Community Led Total Sanitation – A critical perspective
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Global politics of sanitation

How does politics & power shape how we define sanitation, access to sanitation, and thinking on who should provide?
Learning objectives

1. Describe the latest shift in sanitation approaches and the envisioned roles for society, state, and market.

2. Explain the emergence and dominance of the new “grassroots” approach through global politics.

3. Identify the alignment between grassroots ideology and global neoliberal processes within CLTS.
Lecture units

Unit 1 – politics & power
Unit 2 – the origin of CLTS
Unit 3 – the successes of CLTS
Unit 4 – explaining the success…

Putting Sanitation First
What is sanitation?
What is access to sanitation?
Who should provide access to sanitation?

The State

Community ↔ Market
2.5 billion people – roughly 37 per cent of the world’s population lack access

MDG 2015 – target will not be met until 2026…
Politics & Power

Politics is about relationships involving power ...

- how it is used
- how it influences behaviours
- how it influences decision making processes

Politics is about who gets what, when, how…
How politics has shaped our ideas on sanitation:

- WHAT should be provided (access/technology; software/hardware)
- WHO should provide,
- HOW it should be provided,
- WHO gets to decide?
Community
Led
Total
Sanitation
Questions

• What are the key characteristics of this approach to sanitation?
• What are the values behind this approach?

• WHAT should be provided (access/technology; software/hardware)
• WHO should provide,
• HOW it should be provided,
• WHO gets to decide?
CLTS

- Zero subsidy
- Grassroots, demand led
- Triggering > disgust, shame
- Originated for rural areas
What is CLTS?

- CLTS is a community-empowerment approach which starts from charging the minds with the trigger to change.
  - Behavioral/attitudinal change + action on hardware
- CLTS is led by communities and it is about TOTAL sanitation THROUGH LADDERS.
- CLTS is an approach with immense potentials to allow rapid developments in any other sector.
Scaling up…

Grassroots approach that has caught like “wildfire”

- 56+ countries worldwide
- Adopted as rural sanitation strategy in 20+ countries
- Championed by key leaders/donors: World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, WaterAid, PLAN International…
Emergence of CLTS

- "failures" of previous sector approaches
- Failure to reach 2015 MDGs
- Need for innovative approaches > social motivation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous approaches</th>
<th>CLTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching communities</td>
<td>Learning from communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>“We must subsidize the poor”</td>
<td>“Communities should do it”</td>
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<td>“We pursue and motivate”</td>
<td>“It’s up to you, you decide”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top-down standardization</td>
<td>Bottom up diversity (they design)</td>
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<td>Bigger budget</td>
<td>Lower budgets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spending on hardware</td>
<td>Spending on empowering (mental and psychological)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achievement measured by coverage figures</td>
<td>Achievement measured by number of ODF communities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Shifts: Sanitation sector reforms

1. Infrastructure only, top down, government led (1970-80s)

2. Mix between hardware + software add-on afterwards (1980-90’s)

3. Software only, demand driven, zero subsidy (CLTS)
The success of CLTS...

• What are the indicators of success?

• Success of the policy vs. success of the implementation?
CLTS and increased access

• Lack of monitoring and evaluation data
  – Triggered vs. ODF vs. Improved access

• Moving past ODF towards improved access
  – Household investments

• Tracking progress: long term sustainability
Sustainability?

2013 research by Plan International
Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda
4960 households in 116 villages where CLTS had been triggered 2 year before

Over 90% “slippage” rate, if a wider set of criteria for ODF qualification was included:
lid over the latrine squat hole, having hand washing facilities with water and soap or soap-substitute....

http://www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/odf-sustainability-study-plan
CLTS and social equity

• Social exclusion
  – blame and shame...

• marginalizing those who are already poorest in the community

• Community rights vs. Individual rights
The success of CLTS...

- Successful uptake of the model
  - # of countries adopting this approach
  - global dominance

- Cost effective approach

- Large numbers: ability to reach MDGs
But also….

How can we explain the “success” of CLTS by looking at how it aligns with neoliberal processes and ideology? (global politics)
WHAT should be provided

WHO should provide

HOW it should be provided

WHO gets to decide?
WHAT should be provided
- software/awareness programs
- access to markets

WHO should provide
- community + market

HOW it should be provided
- decentralization (demand led)
- commercialization

WHO gets to decide?
- donors, global actors, or community?
• Does a community led approach need to be only CLTS?

• Does the government have a responsibility towards those who can not afford to move up the sanitation ladder?
Neoliberal processes

• Decentralization
  – self-help; devolution from the state responsibilities to be filled by community + private-sector

• Commercialization of sanitation
  – Entrepreneurs
  – Marketing approaches
## Alignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>CLTS - Grassroots origins</th>
<th>CLTS - Global model</th>
<th>Global processes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>No subsidy</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>Decentralization</td>
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<td>Coordination between actors</td>
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<td><strong>Society</strong></td>
<td>Self-led</td>
<td>Demand oriented</td>
<td>Decentralization</td>
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<td>Self-financed</td>
<td>Responsible for</td>
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<td>their own development</td>
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<td><strong>Market</strong></td>
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<td>Providers of</td>
<td>Commercialization</td>
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<td>services, at cost</td>
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Communities are responsible for their own development

.....and they should pay for it
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Resources

• CLTS Knowledge Hub: [www.communityledtotalsanitation.org](http://www.communityledtotalsanitation.org)
Poo Party

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Pj4L7C2twI
UNICEF India: Take the Poo to the Loo

“the goal of the campaign is to encourage people — particularly adolescents and community leaders — to push for change by taking action in their communities.”

“It’s a matter of dignity and a matter of empowerment of the people,”

UNICEF hopes India can follow the examples set by neighboring countries. In 2000, Bangladesh implemented the CLTS sanitation approach that engaged community members and village leaders. The government reached its goal of 100 percent sanitation in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.

https://news.vice.com/article/unicef-is-inviting-india-to-a-poo-party
MDG Goal 7 (MDG7) Target 10

halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Joint Monitoring Program (UNICEF/WHO)

Basic sanitation is improved sanitation facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include:

- Flush or pour-flush toilet/latrine to a piped sewer system, a septic tank or a pit latrine.
- Ventilated improved pit latrine
- Pit latrine with slab.
- Composting toilet.