

F-15: Demand assessment for improved public latrines: a contingent valuation study

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Higher demand for improved sanitation facilities has become an important issue in most urban areas in the country. The consequences of poor waste disposal and poor maintenance of latrines affect not only the users but others as well and it is known as "externality" associated with it. Maintenance of improved public latrines in common places is therefore an immediate requirement.

In this study, an attempt was made to understand the attitude of the people around Kandy Municipal Council (KMC) towards the maintenance of improved public latrines and their willingness to pay for using such latrines for defecation and urination.

In the model specification, linear relationship was tested. Willingness to pay (WTP) was taken as the dependent variable while use frequency (how many times/2 months), age, monthly income, distance travelled, were used as continuous variables and level of education, either a daily traveller or not, specificity were considered as categorical or binary independent variables for the model.

This study showed the possibility of using contingent valuation surveys to estimate demand for sanitary facilities in an urban setting of Sri Lanka. Further information on problems associated with the existing sanitary system, how the potential users feel about the possible improved sanitation options and whether they are willing to pay or not for improved sanitation services could be identified. This study highlights the importance of focusing on the demand side of sanitation planning and identifies the additional research needed for the KMC area to expand its sanitation facilities planning and maintenance.