Sanitation Ladder

Materials: This activity consists of a set of 11 coloured illustrations showing various existing sanitation practices typical of some regions in Bangladesh.

Objectives: To make the community understand that sanitary defecation practices are important, but that a simple latrine which is sanitary (isolation of faeces) and where hand washing facilities are available is a good as an expensive latrine.

Process

Step 1:
If you intend to use this as a teaching activity with your whole class then print out this page and laminate the images for future use. If you intend to complete this as group work then print out as many versions as you need so that each group has a complete set of cards.

Step 2:
Introduce the exercise to the participants. Give the participants the pictures depicting the various methods of excreta disposal.
**Step 3:**
Ask the participants to sort the pictures into steps according to improvements in sanitation practices. Participants can take 15 – 20 minutes for this work.

**Step 4:**
When the groups have completed this task, as the group to explain its sanitation ladder.

**Step 5:**
The facilitator should then encourage the participants to divide the defecation practices into acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, based on whether they result in the isolation of faeces. Place unacceptable behaviours at the bottom of the ladder and what is the ideal behaviours at the top.

**Step 6:**
After the presentation encourage a group discussion covering:
- Which practices are bad and which are good for sanitation?
- Why are people not constructing latrines?
- Are there ant steps we can take to improve sanitation practices and why?