

# Quantification of Environmental Assessment Parameters Leading to Economical Evaluation Technique for better choice of optimum Treatment Method for Small Villages in Egypt

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**Abstract**—The sanitation situation in the remote Villages in the Delta Egypt is becoming not only huge Environmental crises but also a crucial health problem. The problem lies in the rising of G.W.T due to the old used systems of disposal (bottomless cesspool "trench"), the waste water is mixing with the G.W.T and causing its rising to the extent that it floods the streets in some cases. One of the solutions that was considered was stabilization ponds, another was Extended Aeration (activated sludge). As new concept the Japanese university introduced Down Hanging sponge as an experienced solution for the task. For many years, decision makers for sanitation in Egypt built their decision upon initial cost only, neglecting the other long term costs like running cost and operation and maintenance and other factors affecting the treatment processes. Then, when fundamentals of Value Engineering science were introduced, thinking began to change. Now after the development of Environmental Engineering science, other factors that may affect the decision-making process, like sustainability, surrounding impact, the assessment, manipulation of environment. Moreover, other social factors were neglected like people habits and what effect that could have on them in daily life. Their ability to manage every system in case of decentralization, the contribution of Different stake holders that effect the management of every system especially in decentralization, those factors could be essential in any study. This study focuses on these new parameters and to translate them into numerical values to help the decision makers to make a better judgment and to reach the most practical decision needed for sanitation and water treatment in small villages in Egypt. The study of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is becoming urgent and more relying on management techniques such as risk analysis, creating weight score matrices for different variables surrounding the Environment of the different treatment plants in each case depending on the location, the cultural habits of inhabitants, Socio economic impact assessment, Sociological impacts, Ethical considerations.

**Keywords**—Decentralization, Down Hanging Sponge (D.H.S), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Extended Aeration

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(E.A), Life Cycle Analysis (LCA), Life cycle impact Assessment (LCIA), Risk Assessment Analysis, and Stabilization Ponds (SPO).

## I- Introduction

Municipal wastewater is the combination of liquid or water carried wastes originating in the sanitary conveniences of dwellings, commercial or industrial facilities and institutions, in addition to any groundwater, surface water and storm water that may be present. The quality of the treatment facility is one of the most country's difficulties which suffer from some anthropogenic insertion, including solid and liquid wastes from domestic wastewater of small rural areas. Such areas have the main source of pollutions and not included in the government's plans in near future for rehabilitation process or control (Metcalf, 2003). For many years, Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) was qualitatively expressed much more than quantitatively figured. It was not until lately when slow progress in this manner was revealed, which shows need to add more effort especially from other brother tools. Value engineering science helps better optimization and more mature judgment which could help decision makers in their choice of path. The pollution caused by the untreated waste water dumped into the Egyptian lakes and canals is a crucial problem. These can be shown properly when the following discussions is presented.

In rural Egypt, there is 4627 villages and 27000 satellites. The present population in villages in Egypt is about 40 million. The Village average population is 15000capita.Range of population in each village is from 5000 to 50000 capita (according to data from the holding company). According to statements of the minster of infrastructure in 2012, 50% of Egyptian population lack sanitation services and 80% of those live in rural areas and villages in Egypt. Sanitation level in Egyptian villages is 4%. Typical system used is bottomless cesspool "trench". Trench emptying frequency: 3– 4/month. The waste water (Grey water) may over flow the streets. TheB.O.D reaches over 1000mg/lit in some cases (especially when presence of animal manure).

The sanitation system usually consists of network, pump station, force main and treatment plant. Small units of treatment are the best solution for these villages, some examples that can be used: Imhoff tank. Extended aeration, activated sludge, aerated lagoons, trickling filters, rotating

biological contactor (R.B.C), Oxidation ditch, Stabilization Ponds, Down Hanging Sponge (D.H.S).

Choosing the most suitable type for every case depends on several variables as Retention time, expected influent B.O.D, the land availability, Initial cost of construction, the surrounding neighbouring environment, Environmental impact assessment, Social life-cycle assessment (S-LCA), Environmental social assessment (ESA), and the cost allowed per meter cube.

## II- Problem statement

The choice of the optimum solution faces huge challenges due to a lot of reasons which lead mostly to unpractical solutions causing the average cost of cubic meter treated jumps over the optimum cost and sometimes even damaging the environment surroundings.

The problem lies in creating a scientific technique depends more on construction management science as a tool to generate designs to be compatible with environmental, economical, quality control requirements and take more variables (factors) into consideration.

Factors that are essential in modern life to understand more the impact of the decision making on the type of sanitation and water treatment technique that has on people's lives. Social effects that depends on people's habits, especially the uniqueness of the Egyptian environment after studying those habits closely and what differentiate them from others.

The effect of stake holders and how they contribute in their community, is another accessory that need to be studied closely, like the fluency of understanding the proposed system by the village council (CDA) and the management of it in future.

That is if one must admit that decentralization is the future of managing the infrastructure, this fact became reality in the modern world now.

Other factors also is needed to be introduced like sustainability and environmental impact assessment, reuse of water and other waste like sludge reuse and treatment, all this data must be collected either by surveying or by other means of analysis to reach the right verdict.

## III- Objectives

Three techniques will be chosen for comparison: Stabilization Ponds, Extended Aeration and Down Hanging Sponge (D.H.S). Creating a score matrix technique to help the traditional value engineering study to be related more to the EIA study. And adding new parameters such as life cycle LCA to be scored and weighted hence valued.

Using sampling and other means of definition to reach the comparative analysis needed to choose the best treatment technique required for every case.

## IV- Methodology

Applying Construction Management science technique mainly depending on ideas of Value engineering as a tool of comparison to create a proper economical evaluation process for every technique.

Based on mathematical equations, statistics, studying environment, through comparative analysis of existing different case studies hence creating philosophy of the technical choice.

This could be done by producing mathematical equations to simulate the variables that are not added to the usual value engineering studies. Environmental assessment and the sustainability of the project and other variables will be scored in defined figures through a special score matrix technique.

## V- Tools to be added to present traditional V.E. technique:

The problem is that new parameters which was not included in the original version of the traditional V.E study such as:

- a. Life cycle analysis
- b. Life cycle impact assessment.
- c. Life cycle inventory, Environmental footprint.
- d. Risk assessment.
- e. Risk assessment management.
- f. Sample campaign assessment.
- g. Output and input modeling.

Adding to the above the typical EIA factors that is significant in any study such as mitigation, impact and future impact on the Environment, base line, alternatives and public participation (V. Ratna Reddy · Mathew Kurian 2015).

## VI- Results

Waste water techniques are demonstrating the New parameters needed to be added to the present V.E study the three nominated techniques were SPO, E.A, D.H.S: Introducing the 3 alternatives:

### A. Case 1 Stabilization ponds:

A village was chosen from the heart of the country side of the Delta in Egypt, El Quleaa, a SPO is constructed their by

Researcher serving a designed 5000 capita and of discharge of 500 m<sup>3</sup> /day, as a disposal rate of 100 lit/capita/D.

Quleaa SPO plant at Kafr ElShiekh, Egypt with 500m<sup>3</sup>/d capacity.

Design data for future requirements for Quleaa village of Kafr ElShiekh:

- Present population - 1600 capita.

- At yr.2026 expected pop. - 2310 capita&3330 at yr 2046.
- Present discharge – 173 m3 /day.
- Expected B.O.D (Present influent quality) – 535 mg/lit.
- Plant Designed for serving 5000 capita and 500 m3/day.
- Retention time 11 days (Holding company)

### ***B. Case 2 Extended Aeration:***

A plant (executed by researcher) was chosen from a resort in the red sea operating all year time with 24 hours' retention time and its effluent is reused unrestrictedly to irrigate a golf course.

Extended W.W.T.P at red sea resort & its expansion (executed by researcher)

### ***C. Case 3 D.H.S (the 3rd alternative):***

Two choices were studied one constructed at Borg Arab city and executed by the Japanese University as pilot project, the second is a plant not yet operational at Fayoum but the target of both is 500m3/day and same parameters of the previous cases with 3 hours' retention time. D.H.S W.W.T.P at Borg El Arab executed by Tohoku University and EJUT.

## **VII- Discussion:**

From the above types of treatment the suggested theory that the choice of D.H.S scored best in the direct cost analysis per m3/d than the other 2 solutions since it costs 1.24 L.E/m3/day for D.H.S while for SPO and E.A it costs 1.49L.E/m3/day and 1.8L.E/m3/day respectively.

Of course, all the figures above are taken from field previous experiences and scores and weights should be produced through an online survey for 30 different experts that should include professors of sanitation, sanitation water experts and government officials in the water companies and members of CDA all distributed upon their experience.

Applying the new parameters scoring it was also the D.H.S scored 240 points while SPO and E.A scored 160 and 213 points respectively.

It must be noted for the record that the parameter of land cost and land value have an essential role in the score since land cost is the cost of land in the present worth but land value is the change occurred on value due to impact of the change of use from agriculture to a W.T.P and it is evaluated by the rent of land in the period of project which is 30 years.

Habits of the residents if they raise animals or they are mostly in governmental jobs like case of Quleaa has also significant effect on choice since animal manure can be a bit hard in treatment in case of SPO as experience proves then maybe Extended aeration can be a better choice.

Also type of management system to be used such as decentralization or the combination of several villages in a cluster, those factors can be have relatively impact on weight and score, which in this case Extended Aeration can be if valued a better choice.

Throughout the course of history, the evolution of techniques of waste water treatment plants and the rising of environmental science came up the need of new evaluation techniques for re modeling the traditional techniques of evaluation.

This study reached the need for new parameters needed to be introduced concerning the environment to the traditional value engineering techniques.

Those parameters were introduced before by others such as life cycle analysis, life cycle impact assessment and risk assessment management added to that the general aspects of the environmental impact assessment usual parameters.

The aim of the study was a way to find a rule of thumb to score those new parameters and weight them compared to the old traditional parameters of the usual value engineering study.

A general briefing for the sanitation process was given ended by the introducing of the three different techniques that will be used later in the case study to proof the above-mentioned theory.

Those three techniques are the Stabilization ponds, the Down Hanging Sponge and the Extended Aeration technique demonstrated by three different case studies from the Egyptian environment mostly executed by researcher.

Then the approach of modification to be done to the usual value engineering study along by defining the new parameters

To quantify the EIA such as LCA, LCIA, Risk management was done.

The study focused on only two sides of evaluation throughout the life cycle of product, the land value and the efficiency of every technique.

After the new approach was practiced data survey was analyzed to reach the most optimum technique available of quantification of EIA to reach the most suitable verdict for W.W.T.P for the small villages in Egypt.

Regarding the introduction of life cycle analysis as a factor of comparison along with the life cycle impact assessment and the risk assessment and the life cycle inventory, all those factors if considered in the land consumption and efficiency they fluctuate about equally between D.H.S and the E.A.While they are very weak regarding the SPO but they there significance does not exceed 10% of the construction cost according to the weighing score matrix used in the assessment.

TABLE 1. COST SUMMARY FOR S.P.O, D.H.S AND E.A PLANTS

Cost Item		Down Hanging Sponge D.H.S	Complete-Mix Extended Aeration	Stabilization ponds
(1) Unit process construction cost + equipment cost (L.E)		2,500,900	3,497,000	2,130,000
(2) Other cost (L.E)	(a) Other construction cost *	88,915	88,915	88,915
	(b) Non-construction cost **	73,553	96,458	93,085
	(c) Land cost	60,000	100,000	1,440,000
	(d) Interest during Construction $i=15\%$	408,505.2	567,355.9	1,130,155.9
	(e) Total (a+b+c+d)	3,131,873.2	4,349,728.9	4,882,155.9
(3) Profit and overhead 15%		469,780.98	652,459	732,323.4
(4) Total construction cost = 1 + 2-a + 3 (L.E)		3,059,595.98	4,238,374	2,951,238.4
(5) Project cost = 1 + 2 + 3 (L.E)		<b>6,102,554.1</b>	<b>8,499,187.9</b>	<b>7,744,479.3</b>
(6) Annual O & M labor cost (L.E/year)		14000	20,000	9000
(7) Annual material, chemical and energy cost (L.E/year)		10,000	25,000	5,000
(8) Total annual O & M cost = 6 + 7 (L.E/year)		<b>24,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>
(9) Present worth (L.E)				
(10) Annualized project cost *** (L.E/year)		203,418.47	283,806	258,149.3
(11) Annualized project cost + Annual O & M cost = 10 + 8 (L.E/year)		<b>227,418.47</b>	<b>328,806</b>	<b>272,149.3</b>
(12) Cost / m <sup>3</sup> **** (L.E / m <sup>3</sup> /d)		<b>454.8</b> <b>1.24 L.E/m<sup>3</sup>/d</b>	<b>657.6</b> <b>1.8 L.E/m<sup>3</sup>/d</b>	<b>544.3</b> <b>1.49 L.E/m<sup>3</sup>/d</b>

\* Other construction cost includes costs of mobilization, site preparation, site electrical, yard piping, instrumentation and control, and lab and administration buildings.

\*\* Non-construction cost includes legal and technical costs, engineering design fee, inspection cost, contingency, and miscellaneous cost.

\*\*\* Annualized project cost = project cost x CRF. For  $i = 8\%$  and planning period = 30 years, CRF = 0.089

\*\*\*\* Cost / m<sup>3</sup> (L.E / m<sup>3</sup>) = [annualized project cost + annual O & M cost] SR/year ÷ [average design flow, m<sup>3</sup>/day x 365 day]



TABLE 2. CRITERIA WEIGHTING SCORE:

Criteria	Weight	Raw score
Initial cost	10	16
Maintenance cost	5	8
Performance	8	12
Operation cost	2	3
Land saving	8	12
Replacement cost	2	3
control	3	5

TABLE 4. SCORE EVALUATION:

	Initial cost		Maintenance cost		Performance		Operation cost		Land saving		Replacement cost		control		sustainability	
Weight of importance	a		b		c		d		e		f		g		h	
(0.10)	10		5		8		2		8		2		3		3	
D.H.S Alt 2	40	4	15	3	32	4	8	4	40	5	6	3	6	2	12	4
SPO Alt 1	33	2	15	3	16	2	10	5	16	1	6	3	9	3	15	5
E.A Alt 3	28	3	25	5	32	4	4	2	24	3	6	3	15	5	6	2

	Possibility of alternatives		Environmental manipulation		impact		Land value		Mitigation best		Monitoring & control		Public participation		Total
Weight of importance	I		j		k		l		m		n		o		
(0.10)	0.5		1		0.5		3		1		3		2		
Alt 2	2	4	4	4	2	4	15	5	3	4	6	2	8	4	
Alt 1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	1	3	1	1	1	6	2	6	3	
Alt 3	1	2	3	3	1	2	9	3	3	3	9	3	4	2	

	Possibility of expansion		Comparative risk assessment (CRASS)		Comparative risk management (CRM)		Sample campaign analysis		Life cycle analysis		Environmental footprint		Environmental input output modeling		Total
Weight of importance	p		s		t		u		x		y		z		
(0.10)	3		2		1		2		2		1		1		
Alt 2	15	5	6	3	4	4	6	3	6	3	2	2	2	2	240
Alt 1	3	1	4	2	2	2	4	2	6	3	3	3	2	2	160
Alt 3	12	4	8	4	5	5	8	4	6	3	2	2	2	2	213

Note: 5- excellent 4- very good 3- good 2- fair 1- poor

## VIII-Conclusions

It is found after this study that the parameters can be increased per evolution of environmental science that is

rapidly in progress every day finding justification of progress due to our need to preservation of environment.

Also, this study revealed that the DHS is in a lot of aspects in case of the Egyptian villages more than 5000 capita and less than 50000 capita more land preserving, better in case of water reuse specially if unrestricted.

Moreover, the D.H.S proved to be more economical than the other two options, the SPO and the E.A plants for this amount of discharge in capital cost but not in O&M since the SPO is cheaper and more sustainable in this area.

Since its simple components for construction makes it more economical and can be pre-cast built in a mass building facility and installed at site which makes it a convenient solution on the national scale to preserve constant quality fabric. And to guarantee automatically a constant degree of performance of treatment.

Other solutions as Zeco treatment plant can be also of the same use since it is the same idea of treatment with sponge media.

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In case of public participation in O&M the D.H.S is not the simplest but in between both techniques but as mentioned before since it can be manufactured on massive scale also training & awareness can be also done on a national scale as to train several number of users in the same training facility. This also guarantee a significant standard of operation and degree of knowledge to the environmental challenges that face those villages and create a mass awareness and general knowledge.

The only problem found for this system is that in case of seasonal operation when the discharge is fluctuating from high to low discharge.

Then the bacteria need stimulating and this process must be done on a professional level that cannot easily provided in the available O&M local contractors. Then in this case if land conservation is an essential factor then the E.A is the best choice other than that then the SPO can be taken into consideration.