Factors influencing the household water treatment adoption in rural areas in developing countries

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Propositions

Accompanying the thesis

"Factors influencing the household water treatment adoption in rural areas in developing countries"

Daniel

1. The reason why water, sanitation and hygiene form a complex system is not because of the technological inventions but because of human behaviour (this thesis).
2. Improving socio-economic conditions leads to better household water treatment adoption in developing countries (this thesis).
3. Peer influence is more powerful than risk perception to drive the adoption of household water treatment (this thesis).
4. Factors that influence the water, sanitation and hygiene-related behaviour are context and location specific (this thesis).
5. Promoting water treatment with messages about diarrhoea prevention may not be effective in cultures that do not perceive diarrhoea illness as a water-related problem (Figueroa & Kincaid, 2010).
6. "System blindness", i.e. only recognizing and considering one aspect of the problem without other aspects, is the reason why many water stakeholders make poor intervention designs.
7. Visualisation of how a factor influences other factors in the system is key for water stakeholders without a highly technical background to understand complex situations behind the water-related phenomena.
8. Water engineers and social researchers must sit in the same office room, e.g. at the university, to better design the dissemination of water technology among communities in rural areas.
9. A PhD candidate should be free to do any research (s)he wants in the fourth year to let him/her explore his/her own interest on a specific topic.
10. Problem solvers build bridges with people of different expertise and background, not walls saying that "I am the most correct".

These propositions are regarded as opposable and defendable, and have been approved as such by the supervisor, Dr. S. Pande and the promotor, Prof. dr. ir. L.C. Rietveld.