Journal Assignment 3
Due Session 8

There is fairly broad consensus that effective W&S planning should respond to the felt needs and preferences of users (households). This week we will begin to think about this idea in depth, starting with the evolution of 'demand-responsive' planning in W&S and moving on to specific techniques for obtaining and responding to household preferences. Here are some questions you might mull over as you dig into the readings for this week:

What does is mean to say that 'water is an economic good'? (And what *kind* of economic good/service is water supply? Sanitation? Review the economics of W&S handout on these issues if you are unsure what is meant by this question.)

What is meant by 'supply oriented' and 'demand oriented' planning in W&S service provision? What are the strengths and limitations of each approach? Why do you think the international community has largely shifted to a planning paradigm whose emphasis is household/community demand?

How specifically can we find out what a household's demand for improved water supply and sanitation is? Your readings introduce one particular approach--the contingent valuation method. What are the strengths and limitations of this methodology? How else can demand be assessed?

What do the case studies included in the readings reveal about demand for improved W&S services in poor countries? Do these findings challenge any conventional wisdoms regarding what kinds of services households are interested in having and/or willing to invest in? Were any of the study results surprising to you?

Can we have a planning approach for W&S service delivery that is both 'demand-responsive' and inclusive (i.e., focused on fairness/equity concerns)?