Shitizens/ Citizens: Why Ignoring Sustainability, Gender and Culture Undermines Sanitation Progress

Professor Lyla Mehta
L.Mehta@ids.ac.uk
Institute of Development Studies, UK and Norwegian University of Life Sciences

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Shit and inequality

• Inequalities are reflected in how and where a person shits
• “Second-Class Shitizens” – Cohen (2010) and socio-economic marginalisation (Jewitt, 2011)
• Full or non citizens?
• Powerless women and men, often deemed to be illegal and invisible (or ‘impure’ and ‘dirty’)
• Sanitation programmes and the poor and marginalised
• The myth of the community
The problems with sanitation drives and campaigns
Conclusions

• Beyond toilets to environmental justice and realising rights
• Need to link socio-technical, cultural and ecological dynamics
• Build on local cultural dynamics and perceptions
• Gender and social exclusions cannot be ignored
• Locate sanitation within issues of poverty, inclusion, rights and citizenship
• Failure to do this compromises on wider sustainability and sanitation justice