

In need of water to improve personal hygiene

Almost all of 1,038 households of Thayat Kan village of Natogyi work as casual labor and make bamboo baskets to sell, some of them are also dedicated to animal husbandry.

Ma Htoo - who was born with disability in both hands - takes care of her elderly mother, and as many other in her community she faces drinking water problems. Ma Htoo told UN-Habitat “To get drinking water we have to fetch from a hand dug well located in another village, to get a five gallon bucket it takes about an hour, we spent almost a half day”.

Ma Htoo showed us how difficult fetching water for her was, she said “It is difficult to get enough water for personal hygiene, it is too far away, therefore all families shower at well, which is not comfortable for women, there is no privacy”. The water source is unprotected - no fencing no roofing – where animals can easily access to. She continued “People bath at well and the dirty water enters to the well contaminating it, there is also a leak inside the well, ground contaminated water filters too. We all drink this water!”.

Ma Htoo also talked about taking care of her mother “I help my mother dress and comb her hair, also her personal hygiene. I have to carry at least 15 gallons a day, but this is not enough for us, there is not much left for latrine use”. Mothers in the village bath their children in a basin, then keep that water for another child to bath, that is the way they can recycle the water. Ma Htoo said “This long practice habit is not healthy at all, especially for young children”.

To conclude she said “We need water – a safe drinking water – that is clean and of easy access to all, this will help us very much to improve our personal hygiene, our health will consequently improve”.

Thayat Kan village, Thayat Kan village tract
Natogyi Township, Photo UN-Habitat ©



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