Focused Group Discussion with Pupils and the Head Teacher of Dalijan Model Primary School

31st May 2024

**Interviewer**:

My name is xx, I am also a student like you, but in the University. I am currently conducting research on toilets and hand washing facility projects in this area, just to hear from you how the development changes your lives. So, have you ever used the new toilets?

**Group:** No.

**Interviewer**: where have you been using as a toilet?

**Group**: at the back here.

**Interviewer**: Why don’t you use the new toilet?

**Group**: because it was closed.

**Interviewer**: is it always closed?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: well, Speaker 16G what is the truth of this matter?

**Speaker 16G**: to the best of my knowledge, the toilet has been into usage, but let’s confirm from the headmaster.

**Interviewer:** What about the handwashing facility, are you making use of it?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: does it have water by now?

**Pupil 2**: yes. It has water.

**Interviewer**: do you wash your hands with it?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: headmaster, I think your attention is needed here. Now, when do you use to wash your hands?

**Pupil 3**: when it was installed.

**Interviewer**: do you wash your hands whenever you want to eat or when?

**Pupil 3**: We wash our hands when we want to eat food or while coming out from the toilet

**Interviewer**: When do you come to school?

**Group**: by 8am

**Interviewer**: when are you closing?

**Pupil 3**: by 1pm

**Interviewer**: when are you going for break?

**Pupil 3**: 9:30am

**Interviewer**: then when do you wash your hands?

**Pupil 3**: immediately after break.

**Pupil 4**: and in the morning after sweeping.

**Interviewer**: so you start the school day by morning sweeping, right?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: you in particular, where do you sweep?

**Pupil 4**: that place outside.

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Pupil 4**: behind class three.

**Interviewer**: and you?

**Pupil 5**: outskirt of class six.

**Interviewer**: do you all sweep outside or is there anyone sweeping outside?

*[Silence]*

**Interviewer**: but some of them use to sweep outside, right? I think you may have a roster.

**School Head**: they use to sweep both inside and outside classes. They have their own roster; everyone has his/her own duty.

**Interviewer**: let me take you a little bit back headmaster, I am a PhD student and I am here to discuss with you regarding the impact made by these facilities (toilets and HWF). The organizations that executed the projects said that they are impactful, so I want to hear it from your side.

**School Head**: the facilities have helped us immensely. Prior to the establishment of the project, they used to go to the nearby houses to drink water during break ours, and they are facing serious disrespect and unpleasant challenges from the houses owners, our neighbours. But this has really solved that problem to them because we always have available water in the school.

**Interviewer**: but I can see that you don’t have a water tank here, right?

**School Head**: yes.

**Interviewer**: where do they get water connected to the toilet?

**School Head**: It was connected with that borehole.

**Interviewer**: so you have the borehole, right?

**School Head**: yes

**Interviewer**: Is it repaired or what?

**School Head**: It was a new one, installed by the government.

**Interviewer**: where do you get drinking water?

**Pupil 3**: yes.

**Interviewer**: do you all get water from that?

**Pupil 2**: yes, from this handwashing facility

**Interviewer**: Where were you getting water before?

**Pupil 4**: From neighboring houses

**Interviewer**: When I was a kid like you I used to go to school with my water in container, don’t you do so at the moment?

**Group:** Yes some do come with it, but many do not come with water

**Interviewer**: is any one of you come with water container?

**Pupil 4**: I do come with it.

**Interviewer**: but sometime the water may finish warranting you to go to that house and get some?

**Pupil 4**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: what do you say to them? Do they have borehole or what?

**Group**: they have a hand-dug well.

**Interviewer**: so they use local fetcher right?

**School Head**: no house around has a borehole.

**Interviewer**: so now, I understand that you use this water to drink and wash your hands. What do you do with it after that?

**Pupil 3**: some use them to bath.

**School Head**: some people use to take it to their home.

**Interviewer**: are they students?

**School Head:** yes.

**Interviewer**: as far as you concern, what do you do with the water beside washing and drinking?

**Group**: We use water for purification (sanitation) purpose.

**Interviewer**: where have you been using as toilet?

**Pupil 5:** I don’t use toilet till after school.

**Interviewer**: why? What if something very urgent arises?

**Pupil 5**: I use to endure it.

**Interviewer**: where have you been using to urinate?

**Pupil 5**: bush.

**Interviewer**: why don’t you go to the toilet?

**Pupil 5**: it was closed.

**Interviewer**: headmaster, I want to know who is using the toilets.

**School Head:** There is a junior secondary school attached to us that is using this one. But for us (primary school) we do have about four toilets before the new one. We gave them because they are female students and matured girls. So they need facilities like this.

**Interviewer**: I learnt it was two blocks, who is using them?

**School Head**: We gave the junior secondary school one, and one for us at the primary section.

**Interviewer**: then who is using the other one?

**School Head**: some students and teachers.

**Interviewer**: These boys say they normally went the bush to ease themselves?

**School Head**: Actually not all of them are allowed to use toilet, you know how children behave they are very stubborn. Some use the toilet while others prefer going to the bush.

**Interviewer**: don’t mind my interrogation headmaster, I am only asking question to understand.

**School Head**: I get it.

**Interviewer**: Now those seen patronizing the toilet, do they have the key to the facility?

**School Head**: Yes the have the keys. We normally close it after school. Our major challenge by now is how some people from the town excrete in the toilet’s surroundings after our closing hours.

**Nasir**: am sorry headmaster, you the essence of toilet was for the students to make use of it, as school authorities you supposed to be creating awareness or even imposing it that no student should go to the bush since there is at least two toilets with 4 compartments. And the toilet was built for this school not for Dalijan community.

**Interviewer**: but let’s hear from you on the suggestions he made that students should be taught on how to make use of toilets. Have you ever tried to show them or not?

**School Head**: we have been using it.

**Interviewer**: but only you the teachers.

**School Head**: the students too, make use of it.

**Interviewer:** but they informed us that they are not making use of it.

**School Head**: as I said, not all of them make use of it; some go to the bush while others use the toilet, especially those matured ones.

**Interviewer**: do you know how to make use of the new toilet?

**Group**: no.

**Interviewer**: but you Firdausi, have you ever seen it before?

**Pupil 3**: *Yes*

**Interviewer**: what about you? Have you all seen it?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: but do you know how to make use of it?

*No.*

**Interviewer**: so you never make use of that type of toilet before?

**Pupil 4**: I did for once.

**Interviewer**: where?

**Pupil 4**: at my grandmother’s house.

**Pupil 5**: I also make use of it.

**Interviewer**: do you know how to use water and flush?

**Pupil 4**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but have you ever attempted to use it?

**Group**: yes

**Interviewer**: and you make use of it?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: when was it closed?

**Pupil 4**: the day it was built.

**Pupil 5**: it was locked up immediately after it was built.

**Interviewer**: since then?

**Pupil 5**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but as girls, where do you go to ease yourselves?

**Pupil 4**: I go to toilet.

**Interviewer**: which toilet?

**Pupil 4**: that one.

**Interviewer**: is there any toilet beside these ones by GHI?

**Pupil 4**: yes.

**Interviewer**: is it the one you use or the new ones?

**Pupil 4**: I use that one (the old one).

**Interviewer**: was it okay?

**School Head**: we already have a toilet even before you came.

**Interviewer**: what about you do you use that toilet?

**Pupil 5**: *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: you ease yourself there, right?

**Pupil 5**: *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: does it have water?

**Pupil 5**: no.

**Interviewer**: then where do you get water?

**Pupil 5**: *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: you get water from here?

**Pupil 5:** *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: what do you use to fetch water?

**Pupil 5**: plastic containers

**Interviewer**: as for you, don’t you have old toilets you have been using?

**Group**: there is. They use one and we use another.

**Interviewer**: Who among you (the boys) here uses the toilet?

**Pupil 3:** I in particular.

**Interviewer**: why don’t you go to the bush?

**Pupil 3**: there is no place to cover there.

**Interviewer**: you mean there at the bush?

**Pupil 3**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but what about these going to the bush, how do you manage?

**Pupil 7**: just a bush.

**Interviewer**: is the bush near the school?

**Pupil 7***: yes*

**Interviewer**: do you use to go to the bush?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: you only go to the toilet?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: but you boys go to the bush right?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: why you don’t you like to use the toilet?

**Pupil 8**: because the place smells.

**Interviewer**: is there not a hole there?

**Pupil 8**: yes it is. But some do not cover it after usage. Some also excrete on the floor.

**Interviewer**: and you don’t like that smell, right?

**Pupil 8: yes.**

**Interviewer**: you prefer going to the bush?

*[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: are you not afraid of anything there at the bush?

**Pupil 8**: I do not excrete in the school nor in the bush, I normally go to the home.

**Interviewer**: where is your house?

**Pupil 8**: that place.

**Interviewer**: can we trek?

**Pupil 8**: it is there at Jariri area.

**Interviewer**: so the place is near?

**Pupil 8**: yes.

**Interviewer**: headmaster, I don’t know where is Jariri area, can it take us 5 minutes to reach there?

**School Head**: it is not too far actually.

**Interviewer**: I was thinking if the person can endure his personal need until he reaches there. What about you that do not make use of toilets? Why don’t you use the toilet in the school, Faruku?

**Pupil 9**: *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: are you not Faruku?

**Pupil 9**: my name is Abdulrauf.

**Interviewer**: why don’t you make use of the toilet? And I know that there are no toilets in some of your houses.

**Pupil 5**: we have three toilets in our home.

**Interviewer**: but as for you, do you have toilet in your house? Do you make use of it?

**Pupil 9**: yes.

**Interviewer**: then why don’t you make use of this school one?

**Pupil 9**: because I have to wash the toilet after usage.

**Interviewer**: you have to do what?

**Pupil 9:** I have to use kettle.

**Interviewer**: in the toilet or in the bush?

**Pupil 9**: in the bush.

**Interviewer**: I don’t get you well.

**Pupil 9**: we don’t come with kettle.

**Interviewer**: is there is no kettles in the toilet here?

**Pupil 9**: there are.

**Interviewer**: You, do you have a toilet at your home?

**Pupil 7**: yes.

**Interviewer**: do you also make use of it?

**Pupil 7**: yes.

**Interviewer**: then why don’t you use it in the school?

**Pupil 7**: I don’t excrete in the school.

**Interviewer**: what if you want to urinate?

**Pupil 7:** *[Silent]*

**Interviewer**: not at the bush? When last did you defecate at the bush?

**Pupil 7**: it was long.

**Interviewer**: do you use the toilet today?

**Pupil 7**: no.

**Interviewer**: what about yesterday?

**Pupil 7**: [Silent]…there was no school yesterday.

**Interviewer**: was it holiday yesterday?

**Pupil 7**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you do you have toilet at home?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: and you make use of it?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but you do not make use of it in school?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: why?

**Pupil 10**: I make use of it.

**Interviewer**: but you informed me that you use to go to the bush?

**Pupil 10**: initially, I told you that I make use of the toilet.

**Interviewer**: you make use it?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: then why don’t you go to the bush?

**Pupil 10**: I don’t have any reason

**Interviewer**: you prefer using the toilet right?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: how are you coping with the smell?

**Pupil 10**: the toilets are two, one is locked and other one is open.

**Interviewer**: which one do you use?

**Pupil 10**: the locked one.

**Interviewer**: is it locked with padlock or what?

**Pupil 10**: just a door

**Interviewer**: so the other one doesn’t have a door right?

**Pupil 10**: its door has been removed.

**Interviewer**: from where do you fetch water?

**Pupil 10**: from the tap.

**Interviewer**: Is the water available always?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so let me ask you the last question. Do you need any change regarding these new toilets? Do you want them to be opened for you?

**Pupil 10**: yes.

**Interviewer**: can you make use of them properly?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: you Firdausi do you have a toilet at home?

**Pupil 3**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Pupil 4**: we are from the same home.

**Interviewer**: as for you, do you have toilet at home?

**Pupil 5**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so the toilet you have been using here in opened right?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but it has a door right?

**Pupil 5**: yes.

**Interviewer**: for you boys, can you properly manage these new toilets?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: do you wash it?

**Pupil 7**: yes.

**Interviewer**: how many times?

**Pupil 7**: three times.

**Interviewer**: a day or in a week?

**Group**: daily.

**Interviewer**: do you dedicated people on roster to do that?

**Pupil 8**: no.

**Interviewer**: then who is responsible in washing it?

**Pupil 8**: students.

**Interviewer**: who is washing the toilet for them, headmaster?

**School Head**: security men.

**Interviewer**: always?

**School Head**: occasionally. At least three times in a week. The only problem with them is flushing, because one must take at least a bucket of water for flushing since the water connection is not working, that’s why children cannot make use of it, unless the matured ones.

**Interviewer**: so the water from the borehole is not getting there?

**School Head**: yes. Because the tank has fallen and the pipe taking water to the toilet got destroyed.

**Interviewer**: but where is the SBMC (school Based Management Committee)?

**School Head**: it is there.

**Interviewer**: don’t they have anything to do?

**School Head**: the village head is our chairman and I do inform them about anything related to the school, I even use to invite them here to see things for themselves.

**Interviewer**: so now according to what you said, the tank has fallen in this new toilet right?

**School Head**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so you have to fetch water from other places right?

**School Head**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about the pipe to the suckaway?

**School Head**: the pipe has been destrpyed.

**Interviewer**: for the new toilet?

**School Head**: yes.

**Interviewer**: and everyone is making use of it like that?

**School Head**: *[Inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: I now want to know if it is still on use.

**School Head**: you mean the new one?

**Interviewer**: yes.

**School Head**: since when it developed a fault we closed it.

**Interviewer**: so that means even you teachers, make use of the old toilet right?

**School Head**: yes.

**Interviewer**: when did the fault came to being?

**School Head**: it has been long ago, because I barely reach a month here as a headmaster, I was not the one handed over the project to.

*End of FGD with pupils.*