THE IMPORTANCE OF HAND WASHING https://vimeo.com/230938629

**SUMMARY**

Yate is a mother in Tindo, Guinea whose young child was up the night before, sick from diarrhea. The next morning, she meets her neighbor Famata, who is shocked because the easy process of handwashing can help completely stop children from getting diarrhea. Famata tells Yate about the critical moments for handwashing and then asks her husband to show Yate their tippy-tap and to demonstrate how to properly wash her hands. Yate asks about washing children’s hands and Famata shows her.

**TRANSCRIPT**

Yate: Good morning, Famata

Famata: Good morning, how are you? You found me sweeping cow dung, wait for me.

**First Question: Why must we wash our hands?**

**First Answer: To avoid dirt and some dangerous illnesses, such as diarrhea.**

Famata: Yate, Let’s go sit down.

Famata: You are here very early this morning Yate, What is going on?

Yate: Famata, I came here early this morning with my child. We did not sleep last night. He spent the whole night suffering from diarrhea. This is why I came here this morning.

Famata: Eh Yate! With the introduction of hand washing, diarrhea is almost wiped out.

Famata: After sweeping the compound, after cleaning a child who just used the toilet, and before eating or feeding a child, you must wash your hands with water and soap. These practices will protect us from sicknesses and diarrhea.

Yate: Famata- I usually wash my hands, but the way you washed your hands, I don’t know how to do it that way. How is it done?

**Second Question- At what times must we wash our hands?**

**Second Answer- Before cooking, before eating, before feeding a child, after sweeping and using the toilet.**

Famata, Since you’ve asked me about that, it’s my husband who fixed the hand washing stations for me, we have one in front of the kitchen, one in front of the toilet and one in the compound where we wash our hands before eating. Let me call him so that he can show you how to do it.

Famata: My Husband! My friend came to us in order for you to teach her how to wash her hands with water and soap for her to do the same at home as we do.

Husband: Welcome! It’s good that you came. Hand washing is very important. I have my tippy-taps. Let’s go so that I can show you and teach you how to do it so you can do the same thing at your home.

Husband: Yate – This is our hand washing station. This kettle contains clean water, the soap is in this rubber container to keep it away from the domestic animals, and this bucket is to collect the used water from the kettle that is to be thrown away after the hand washing.

**Third Question- Where do we install hand washing stations in the compound?**

**Third Answer- Near the kitchens, near eating places, and at the entrance of the toilets.**

Husband: Yate- I am going to show you the best way of hand washing.

Husband: Yate- See how to wash your hands.

Husband: Yate- After wetting your hands, you take the soap and rub it on your hands properly and then put the soap in its place.

Husband: Yate- Can you see? Rub your hands; rub your hands and your palms.

Husband: Yate- Do you see, you join your hands by placing one over the other and rub then together, you must continue up to the wrists.

Husband: Yate- After that you continue by rubbing your thumbs and then rinse your hands by using the water. You have to use enough water to rinse your hands properly. Now, look at my hands. They are clean, do you see?

Yate: Sekouba, I understand this method of hand washing and I will be able to do it from now on, but how do we wash children’s hands?

Famata: Yate- We don’t want to wear out my husband, I’ll teach you how to wash the children’s hands.

Famata: Yate- Do you see, you will first of all wet the child’s hands and rub the soap on them and wash properly. Wash all the fingers, the palms, and in-between the fingers, then rinse them correctly. As you can see, his hands are now clean.

Husband: Hand washing doesn’t mean using only imported soap. You can use the African black soap or wood ashes that we can get from the kitchen. This is how we wash our hands.

Husband: There are many important reasons for hand washing. It protects people from many illnesses such as diarrhea, cholera, and so on. It creates a very healthy environment for our families.

Husband: The last word: Hand washing is very good at any time. After you’ve used the toilet, you must wash your hands. You must wash your hands after cleaning the compound or animal waste. Hand washing is very good for everyone. This is the message I have for everybody.

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