

# **Practical Action; Students Project List 2008-09**

## **Introduction:**

Practical Action is an International NGO with offices in Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Peru. This organization was formed by E. F. Schumacher, the author of *Small is Beautiful* 42 years ago. Practical Action works in a number of sectors, including a large programme concerned with improving access to infrastructure and services. Considering the recent issues and challenges, we are offering the following projects in the academic year 2008-09. These projects are suitable for postgraduate and final year students.

### **1) El-Gedarif Sanitation Challenge:**

El-Gedarif is located in North-East of Sudan at distance of 4 hours journey by road. This town has serious technological challenges to sanitation because of the nature of its soil. The current design used by government and NGOs is only affordable to a small proportion of the population. Practical Action is looking for a project to do a situation review based on the baseline reports, soil reports etc. The project must come up with a range of options to affordable, reliable and safe designs of sanitation systems for El-Gedarif.

### **2) Climate Change; Do Urban Technologies Need any Adaptation?**

This project will review the climate change predictions and suggest the changes municipal governments and NGOs need to adopt in their approaches to urban development programmes. We expect that this project will focus on specific changes needed in the technology designs of water, sanitation and waste systems to be part of the adaptation strategies.

### **3) Developing and Promoting Pro-Poor Technologies in Waste Recycling**

This project will review and propose technologies, which could be adapted to not only recycle waste but also create better employment and reliable incomes for poor people.

### **4) Income and Employment from Services – The Africa Challenge**

This project is a continuation of a past MSc project done at WEDC, Loughborough University for Bangladesh. This year we would like a student to work on a similar set of research questions, but for an African context.

### **5) Reducing Water Contamination Risks during Transportation and Storage of Drinking Water**

In many low income slum areas, large quantities of drinking waters are still transported using animal carts, buckets and animal carts. In the absence of piped water, this is stored in households before consumed. We are looking for a project which can review technologies and approaches to reduce contamination at these stages.

### **6) Is there a role for Technologies in Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach?**

Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) has achieved some remarkable success in rural areas of low income countries. In CLTS poor people accept the responsibilities of making their village/ area, Open Defecation Free (ODF). The range of technologies are designed or selected by people themselves. This project will look into CLTS process and ask whether there is a need for technology support in the approach.

### **7) Adopting Value Chain and Participatory Market Methods in Solid Waste Recycling Projects**

With the changes in regulations more responsibilities are being assigned to industries, which contributes to the production of waste. Many local authorities are considering legislations, Extending Producers Responsibilities (EPR). Traditionally NGOs worked directly with poor waste pickers and micro-enterprises. This project will develop a systemic approach to look into these issues and apply methods known in business management, such as value chains analysis and participatory market chain analysis.

### **8) Revisiting Schumacher's Philosophy**

Keeping in mind the global crisis and what the founder of Practical Action predicted 40 years ago, we are looking for a mature student to do a fresh review of Schumacher's philosophy related to the role of technology and people in promoting economic development. We like to understand that how Practical Action engage with the global debate related to technology justice.