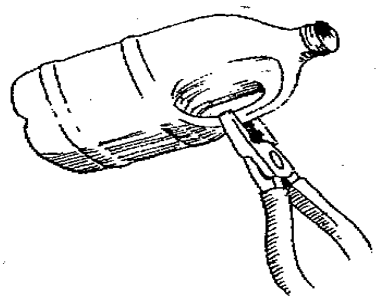
RWSSP: Technical Advisory Note 4.3
Sanitation - Hand Washing/ How to make a Tippy tap

Introduction

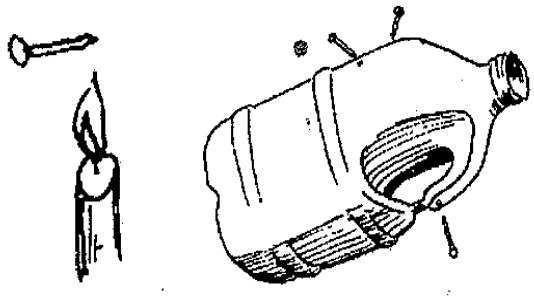
It is important to have water as close as possible to latrines to encourage people to wash their hands immediately after using the toilet. A tippy tap is a simple way to provide this water and can be made from a plastic or tin bottle or container. Tippy taps allow just a little water to flow each time they are tipped. They are simple and quick to make. They can be hung just outside a latrine or by the door of the home. Soap may be expensive but makes washing more effective. Bars of soap can be tied with string to prevent them being lost or dissolving in water. If rainfall is heavy, a small tin can is hung over the soap to keep it dry. If soap is not available, wood ash, sand or soil can be placed in a small tin and used instead.

How to make a Tippy Tap

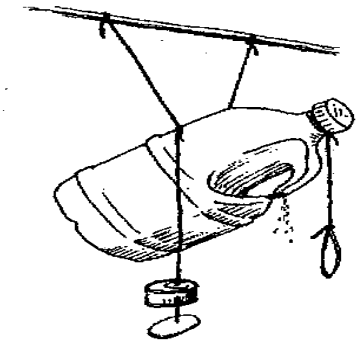
1. Warm the base of the handle over a candle and then pinch gently with pliers to seal it tight so water cannot flow through.



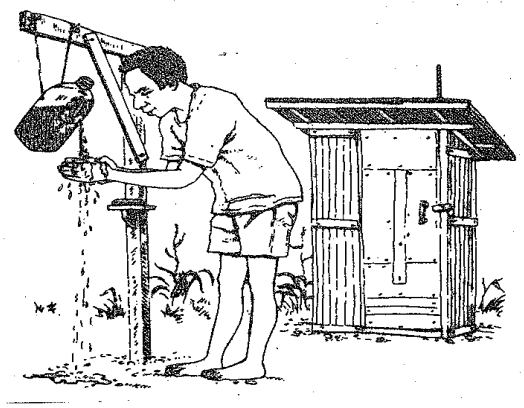
2. Heat the point of a small nail over a candle and make three holes as shown.



3. Thread string through the two holes on the back and tie the bottle to a stick. Attach soap (with an empty tin can above it to protect it from rain) and make a handle which is pulled to let out a trickle of water.



4. The tippy tap can be installed outside of the latrine, next to the kitchen and eating area.



Concluding Comments

Tippy Taps are really easy to make and as a hand wash facility, play a significant role in the prevention of diseases. They are efficient if they are constantly refilled and have soap or other cleaning agents available.

Note:- *Children like to play with tippy-taps as a game or a toy, and so the container can empty more quickly than necessary. It is important to ensure that the containers are re-filled after they have been used, and the responsibility to keep them filled can sometimes be given to children.*

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