



Spectrum



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Top 8 water and sanitation blogs of 2018

By Li Lou on January 1, 2019



The Water Blog provided plenty to chew on if you've been following the interesting and insightful posts we published here in 2018.

Here's a rundown of some of 2018's most popular blogs. From wastewater treatment, to water-energy nexus, to solar pumping, and to shared sanitation, what you liked reading on

The Water Blog speaks volumes about the wide-ranging topics we've covered and the diverse perspectives we've brought to the global conversation on water and sanitation issues.



1. Wastewater treatment: Critical component of a circular economy

Traditionally, how we have been managing water resources and water services is linear in nature: water is extracted from the source, treated, and used; the wastewater is then treated and discharged in a receiving water body. But, we need to transition from the linear model to a circular one focused on reducing water use and consumption and promoting reuse, recycling, restoration, and recovery of water resources. To foster this paradigm shift, the Bank is working with the CAF and several countries to implement the "Wastewater: From Waste to Resource" initiative in Latin America. Read the full blog by Diego Juan Rodriguez, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist with the World Bank Water Global Practice, to find out the suggestions arising from this initiative.

2. Thirsty Energy: A five-year journey to address water-energy nexus challenges

Significant amounts of water are needed in almost all energy generation processes, from generating hydropower, to cooling (and other purposes) in thermal power plants, to extracting and processing fuels. Conversely, the water sector needs energy to extract, treat, and transport water. To address the challenges presented by water-energy nexus, the World Bank launched the Thirsty Energy Initiative five years ago, helping countries adopt and implement water-smart energy planning. Read the full blog by the Thirsty Energy team, as they reflected on the lessons learned along the way and shared a variety of resources developed in the last five years to move the needle on the issue.

3. Connecting with the people beyond the computers: my experience in flood risk management in Buenos Aires

The World Bank-supported Flood Risk Management Support Project for the City of Buenos Aires is working on helping 1.7 million people commute to work, and access schools and medical facilities, by reducing the impact from rain. Read the full blog by Catalina

Ramirez, Senior Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist with the World Bank, who leads the project, as she shares a personal story of how people's lives have been directly affected by the repercussions of flooding and how strengthening flood risk management and improving the drainage systems would help some of the most vulnerable communities of the city.

4. A low-priced water reuse process that also delivers renewable energy in rural areas

Anaerobic Digestion (AD) systems are installed for many different purposes, such as a waste treatment step, a means to reduce odors, a source of additional revenues, or a way to improve public image.

In Yucatan (Mexico), Michoacan (Mexico), Karur (India), and Jan Kempdorp (South Africa), we saw success stories of implementing Anaerobic Digestion (AD) for wastewater treatment. Read the full blog by Christian Borja-Vega, Senior Economist with the World Bank Water Global Practice, as he explores how to design, promote, and implement AD technologies as a sustainable and affordable solution in rural communities.

5. Solar Pumping 101: the what, why, and the how

In many communities, groundwater is being pumped by diesel fueled systems, which are both expensive and difficult to maintain. But fortunately, solar power offers a more cost-effective and environment-friendly alternative solution, especially for the communities where electricity is scarce. The highest demand for solar pumps is among rural off-grid areas, currently underserved, or served by costly fuel-driven pumps. Solar pumping is most competitive in regions with high solar insolation, which include most of Africa, South America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia; but the technology can operate successfully in almost any region of the world. Read the full blog by Kristoffer Welsien, Senior Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist, as he takes a deeper look at the various aspects of solar water pumping and introduces a handbook developed by his team.

6. China's experience in tackling water scarcity through sustainable agricultural water management

Water scarcity is a pervasive problem across much of China. By the numbers, per capita water resources stand at only 2,100 cubic meters, which is one-fourth of the global average. Population growth, agricultural demands, and the adverse impacts of climate change further compound the challenge. The Water Conservation Project II supported by the World Bank tackled these water scarcity issues head-on through a series of interlinked operations in the Chinese provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, and Ningxia – three of the most water-scarce provinces in the Northern region of the country. Read the full blog by Terry Cho, Senior Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist, as he shares many important lessons from China which have global relevance and application.

7. How many people can share a toilet?

In urban areas, almost one person in ten uses a shared household toilet, i.e., a toilet shared with at least one neighboring household.

While individual household sanitation is both crucial and aspirational, it will be insufficient to meet the needs of growing urban populations in the coming years. Read the full blog by Rebecca Jean Gilsdorf, Water Supply & Sanitation Specialist, as she drew on a range of global experiences with shared household, community and public toilets and developed a guide titled Shared and Public Toilets: Championing Delivery Models That Work as part of the Citywide Inclusive Sanitation initiative.

8. Time to adapt to changing climate: what does it mean for water?

Recognizing that millions of people across the world are already facing the severe consequences of more extreme weather events, the World Bank Group announced a major new set of climate targets for 2021-2025 at COP24, which significantly boosts support for adaptation and resilience.

The front line of climate adaptation faces the new reality of dealing with too much or too little water, requiring new and more effective ways of managing this precious resource. What does this mean for our work related to both water resources and water services? How can we help bring new tools and practices to contribute to the broader adaptation agenda? Read the full blog by Greg Browder, Global Lead for Water Security and Integrated Resource Management, as he shed light on the key role of water management in climate adaptation.

Teachers and trust: cornerstones of the Finnish education system



By Jaime Saavedra on December 28, 2018

Co-authors: Hanna Alasuutari, Marcela Gutierrez



Public school teachers in Brazil, Indonesia or Peru have stable jobs, enjoy high level of legal protection, and are part of teacher unions that shield them politically. Public school teachers in Finland also have stable jobs and are rarely fired.

They are represented by a powerful teacher union, which is very influential among other stakeholders in policy discussions. Why do student learning outcomes among these countries vary dramatically?



1. Teachers' prestige, selection and training

In Finland, teachers are highly valued. The teaching career is prestigious, demanding, and reserved for the most talented and hard-working. Only one fifth of all applicants to primary teacher education programs in Finnish universities are admitted. Admission depends not only on high academic achievements, but on interest and passion to become a teacher. This is very different to what happens in most middle-income countries (and some high-income countries, including the United States), where getting admitted to Faculties of Education is easy, sometimes, even ensured.

For those admitted into education faculties, the Finns invest heavily in pre-service teacher education. Since the teaching profession requires a master's degree in education, it takes approximately five years of university studies to become a qualified teacher. Primary school teachers oversee most of the subjects for their grade. Therefore, those becoming teachers for this age group major in educational sciences and choose two or three minors which can be school subjects (e.g. mathematics, history, music, literature, drama, English, Finnish, etc.) but other alternatives such as philosophy or sociology etc. are also available. While in training, they learn a combination of theoretical studies of educational sciences and pedagogy, combined with practical studies of all school subjects. In addition, there are various practicums which begin during the first semester of studies and are carried out both in the university teacher training schools and in regular schools.

Secondary school teachers oversee specific subjects for each grade. To become experts in the topics they teach, as well as pedagogical professionals, they study their respective school subject for about five to six years and must complete a year-long practical training combined with pedagogy and studies of educational sciences. For both primary and secondary teachers, each practicum has a specific theme, and those being trained to become teachers work daily with a mentor teacher (who supervises the practicum and teaches a class or subject in a regular school) and a university teacher educator (who is a tutor teacher).

You can become a qualified teacher in Finland and be ready to oversee a classroom, all by yourself, only after several years of study and numerous hours of classroom hands-on practice. In many middle-income countries, a recent graduate can be thrown into a classroom without much, or any, real classroom experience.

2. Trust

Once Finnish teachers are hired and in classrooms, they are given a lot of responsibility. With such a high quality human capital, school management can be performed differently. The country does not have classroom inspectors or supervisors. In its place, principals act as pedagogical leaders and provide teachers with trust and steering, instead of control. Teachers are encouraged to work in close collaboration with their peers, constantly mentoring and tutoring each other. The aim of this ongoing initiative is to provide the support needed to make sure that the best pedagogical practices are implemented in every classroom.

Although Finnish teachers must follow the national core curriculum (which is student-centered and provides the overall framework and learning objectives), they have autonomy when it comes to its implementation. Students in Finland study various subjects with structured courses, but in addition, teachers coordinate projects so that the same subject is seen through different disciplines. Students don't get a lot of homework and spend less time at school compared to their peers in other OECD countries. However, time is used effectively, with regular breaks after 45 or 90 minutes when students usually go outside.

With great teachers and immense trust, every student (including those with diverse educational needs) can receive quality education at their nearby school, across the country. Even if parents are free to select a school for their child, most prefer the school closest to their home. Teachers are respected. Their autonomy is paired with great responsibility. They, and society, know that the future of children lies in their hands.

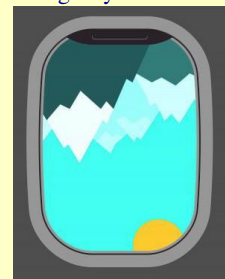
Is this degree of autonomy feasible or desirable in all contexts? No. It is efficient and conducive to high levels of achievement only under certain conditions: when selection of teachers is meritocratic and demanding (not when politics play a role in the selection or deployment of teachers), when a lot of effort is required to become a teacher (not when education is not an attractive profession for students with high potential), and when career advancement depends on professional development and accomplishments (not just years on the job). Teacher reforms in many countries require yet to put those conditions in place.

Ordinary Rotarians can find themselves in extraordinary circumstances. In their own words, they tell us What it's like to... *Source: January issue of the Rotarian*
Illustrations by Aad Goudappel

Survive the unimaginable by Gustavo Zerbinio
Rotary Club of Montevideo, Uruguay

The moment before the plane crashed, I took off my seat belt, stood up, and held on to the ceiling.

The plane hit the mountain and broke apart exactly where I had been sitting. My friend in the seat next to me fell out of the plane and died.



I was with my rugby team, the Old Christians Club from Montevideo, Uruguay. It was October 1972, and we were flying over the Andes on our way to Santiago, Chile, to play in a rugby championship. There were 40 passengers - teammates as well as friends and family - and five crew members. I was sitting by the window looking at the mountain peaks far below, when suddenly they began to appear closer.

I asked my friend, who was sitting in the aisle seat, to let me by and I went to talk to the pilots. They said not to worry, but then they looked out and saw the high peaks and told me to sit back down.

After the crash, I thought it must be true that the dead could still think, because I could not believe that I could be alive. All the seats were piled on top of each other. There were dead people, injured people, and people struggling to get out.

We had crashed on the Glacier of Tears. We had no food. Temperatures fell to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit at night, when it snowed and there was wind. By day, when the sky was clear and the sun was directly overhead, it got very hot.

There is so much to say about our 72 days in the mountains. There are hundreds of documentaries. There are the book and the movie *Alive*.

We were very young and we adapted quickly, because we had no choice. The only clothes we had were the ones we were wearing: leather shoes, nylon socks, pants, a shirt, a blazer, a necktie. When another person died, you would put on their pants and you had two pairs of pants, or two pairs of socks.

Every night we prayed the rosary. For three reasons: first, to thank God because we had survived that day and to ask for a next day just as good. The second reason was that saying the rosary was like having a windshield wiper for all of the negative thoughts we would have during the darkness of night. And the third reason was that every five minutes the rosary came back around to you. If you were to fall asleep, you would be frozen like a statue, so we would nudge each other to pray.

We put a radio together from the pieces of other radios and heard that the search had been called off. The world had abandoned us. We built solidarity where the only goal was to live. We learned that the important thing in life is not what happens, but what we do with what happens, which is the only thing that's up to us.

There are no extraordinary human beings. There are only common, ordinary human beings, like you and me, who are able to do extraordinary things if we connect to love and to passion if we do things that are more important than us.

We made a pact that if we died, our friends could use our bodies so they might live. We understood it as something logical. Our teammate Gustavo Nicolich wrote a letter to his mother, which I brought with me when we were rescued. He tells her that we had started to eat the flesh from the bodies of our dead friends. He says we asked God from the depths of our beings not to allow it to come to pass. But the moment arrived, and we had to accept it with courage and faith.

This is something that makes us proud. We chose life and not death. Sixteen of us survived to tell our story.

Telling people about what happened to us has never bothered me at all. It is the best tribute we can offer our friends who died on the mountain, because they were wonderful human beings who gave us everything so we could live.

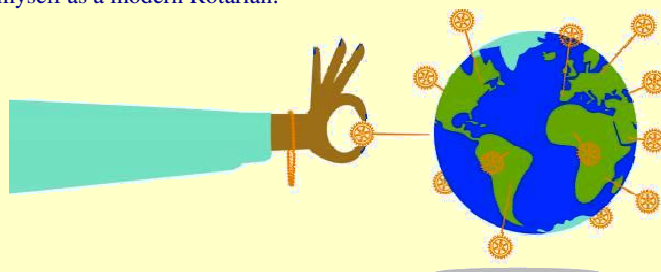
I never think about the fact that I was in a plane that fell. I take planes everywhere. I do things, I don't worry about things. Today, I'm president of a multinational pharmaceutical company in Uruguay. I'm with the rugby union. I played for the Uruguayan national rugby team. I'm on the UNICEF advisory board. I work with a foundation called Rugby Without Borders. I've been a Rotarian for 23 years. I have six children. I have done many things. And the Andes accident is just one more thing that happened to me.

For the world, it was a huge thing. But people's lives are all unique and unrepeatable. All the things you live through are unique to you. Life has been very generous to me. It gave me the opportunity to live, learn, share, and be thankful every day that I am alive.

— As told to Briscila Greene and Diana Schoberg

Visit Rotary clubs in 22 countries by Kazi Asma Azmery,
Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka, Bangladesh

I'm in Azerbaijan right now. It's the 96th country I've traveled to since 2009; I've visited around 50 Rotary clubs in 22 of them. Where I grew up, in Bangladesh, it was a great honor when I became a Rotarian, because all of the Rotarians were my mom's friends, my dad's friends, my uncle's friends. I was 26 years old when I joined. At first they didn't want me because I'm so young and wear jeans. My country is a very conservative Muslim country, and they did not want people to dress like this at Rotary. But I worked hard to establish myself as a modern Rotarian.



Hit the road with the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship.
Find out more at ithf.org.

I have a small travel agency. In 2014, I planned to travel by road from Los Angeles to Brazil for the World Cup. When I was in LA, I noticed that the guy sitting next to me on the underground Metro was wearing a Rotary pin. We chatted and I ended up visiting his Rotary club.

It's like that most of the time. I meet people by looking for someone with a Rotary pin or T-shirt or hat. Or I'll go to one Rotary club meeting and ask for a recommendation for another club to visit. In 2016, I was at a restaurant in Montenegro and saw the Rotary flag. I asked the owner about it, and he was a Rotarian. I was in Australia on Australia Day, and the Rotarians in Perth were selling sausages on the street. Through them I found another Rotary club to visit. On a bus trip in Peru, I met a district governor and his wife because he was wearing a Rotary hat. I met them in Cuzco, and then followed them to Lima and visited five Rotary clubs with them. When they came to Bangladesh, I introduced them to Rotarians in my country.

A lot of times Rotary clubs don't have the right information on their website. Many times in many countries, I've gone to the restaurant at the time the website said and there was no meeting. They may not have the right phone number, and sometimes they take a week or a month to check email. I use Facebook to contact clubs. It's quicker.

Last year I joined the International Travel and Hosting Fellowship. We have more than 1,000 members, and we host each other. Or sometimes we just pick each other up from the airport or meet and show each other the local places of interest, the food, and the culture. It's a great way to connect with a lot of different Rotarians.

Rotary is one family. I remember one Rotarian in Guatemala who helped me get a visa for Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan embassy told me I couldn't get a visa for 14 days. I called the Rotarian, and he talked to the officials in Spanish. I had the visa in an hour.

In San Diego, a Rotarian I met told me I was crazy, that I couldn't travel by road to Brazil. It took me 3 1/2 months, but I did it. I sent him an email when I got there.

— As told to Diana Schoberg

Fall in love through Rotary by Jessica and Jim Aiello

Rotary Club of Harrisburg Keystone, Pennsylvania

Jim: I got selected for Group Study Exchange in 2012. The Harrisburg Keystone club was sponsoring me, so I figured I would go thank them. Jessica was the president. I sat down, and I was like, "That woman is really pretty. I need to come back here."



Jessica: He went to Scotland, and when he came back, we formed a friendship. For those first few years, we both dated different people off and on. When those relationships end, we would sit down over a mug of beer and complain about how dating was so stressful! Meanwhile, one of our mutual friends in the club was putting bugs in our ears: "What about Jim? What about Jessica? Why isn't it something more?" Jim: There was an undercurrent in our club of members trying to get us together. I was like,

"Wow, she's beautiful," and I enjoyed being with her, but I didn't want to mess up a friendship.

Jessica: I found a great job in Virginia, so I decided to take it. While I was getting ready to move, Jim and I spent more and more time together. I started to realize, "This guy is a wonderful friend, but I see that there could be something more."

Jim: It was a glass of red wine that was the turning point.

Jessica: We had dinner one night, and that led to a kiss. At first I said, "Let's back off; I want to get settled in Fredericksburg first." But after not talking to him for even a few days, I missed him so much. That led to a decision to try out a long-distance relationship.

Jim: A week before she moved, we were at a Rotary party, and I was like, "I'm just going to kiss you in front of everyone."

Jessica: That sort of let the cat out of the bag. We dated long distance for almost two years, and finally I moved back to Harrisburg. At every club meeting, members can give a "happy dollar" to our sergeant-at-arms, and then you get 15 seconds to make an announcement. So Jim gave a dollar and said, "I proposed to Jessica, and she said yes."

Jim: Our wedding official worked *Service Above Self* into his speech, and we had about 20 Rotarians there.

Jessica: Rotary has strengthened our relationship, we can volunteer at the food bank or pick up trash together - something active that's making the world a better place. I've always wanted to be with one who cared about others as I do, and I've definitely found that in Jim.

If I meet somebody I think would be good for a fellow Rotarian, I'm not shy about saying, "Hey, would you want to have a drink with this person?" We have not had any club members get engaged through our setups yet, but we're working on it.

Jim: I'll get one before the end of the year. I feel it.

— As told to Anne Ford

To be continued...

Birthdays of Rotary members in January, 2019

Aniruddha Roy Chaudhary, past Governor on January 1, 2019

Rajendra Khandelwal, past Governor on January 3, 2019

PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on January 9, 2019

Indra Kumar Bagri, on January 10, 2019

Ashok Kumar Surana on January 10, 2019

Angsuman Bandyopadhyay, past Governor on January 18, 2019

PP Dr Aruna Tantia on January 19, 2019

Anniversary of Rotary members in January, 2019

Sp Sumati & PDG Rabindra P Sehgal on January 6, 2019

Sp Shashiprava & PDG Prabhat K Rohatgi on January 16, 2019

Sp Sunando & PDG Shyamashree Sen on January 18, 2019

Spouse Sushila & Ashok K Surana on January 19, 2019

Sp Papia & PDG Debashis Mitra on January 26, 2019

Sp Dr Nandita & President Dr Ankush Bansal on Jan, 28, 2019

January is Vocational Service Month

Upcoming club's community service programs

- **On Sunday, January 13, 2019:** Medical camp and blanket distribution at Chakda, Nadia District, West Bengal
- **On Sunday, January 20, 2019 at Amta, Howrah District:** Training of upcoming 25 Cycle Van recipients on best utilization of the vans and survey of change in economic status of persons who received Cycle Vans earlier
- **On Thursday, January 24, 2019 at Meena Khan, South 24 Parganas District:** Training of upcoming 20 Cycle Van recipients on best utilization of the vans and survey of change in economic status of persons who received Cycle Vans earlier
- **On Sunday, February 3, 2019:** Distribution of 20 Cycle Vans, 2 hand paddled tri-cycles and 100 Geometry boxes at Meena Khan, South 24 Parganas District
- **On Sunday, February 17, 2019:** Distribution of 25 Cycle Vans at Amta, Howrah District

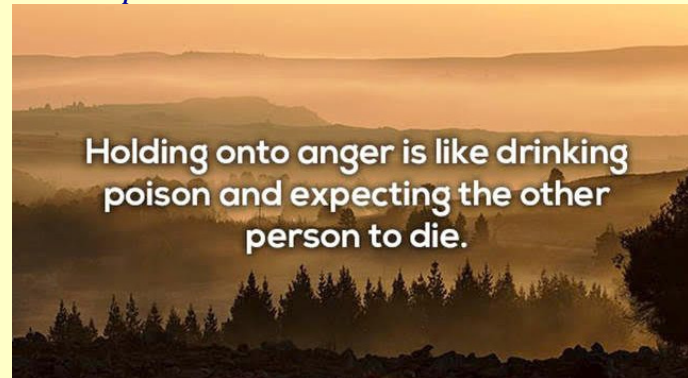
UNWIND

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST IGNORES IN INDIA?

- 1) We'd rather spend more on daughters wedding than on her education.
- 2) We live in a country where seeing a Policeman makes us nervous rather than feeling safe.
- 3) In IAS exam, a person writes a brilliant 1500 words essay about how Dowry is a social evil. Impresses everyone and cracks the exam. One year later same person demands a dowry of 1 crore, because He is an IAS officer.
- 4) Indians are very shy and still are 121Crore.
- 5) Indians are obsessed with screen guards on their smartphones even though most come with scratch proof Gorilla Glass but never bother wearing a helmet while riding their bikes.
- 6) Indian Society teaches 'NOT TO GET RAPED', rather 'DON'T RAPE'!
- 7) Reserved people get more benefit than deserve people...
- 8) The worst movies earn the most.
- 9) A porn-star is accepted in society as a celebrity, but a rape victim is not even accepted as a normal human being.
- 10) Politicians Divide us, Terrorists Unite us
- 11) Everyone is in a hurry, but no one reaches on time.
- 12) Priyanka Chopra earned more money playing Mary Kom, than Mary Kom earned in her entire career.
- 13) Its dangerous to talk to strangers, but it's perfectly ok to marry one.
- 14) Most people who fight over Gita and Quran, have probably never read any of them.

TAILPIECE

Buddha Inspiration



Holding onto anger is like drinking
poison and expecting the other
person to die.

We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Auditorium at 9th floor, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 5.00 PM

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