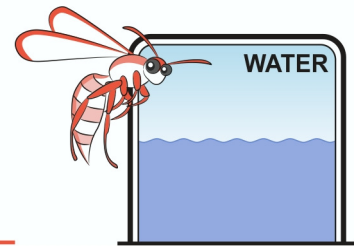


Filtering With A Sari - Student Activity



After annual cyclones and floods sewage often contaminates drinking water supplies. Poor people in third world countries to our north do not have the technology or economic infrastructure to access safe water. The elderly and babies are the first to die. They need to drink water to survive but the water they wade through and fills their houses is too dangerous to drink. In recent floods in eastern Australia many people suffered the same problem.

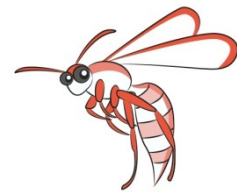
Contaminated water kills one child every 20 seconds.

A sari is a simple women's garment made from one long strip of cotton or silk. The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises that under these conditions filtering water through a sari folded four times is the best answer for people forced to use contaminated water. It is an acceptable simple technique that can continue to be used after the catastrophe. Just employing this technique has reduced the number of cholera bacteria (V cholera) victims by over 90%.

View <http://www.icddrb.org/media-centre/news/2141-simple-sari-cloth-filtration-of-water-protect-villagers-from-cholera-in-matlab-bangladesh>

Materials per student or group

- A filter funnel
- Two beakers
- 4 pieces of cheap cotton or unbleached calico.
- Dirty water



Fold the cotton to fit into the filter funnel. Pour the dirty water through the cotton taking care not to overfill.

Although the water may appear clean, students should not drink it as some microbes may be present.

How does this method compare with sand filtration? _____

Where in our Pan-Asian region would people have had to use this method recently and why?
