Report on a new hand washing tank for schools

by
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Introduction

The washing of hands after visiting the toilet and prior to eating is vital is the individual is to remain healthy. It is also a vitally important component of hygienic menstrual management. Yet few hand washing devices are fitted or built any where near most family toilets or even school toilets in both rural and peri- urban settlements in Zimbabwe. Very often hand washing facilities, whether they be at a school or within a toilet do not function often because they do not contain water. Invariably water must be hand carried to the hand washing facility, and this can be an extra burden for those involved.

In this case a hand washing tank has been designed which uses taps which deliver water very economically. There are several ways of reducing water consumption. In this case the tank water delivery system (through 4 taps) has been designed in such a way that various methods can be tried and tested.

Tank construction and design and use of special taps with slow delivery.

The base slab and the cover slab being made in concrete

Building tank walls in brick and plastering

Plastering complete. The water run-off is shaped in concrete and cured.

Components of the water restrictor. Water restrictor and protective screen

Internal water restrictor and fitting top slab

Plastering and sealing the top slab

Collecting water from the hand pump and placing in the tank

Taps fitted and being tested. Girls using the reduced flow taps.

Run off water

Water from the run off is led into a hole at the end of the run off filled with compost. The tank will now be tested to see how the girls respond and the rate of use of the water. It is possible to add a low chlorine dose to help cleans the hands in the absence of soap. Soap is not provided.