

Promoting sanitation and nutrient recovery through urine separation: The role of health and hygiene education and social acceptance factors

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As was seen recently in discussions at the recent COP17 conference, there has been a paradigm shift in the way the world views water and sanitation. Discussions at this conference reinforced the global realisation that we need to *Reinvent the Toilet* in the face of changing climates and fluctuations in water availability. One promising alternative to conventional flush toilets is the Urine Diversion Toilet (UDT). This study presents preliminary findings on social perceptions and levels of understanding of UDTs in eThekweni Municipality, where many thousands of these toilets were installed in areas previously lacking formal sanitation facilities. Three surveys have been conducted to assess levels of community acceptance of the UDT technology. This study interrogates the available data to assess opportunities to promote social acceptance of the technology in the face of an apparent preference for conventional flush technologies. We investigate perceptions of and reactions to the use of UDTs, the emptying of the faecal vaults and the collection and use of urine products. Furthermore, we investigate the influence of previous health and hygiene education programmes on social acceptance. These findings are to be fed back to project managers to influence future toilet design, construction and urine collection options as well as shape future health and hygiene education. The ultimate aim of this study is to promote UDT acceptance to ensure the success of this progressive sanitation intervention in the eThekweni Municipality.