



Open Defaecation Free – is it truly? RWSSP-WN BRIEF 6-2016

WHAT DID WE STUDY?

RWSSP-WN II made this study to verify whether the areas declared as Open Defaecation Free (ODF) truly are open defaecation free. During the data collection two districts, Gulmi and Nawalparasi, declared District ODF. The study was made in 19 VDCs and 4 municipalities, in 27 Wards of which 23 Wards were declared as ODF, in Western Nepal. The total sample included 5,517 household observations in:

- *Kapilvastu district (Tarai)*: Baluhawa-6,8, Mahendrakot-4, Rangpur-4, Shivagadhi-1, Sishwa-3
- *Nawalparasi district (Tarai)*: Hakeui-3, Porseuni-3, Ramgram-13, Ratanpur-6, Sanei-5, Sunwal-6
- *Rupandehi district (Tarai)*: Silutiya-1, Ama-8, Devdaha-7, Jogada-2, Sainamaina-4
- *Gulmi district (Hill)*: Arje-3, Balithum-1, Bhanabhane-9, Bharse-3,4,6, Harmichaur-4, Palikot-7, Shantipur-2,3

This study contributes to further improvement of approaches and tools that work. This Brief focuses on ODF alone. The post-ODF “Total Sanitation” findings are subject to another brief.



Photo: Reportedly completed latrines are not always used for the intended purpose. Household-by-household & latrine-to-latrine visits help to understand why this happens and how to change the situation.

What did we ask?

- Are the wards declared as Open Defaecation Free (ODF) truly ODF?
- Do all have a toilet? Who has not?
- Do all family members use it - also the children and the elderly?
- What kind of differences are there in between the districts and within the districts?
- What kind of differences are there in between the ethnic/social groups?

This study was coordinated by Ms. Kalpana Dishwa, RWSSP-WN II, and analysed and written by Jari Laukka & Sanna-Leena Rautanen. The data was collected in June-August 2015. The complete report available at: www.rwsspwn.org.np

WHAT DID WE KNOW BEFORE?

At the beginning of RWSSP-WN I in 2008, only three VDCs had declared ODF in the nine working districts. At the start of RWSSP-WN II in September 2013 four districts had been declared as ODF: Tanahun, Myagdi, Parbat and Pyuthan. By January 2016 several others have followed: Mustang, Baglung, Gulmi, Rolpa, Nawalparasi and Syangja. Also Dhaulagiri Zone has been declared as ODF, Nawalparasi being the first out of large Tarai districts to do so. The RWSSP-WN II Baseline Report in 2014 raised the concern on the sustainability of the ODF achievements. Field visits revealed that open defecation continued, although in a smaller scale compared to the earlier situation, in the ODF declared areas.

WHAT DID WE STUDY?

The sample of this study covered 5,517 households (hh) in 23 ODF wards and 4 non-ODF wards. Total 497 hh out of 5,517 hh were in non-ODF wards, these selected for a comparison. For this reason, we expected high toilet coverage. In total 89% of total hh had a toilet.

The survey included both items that can be observed, and items that had to be asked. Therefore, the total sample varies in between the questions and the combinations of questions. For instance, in 5,493 cases it was possible to match the observation whether there was a toilet, with the ethnic/caste/social group of the respondent (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the total hh included into the sample by district and ethnic/social/caste group.

Figure 1. Does the household have a toilet?
N- 5,493 households

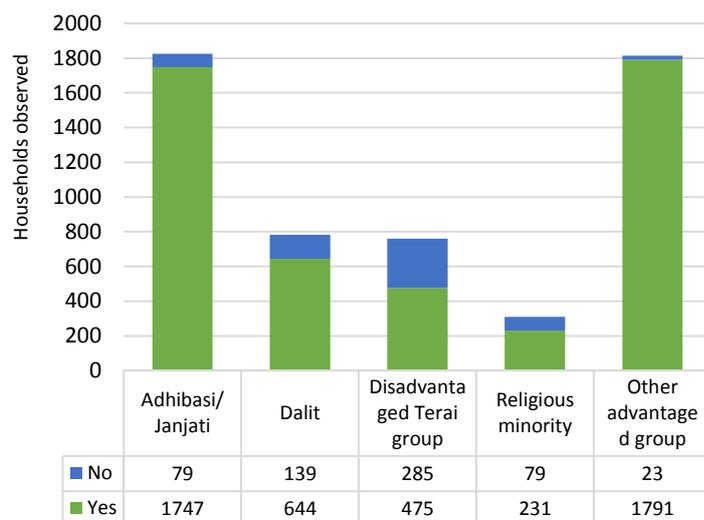
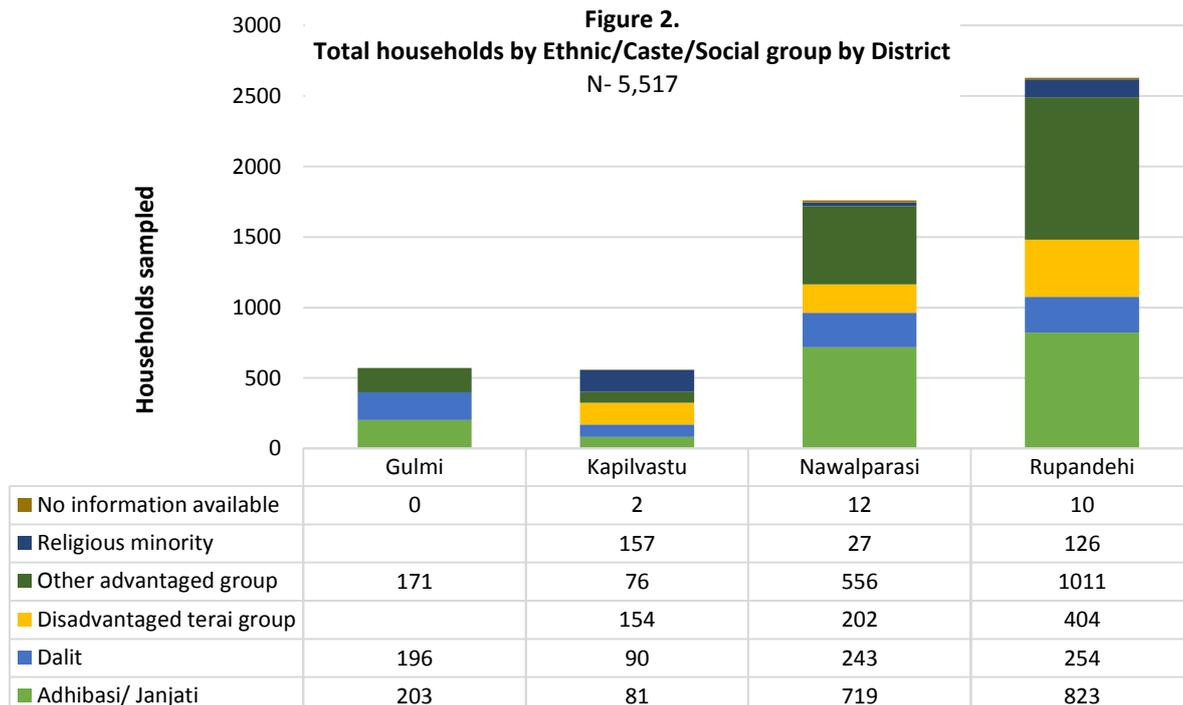


Figure 2. Total households by Ethnic/Caste/Social group by District
N- 5,517



ARE ODF DECLARED WARDS TRULY ODF?

☞ Do all have households have a toilet?

Out of 5,508 households, 4,903 households have toilets (89%). Even in the ODF wards, only 94% of the households have a toilet. In the ODF-declared wards 94% had a toilet; only three of the individual 27 wards had 100% toilet coverage. In the non-ODF wards 44% have a toilet. When comparing the ODF wards district wise, the highest toilet coverage is in Gulmi district (97% out of 570 hh) and Nawalparasi (96% out of 1,759 hh), followed by Rupandehi (91% out of 2,362 hh) and the lowest in Kapilvastu (89% out of 320 hh in the ODF wards).

☞ What kind of toilets? What do we know about toilets?

Practically all who have toilets, have improved toilets. Only 21 hh out of 5,508 hh had unimproved toilet. Out of 4,882 improved toilets, 52% were single pit, 24% double-pit, 22% had septic tanks, and 2% linked to biogas. Total 811 hh reported that the pit had got full and it had been emptied. In this group, only eight households reported that the pit got full but it was not emptied. Private tap or hand-pump within the compound was common in Tarai with Kapilvastu (68%), Nawalparasi (65%) and Rupandehi (81%), while only 12% in Gulmi had water source within the compound. For Gulmi the figure gets better when adding water fetching time 15 minutes or less (75%). Lack of water does not seem to explain the low toilet use in Tarai.

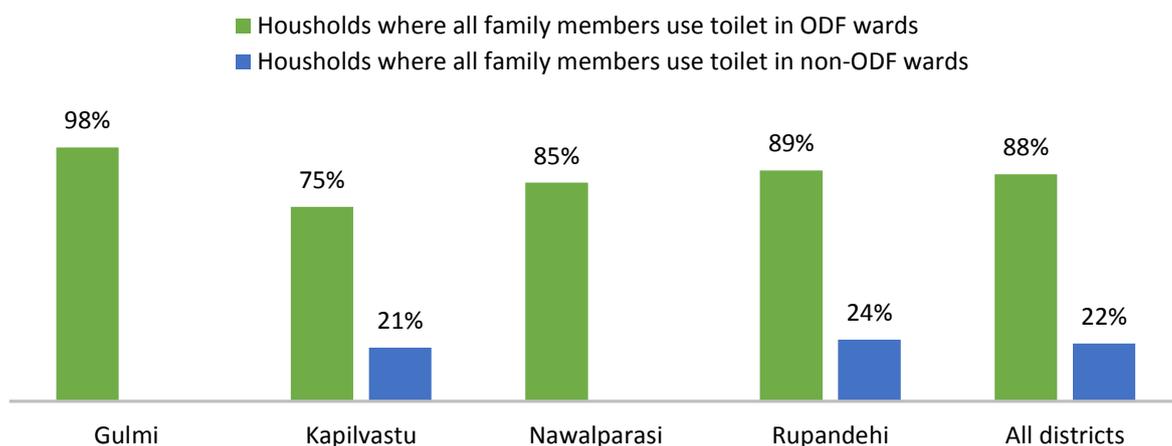
☞ Are the toilets used?

Lack of toilet does not necessary mean open defaecation, in some cases the toilets can be shared. This applies especially to Tarai where several (generations of) family units can in practice be living in the same compound. Therefore, the important question is: do all family members use the toilet? No, they are not. In all those cases where there was a toilet, improved or unimproved (total 4,329 hh), 91% of these were used by all family members.

☞ Are there district-wise differences?

Yes, the differences are clear: in Gulmi 99% of those who reported having a toilet, also reported that all family members use it. In Kapilvastu this was 75%, in Nawalparasi 86% and Rupandehi 94%. These are households in both ODF-declared and ODF wards, yet, they all have a toilet. The highest ratio of all family members using the toilet is in Gulmi; 536 out of 546 ODF ward hh (98%). This includes both those who have and who do not have a toilet. The lowest ratio is in Kapilvastu; 240 out of 319 hh (75%) in ODF wards. For all districts, the ratio is 88% (4,285 out of 4,883 hh). In the non-ODF wards the situation is clearly worse: Kapilvastu has the ratio of 21% (49 out of 237 hh who had a toilet) and Rupandehi 24% (62 out of 260 hh with a toilet). It seems that in all Terai districts in this study, it is less common for all family members to use toilet compared to the Hill district Gulmi.

Figure 3. Percentage of households where all family members use toilet
 N - 5,380 (all households with data available, total number of households with data in ODF wards 4,883 and in non-ODF wards 497)



WHO DOES NOT USE THE TOILETS, EVEN IF AVAILABLE?

Do all family members use the toilet?

All family members do not use it, even if the toilet is available, and whether the toilet is improved or unimproved. 91% of the total 4,783 hh with a toilet responded that all family members also use it. Since the number of unimproved toilets was very small, the figure is similar amongst the improved toilet owners.

What kind of differences are there?

Figure 4 shows who, out of all those who do have a toilet, use the toilets by ethnic/caste/social groups different age-groups. In all cases the children under 5 years old are the least likely users. Figure 5 includes both ODF and non-ODF wards, showing the toilet users by age group and by district. This is the total sample that includes also those households that did not have a toilet (but who might have used a toilet nevertheless, given that some people can be sharing a toilet. In this sample Kapilvastu district stands out in all age-groups.

Figure 4. Toilets used by age group (all households with toilets)

N - children under 5 years (3,385), people 5-59 years (N- 4,735), people over 60 years (N-3,687)

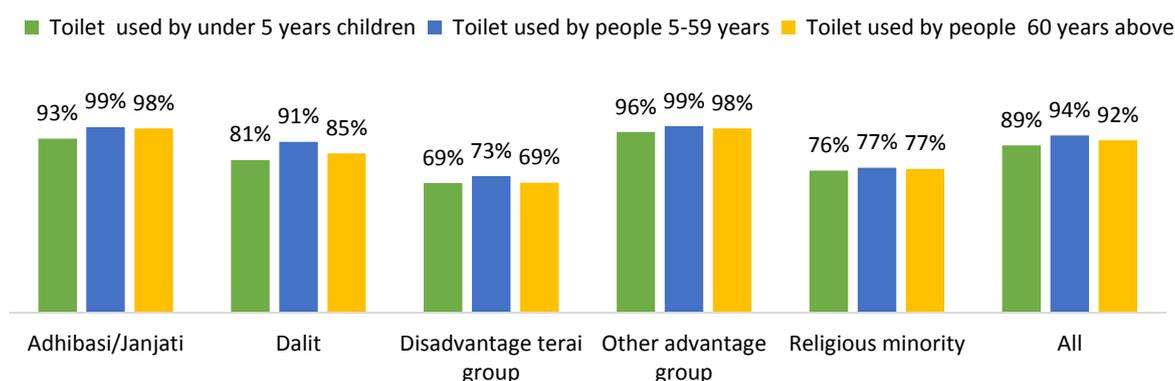


Figure 5. Toilet use percentage age wise (ODF and non-ODF wards)

N - total number of households with under 5 years old 3,952; with 5-59 years old 5,333; and with 60 or more years old 4,247

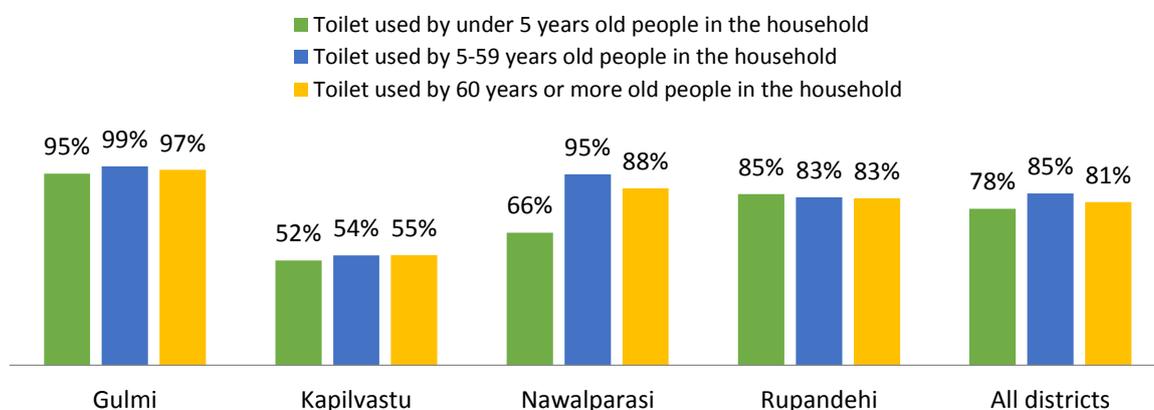


Figure: Who is using the toilet? Who is not?

WHAT DO WE CONCLUDE BY AGE-GROUP?

Do children under 5 years old use toilet?

There were total 3,385 cases that reported having a toilet and who answered the question whether the children under 5 years were using the toilet (Figure 4). In this sample 11% reported that children did not use the toilet even if it was available. Looking at all households who responded on children under 5 years old, the situation is even more dramatic (Figure 5). Figure 6 shows the total number of responses by district, indicating the proportion of yes-no-answers out of district total.

Do people in between 5 and 60 years old use toilet?

This age group has proportionally more toilet users amongst the toilet owners: 6% reported that family members within this age group did not use the toilet. There were no significant gender-wise differences, but ethnic/social group wise there were. Within those who have a toilet within the disadvantaged Tarai group (27%) and religious minorities (23%) responded that family members within this age bracket did not use the toilet, compared to Adhibasi/Janjati (1%), Dalit (9%) and other advantaged groups (1%).

Do elderly over 60 years old use toilet?

In the case of only ODF wards data, the total number of households with children under 5 years old is 3,455; the total number of households with 5-50 years old people is 4,836; and the total number of households with 60 or more years old people is 3,750. The total ratios for all districts are: for children under 5 years old 86%, for 5-59 years old 92% and for 60 or more years old 88%. Gulmi has the highest ratios for all age groups. Ethnic group wise the Tarai disadvantaged groups and religious minorities had similar % here as in the previous age group, for Adhibasi/Janjati this age group is different with 15% of persons over 60 years not using the toilet even if they have one.

What is the difference ethnic/social/caste group-wise?

Figure 7 shows the percentage of “yes, all family members use the toilet” answers out of total within each social/ethnic/caste category. For instance, out of all Adhibasi/Janajati who answered this question, 92% agreed that all family members do use the toilet.

Figure 6. Toilet used by children under 5 years old by district
N-3,952

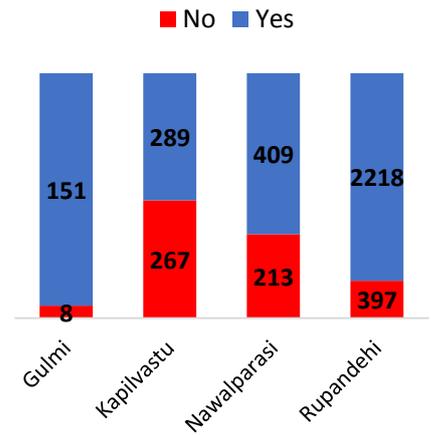
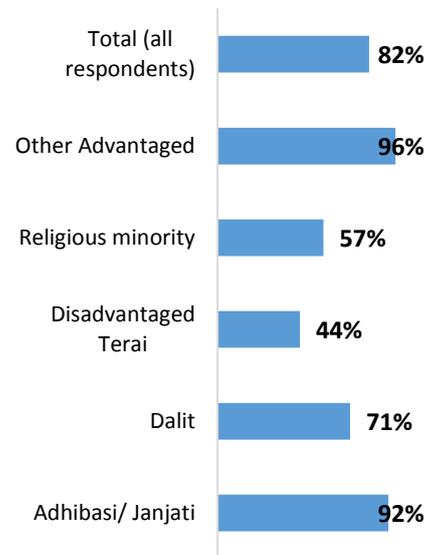


Figure 7. Do all family members use the toilet?

% "Yes" out of total number of hh in each ethnic/caste group
N-5,367 (bith ODF and non-ODF wards)



WHAT ARE WE CONCLUDING? RECOMMENDING?

- While coverage of improved toilets is higher than expected, their use by all is a challenge: it is just not enough that there is a toilet and that only some of the family members use it. All need to use to get the full benefit of ODF! Post-ODF strategies need to take this as the point of entry: even if declared ODF, and even it seems that all have a toilet, it may still not mean that all use it!
- There are clear differences in between the age-groups, and also in terms of caste/ethnic groups. All these call for targeted behaviour change communications – at the moment the most problematic age-groups are not targeted: the elderly and the young. Gender-wise differences were not significant.
- This study material provides numerous opportunities for further analytical treatment. District- and VDC/Ward-wise detailed summaries will also assist in developing meaningful Post-ODF Strategies.

DEFINITIONS

Open Defecation Free (ODF): 'no faeces are openly exposed to the air'. According to the Master Plan, collection of faeces in a direct pit with no lid is considered as a form of OD, where as a pit with a fly proof lid qualifies for ODF. The Master Plan sets the following criteria for ODF situation: 1) There is no OD in the designated area at any given time; 2) All households have access to improved sanitation facilities (meaning facilities that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact) with full use, operation and maintenance; and 3) All the schools, institutions or offices within the designated areas must have toilet facilities. Given the above definition and criteria of the ODF, it is not obligatory for households to have fully permanent toilets in order for district to declare ODF. The Master Plan does however suggest that toilets should have permanent structures at least up to the plinth/floor level.



(Source: Government of Nepal (2011))

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II (RWSSP-WN) (2015). Baseline Report for RWSSP-WN Phase II. Project Support Unit, FCG International, 45 p. Available from www.rwsspwn.org.np

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II (RWSSP-WN) (2016). Sanitation Study Report Part I. RWSSP-WN Phase II Project Support Unit, FCG International, 45 p. Available from www.rwsspwn.org.np

Government of Nepal (2011), National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan.



RESULTS INDICATORS FOR RWSSP-WN II

This study relates to the RWSSP-WN II Purpose-level indicators 3 and 4, and Result area 1:

Purpose-level indicator 3: No one practices open defecation (all districts declared ODF)

Purpose-level indicator 4: All ODF districts have developed post-ODF strategy and ensured access to post-ODF support to their VDCs

Result 1 (Component 1): Access to sanitation and hygiene for all achieved and sustained in the project working districts.

- Indicator Result 1.1 # of VDCs declared ODF
- Indicator Result 1.3 # of Wards declared for having achieved total sanitation (wards within which each household complies with at least four out of five main TBC criteria as listed in the National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan)

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal Phase II is a bilateral development cooperation project funded by the governments of Nepal and Finland, and implemented through local governments and users' groups under the Department of Local Infrastructure Development and Agricultural Roads (DoLIDAR), Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. RWSSP-WN II works in 14 districts in Western and Mid-Western development regions in Nepal.

See: www.rwsspwn.org.np.
Follow us at www.facebook.com/rwsspwn