If You Live in One of These 16 Countries, Your 'Bathroom' Is Probably Outdoors

April 9, 2014: About 2.5 billion citizens around the world lack access to proper sanitation, meaning they are forced to practice open defecation.

Spot news stories on booming economies and think pieces on population growth—that’s what a quick Web search for “China” or “India” will get you. But according to data compiled by the World Health Organization/UNICEF’s Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, the two nations should probably be known for something else as well: Of the handful of countries whose residents have the least access to toilets, India and China rank first and second.

An eyepopping 818 million people in India and 607 million people in China don’t have the kind of sanitation facilities (a toilet connected to a septic tank or sewer system) that most Americans take for granted. People from these two countries constitute about half of the 2.5 billion citizens around the world who practice open defecation—yes, that means going No. 2 in fields or on the street.

Things aren’t much better in other nations. Take Nigeria: Although the country has a $510 billion economy, the biggest in Africa, a staggering 103 million of its citizens also lack access to proper sanitation facilities.

The health consequences for those living without toilets are severe: About 700,000 children die annually from diarrhea caused by unsafe water and a lack of access to proper sanitation. That’s almost 2,000 kids a day.

The good news is that engineers and designers around the world are working to create practical sanitation solutions—water- and electricity-free toilets that don’t need a municipal sewer system connection to function. If these innovators’ efforts pay off, perhaps one day China and India will make headlines for the way they’re leading a sustainable toilet revolution.

(Source: Liz Dwyer, Posted in http://www.takepart.com/)

- Sanitation Issues: Global MDGs

Leader and About
If You Live in One of These 16 Countries, Your 'Bathroom' Is Probably Outdoors

Published on India Sanitation Portal (http://www.indiasanitationportal.org)

- Global MDGs

Quick Links

- Upload
- About Us
- Disclaimer
- Site Feedback

Partners

- MDWS
- WaterAid
- Arghyam
- Plan India
- WASH Institute
- SEI
- UNICEF
- WES-NET
- WSP
- Water for People
- Wherever the Need

Other Portals

- India Water Portal
- India Biodiversity Portal
- India Environment Portal
- India Energy Portal

Source URL: http://www.indiasanitationportal.org/18905

Links:
[3]
http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/04/03/forget-everything-you-know-about-toilets-these-4-designs-flush-poop-away-without
[4]
[6]