Stop the Diarrhea. Start Using a Latrine Today

The Story of

Achey and Achroch
This is Achey.
And this is Achroch. Both are simple farmers who take care of their crops as well as their families.
Every early morning, Achroch poops in the forest near his home.
Achey used to do the same as Achroch. He had heard that dry pit latrines collapse when it rains and that they smell.

But the village chief explained to him that if he lines the pit with concrete rings and uses rice husk ash he can have a beautiful dry pit. He also told him about the new pour flush latrines, that were coming soon to his village.
Today Achey and his family decided to make his first dry pit latrine.
Achroch watched his neighbor Achey build a latrine, but he did not want to make a dry pit latrine. He was stubborn. He wanted to wait for a modern latrine with a nice concrete shelter. So he pooped outside instead.
The next day, Achroch, sold some crops, got money, and bought a new mobile phone with video and music without talking to his wife. So he kept pooping outside. And never washed his hands.
Meanwhile, Achey talked to his wife about saving some money to upgrade their latrine. They were happy with the dry pit, but looking to upgrade.
After time, more and more poop filled Achroch’s land. The poop went through the pond, got into his water, and he got diarrhea.
The diarrhea was so bad, he went to the drug store. The bill for the medical treatment was expensive. 200,000 riel! To pay he had to sell his new mobile phone. He was sad.
But Achey was happy, his land was shit free. His family was healthy and they do not spend money on medicine.
In fact they kept saving money until they could upgrade their dry pit, and buy a pour-flush latrine. His family was very happy.
After spend lot money for medical, Achroch still very sick. His wife took care of him for as long as she could, but eventually she had to go to the city to work and to earn money to treat his disease.
Achéy’s daughter, got top of her class in Phnom Penh and visited the house to celebrate. She showed her father the certificate – he was happy. She was proud of him for always protecting her.
Achroch was lonely.

His daughter, living in Phnom Penh, didn’t want to come, because she was embarrassed to come home and poop in the forest. She asked him, “dad when will you build a latrine?” “Why not dig a hole and put a shelter up?”

Achroch said, soon honey, soon. I prefer to have the modern latrine.

But soon never came. Achroch got more sick. He kept paying more money for medicine. It made him more poor. The village looked at him as a fool.
Achey became a village hero. More people built latrines like him. And everyone in his village lived a better life.
1. Before build a latrine, who did Achey discuss with?
2. After discussed with village chief, what did Achey do?
3. Did Achey buy unnecessary stuff like Achroch?
4. After built a dry pit, what did Achey and his wife do?
5. After save enough money, what did he use that money for?
6. After built pour flush latrine, how did Achey’s family feel?