

Socio-cultural influences and management that determine sanitation facilities use in the informal settlements

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Kenya

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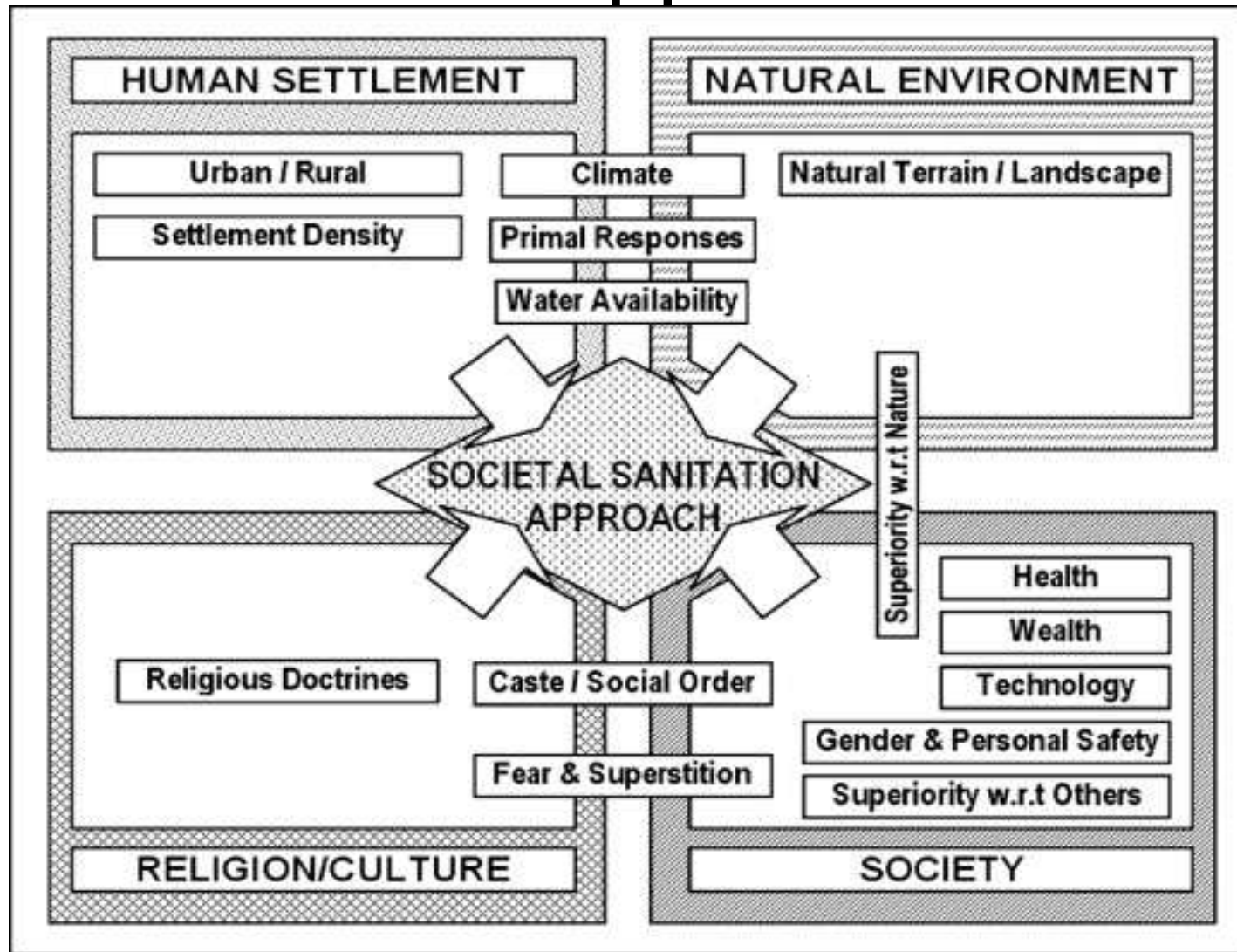
Introduction

- 2.5 billion people are living without access to safe sanitation (UNICEF, 2008).
- Each year, 4 billion cases of diarrhoea are reported, and 2.2 million people in the world die from it (Camdessus, 2003)
- In Kenya, about 80% of the hospital attendance is due to preventable diseases. 50% of these illnesses are water, sanitation and hygiene related (Kuria, 2005).

Introduction (*cont.*)

- For instance, in Nairobi over 60 % of the city's population lives in these areas (Makworo and Mireri, 2009)
- The Kenyan government has established appropriate legal instruments in an effort to reverse these trends.
- Despite these efforts, sanitation infrastructure coverage is still limited and the situation is deplorable especially in the informal settlements.

System model of societal sanitation approach



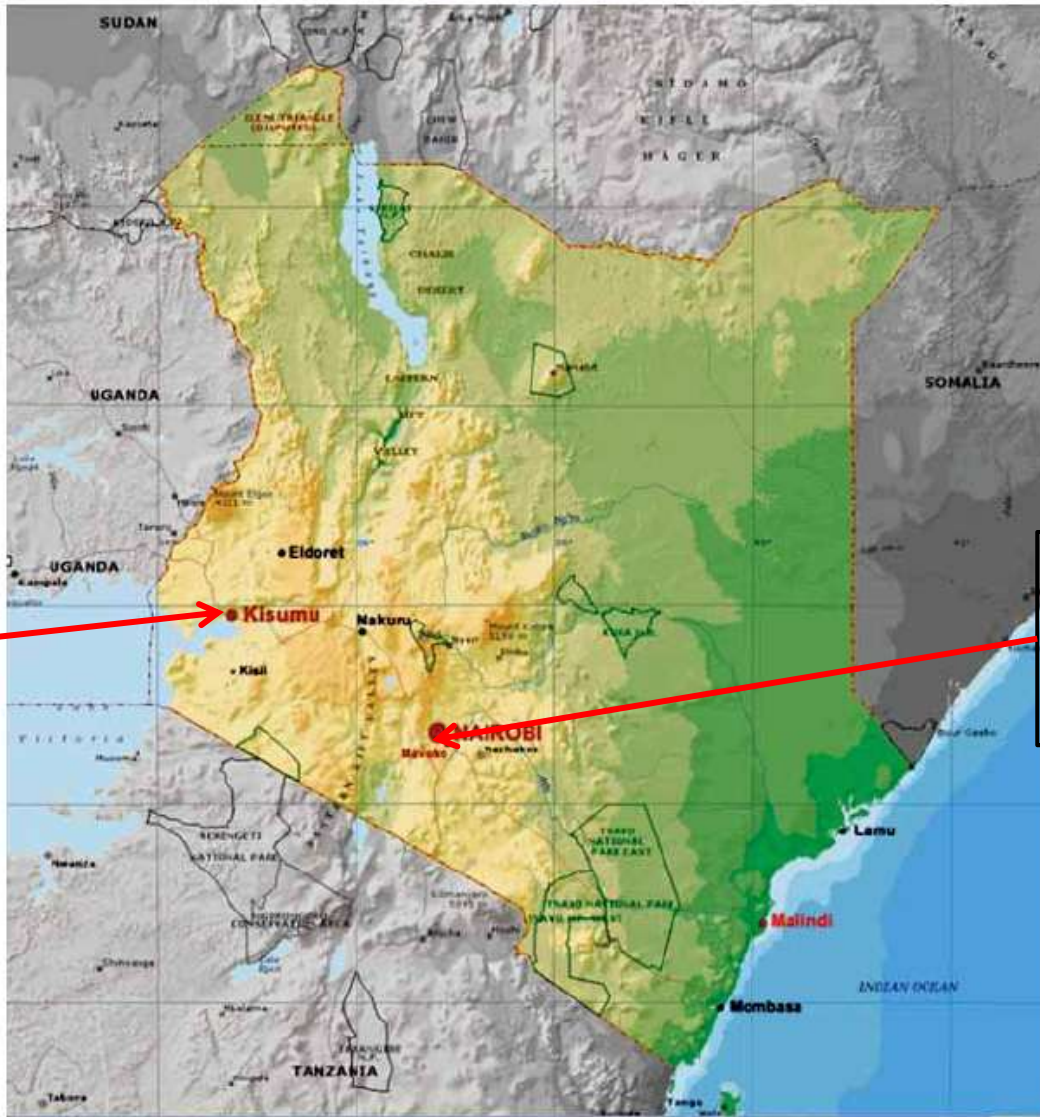
privacy,
safety,
dignity and
social
status

methodology

- Survey was carried out specifically to understand
 - the socio-cultural influences,
 - residents' perceptions and
 - management aspects in regards to sanitation facilities in use.
- Key thematic areas of focus
 - socio-cultural behavior and orientation in the use,
 - management and maintenance of the sanitation facilities.

Study area

Map of Kenya



Obunga
Bandani

Kibera
Mukuru kwa Njenga
Kibagare

The informal settlement

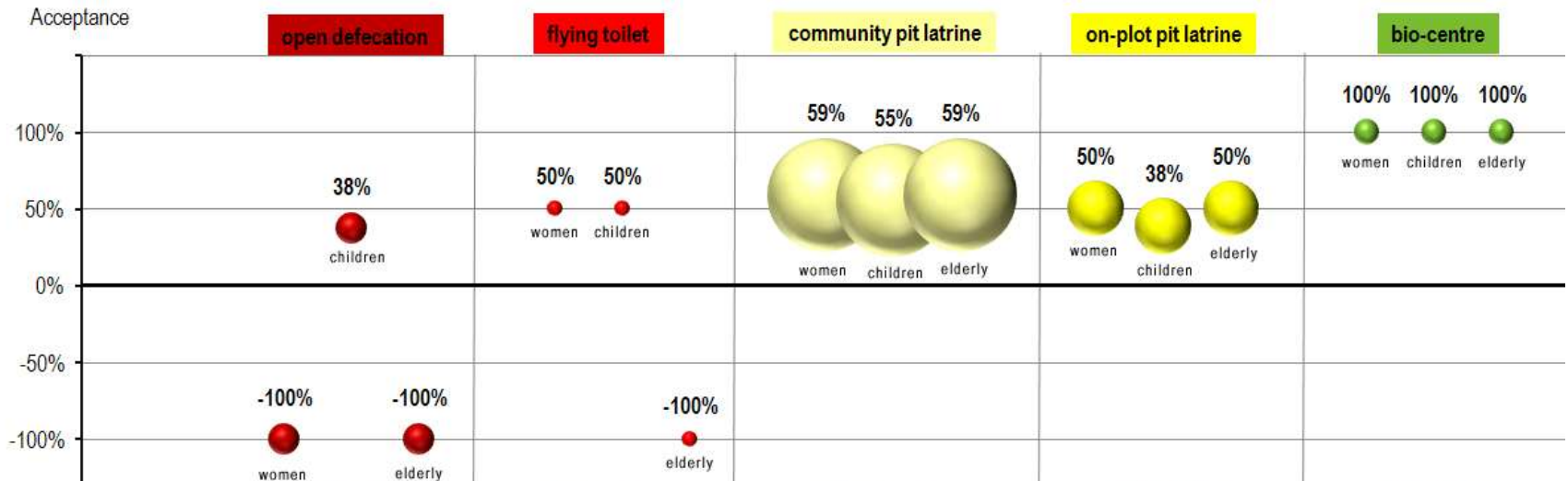
- slum settlement increment of approximately 11 % *p.a.* (Makworo and Mireri, 2009)
- Major issues
 - poverty,
 - inadequate service infrastructure,
 - sanitation,
 - hunger,
 - poor health and
 - high crime rates
 - growth of population.
- The major physical constraints to construction of better sanitation facilities in informal settlements include difficult sites and terrain and complicated site layouts.

Pit latrine



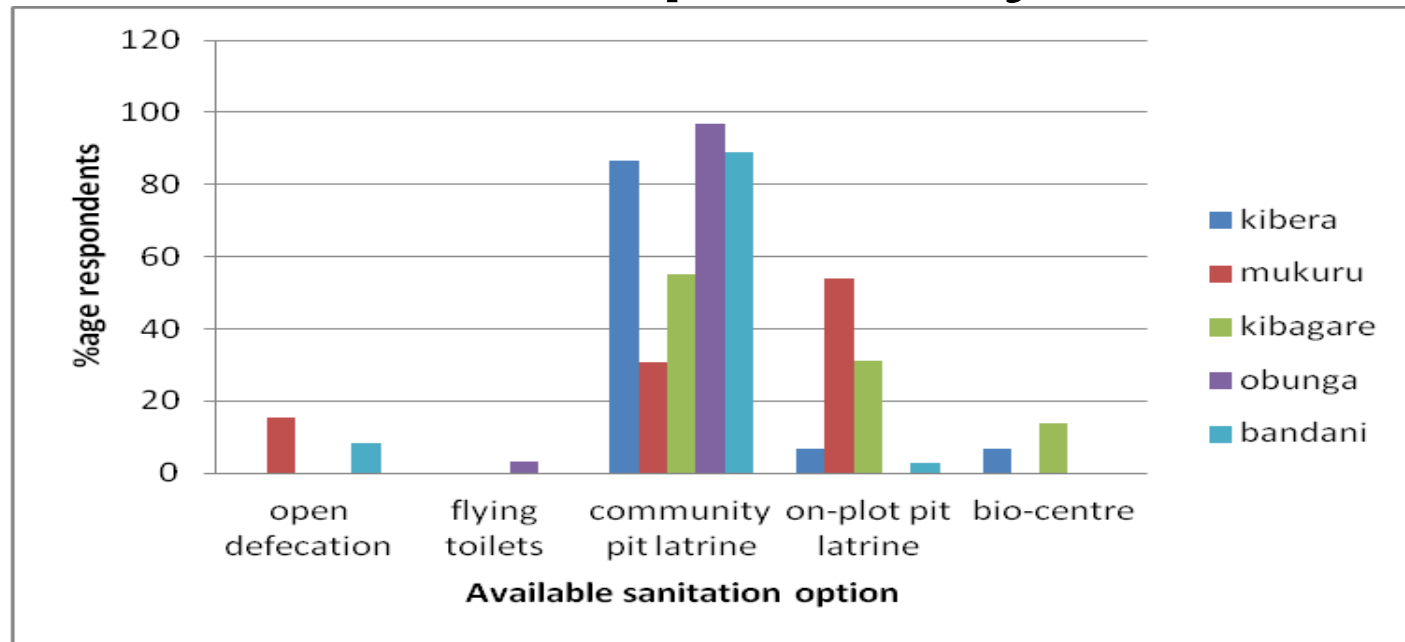
- no space to build a public toilet (congested land use)
- Lack of public action and easements
- reliance on overcrowded and sub-standard pit latrines

Usage



- About 68% of households rely on shared facilities with a high loading factor (average of 71 people per facility).

Acceptability



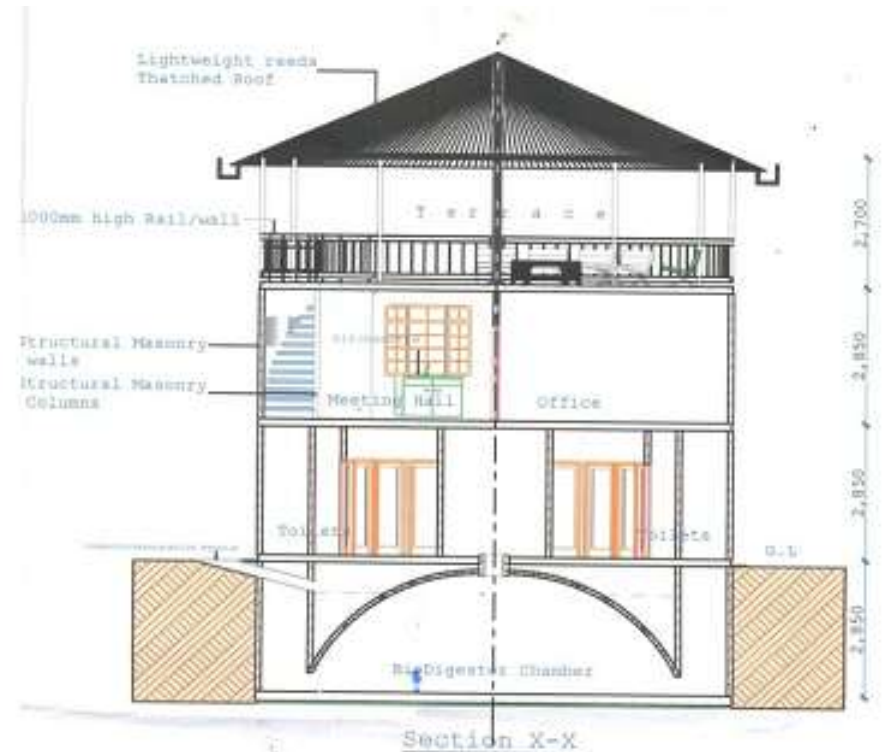
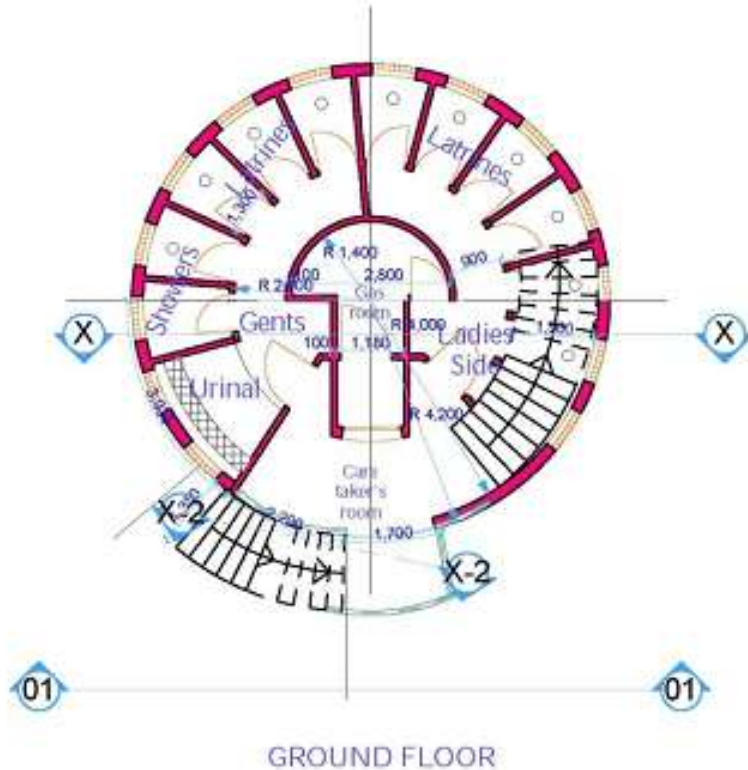
- women and children are a major target group for crime especially when the toilet facility is not very close to the households.
- fear that children might fall into the hole
- It is perceived that children can defecate in the open without undue shame.
- Low acceptance by elderly – squat (physical capabilities).
- other purposes - bathing, washing and disposing solid waste.

Management and gender

	Kibera					Kibagare	Bandani
	Sanitation Point	Water & Sanitation Point	Water & Sanitation Point	Water & Sanitation Point	Water & Sanitation Point	Sanitation Point	Water & Sanitation Point
Name of the Management Group	MUVI GOROFANI	TOSHA-2	KIDYOT	LINDI USAFI	JASHO LETU	HAKI ZETU	
Number of Members of the Group	52	80	66	20	70	42	10
Number of Female Group Members	10	80	25	13	45	22	5
Percentage of Female Group Members	19 %	100 %	38 %	65 %	64 %	52 %	50 %
Gender of the Chairperson	male	Female	male	male	male	female	male

60 % of the sanitation points are led by a male gender chairperson, an average of 57 % of the considered group members are female.

Sections bio-centre



- Bio-centres have considerably enhanced the technical performance of sanitation facilities.

Emerging sanitation facility bio-centre



- biogas production
- users are discouraged by the smell emanating from them.

Conclusion

- The findings reveal
 - safety is the most significant factor in determining the use of community-shared toilet facilities.
 - Privacy ranks lowly among the respondents
 - Affordability and the responsiveness of the management were apparently no issue to the respondents of this research
 - bio-centres represent a remarkable improvement not only considering the sanitation situation but also considering resource issues.
 - However, complains about the smell of the biogas may become an obstacle for the bio-centres.
 - A resource-oriented approach is an important consideration when implementing low technology sanitation options in the informal settlements.
 - Discouraging factors like unclean facilities, the fear of falling into the pit, smell and attraction of insects and parasites must be reduced or even eliminated and replaced with motivational aspects such as comfort, privacy, improved health and hygiene as well as the possibility of financial benefits.