

Research into Use Summary

- 1. Research Project:** *Understanding and strengthening the role of communal sanitation provision in urban poverty pockets in India*
- 2. Lead researcher:** *Dr Adam Biran, LSHTM*
- 3. SHARE Partners:** *LSHTM*
- 4. Research budget:** *£13,140*
- 5. Location:** *India*

Research description:

This work includes an analysis of an existing data set collected during a previous collaboration between LSHTM and WaterAid India. The proposed analysis will draw out key factors associated with levels of use and user satisfaction. Particular attention will be given to user attitudes towards the condition of communal facilities, management models and user fees. Gender and income-related disaggregated analyses will increase understanding of equity issues associated with access to sanitation through communal facilities. Knowledge generated by this work will address the key SHARE themes of urban sanitation, equity and gender, and will have a geographical focus on India, a SHARE priority country. There will be an emphasis on actionable knowledge and practical recommendations for improving the design, operation, management and services provided by communal latrines.

What is the relevance of the research to national and/or global sector challenges?

Indian cities are experiencing rapid population growth and an expansion of urban poor living in so-called slum areas. For a number of reasons including insecurity of tenure, lack of space and affordability, household sanitation options are limited, coverage is poor and open defecation remains a problem. Communal latrines have been employed as one of the main sanitation interventions for dense, low-income, unplanned, urban areas in India and elsewhere. However, very little rigorous information is available on the user characteristics and perspectives with regard to the design and operation of communal facilities. Such information is needed to help identify design features and management factors that encourage the highest usage rates by all household members. Particular attention needs to be given to the possibility of age and gender-related differences in patterns of use.

Who are the intended users of this research?

The proposed in-depth analysis is an important next step for developing practical recommendations for action to increase facility use as well as identifying key knowledge gaps to be addressed through further collaborative research. Outputs from this work will be a manuscript submitted to a sector-relevant, peer-reviewed journal. A policy brief of key actionable findings will also be produced. The manuscript and findings will be targeted at practitioners, agencies, policy makers, municipal authorities, development banks and donors involved in the funding, planning, design, operation and management of communal latrine facilities serving urban poverty pocket residents. A summary of the research findings will be made publicly available on the SHARE website and will be disseminated within the SHARE consortium and to a broad range of users.