

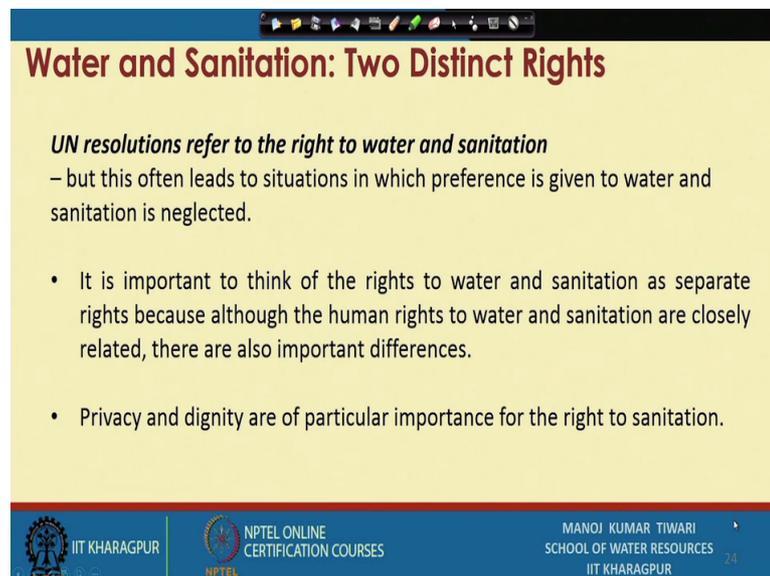
**Water Economics and Governance**  
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**Lecture – 08**  
**Right to Sanitation**

Hello everyone. So, we are into the week 2 of this course and in the last lecture we have been talking about the right to water which is basically on to the water rights, we did talk about how united nations has accepted the right to water and sanitation as basic human right, as basic human right in its general assembly into in 2010 although there has been talks much before. So, we did discuss about the basics of right to water in the earlier lecture and in this lecture we will be talking about the main features of right to sanitation.

Which is again, which is again a very integral part of the holistic water management system because the management of sanitation facilities or wastewater again is one of the essential component for overall management of water. So, we will be talking about the right to sanitation in this lecture.

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**Water and Sanitation: Two Distinct Rights**

*UN resolutions refer to the right to water and sanitation*  
– but this often leads to situations in which preference is given to water and sanitation is neglected.

- It is important to think of the rights to water and sanitation as separate rights because although the human rights to water and sanitation are closely related, there are also important differences.
- Privacy and dignity are of particular importance for the right to sanitation.

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To start with the usually when we talk about like water many people consider water and sanitation together. So, UN resolution which referred to right to water and sanitation has actually considered water and sanitation as 2 distinct rights to separate rights; however,

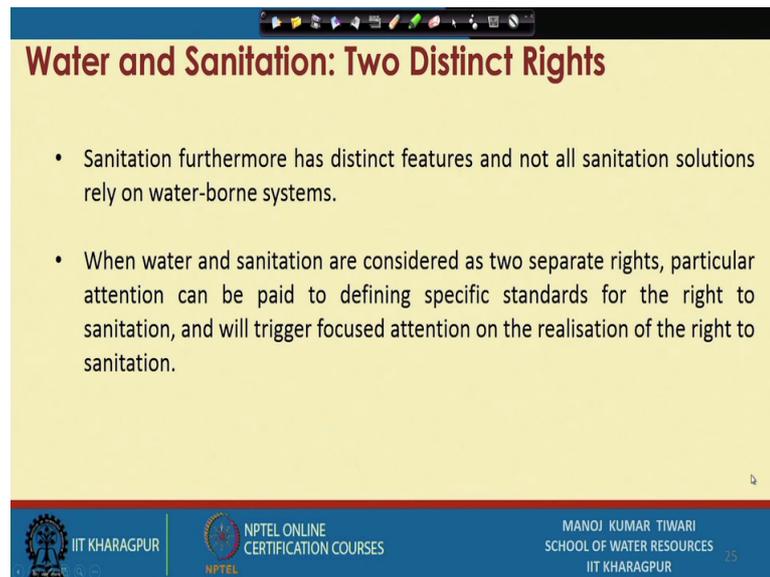
often many organizations, institutions even nations give preference to the water and in that sense sanitation is neglected.

That is the case in many countries many developed many developing countries particularly and India is no exception. So, if you happen to see the status of India the data from India which we basically are discussed earlier also if you recall. So, the status of sanitation is much worse than the status of supply, if you recall those numbers in terms of water supply our urban at least urban population is around 80 percent of urban population is somehow fed with the water supply, but in sanitation we barely go around up even up to 40 percent. So, that is the situation and that is the practice in various other developing countries and of course, under developed countries it is even worse the case.

So, this sanitation neglecting this sanitation actually is causing another sort of problem and in UN resolution when it was discussed at length. So, it was discussed that sanitation is also very important and should be given due emphasis, should be considered or should be should be financed to manage with due importance and should not be ignored in the purview of water management. So, it is important to think that right of water and sanitation has separate rights because although the human right to water and sanitation are closely related the activities both are closely related, but they have some very peculiar some very important differences.

For example, the privacy and dignity are of very high importance for right to sanitation which may not be that important for right to water, one would not mind seeing somebody like I particular is not likely to mind if someone else sees him filling a bucket of water from a public tap or from a tap, but he would definitely mind if someone sees him during his usual sanitation practices.

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**Water and Sanitation: Two Distinct Rights**

- Sanitation furthermore has distinct features and not all sanitation solutions rely on water-borne systems.
- When water and sanitation are considered as two separate rights, particular attention can be paid to defining specific standards for the right to sanitation, and will trigger focused attention on the realisation of the right to sanitation.

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So, that is why there is like it sanitation has few of its own distinct feature which should be considered and given due importance. So, further not all sanitation solutions rely on water borne systems, some sanitation solution could be depending on to the alternate solution.

When water and sanitation are considered as 2 separate rights particular attention can be paid to the specific standards for the right of sanitation as well and that will likely to trigger a more focused attention a more in depth and serious attempt in order to manage this sanitation and that is what is the aim towards the realization of right to sanitation. So, the right to sanitation and right to water, although closely related should be considered should be given due importance in considering them as a separate rights 2 distinct right that is what was discussed in the united nations.

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**Water and Sanitation: Two Distinct Rights**

- In order to describe the meaning of water and sanitation as two Distinct Rights, content categories have been developed in [General Comment No. 15 on the Right to Water](#) and in the [Statement on Sanitation](#), both issued in November 2010, by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) the treaty body responsible for monitoring State compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Source: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/>

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So, what actually in order to describe the meaning of water and sanitation as distinct rights the content categories has been developed separately.

So, content category was developed under general comment number 15 on the right to water whereas, there was a separate statement released on by the UN committee on economics and social cultural rights in November 2010 meeting after that right to water and sanitation was passed under united nations general assembly in July 2010. So, in November 2010 in the committee of economic social and cultural rights released different distinct content on to the right to water under its general comment number 15 and particular statement on sanitation.

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The slide displays a document header from the United Nations Economic and Social Council, dated 19 November 2010. The document is titled 'Statement on the Right to Sanitation' and was issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during its forty-fifth session in Geneva. The text of the statement includes two main points: first, that lack of access to sanitation affects human dignity and undermines economic, social, and cultural rights; second, that at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, a target on sanitation was added to the Millennium Development Goals, and the UN General Assembly declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation. A source link is provided at the bottom: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/>. The slide footer identifies the presenter as Manoj Kumar, School of Water, IIT Kharagpur, and mentions NPTEL Online Certification Courses.

So, they basically the statement on sanitation which was released is available on to this web source a it is basically released by the economic and social council under united nations.

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This slide provides a detailed summary of the 'Statement on the Right to Sanitation'. It contains two numbered points: 1. Lack of access to sanitation affects human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Until recently, sanitation was a largely neglected topic, though gradually it has begun to receive more attention. 2. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, a target on sanitation was added to the Millennium Development Goals emphasizing that reducing the number of people without access to sanitation is as fundamentally important as the other MDG targets. In order to raise awareness of, and to accelerate progress towards, that target, the UN General Assembly declared the year 2008 the International Year of Sanitation. The Human Rights Council, in turn, by Resolution A/HRC/RES/15/9 of 06 October 2010, reaffirmed the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation recognized by the General Assembly on 28 July 2010. The slide footer includes the IIT Kharagpur logo, NPTEL Online Certification Courses, and the presenter's name, Manoj Kumar, School of Water, IIT Kharagpur.

There were 8 distinct important points of which mainly the first few are actually the status making, status of a very like the lack of access of sanitation and that affecting human dignity, undermining the enjoyment of social and cultural light. So, some basic

information then about the issues how these issues are there awareness rising is needed in order to accelerate the progress into the sanitation management.

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**Statement on the Right to Sanitation**

3. However, despite these positive developments, the world is clearly not making sufficient progress. Sanitation is one of the most off-track targets of the Millennium Development Goals, and recent estimates have shown that between 2006 and 2008 an additional 100 million people were left without access to improved sanitation. Recognizing this fact, Governments were called upon to redouble efforts to close the sanitation gap, in the outcome document of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly held in September 2010 on the theme "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals".
4. 2.6 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation and over a billion people still have no option but to practice open defecation. In developing countries, as much as 80 % of wastewater is untreated and goes directly into lakes, rivers and oceans (WWDR, 2009, p. 141). As a direct consequence of this, diarrhoea is the second biggest cause of death of children under the age of five. Girls and boys do not attend school because they fall prey to diseases caused by inadequate sanitation.

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So, all these issues were discussed separately these points were released that despite some positive development there is still significant lagging in the sanitation management facilities and they actually sort of realized that sanitation is one of the most off track targets of the millennium development goals.

So, they again some numbers were estimated like there is additional 1000 million people who are left without access to the improved sanitation. So, these kind of some of these points were raised were discussed in detail there as sort of they identified the gap in the outcome sort in the in their outcome document of the high level plenary meeting of the general assembly held in the September 2010 on the theme keeping the promise of united to achieve the millennium development goals and as you are discussing sanitation is the most off track target under that.

The overall estimates suggested that around 2.6 billion people do not have access to improve sanitation and in developing countries around 80 percent of the waste water is untreated and goes directly to the lakes, rivers and oceans. So, this was also all these issues were discussed the cons this the consequences of these un proper sanitation practices resulting into the diarrhea was actually identified as the second biggest cause of

the death of children under 5, girls and boys the school issues were also discussed over there. So, these were the primary points some of the points that were highlighted.

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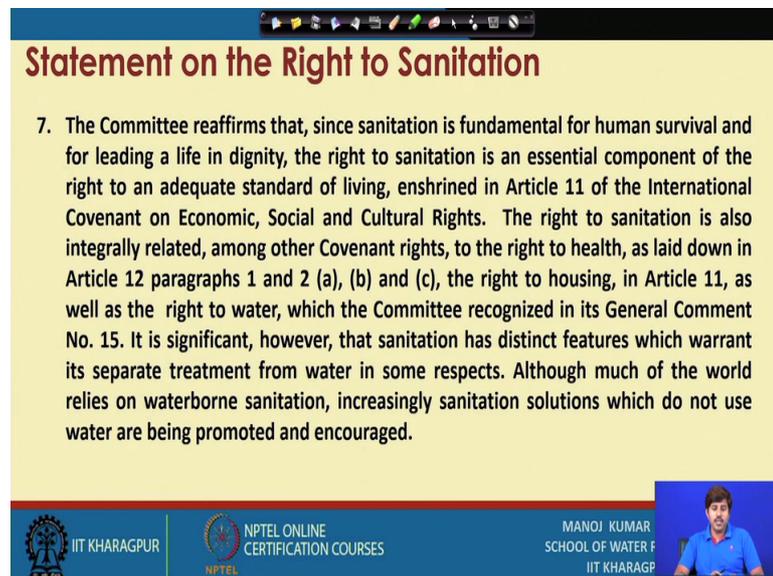


**Statement on the Right to Sanitation**

5. Moreover, girls do not go to school in many parts of the world for lack of toilets, or lack of separate toilets for them. People living in poverty are disproportionately impacted by lack of access to sanitation. Recent research estimates that, for every dollar invested in sanitation, there is about a nine-dollar long-term benefit in costs averted and productivity gained.
6. The Committee, being fully aware of the relevance of sanitation for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living, has regularly raised the issue of sanitation in its dialogue with States Parties and made specific reference to it in several of its General Comments.

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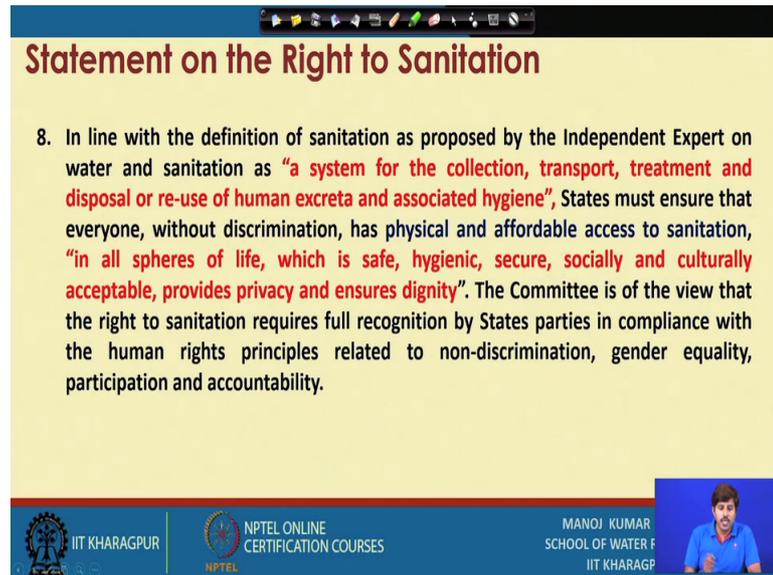
**Statement on the Right to Sanitation**

7. The Committee reaffirms that, since sanitation is fundamental for human survival and for leading a life in dignity, the right to sanitation is an essential component of the right to an adequate standard of living, enshrined in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The right to sanitation is also integrally related, among other Covenant rights, to the right to health, as laid down in Article 12 paragraphs 1 and 2 (a), (b) and (c), the right to housing, in Article 11, as well as the right to water, which the Committee recognized in its General Comment No. 15. It is significant, however, that sanitation has distinct features which warrant its separate treatment from water in some respects. Although much of the world relies on waterborne sanitation, increasingly sanitation solutions which do not use water are being promoted and encouraged.

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So, overall there the committee actually reaffirmed that sanitation is a fundamental human survival, sanitation is fundamental for basic human survival for leading a dignified life and right to sanitation is an essential component inclusive of all the other international human rights.

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**Statement on the Right to Sanitation**

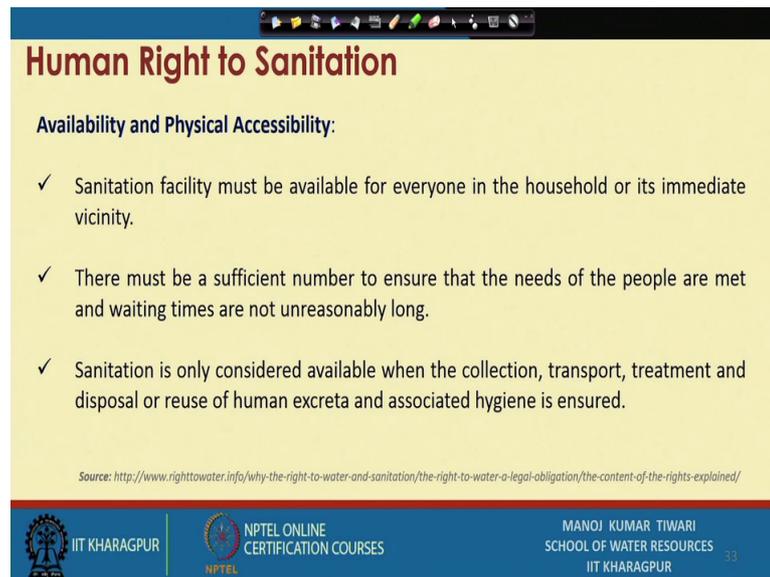
8. In line with the definition of sanitation as proposed by the Independent Expert on water and sanitation as **“a system for the collection, transport, treatment and disposal or re-use of human excreta and associated hygiene”**, States must ensure that everyone, without discrimination, has physical and affordable access to sanitation, **“in all spheres of life, which is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable, provides privacy and ensures dignity”**. The Committee is of the view that the right to sanitation requires full recognition by States parties in compliance with the human rights principles related to non-discrimination, gender equality, participation and accountability.

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So, they again sort of stated as per the general comment that was there the definition of a sanitation right proposed in that statement by the independent expert on water and sanitation was a system for the collection, transport, treatment and disposal or reuse of human excreta and associated hygiene. So, this is what was sort of considered the definition and under the right the committee affirmed in its statement that states must ensure everyone without discrimination the physical affordable access to sanitation in all sphere of life which is safe hygienic secure socially and culturally acceptable provides privacy and ensure dignity.

So, similar to the right to water which we discussed earlier the committee released a statement on to the right to sanitation and the various aspects of sanitation was given due importance for the discussion.

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**Human Right to Sanitation**

**Availability and Physical Accessibility:**

- ✓ Sanitation facility must be available for everyone in the household or its immediate vicinity.
- ✓ There must be a sufficient number to ensure that the needs of the people are met and waiting times are not unreasonably long.
- ✓ Sanitation is only considered available when the collection, transport, treatment and disposal or reuse of human excreta and associated hygiene is ensured.

Source: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/the-right-to-water-a-legal-obligation/the-content-of-the-rights-explained/>

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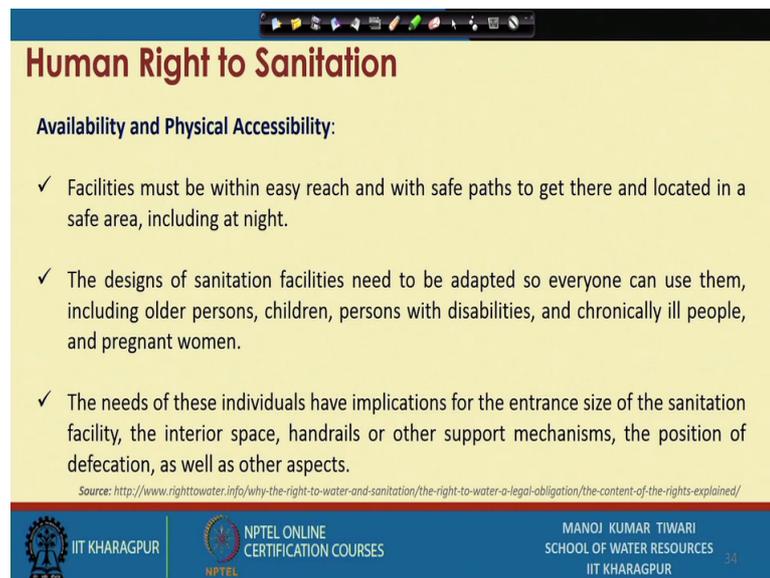
So, the if we go on to the decoding right to sanitation as we did with the right to water in our previous lecture the right to sanitation also has some distinct feature that it demands, that it demands certain types certain specific type of sanitation facilities must be made available to the all citizens without discrimination. So, what was these important points. So, one was the availability and physical accessibility. So, some of the points are actually similar to the right to water, but if you see as like we just talked earlier also that sanitation additionally has some further distinct features and that was considered by the expert committee in releasing the statement and in decoding what exactly the right to sanitation is sort of refers. So, the availability and physical acceptability was one of the prime factors of right to sanitation. So, sanitation facility must be available for everyone in household or immediate vicinity. So, similar to right to water one should not basically ask to walk down a couple of kilometers to for sort of their sanitation needs, further there must be a sufficient number to ensure that the needs of the people are met and waiting time are not unreasonably long. So, like for public toilets or common places and all that if a government is building a public toilet in a village with a population of let us say 500 people just and they are just creating 2, 3 toilets. So, you can assume that what degree of rush is expected in front of those toilets particularly in the morning hours.

So, that is again not acceptable when we say that it should be available and physically accessible; that means, it should be available in reasonable amount of time and waiting time should not be unreasonably long, that is one of the points that was discussed then

the when we say that sanitation facility must be available. So, sanitation facility as was disc as was basically pointed out by the expert in that meeting that sanitation is only considered available when all the aspects are available like the collection the transport the treatment the disposal or reuse are all available under hygienic conditions. So, that is what essentially means the availability of sanitation facility.

It just does not mean that you one creates loo room and then after that forgets that is not a proper sanitation facility the sanitation facility should have in operation management facility included including all these features like collection transport or its further treatment or disposal largely used whatever it is. So, that is that is to be observed or that is to be seen when basically considering this about sanitation facilities.

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**Human Right to Sanitation**

**Availability and Physical Accessibility:**

- ✓ Facilities must be within easy reach and with safe paths to get there and located in a safe area, including at night.
- ✓ The designs of sanitation facilities need to be adapted so everyone can use them, including older persons, children, persons with disabilities, and chronically ill people, and pregnant women.
- ✓ The needs of these individuals have implications for the entrance size of the sanitation facility, the interior space, handrails or other support mechanisms, the position of defecation, as well as other aspects.

Source: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/the-right-to-water-a-legal-obligation/the-content-of-the-rights-explained/>

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So, that is what was indicated based on the availability and physical accessibility the facilities must be within easy reach and with safe paths to get there and located in a safe area including at night that was another important point discussed that when we make certain sanitation facility available it should be easily approachable as well.

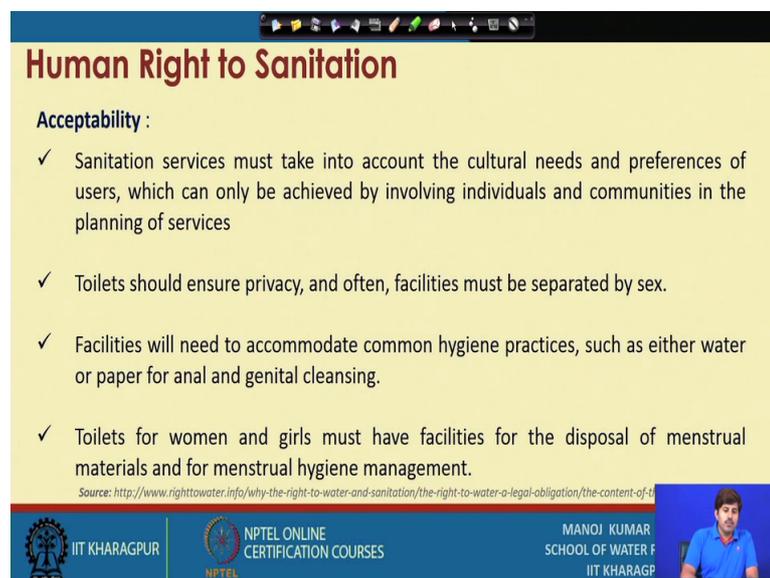
So, there must be safe paths and should be accessible in the darker phase of the day that is night actually. So, in the safe area, then the design of sanitation facility needs to be adopted to everyone actually who can use them. So, if it is basically a sanitation facilities being made for a village for or for a common sanitation facility is being developed by the government for example. So, it should basically be capable of capable of serving older

persons, children's, person with disabilities or chronically ill people pregnant women so all these criteria's needs to be needs to be properly thought or before designing.

This actually need of the individual have implications on to the like when we talk when we say that the facility must be able to serve a variety of the people a various section of the community including children, women, older persons, disabled persons so; that means, that design has to be appropriate with all the features like there may be requirement of a sort of larger entrance size in the sanitation facility the some specific interior space requirement must be there, there may be requirement of hand rail for olded or unsupported people or other support mechanism the position of defecation whether Indian system, western systems what kind of system is needed actually.

So, in like similar other aspects needs to be considered when we are talking about the availability and physical accessibility of the sanitation facility, so in terms of physical accessibility it should be accessible in these features also.

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**Human Right to Sanitation**

**Acceptability :**

- ✓ Sanitation services must take into account the cultural needs and preferences of users, which can only be achieved by involving individuals and communities in the planning of services
- ✓ Toilets should ensure privacy, and often, facilities must be separated by sex.
- ✓ Facilities will need to accommodate common hygiene practices, such as either water or paper for anal and genital cleansing.
- ✓ Toilets for women and girls must have facilities for the disposal of menstrual materials and for menstrual hygiene management.

Source: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/the-right-to-water-a-legal-obligation/the-content-of-t>

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Now, coming on to the acceptability so again when we talk about the acceptability in terms of water we primarily talk about the aesthetic view of the water or the quality of water, we primarily relates with the quality of water, but in terms of sanitation acceptability is more so on to the social front. So, sanitation services must take into account the cultural and social preferences. So, for example, if you give a western toilet

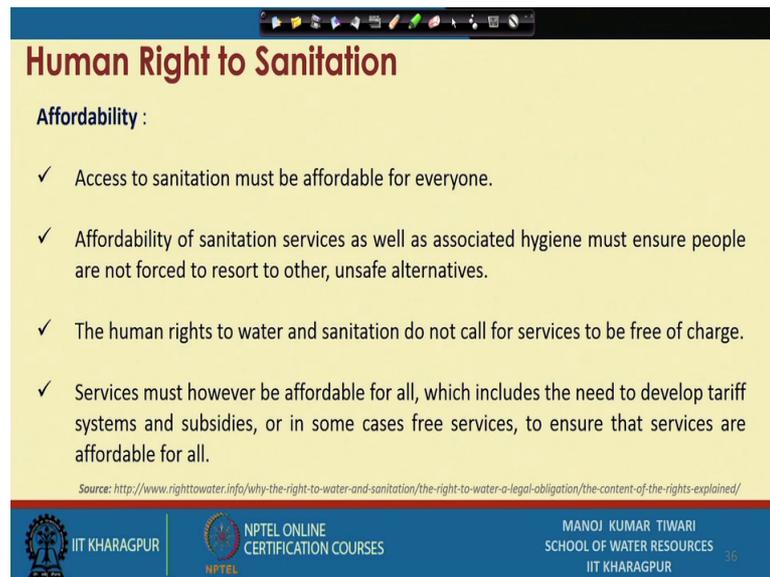
western kind of toilet in an Indian rural village that may not be acceptable to people, people are not culturally adopted to that kind of defecation practices.

So, similarly if you provide a Indian toilet to some other country where people are not practiced to use this kind of defecation practices they will not be able to use it. So, whatever sanitation services is being provided is to be acceptable in terms of cultural need and preferences or as well. So, user should be basically how you can manage that, you can manage that when these things are being planned one must involve individuals and communities in the planning of these services then one must understand the requirement of the section for which it is being provided and the facility should be designed based on the requirement of the of the community.

The toilets should ensure privacy and generally should be separate for separate sex. So, typically a separate male and female toilets are encouraged and moreover the defecation is such thing which people want to usually one wants privacy while defecating. So, this privacy must ensure because if it is in a open space or open system people will avoid going for going for toilets or going for defecation over those places. So, that kind of facility although may be in generally means technologically sound and everything, but may not be acceptable to public so that also can must be seen then these facilities should accommodate the common hygiene practices. Now, again the height the hygiene practices are different on different places some people use water for cleaning, some pipe at some places or some countries paper is used for cleaning. So, your toilet facility should have those kind of features incorporated in it then only it will be acceptable, like a western world where paper is used for cleaning purpose if you put such a system over in India where there is no water provision in the toilet nobody is going to use that or you put water in means rivers of this you put this water facility and all that you know western in a toilet in the west.

Where people are used habituated to use paper and if there is no paper so then they might find it difficult to adapt to that. So, again the acceptability will depend on these features as well as discussing earlier generally they toilet for these based on gender is specific like the female toilet should be separate from man and generally toilet for women and girls must have facilities for disposal of menstrual material and their menstrual hygiene management as well.

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**Human Right to Sanitation**

**Affordability :**

- ✓ Access to sanitation must be affordable for everyone.
- ✓ Affordability of sanitation services as well as associated hygiene must ensure people are not forced to resort to other, unsafe alternatives.
- ✓ The human rights to water and sanitation do not call for services to be free of charge.
- ✓ Services must however be affordable for all, which includes the need to develop tariff systems and subsidies, or in some cases free services, to ensure that services are affordable for all.

Source: <http://www.righttowater.info/why-the-right-to-water-and-sanitation/the-right-to-water-a-legal-obligation/the-content-of-the-rights-explained/>

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Then there is a aspect of affordability as well. So, access to sanitation must be affordable to everyone, similar discussion we had in the previous lecture about the water that a right to water ensures that water is made available at affordable cost and for water purpose if you recall there was the w h o n agencies have suggested a number that it should be available at less than 3 percent monthly household income no such number has been suggested for sanitation, but sanitation facilities also must be affordable for everyone, affordable means its it does not say that it has to be free of charge. So, human right to water or sanitation do not call that services are to be provided for free. So, that is not the objective actually of human right to water and sanitation.

But, affordability is a clause so if it is not free that does not mean one is entitled to keep price it as per the considering as per general market commodity where there is a profit making and all that or the financial sustainability of businesses is involved should not be managed that way the affordability should be ensured that for different sections of people. So, somebody who is who has a willingness to greater willingness to pay can afford these services at higher tariffs, but the poor people the deprived people who do not have that much capacity to pay or that much willingness to pay should also be made sanitation facilities available at generally smaller or what we what we can say is subsidized cost. So, these services sort of which should be developed all the tariffs and all that system should be developed one may need actually subsidy, government subsidies to ensure the affordability of these facilities to poorer section of the society

now that is what exactly sort of being done over here. So, if you see this the prime ministers scheme of creating toilet or giving subsidies for toilets. So, those who are in a rural scale those who are want to make toilet in their household the government is providing some 10000 a little over 10000 rupees as a subsidy. So, almost more than half of the cost or around that much percent of the cost is being shared by the government for that purpose in order to promote the, promote the toilet facilities and cut down on to the open defecation under Swach Bharath mission in our own country. So, those kind of those kind of provisions are to be thought about in order to ensure the human right to sanitation these are the basic features of human right to sanitation similar to the human right to water where the along with along with ensuring the water supply or the availability of good quant of adequate quantity and good quality water at affordable cost to its citizen there is a states responsibility under human right to sanitation to ensure the availability of sanitation facilities also under these various features.

So, sanitation affordable sanitation facility acceptable sanitation facility and easily approachable sanitation facility is what needed. So, that way in combination the human right to human right to water and human right to sanitation or generally the rights to water and sanitation what how typically UN refers it. So, in combination it ensures the right of the people to get a safe and adequate facilities for grabbing for acquiring for meeting their water demands as well as sanitation practices. So, with this we will stop this session and in the subsequent session then we are going to talk about some of the features some of the some of the sort of features of any basic human right and how what points need to be taken care while implementation of these rights. So, we will discuss little about the implementation of these rights in the next lecture.

Thank you.