside house by digging outward, by and large, across the religious and gender categories.

females as both of them are job card holders in rural area and are employed by the municipal council in the town area. Workers distribute among themselves heavy work to males and less heavy to females. Gender of the person who cleans drains in home surroundings among the respondents is given in the following table:

Drain cleaning in home surroundings is mostly done by both males and

Table 1.6 Gender of the Persons Cleaning Drain outside House among the Respondents by Gender & Religion (Percentage in Parentheses)

Gender of the person who cleans drains in home's surroundings	Hindu & Sanamahi			Muslim			Christian & TRC			Grand Total (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Male only	75 (66.37)	42 (39.62)	117 (53.42)	7 (22.58)	--	7 (12.07)	20 (62.50)	15 (44.12)	35 (53.03)	102 (57.95)	57 (34.13)	159 (46.36)
Female only	--	--	--	5 (16.13)	9 (33.33)	14 (24.14)	1 (3.13)	7 (20.59)	8 (12.12)	6 (3.41)	16 (9.58)	22 (6.41)
Male as well as female	38 (33.63)	64 (60.38)	102 (46.58)	19 (61.29)	18 (66.67)	37 (63.79)	11 (34.37)	12 (35.29)	23 (34.85)	68 (38.64)	94 (56.29)	162 (47.23)
Total (%)	113 (100)	106 (100)	219 (100)	31 (100)	27 (100)	58 (100)	32 (100)	34 (100)	66 (100)	176 (100)	167 (100)	343 (100)

Source: Field Data Collected from June 2017 to January 2018.

The data reveal that in case of nearly half (47.23%) of the respondents' drains outside home are cleaned by males as well as females; in case of nearly half (46.36%) it is done by males only and in a few cases (6.41%) it is done by females only. In case of the respondents of Muslim, it is mostly (63.79%) done by males as well as females and in the case of the Hindu (53.42%) and Christian (53.03%) it is done by males only. The female respondents have largely stressed that it is done by males as well as females.

In brief, the patterns of community sanitation behaviour among the religious groups are given hereunder:

1. About three fourth (71.43%) respondents clean their household surroundings regularly while over one fourth (28.57%) respondents clean it sometimes. The pattern is similar among the respondents across religious and gender categories. Thus most respondents clean household surroundings regularly/ daily.
2. About three fifths (60.35%) of the respondents disposed of community garbage/waste by burning it; about one fifth (22.45%) by throwing it away in the meadows and nearly one fifth (17.20%) by allowing community vehicle to collect it. Most of the Hindu (64.84%) and Christian (71.21%) respectively burnt it while most of the Muslim (68.97%) respondents threw it in the meadow. Thus most respondents dispose community garbage/ waste by burning.
3. About three fifths (60.35%) of the respondents disposed of community garbage/waste by burning it; about one fifth (22.45%) by throwing it away in the meadows and nearly one fifth (17.20%) by allowing community vehicle to collect it. Most of the Hindu (64.84%) and Christian (71.21%) respectively burnt it while most of the Muslim (68.97%) respondents threw it in the meadow. Thus most respondents dispose community garbage/ waste by burning.
4. In case of nearly three fourths (71.72%) of the respondents household surroundings are cleaned by either male or female in their families and in case about one fifth (20.70%) it is done by males only. Among the Hindu (72.6%) and Muslim (67.24%) respondents it is done by either of the genders while among the Christian respondents it is largely done by females (45.45%) followed by either of the genders (36.37%). Thus either of the two can clean the household surroundings mostly.
5. Over two thirds (67.35%) of the respondents have habit of cleaning drain outside house by digging outward and about one third (31.49%) by flushing water. Thus most respondents clean drains outside house by digging outward, by and large, across the religious and gender categories.
6. In case of nearly half (47.23%) of the respondents' drains outside home are cleaned by males as well as females; in case of nearly half (46.36%) it is done by males only and in a few cases (6.41%) it is done by females only. In case of the respondents of Muslim, it is mostly (63.79%) done by males as well as females and in the case of the Hindu (53.42%) and Christian (53.03%) it is done by males only. The female respondents have largely stressed that it is done by males as well as females.

CONCLUSION

Most of the respondents clear bowels once a day. More females than males go for one time and irregular clearing of bowels. The Hindu and Sanamahi respondent seems to be more regular and frequent in clearing of bowels than the Muslim and the Christian & TRC respondents. The respondents, both, male and female, have mostly the habit of using toilet for urination. All the respondents can't hold urine for long hours and go to other places than a urinal in an urgent situation. The three respondents use other places because they do not consider the use of urinal necessary. Lack of toilets in public places/ farms causes open urination. In public places the respondents have to hold urine for long hours in absence of proper urinal/toilet facilities. For example, Muslim culture needs to use water after urination. More males use public ponds and river to bathe. More females take bath once a day while more males take bath twice a day. More Muslims, followed by Christian, bathe once a day while more Hindus followed Muslim bath twice a day. Thus, gender related division of work results in some difference of bathing habit between the male and the female respondents. Similarly, Hindus seem to be having greater frequency of bathing due to religious concept of purity and worship. More Muslim and Hindu females take bath in the morning while more Christians females take bath in the afternoon, rest of the patterns are similar across the religious groups. This difference reflects in the gender categories also. This means that the Hindus and Muslims constitute a group of similar culture and the Christians constitute the other group consisted of tribal. The two groups require bathing (purification) before worship.

Almost all respondents use soap cake for bath and only three (Hindu male) respondents use liquid bath soap. Most of the male and female respondents have similar patterns using soap cake. Most of the respondents, including Hindu and Muslim males and females, wear clothes once a day before washing. More females than the males wear clothes for one or two. The respondents have a good sense of washing. The female respondents of the Hindu and Christian who clean teeth twice are more than the male respondents. The difference between the females of Muslims & Christians and Hindu is that adult Hindu & Sanamahi female cannot enter the kitchen to cook for the family without cleaning their teeth. Most of the respondents brush their teeth in the morning, across the religious group; some clean in the morning as well as at night.

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