

Asian Development Bank

**PROJECT ON
SUSTAINABLE SANITATION IMPROVEMENTS AND
MANAGEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

INCEPTION REPORT

Submitted by:

ASK, India

July 2006

The views expressed in this paper are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Board of Directors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this paper and accepts no responsibility for any consequences of their use. Terminology used may not necessarily be consistent with ADB official terms.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Background & Rationale of the Project
2. Objectives of the Project
3. Results achieved during this period
4. Activities undertaken during this period
5. Action Plan for next month

Annexure:

1. District Profile of Sarguja
2. Project Work Plan

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

This project intervention is placed in the context of the infrastructure development projects, particularly rural road projects that are being funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) in several parts of the country. These projects are important from the point of view of improving the connectivity of the villages which in turn enhance the mobility of the communities. This brings greater opportunity for economic enterprise.

While on one hand the rural roads project brings economic growth it also throws up certain challenges, especially in the realm of water and sanitation.

Firstly, the increased mobility and access attracts more population in search of economic opportunities. The road sides and the villages have to contend with the increased population that also grows haphazardly. The requirement for water increases. If not planned well, the sanitation becomes a casualty and unsanitary conditions increase in the villages and the region.

The villages still do not have facilities of sanitary toilets, proper drains or facility for solid waste disposal. With the increased population that the better roads bring the drainage system is severely taxed. The choking of drains is a common problem. If the planning of the layout of the road does not take care of this aspect, there may be stagnation of excessive water on the road.

The solid waste quantity also increases manifold and there is every chance of spread of disease or epidemic. It is common place to see that the people come to stay too close to the plot of land earmarked for solid waste disposal or sometimes the solid waste disposal facility itself may be encroached upon, thus leaving no planned space for the disposal of waste.

The lack of availability of sanitary toilets means that the people must go to open places outside of their homes for defecation. This is a common practice throughout the country. However once the areas that were once barren and less frequented become more accessed, it raises a big problem for the village inhabitants, particularly the women. There is a concentration on small patches of areas that become increasingly unhygienic and a virtual minefield for diseases.

Impact on women

Women in particular, who often use these spaces for their sanitation needs, find it increasingly difficult to come to these places for toilet needs due to severe lack of privacy. Often they may be forced to walk longer distance to find a private and safe place. This increases the time consumed and adds to the drudgery. The lack of privacy, safety renders the possibility of defecating only during the dawn or dusk. This forces the women to unnaturally regulate their bowel movements leading to disastrous consequences for their health.

As such the women in conservative villages can go for their toilet needs before dawn or after dusk. If the road side that they visited earlier for their toilet need gets busier, it becomes difficult for the women to use the same. Similarly the bathing ponds become frequently busy or often get located on the road side and the local population finds it increasingly difficult to use these facilities. Once again the women do so at huge amount

of personal discomfort, often under the prying eyes of insensitive passerby. With no attention ever given to this problem women have no choice but to accept it as their fate.

It is in view of the above situation, that ASK is undertaking a pilot intervention aimed at improving the sanitation conditions in locations where rural roads are being developed so as to ensure that the location improves its environment sanitation conditions and particularly benefits the women in increasing the access and thereby improving the health as well as comfort for the women. The project will also involve women as key participants in the analysis, intervention, monitoring and sustainability efforts. This way the project will ensure that the project will benefit from the insights and efforts of women who are almost 50 % of the total population. This will also ensure that the specific needs and concerns of the women will be addressed effectively and they will play active role in managing the local environmental sanitary conditions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

1. To successfully demonstrate a sustainable sanitation program model implemented and managed collectively by the community stakeholders; and
2. To ensure the availability of a practical process based manual on implementation of sanitation program.

3. RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THIS PERIOD

- The project team has been recruited and administrative arrangements are in place
- Complete understanding of the team has been developed on the development context of Chhatisgarh, the project objectives and their roles and responsibilities
- An initial rapid appraisal has been conducted in the area
- The project area – district, block and the three villages have been identified based on outcomes of the rapid appraisal.
- A project work plan for the entire project duration has also been outlined

4. MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THIS PERIOD

Recruitment of Project team

The Project team as per the proposal comprises of the following:

- Project Manager (who will be based in the field office and will coordinate with national office)
- Project Coordinator (who will be based in field office)
- Social worker (will be based in field office, is yet to be recruited)
- Documentation officer (will be based in national office and will be responsible for process documentation)

The Project Manager and Coordinator have been recruited, both being professionals in the development sector. After establishing a complete understanding about the project

and their respective roles the team immediately moved to Chhatisgarh to initiate the process of selection of project areas and setting up office.

Inception meetings at National Office

Inception meetings were held at the national office on 30th June and 1st July, 2006 to discuss the project in its entirety. The project team as well as members of the national office participated in it. Intensive discussions were held regarding various aspects and nuances of the project, for a better and comprehensive understanding of the project. Some of the salient features of the meeting are as follows:

- Discussions were held on the process of selection of project site
- Initial rapid appraisals and more in-depth situational assessments of the selected area were also discussed.
- The budgetary allocation under various heads were discussed which formed the basis for further planning
- The channels of communication between the field office and the national office were worked out
- Various activities to be undertaken were put up for discussion which provided inputs for developing the work plan for the project
- Discussions were also held regarding logistic set up

Developing project work plan

Activity Plan of Project from June 2006- May 2007 was prepared giving a detailed layout of the proposed activities to be undertaken with reference to time. The work plan has been attached as Annexure 2.

Preparation of team prior to field visit

Before leaving for the field, the project team devoted considerable time to prepare themselves in terms of building the understanding about the development context of Chhatisgarh, and also to prepare for the situational assessment that would be conducted in the selected areas. For this purpose following work was undertaken:

- Existing resource and know how at the organization was utilized
- Relevant literatures were consulted
- Human Development Reports were consulted to understand the context
- Relevant information was extracted from the internet which added to the knowledge base of the team
- Tools / PRA exercises including exercises for Gender analysis were developed for the situational assessment.

Selection of project area

As the per the project guidelines, this particular intervention will be done in only those villages which have been covered under the rural roads project funded by ADB.

In keeping with this basis, Sarguja district of Chhatisgarh has been identified since this is the only district where the stretch of roads sanctioned by ADB have been completed. A district profile of Sarguja has been attached as Annexure 1.

In Sarguja, ADB funded rural roads have been constructed in two Block namely, Surajpur and Ramanujnagar. Surajpur has two stretches while Ramanujnagar has three. In both the Blocks and all stretches rapid appraisals were conducted and finally the decision was to select Surajpur block.

Rationale behind selection of Surajpur:

- In Surajpur block the stretches cover several villages with considerable population density so the project if implemented will encompass quite a substantial population.
- In one particular stretch an industrial park is being constructed. It is envisaged that this will have an impact on the sanitation patterns of the nearby villages.
- Both the stretches in the Block are connected to NH 78 so a considerable flux of vehicular movement is noticed. This will also influence and impact the sanitation pattern of the village population.
- Surajpur is situated at a distance of 40 km from Ambikapur, the district headquarters of Sarguja. This also makes it a more practical base from a logistic point of view.

Selection of three villages

After a process of rapid appraisal in the Surajpur Block, the stretch from Kunjnagar to Jaundei under ADB supported project was chosen. Further the following villages that lay on this stretch were chosen for intervention:

1. Harratikra
2. Koreya
3. Kandarai

The 3 villages show a complete absence of sanitation facilities. In such a scenario, the entire population is compelled to undertake open air defecation, most commonly in the adjoining fields. In several places the existing road and its immediate vicinity used to be the preferred place of sanitation. As of now this sanitation pattern is being highly disturbed by the existence of the PMGSY road. Complete absence of development agencies and other institutions is yet another characteristic of these villages which necessitate a development intervention. One positive feature is that in Harratikra the Sarpanch is a female candidate which will be an impetus to eliciting participation of women in the village. A more comprehensive profile of these villages is being developed.

Setting up of project office

A project office will be set up at Surajpur block, Ambikapur. From this office the complete project will be coordinated. This office would communicate with the national office for all necessary inputs and guidance. The team has identified the space and is presently setting up the office and also making other logistic arrangements.

Rapport building with community in three villages

At present the team besides completing the logistic arrangements is simultaneously involved in regularly visiting the three selected villages. This has ensured a regular contact with the community and relationship building. Preliminary discussions and concept sharing is being done with the community leaders to abreast them about the project intervention. The entire focus as of now is on building the relationship with the community and information sharing.

5. ACTION PLAN FOR NEXT MONTH

The action plan for the next month will entail:

- The process of rapport building will be continued in the three villages.
- A Gram Sabha will be organized for concept sharing with the larger community and seeking their opinion on the project.
- The situational assessment in the three villages will be initiated
- Completion of the logistic arrangements

DISTRICT PROFILE OF SARGUJA¹

Human Development Indices	2004	
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.418	
HDI RANK	11	
Alternate Human Development Index	0.393	
Alternate HDI Rank	11	
POPULATION	1991	2001
Share of State's Population (%)	8.98	9.47
Area (sq km)	16034*	16034
Urban Population (%)	5.40	6.96
Scheduled Caste Population (%)	4.70	4.81
Scheduled Tribe Population (%)	56.72	54.60
Density of Population (per sq km)	101	125
HEALTH	1991	2001
Infant Mortality Rate**	76	56.1
Under 5 Mortality Rate	113	79.37
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	33.44	30
Number of Hospitals	2	2
PHCs	74	65
Sub-centres	594***	488
Community Health Centres	8	18
AGRICULTURE	1991	2001
Average Land Holding Size (in ha)	2.230	1.920
Per Capita Forest Area (ha)	0.704	0.524
EMPLOYMENT (%)	1991	2001
Work Force Participation Rate		
Rural	50.03	51.5
Urban	26.5	27.6
Share of Primary Sector	90.7	DNA
Share of Secondary Sector	2.5	DNA
Share of Tertiary Sector	6.8	DNA
Total Employment in Agriculture	89.2	86.19
Agricultural Labour	18.4	34.9
EDUCATION	1991	2001
Literacy Rate (%)	27.34 54.8	
Male Literacy Rate	39.01 67.6	
Female Literacy Rate	15.21 41.6	
Scheduled Castes	25.2 51	
Scheduled Tribes	19.5 48.3	
HOUSEHOLD STATUS (%)	1991	2001
Households with Pucca Houses	8.38	6.04
Semi- pucca Houses	90.44	92.57
Kutchra Houses	1.19	1.39

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, Chhatisgarh, Sarguja, 2004

Households with Access to:

Electricity	21.95	28.36
Safe Drinking Water	27.66	27.24
Toilet Facilities	7.72	7.95
All of the three given above	5.51	4.11
None of the three given above	60.49	22

GENDER

	1991	2001
Sex Ratio (no. of females per 1000 males)		
Rural	970	977
Urban	894	904
Total	966	972
Scheduled Castes (sex ratio)	967	979
Scheduled Tribes (sex ratio)	979	987
Female Work Participation Rate	49.5	44.0

