TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH

DISPOSAL OF HUMAN EXCRETA–SANITARY LATRINE

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United Nations Children's Fund

THE TITLES OF THE FLIP CHARTS ARE

1. Sanitation and Diseases
2. Wastewater and Cattle Dung/Garbage Disposal
3. Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine
4. Vector Control
5. Personal Hygiene
6. Home Sanitation

The Texts of these Flip Charts are available in English, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Oriya, Marathi, Bengali,Gujrati, Kanada, Malayalam and Urdu.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION SECTION
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CARD 1 Why do we need a sanitary latrine?

Look at these women going at dawn (or late evening) to far away places for defecation. Their parents used to go to the woods or bushes. Nowadays, many of the woods and bushes are gone as the lands are used for cultivation. Open places available for defecation are getting less and less.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

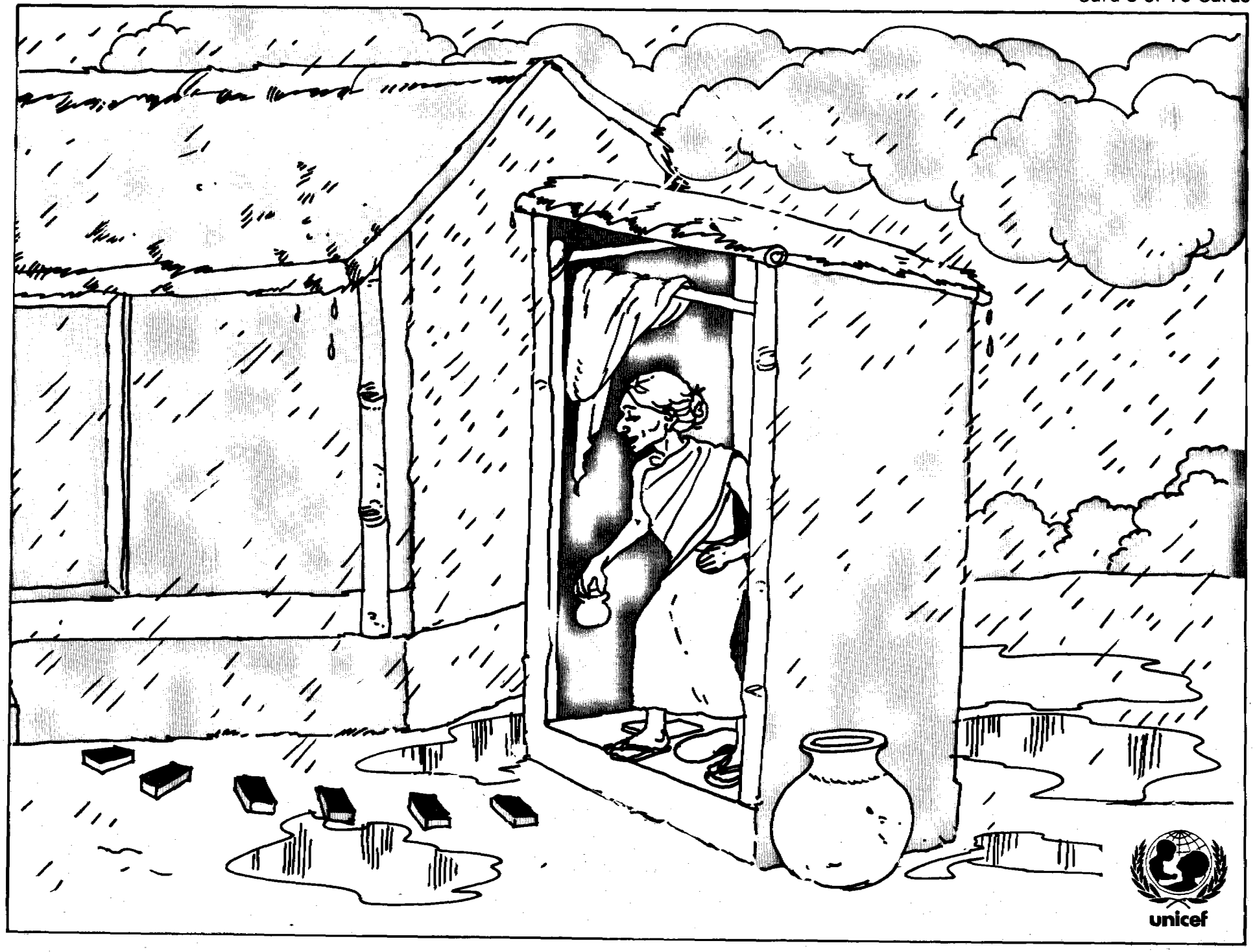
Card 1 of 10 Cards

CARD 2 Furthermore, many farm land owners do not allow people to defecate on their agricultural land particularly during the growing season. The women are the worst sufferers.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

CARD 3 Why not therefore use a sanitary latrine as Shanta and her family do? It stops the spread of diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera and typhoid as discussed in the Sanitation and Diseases topic. A sanitary latrine gives privacy and convenience for all—the woman folk, the old, the young, the sick and even the men folk, particularly during the monsoon season. Not much space is required to accomodate a latrine.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

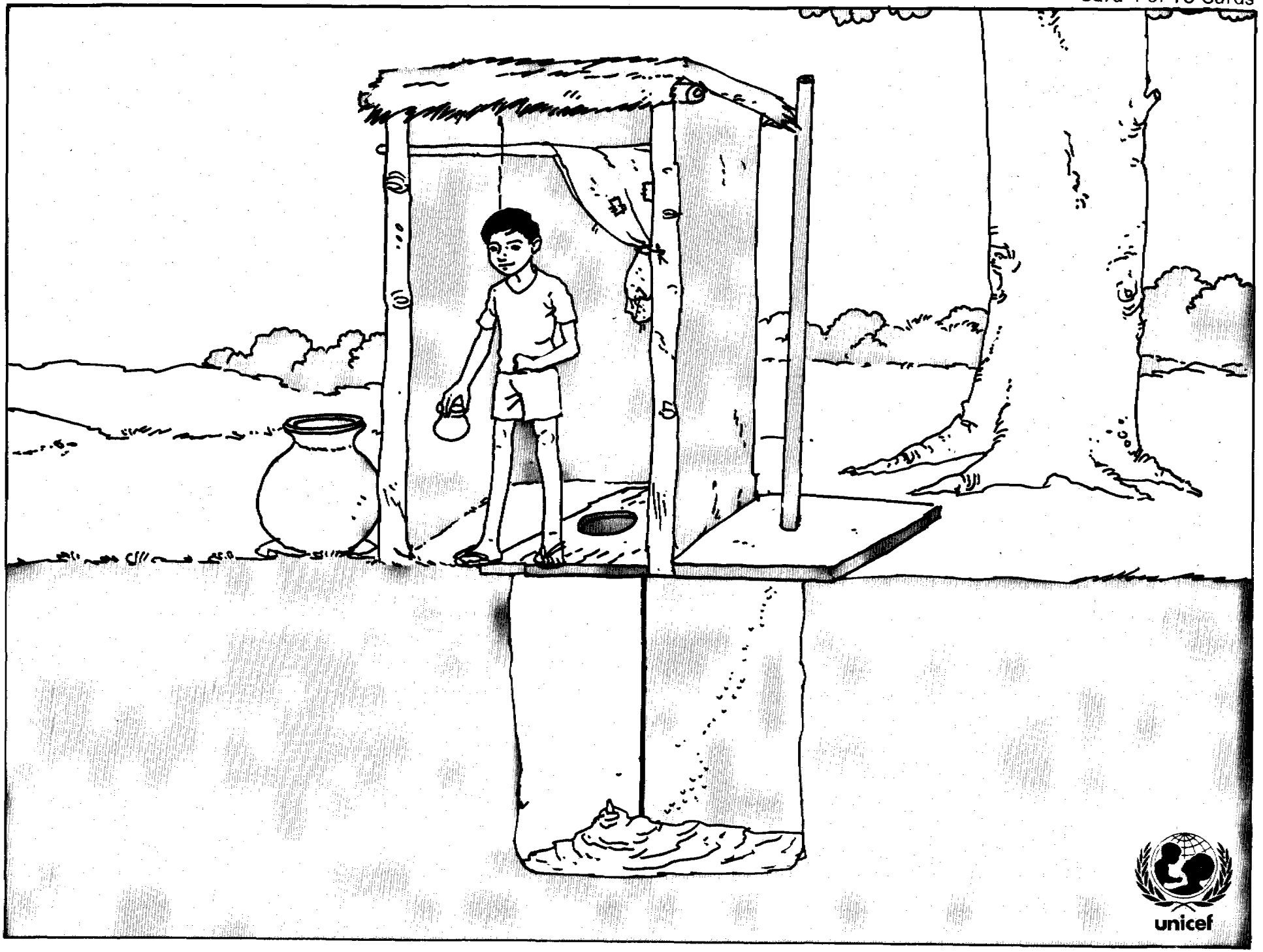


CARD 4

There are two kinds of latrines, the waterseal latrine and the dry latrine. The dry latrine shown in this picture can be used in places where water is very scarce and solid materials such as stones or leaves are used for anal cleaning. This picture shows a ventilated improved pit latrine which is designed such that the smell goes up the ventilation pipe.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

Card 4 of 10 Cards

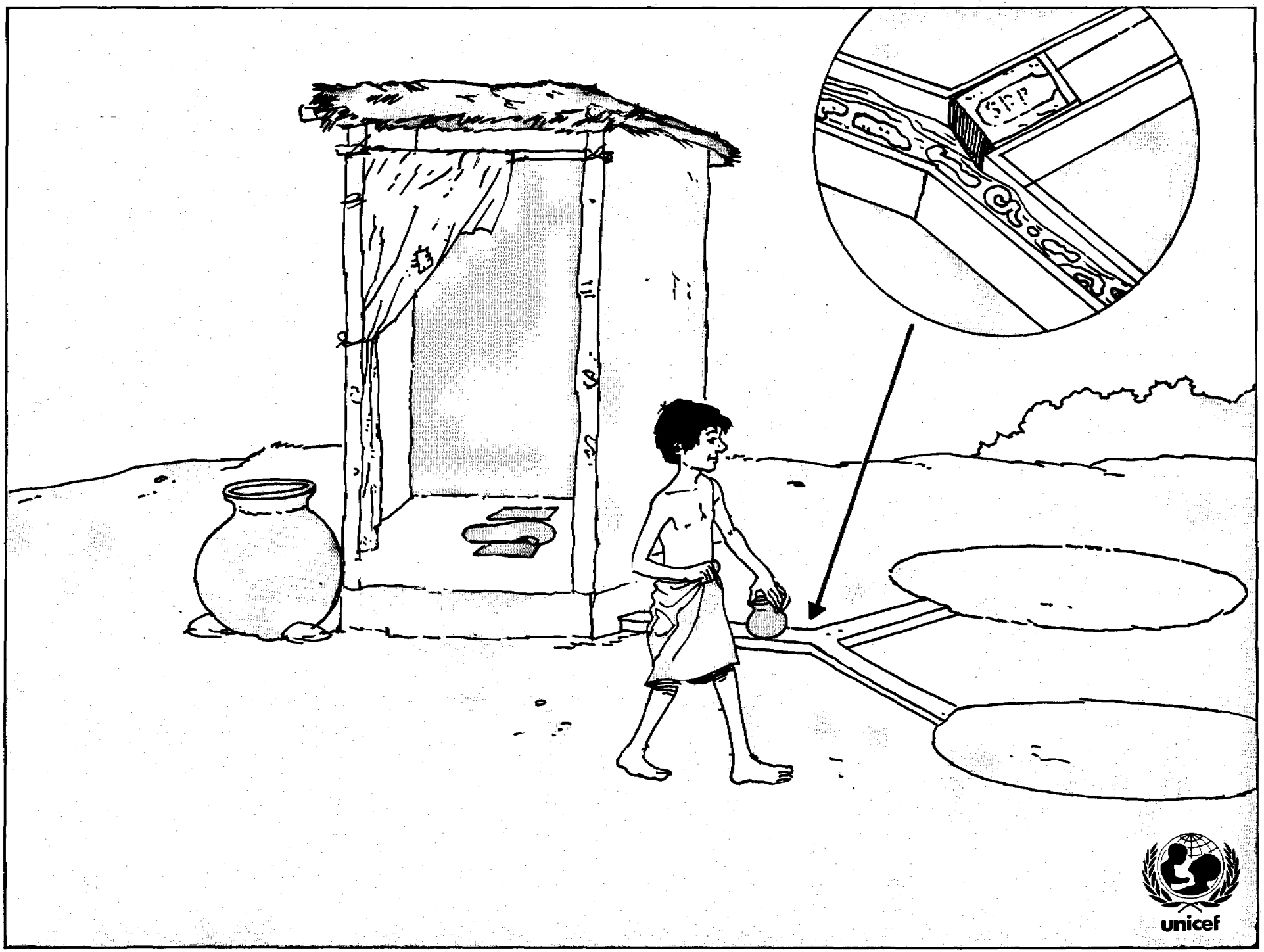


CARD 5

Where water is adequate and is used for anal cleaning, a waterseal latrine can be used. The latrine shown in this picture is a pour-flush waterseal latrine, i.e., water is poured from a container into the pan to flush the excreta into a pit. To facilitate flushing, wet the pan before use. About 2 litres of water is required for flushing the stool down into the covered pit. Some of the water always remains in the pan. This water forms a "waterseal" which prevents flies entering the pit and bad smell coming out of it. It is also very easy to maintain. The water for cleaning can be stored in a big pot placed by the latrine.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

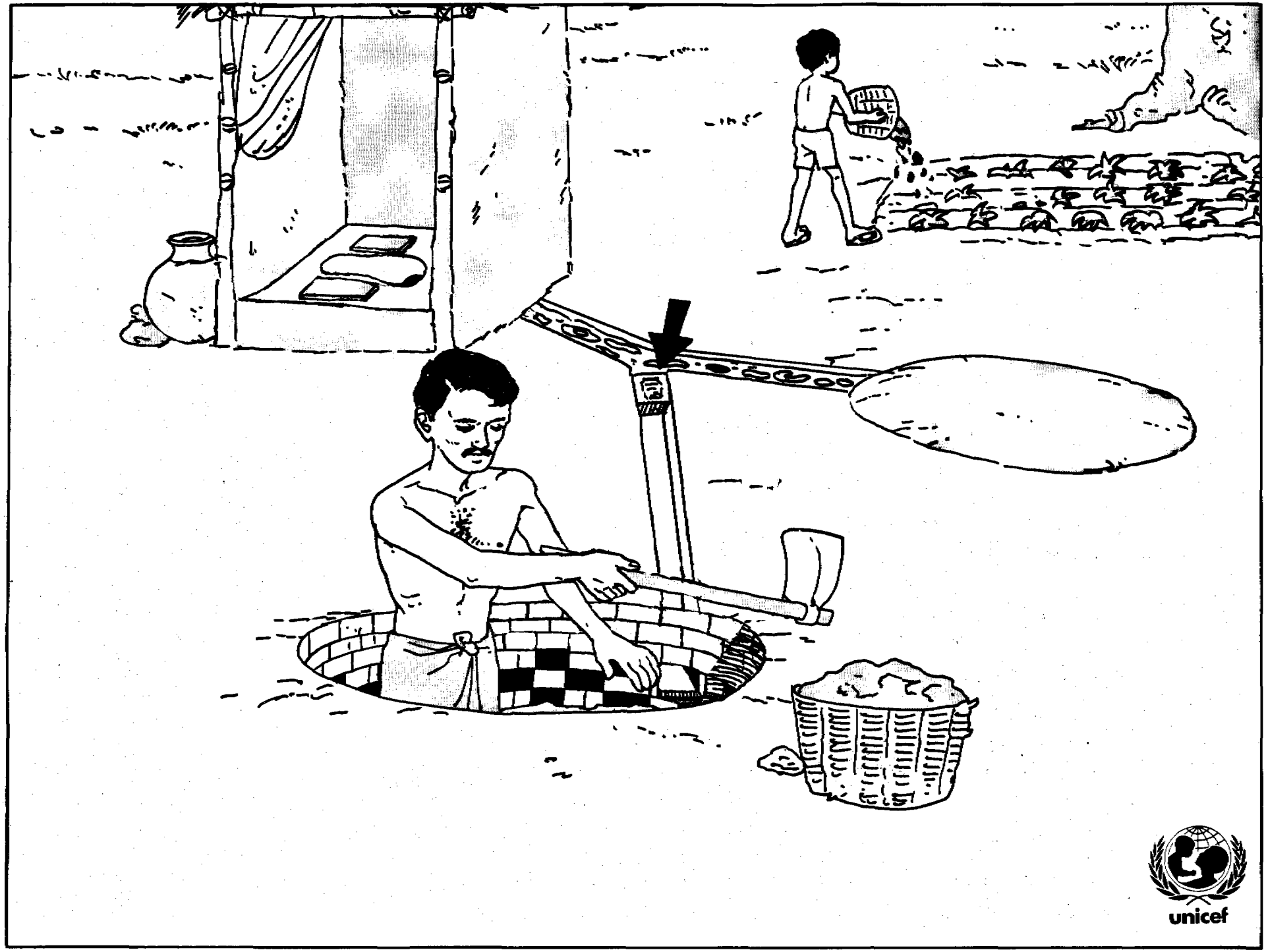
Card 5 of 10 Cards



CARD 6

The latrine has two pits. For a family of 5 to 6 members, each pit is of 1 metre diameter and 1 metre deep. Only one pit is used at any time by blocking the inlet of the Y-shaped drain leading to the second pit. One pit will fill up to the drain outlet level in about three years. The excreta should remain in the covered pit undisturbed for at least two years to decompose. After that time, the odourless pit contents can be handled safely and used as fertilizer.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine



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CARD 7

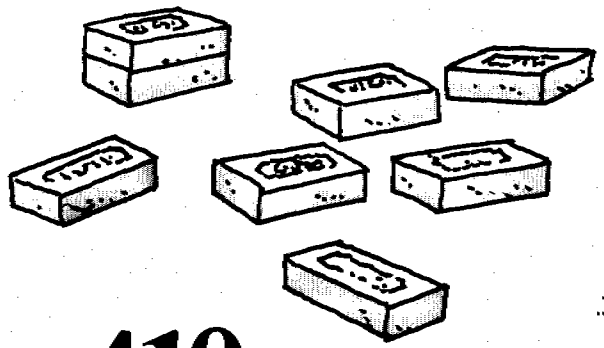
You can afford a latrine just like Shanta's family. In some places it has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 450 (1984 prices). If a government sanitation scheme is taken up in your area, be part of it!

Materials and labour required to build a waterseal latrine are:

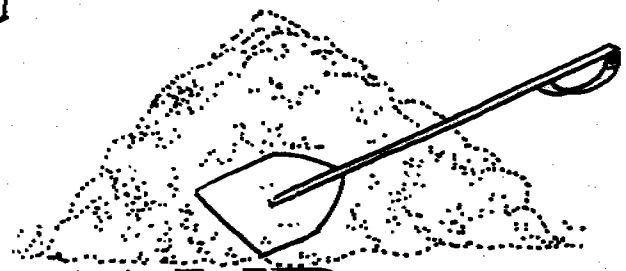
1. Bricks	410 nos.
2. Sand	12 bags
3. Cement	2 bags
4. Aggregates	3 bags
5. Pan & waterseal	1 set
6. Iron rod for pit cover reinforcement	6 kgs.
7. Mason	2 days

8. Local materials such as bamboo and thatch for superstructure, estimated at Rs. 75

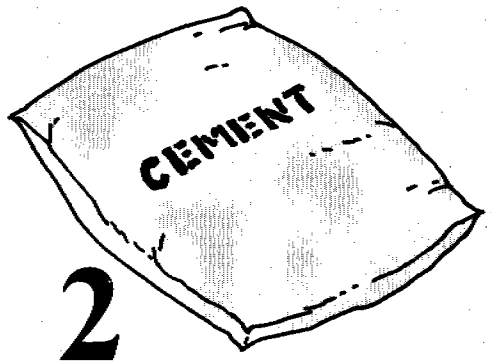
However, the cost of a latrine in your area may vary depending on the price of materials.



410

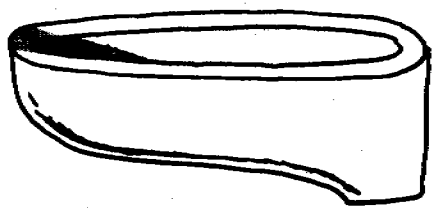


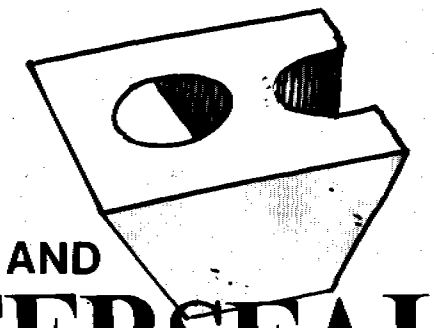
SAND 0.5M^3



2 BAGS

STEEL 6 KG.S
6 MM DIA





PAN AND WATERSEAL

2 DAYS

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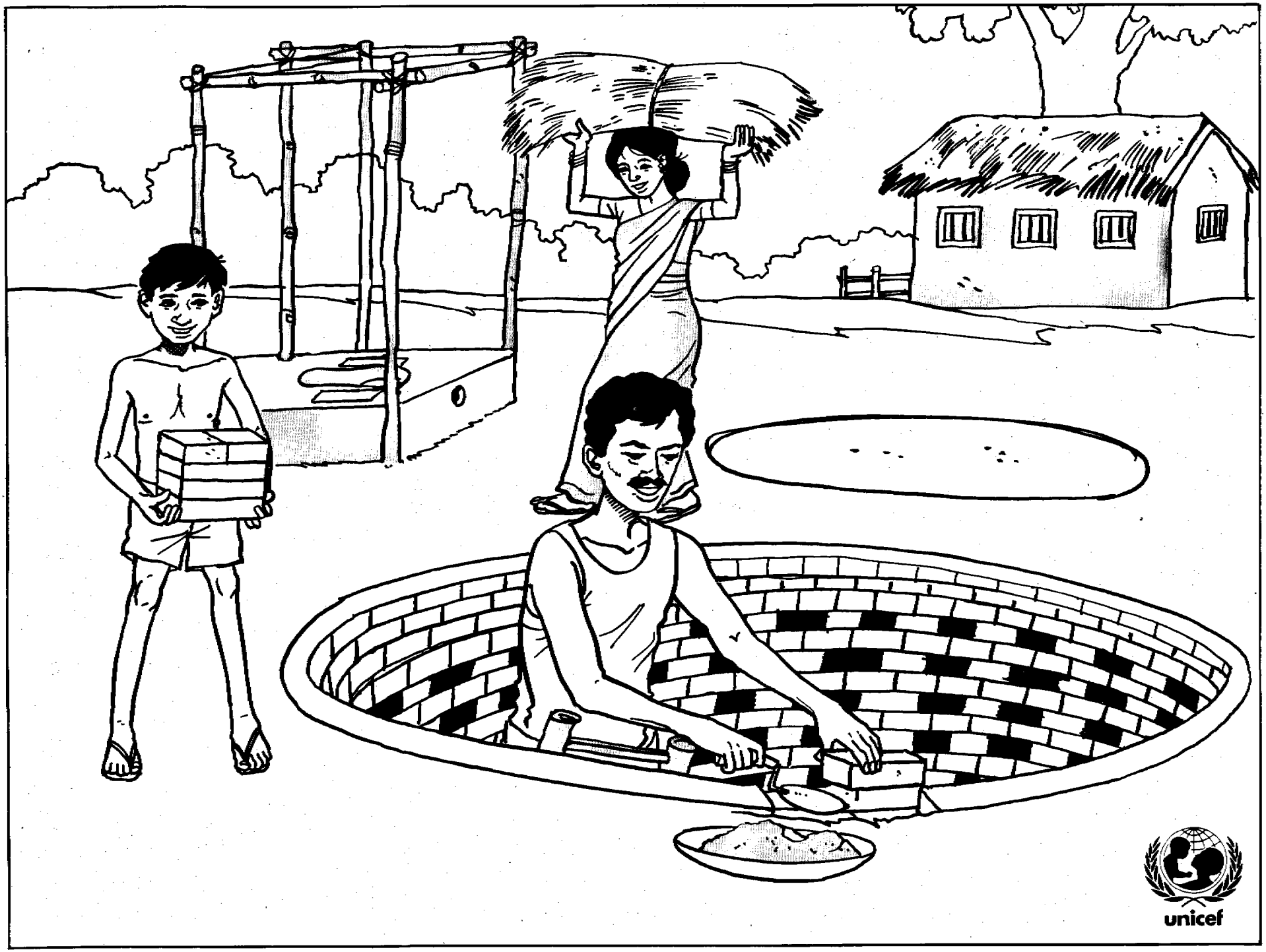
CARD 8

If you can use freely available stones or scrap construction materials near your house in the place of bricks, the cost can be further reduced.

So why not save up to give comfort and convenience to yourself and your family and above all, to improve your health. Your BDO, sanitary inspector or block/district engineer can advise you on how to build it yourself if you are competent or recommend you to a qualified local mason.

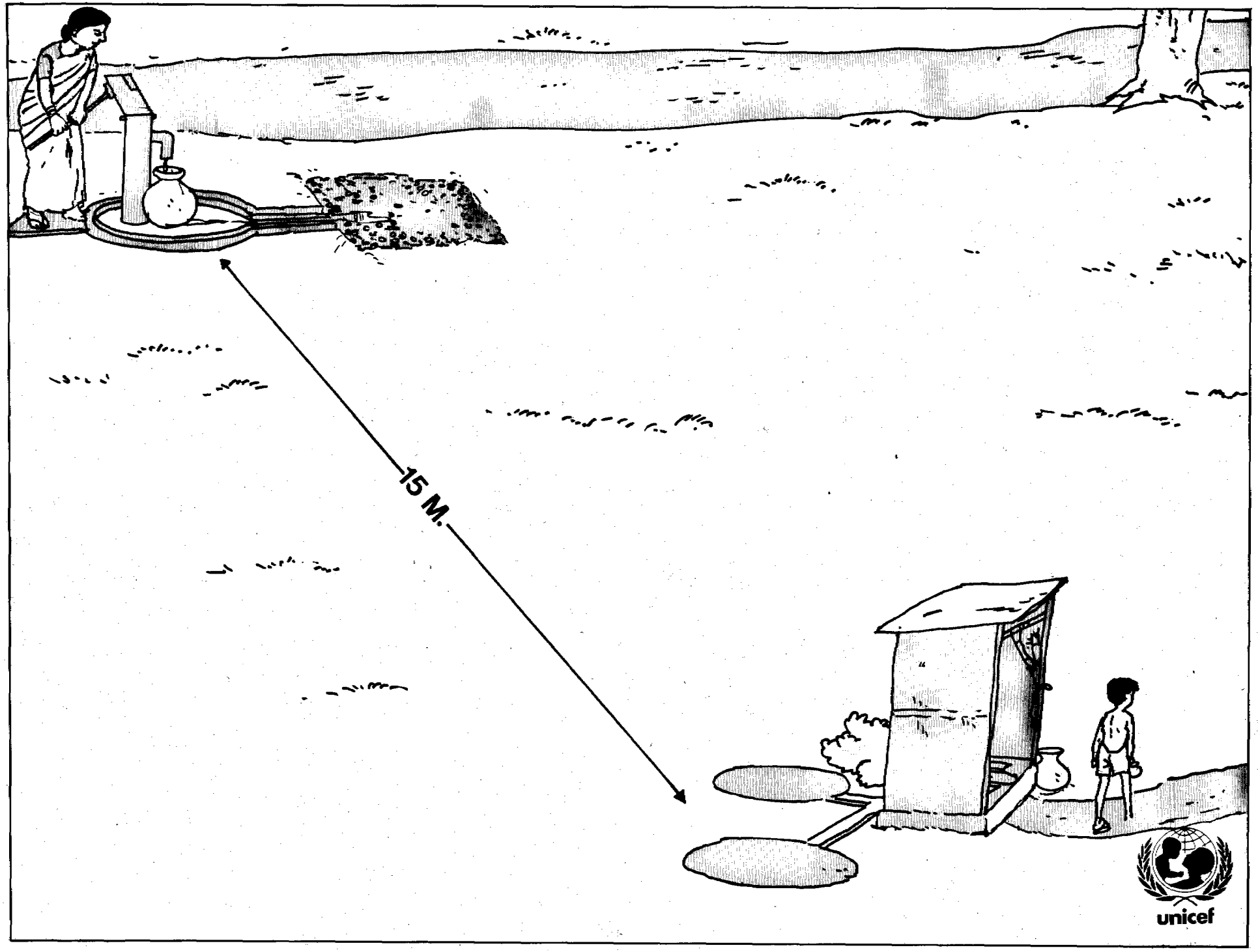
Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine



CARD 9

One important factor that should be borne in mind is the location of the pit with respect to a groundwater source, such as a well. When the pit bottom does not reach the water table, the pit can be located 10 metres away from the water source; where the pit touches the water table, the distance should be increased to 15 metres. (For fissured rocky formations, please obtain advice from the engineer).

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine



CARD 10

While you are saving to build a latrine, there are some actions you can take to stop disease transmission as Shanta did. She used to go to places far away for defecation. She dug a small hole for defecation and covered the excreta with earth to avoid flies and domestic animals feeding or walking on it.

So be like Shanta. Be progressive; increase your comfort and health and help to stop the spread of diseases. Advise your neighbours to do the same.

Disposal of Human Excreta—Sanitary Latrine

Card 10 of 10 Cards