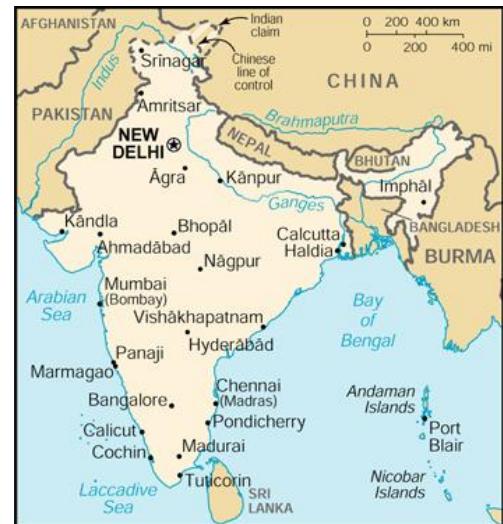


Sanitation and hygiene research in India



SHARE aims to accelerate progress on sanitation and hygiene in developing countries by generating rigorous and relevant research, and ensuring new and existing solutions are adopted at scale. The consortium is represented in India – one of SHARE’s four focus countries – by WaterAid India and the SDI affiliates, National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDF) and SPARC.

SHARE research underway in India is extensive and wide-ranging, and more general research activities, including international meetings and global studies, are also relevant because of India’s size and the severity of its sanitation and hygiene challenges. India is the second most populous nation on the planet with over a billion people living within its borders. The 2010 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation estimates that only 31 per cent of people in the country have access to improved sanitation and 54 per cent of the population continue to defecate in the open. The activities listed below under SHARE’s four research pillars are relevant to India:

Health

- SHARE’s flagship health project underway in Orissa, India, aims to assess the impact of the construction and use of latrines in rural settings on diarrhoeal disease, intestinal nematodes infections and nutritional status. The \$3.2 million cluster-randomised, controlled trial is funded by SHARE, the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ‘Choose Soap’ – a SHARE-commissioned tool kit – offers a blueprint of activities, including family pledging, an animated film and village signage, to encourage the practice of handwashing with soap in India. The activities can be carried out in households, schools, communities and by the mass media. Visit www.choosesoap.org for more information and to download the resources.
- A study is underway to generate evidence on the effectiveness of interventions in increasing handwashing with soap in India.

Equity

- In November 2010 researchers, policy-makers and practitioners met to discuss the neglected issue of menstrual hygiene management. Critical gaps in knowledge were identified, including the lack of guidance about what works in different contexts. Research is now underway to collect, review, and synthesise existing knowledge to produce guidelines for practitioners.
- In March 2011, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners met to share knowledge about the neglected issues of equity, inclusion and disabled access to sanitation and hygiene services.

Urban sanitation

- A study aims to improve the understanding of the factors that determine where people choose to defecate and what would make communal facilities attractive options in poor areas of urban India. The provision of public, pay-per-use and community-owned sanitation blocks may offer an effective means to address a situation where household sanitation options are limited, and open defecation remains a problem.
- Another, and related, project aims to ascertain the key factors associated with levels of use and user attitudes towards communal facilities, management models and user fees in these areas.

Sanitation markets

- Research is underway to investigate how microfinance can be used effectively to increase financing for sanitation facilities and services. In particular, the study aims to document existing microfinance activities in India and assess the potential for development of microfinance for sanitation in Tanzania.

SHARE PhD fellowship

- In the autumn of 2011, Paramita Routray, supervised by LSHTM's Dr Wolf Schmidt, will begin studies at LSHTM to research reviving "latrine cemeteries" in rural and urban Orissa, India, through an innovative motivation campaign.

More information about SHARE

SHARE (Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity) is a five-year initiative (2010-2015) funded by the UK's Department for International Development. The consortium includes the following partners:

- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International
- WaterAid

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