

# Assessing People's Attitudes and Perceptions on Human Waste Recycling: A Social Acceptability Research in Barangay Ithan, Binangonan, Rizal, Philippines



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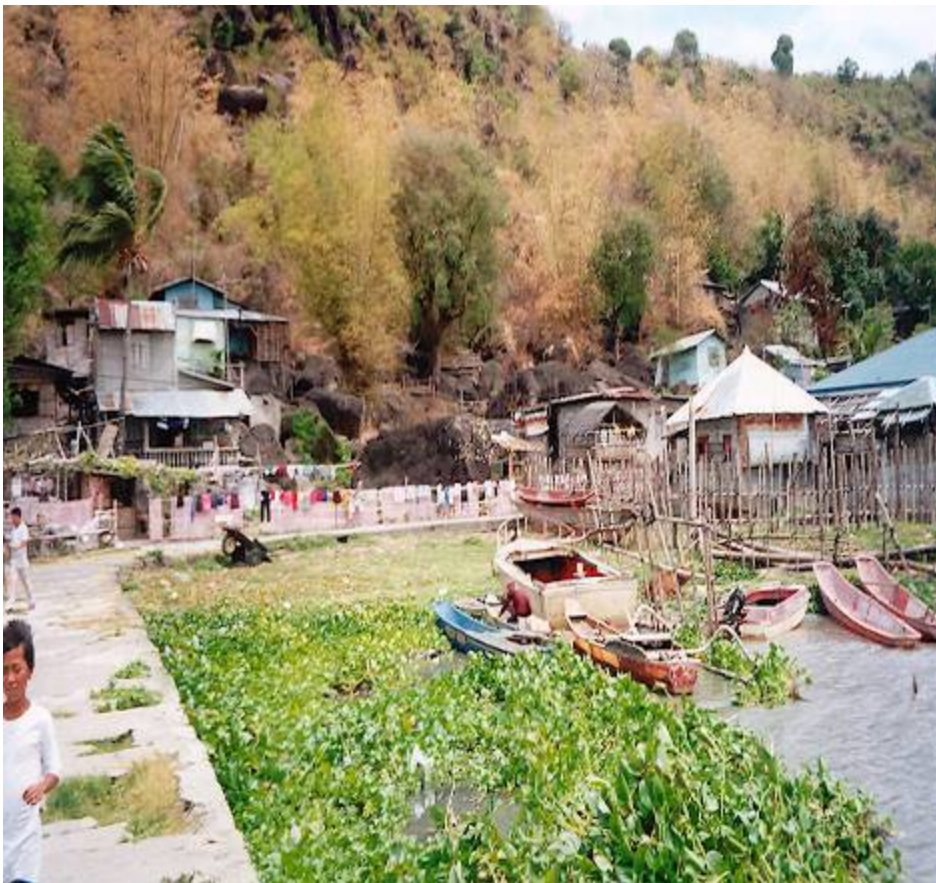


# Presentation outline

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- Situational analysis
- Research objectives
- Methodologies
- Results
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

# Situational analysis



## Private firm finds bacteria, fecal matter in Metro deepwells

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.  
Inquirer

Last updated 11:02pm (Mla time) 06/19/2007

**MANILA, Philippines** -- From slums to posh villages, residents in the metropolis could be drinking and bathing with water filled with bacteria and fecal matter, which can cause gastrointestinal problems and even skin diseases, if test results from a private testing center are to be believed.

Test results presented by QualiBet Testing Services, a private company which offers testing of water, food and cosmetics, showed the presence of bacteria or *E. Coli* in water samples taken from several deepwells and even processed water in Metro Manila.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer



# Research objectives

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- Assess existing sanitation practices of the pilot community;
- Determine knowledge, attitudes and perceptions towards human waste;
- Assess acceptability of human waste for agricultural use; and
- Gauge the response of the local government towards ecological sanitation.



# Significance of research

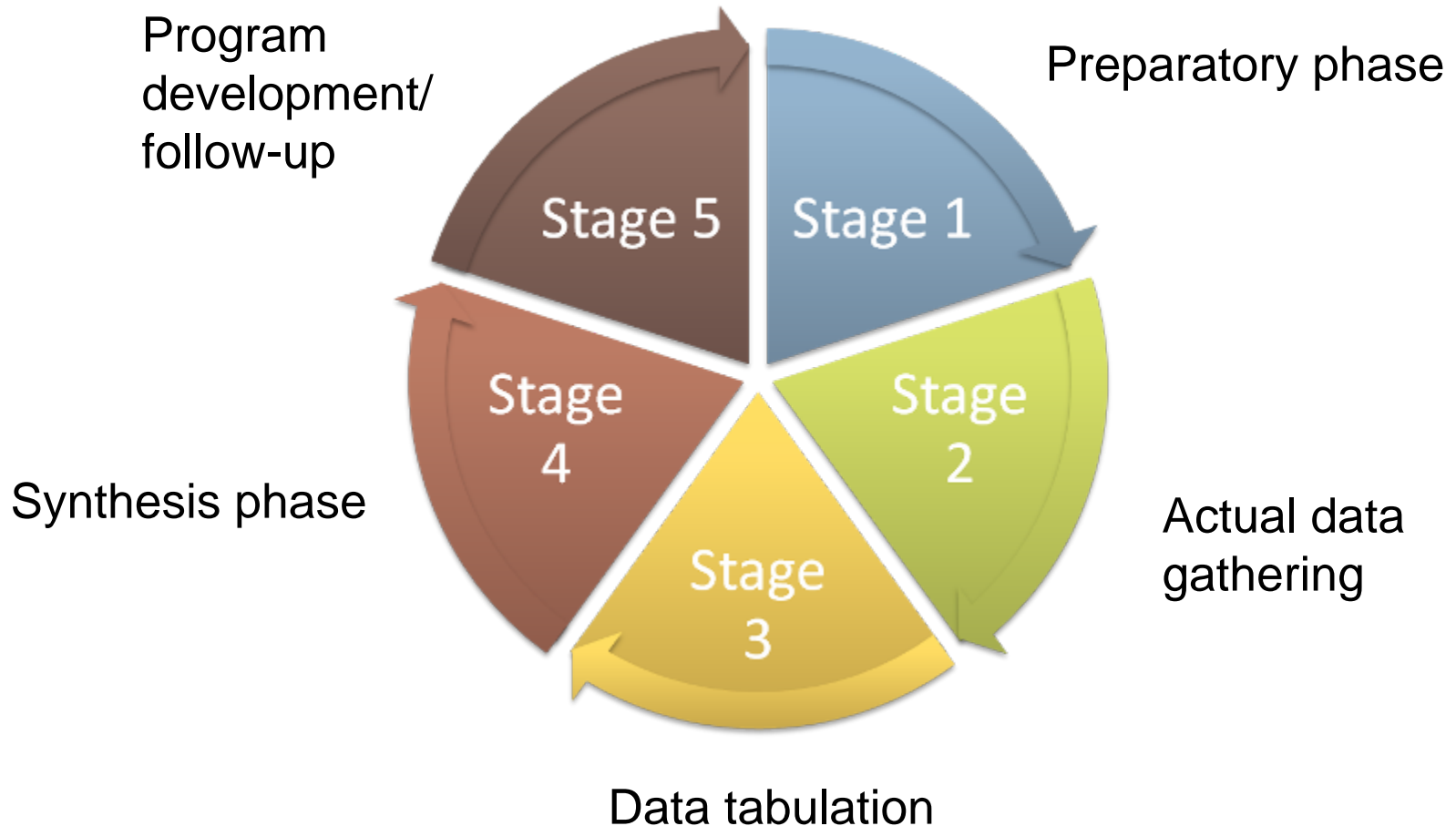
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- Limited study on ecological sanitation in the Philippines
- Topic of human waste is a taboo for Filipinos
- Technological revolution opens up opportunities in the Philippines
- Seriousness of sanitation problems calls for participatory approaches

# Methodologies



# Data gathering stages



# The pilot community...

- Situated in a peri-urban area close to Metro Manila
- Located along a lake where sanitation problem is serious
- People's organizations exist
- Accessible by the research team



Barangay Ithan



# Profile of pilot community



- 70% dependent on lake for survival
- Land area of 1.0 square kilometer
- Population of 22,294 or 450 households as of 2000
- 60% no toilet; 40% pit latrines

# Key results

- 75% have not heard of human waste as fertilizer
- 54% not willing to eat fruits and vegetables fertilized with human waste
- 68% willing to eat fruits and vegetables under certain conditions
- 95% have not heard of the urine-diverting toilet
- Local sanitation is mainly a woman's role

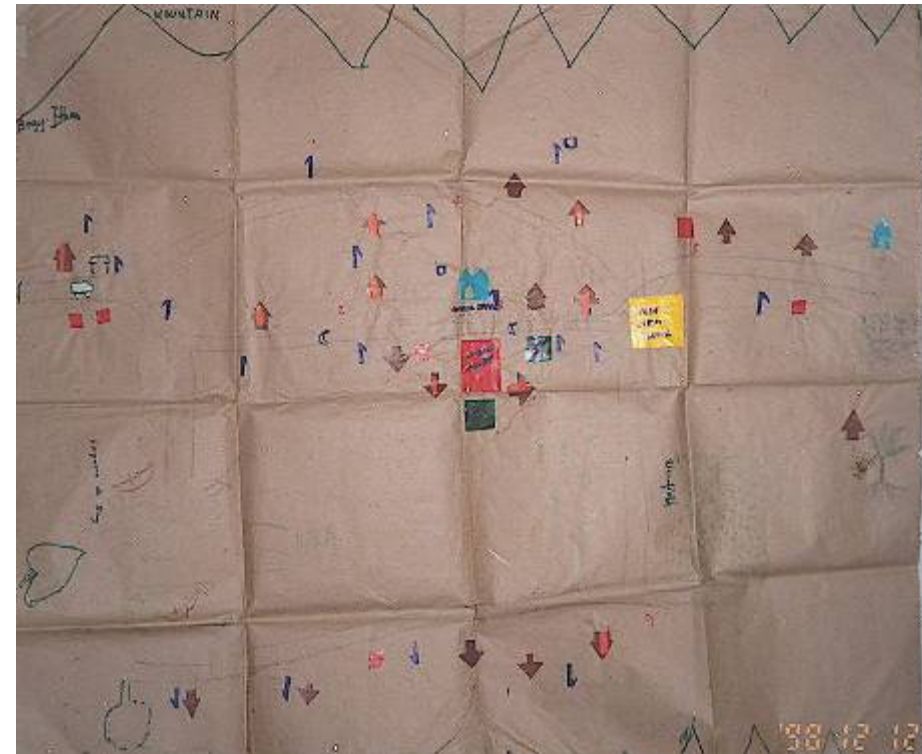


# Community mapping



men

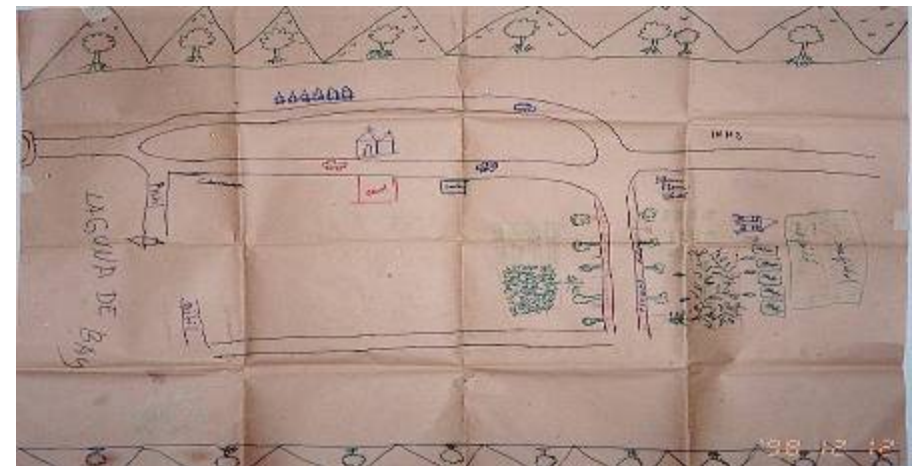
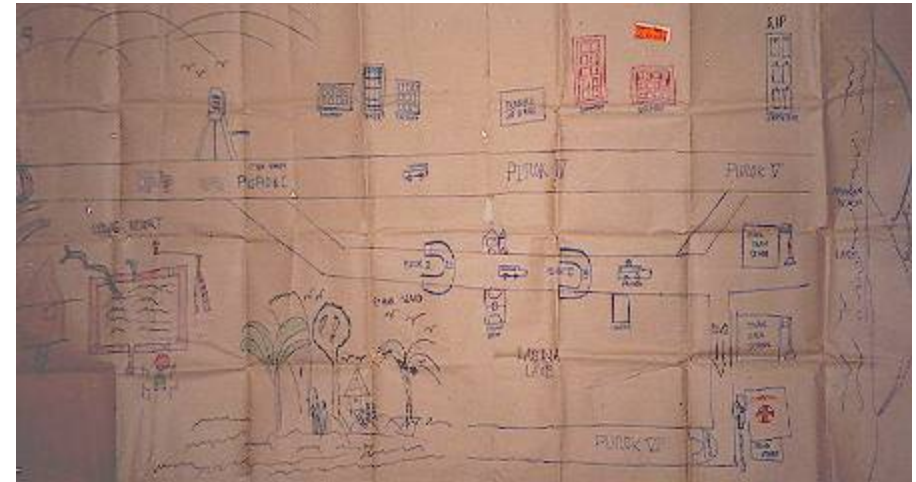
Infrastructures e.g. roads, school, farm area, etc.



women

Plants, trees, housing, church, ricefield and lake

# Community visioning



# Household interview



- Covered 352/450 households
- Interview took 15-20 minutes/household
- More female respondents than male (228/128)
- Highest income P49,000; average income P5,000; no income

# Focus group discussions

- “Flying saucer” mentality
- Contaminated drinking water
- Human waste as dirty



- Alternative sources available
- Possible to use but must eradicate pathogens
- Must be linked to livelihood

# Feedbacking activity



- Presented results of survey conducted
- Validated data collected
- Data gaps filled in
- Additional ideas collected





# Conclusions

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- Community openness towards ecological sanitation
- Human waste recycling as sandwiched between “alternatives”
- Government as the “regulator”
- Perception studies give rise to other felt issues e.g. lack of jobs, school, etc.





# Recommendations

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- Community-based education on human waste both as a resource and as a threat
- Local policy legislation promoting ecosan as an alternative system
- Pilot testing of an ecosan project in Barangay Ithan
- Invite private sector to invest in composting toilets
- Access to credit for local sanitation projects



Thank you

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