

REVIEW**Application of Kingdon and Hall Models to Review Environmental Sanitation and Health Promotion Policy in Ethiopia: A Professional Perspective as a Review**

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: *In the world, many countries, including Ethiopia, are framing policies to roll back the problem of the sanitation. For this, the Kingdon and Hall models are the two distinct models formed to articulate the policy agenda to the health problem. The Kingdon model includes problem, policy and politics streams whereas the Hall model includes legitimacy, feasibility and support of the health policies. Therefore, this review aims to integrate the two models with diseases prevention and health promotion policies of Ethiopia.*

METHODS: *We used the existing frameworks of the models as a guiding principle. Then, we applied the frameworks of the two models as an important consideration to interlink policy agenda to a given health problem. We also described the existing scientific literature about the sanitation and health promotion. After thoroughly reviewing, possible policy inputs and country setups were included with a brief discussion by comparing different kinds of literatures.*

RESULTS: *The two models are recognized as an opportunity to get an essential sanitation policy. The government settled and has closed links to the new innovation as an emerged discourse. Therefore, the two model streams came together for setting sanitation problem on the policy agenda. The technical feasibility, public acceptability and congruence with existing values were all judged to be favorable.*

CONCLUSION: *The integration of policies within the policy frameworks has very important outputs in various countries. Therefore, the field specialists should figure out the problem of policy integration through policy evaluation researches.*

KEYWORDS: *Models, Sanitation, Health Promotion, Policy*

INTRODUCTION

Global burden of environmental sanitation problem is enormous. According to WHO, 2.6 billion people are suffering from environmental

sanitation and lack of adequate water supply (1). The sanitation problems constitute 10% of global burden of diseases. However, improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health both in households and across communities (1-3). In Ethiopia, environmental sanitation includes the conditions like safe and adequate water, clean and safe ambient air, safe animal and human waste disposal, protection of food from contaminants, and adequate housing in clean and safe surroundings (4,5).

In Ethiopia, over 27 million people still do not have access to any form of toilet. The sanitation coverage at the household level is estimated to be at 63% where as in rural Ethiopia, 43% of people were defecating in the open field as compared to 8% in urban areas (6,7,8,9).

The lack of access to improved sanitation and the practice of open defecation have a significant socio-economic impact on the households and the whole communities (1,9). While it is clear that access to latrines in Ethiopia is still low, trends show a slow increase in those people adopting fixed place defecation (10).

In Ethiopia, in response to environmental sanitation, environmental health activities maintained from 1950 during the 'basic health service provision' and extended their view to primary health care in 1970's and to the current health sector development programs (11,12,13). Despite massive resources and intensified intervention on environmental sanitation, the desired decline on achieving the WHO target is not yet achieved. Therefore, this review was conducted to integrate the two models with diseases prevention and health promotion policies of Ethiopia.

METHODS

We used the existing frameworks of the models as a guiding principle. Then, we applied the frameworks of the two models as an important consideration to interlink policy agenda to describe and state the existing knowledge about the sanitation through health promotion. For this, the Hall and Kingdon models are the two distinct models formed to articulate the policy agenda in

the given situation or health problem. The Kingdon model includes problem, policy and politics streams whereas the Hall model includes legitimacy, feasibility and support of the given health policies (14). Problem, in a kingdon model, is conceived as the problem related to sanitation as a result of sanitation and health promotion policies. Policy, in a kingdon model, is defined as a health promotion policy to curb sanitation problems. Politics is conceived as the political dimensions where a government is diffusing the health promotion action concerning sanitation. Legitimacy means the legality of the implementation of health promotion actions at community level. Feasibility is the ability of the community to curb the sanitation problem owing to socio-economic conditions. Support is action of the communities to decrease sanitation problem or to do health promoting actions identified by the government and stakeholders. After thoroughly reviewing, possible policy inputs and country setups were included with a brief discussion by comparing different kinds of literatures.

RESULTS

Kingdon model: A problem stream

Sanitation related diseases: Poor environmental sanitation or lack of environmental hygiene leads to various diseases like diarrheal diseases (1,5). This was confirmed by an author called Chadwick in 1842 on his seminal report on an inquiry into the sanitary condition of the laboring population of Great Britain (15). The issue of environmental sanitation starts at that time was linking the problem with diseases (5). In this regard, at any point in time, half of African populations face the problems associated with poor sanitation and hygiene (16). In the Ethiopian context, these diseases are known by poverty and lack of awareness (17). Given all the situation at hand, Ethiopian burden of diseases increased its climax by marking diarrheal diseases as ten top diseases (18).

Diarrheal diseases are the first top diseases in Ethiopia causing death in millions particularly under 5 (18). In 2016, for example, diarrhea was

the leading cause of death among children under 5 in Ethiopia resulting in 10% of all deaths (13). Various cross-sectional studies indicated that improved sanitation can reduce rates of diarrheal diseases (19-22). A longitudinal cohort study in Salvador, Brazil, found that an increase in sewerage coverage from 26% to 80% of the target population resulted in a 22% reduction of diarrheal prevalence in children under 3 years of age (23). Similarly, a recent meta-analysis that explored the impact of the provision of sewerage on diarrhea prevalence reported a pooled estimate of a 30% reduction in diarrhea prevalence and up to 60% reduction in areas with especially poor baseline sanitation conditions (24). The study concluded that diarrheal disease rates could be substantially decreased by interventions designed to improve the environmental sanitation (23).

Trachoma is an eye infection spread mainly through poor hygiene caused unsafe environmental sanitation conditions. About 6 million people are blind today because of trachoma (25). It affects women two to three times more than men. Children are also especially susceptible (26).

Fluorosis is a disease caused by high concentration of fluoride mineral occurring and in turn results in bone diseases (27). At least twenty five countries across the globe are suffering from its endemic nature. Though the total number of people affected is not known, a conservative estimate would number in the tens of millions (28). Guinea worm disease is transmitted by people-to-people contact when drinking water contaminated with *Dracunculus* larvae. This sanitation and water related disease causes debilitating ulcers. The incidence of cases of Guinea worm disease is steadily decreasing worldwide as a result of a concerted international initiative (4). However, in 2002, there were still 50,000 cases reported in a total of 13 countries in Africa, including Ethiopia (4,29).

Typhoid fever is caused by lack of food sanitation (21,30). About 22 million people are affected by typhoid every year (31). Schistosomiasis is a disease caused by parasitic worms and are related to unsanitary conditions (also known as bilharzia) (30). They can damage the liver, intestines, lungs and bladder. About 200 million people are infected with schistosomiasis,

20 million of whom suffer severe consequences. Studies have found that adequate water supply and sanitation which reduces contact with contaminated surface water could reduce infection rates by 77 per cent (30).

A clean environment and adequate sanitation are vital factors in averting opportunistic infections associated with HIV/AIDS, and in the quality of life of people living with the disease (32,33). AIDS-affected people are more susceptible to unsanitary conditions than healthy individuals (34). Continuing a healthy environment is essential to safeguarding the health, quality of life and productivity of people living with HIV/AIDS (32,33). Intestinal worms are caused by intestinal parasitic worms (also known as helminthes) through contact with unsanitary conditions particularly soil that has been contaminated with human feces from an infected person (35). Intestinal worms infect about 10 per cent of the population in the developing world, including Ethiopia (36). About 400 million school-age children are infected by roundworm, whipworm and/or hookworm (35,36). In fact, roundworm and whipworm alone are estimated to affect one-quarter of the world's population (36).

Malaria is a serious disease caused by a parasite carried by certain types of mosquitoes. Humans are infected when bitten by the mosquitoes (37). Each year, there are 300 million to 500 million cases of malaria throughout the world and about 1 million child deaths (38,39). Reducing the mosquito population in households by eliminating standing water (caused by poor drainage and uncovered water tanks) can be an important factor in reducing malaria cases (37-39).

Kingdon model: Policy and politics streams

Deploying health extension workers and their roles: The Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) has made major strides over the last 15 years (40,41), investing heavily in building the country's health infrastructure and deploying health extension workers in each kebele. In addition to that, training and deploying community health agents and community development army as another part of the previous years achievement of the FMOH (41,42).

The FMOH introduced health extension program for disease prevention and health

promotion through developing the packages for each diseases to reach the people at the grassroots (kebeles) (43, 44). The aim was to make the rural poor to the universal access to health care services and decentralizing the services at that level (43,45). The health extension program has got 16 and 15 packages for rural and urban areas respectively. Sanitation and hygiene is a major problem in both areas (45,46). The initiative accomplishes are named as health extension workers (44).

Community health agents/community development armies: Community health agents/community development armies are responsible to change the community behavior and attitude towards sanitation and hygiene through communal activities. The approach has proved effective and cost-effective in various parts of the country (46). The community health agents have frequent contact with community and health extension workers. That is why they are called bridge health workers and flagships supporter. They are sometimes called the people to speak for community at grassroot level (46,47).

Community lead Total sanitation: Community health workers, apart from health extension workers, have a significant role in changing the behavior of the community through mass mobilization to be a model (40,47). These motivated families usually are known as model families who applied the given health extension packages. The main aim of community-led total sanitation (CLTS) is to make communities at large to be free from "open field defecation" (and hence for toilets) through mass communications-based approach (40,48). CLTS was applied in Ethiopia through mass mobilization and developing health learning materials and posting them in public areas (40,48). Model families and other socio-economically advantaged groups are used to raise and ignite the community awareness on open field defecation as an important contaminant of the environment and food ingested by householders (49). In the Ethiopian setup, communal pit ventilated latrines are used as an approach to end the open field defecation and to have clean and healthy environment (49,50). This has shown

tremendous potential in increasing awareness and practice of using latrines because of Ethiopian flagships of health extension workers. The degree of acceptability of CLTS depends on the way the community acquired information and cultural suitability and acceptance (49).

Sanitation marketing: This concept is derived from social marketing that states the use of marketing theory and skills with the fulfillment of the requirements like products, place, promotion, and price plus the added variable policy makes the community to be aware of a given health problem (2,51). Thus, sanitation marketing is a means to raise the awareness of the individuals, groups, and communities to achieve quality of life (52,53). Integration of health promotion interventions and diseases prevention strategies at community and stakeholders levels about the use of sanitation packages is verily a question of all (2,52). Indeed, having an idea about the community felt need is used to know the practical intervention demand and supply of product, promotion, place, price and policy as contextualized in social marketing framework (52,53).

Health promotion as a response: Health promotion plays several roles to ensure improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (54). This thus ensures the promotion of hygiene at household and community levels including environmental and personal hygiene (55). These measures promote environmental, animal and human health thus contributing to one Health (56). After Al-Mata meeting in Kazakhstan, mid-1980, WHO initiated the health promotion program considered as an essential strategy in achieving the goal "Health for all" (57). Health promotion got five pillars to promote every health aspect including environmental hygiene in Ottawa charter 1985 (58). Ethiopia also adopted these pillars though it failed to fully apply them as intended because of resource constraints (58,59).

Health promotion particularly sanitation promotion focuses on prevention strategies to reduce the risk of developing diseases and other morbidities (59). Health promotion and disease prevention programs often address social determinants of health, which influence modifiable behaviors (60).

Health promotion strategies in Ethiopia are verily interlinked with various methods of delivering health information and streamlining of policies with diseases conditions. The drastic shift from basic services to health sector development program in Ethiopia has a significant contribution in reducing the morbidity and mortality of sanitation-related behavioral diseases (61,62). In general, health promotion is applied through deploying health extension workers, community health agents, community development army and community lead total sanitation particularly the approach of free of open field defecation (2 63).

Hall Model: Legitimacy, feasibility and support wings

The Hall model argues that a policy issue only comes on the policy agenda when an issue and the possible solution are high in terms of their legitimacy, feasibility and support. Feasibility refers to the implementation process of a policy (64). The avoidance of the centralized health services and the replacement of the decentralization need the new policy (45). Following that, the FMOH has endorsed the policy of decentralization by changing from six-tier system to three-tier system through legitimacy (48). The application of the legitimacy rule at country level was expanding the service providing the institution to lowest grassroot level (kebele) (8,45,64). This was achieved through developing and constructing health centers and health posts at kebele level, and deploying health extension workers as family health workers to work intimately with the community (42,45).

Health professionals and managers are the concerned authorities to convince the community and other stakeholders (42,62). It was expected that there might be difficulty in getting support. Support was more difficult because there was a considerable drought resulted from poverty and famine (21). The socio-economic and awareness level of the society is very low at country level in general and rural parts in particular. According to the country's belief, the communities are the change agents and the solutions (42). In addition, the Ministry of Health (MOH), as a facilitating agent, was able to mobilize the community at large

to have a clean environment and good sanitary conditions (42,53).

DISCUSSION

This review gives insight for the country's sanitation and health promotion policies. In recent years, sanitation and health promotion systems are being challenged by social, economic, political and environmental disorders throughout the country (1,13). At the country level, government budgets for health affairs are larger than ever, and healthcare costs have grown much faster than other sectors. However, the lack of national policies was a major constraint to curb sanitation problems in previous years (64,65). This is similar with the case in Bangladesh (66).

Mainstreaming sanitation problems in different governmental and non-governmental organizations is still an unfinished agenda despite the existence of its nomenclature and framework (4,67). To talk frankly, political streams of governments cannot play their key roles as watchdogs of sanitation problems (67). Another longitudinal study in urban Brazil found that the major risk factors for diarrhea in the first three years of life were poor sanitation conditions, the presence of intestinal parasites and absence of prenatal examination (23,68).

The dramatic change should be a bottom-up approach to make the concerned organization to create sanitation lead institutions. The idea has been mostly advanced in Europe after health in all policies idea is endorsed (69). Community health workers enhance the awareness of individuals, groups and the community by focusing on household behaviors and the whole community. Environmental sanitation is a multifaceted issue that includes social, political, economic and environmental development (69).

Policy and political streams play a pivotal role to put a clear job description with responsibility and authority. Framing a legitimate rule and putting the law in a country's constitution enables people to have a good idea in the sanitation issues. In Ethiopia, a political leadership is integrated with amicable policy and specific budget lines for sanitation (46,59).

Community support is a very important component to value their health and to recognize

their potential. Meanwhile, the support for sanitation was made by building pit latrines and pit ventilated latrines with existing resources. Developing the skills of the community to manage environmental sanitation is left as an assignment for health extension workers (2). This idea is similar with developed countries family nurses and doctors (70). As an alternative, the transition centralized supply-led infrastructure provision to decentralize and people-centered demand creation is an essential pillar to meet that demand. This way helps bottom-up approaches to be successful in transforming sanitation from a minor level to a major area of countries' developments. The other strategy is fully applying the endorsement of health in all policies for the sanitation case too. A Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) has a powerful motivation for improving sanitation and much strength to contribute to achieving health for all goals (2,71). This is similar with Makoni and Tsholotsho Districts of Zimbabwe (71,72). When we compared to literature from Asian countries, one recent study estimates that only 39% of ignited villages achieved open defecation-free status (73). Finally, besides the financial constraint to improve sanitation condition in Ethiopia, there are knowledge gaps regarding effective use of services, social marketing and micro-credit of revolving fund for financing sanitation facilities. As field experts, we believe that applying all the basic principles of health promotion is the most important thing in sanitation promotion and behavior modification. Therefore, we recommend that field specialists figure out the problem of not using the existing models as a framework and also not integrating policy models for policy evaluation researches.

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