

Sanitation Audit: Survey to evaluate a sanitation drive of a microfinance institute (MFI) in Orissa, India

Between the 2nd and the 21st of July, the first in a series of validation surveys of the MFI partners of FINISH took place in Orissa. The project was carried out by the staff of Friend-In-Need Trust (FIN) upon the request of FINISH. <http://www.finishsociety.com/index.php>

The aim of the impact evaluation study was to assess the improvements made by an MFI partner of the FINISH programme (Financial inclusion for sanitation and health) to increase sanitation density and coverage across the state of Orissa.



Mr. V. Ganapathy (FIN) and Mr. Brajaraj Mohapatra during focus group discussion with beneficiaries in Firfira, Khurda.

The survey team included a sanitation expert, an economist, as well as political science and civil engineering students. The project was formulated and coordinated by Dr. Shyama V. Ramani, Professor at the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands) and founder-director of FIN. The objective of the project was to develop a set of indicators to verify performance vis-à-vis the following questions:

- What is the exact contribution of the MFI is to the sanitation density increase in the state since the baseline survey?
- What is the rate of “loan conversion to sanitation facilities” ?
- Is the financial scheme appropriate for the construction of complete and safe sanitation systems?
- What is level of awareness of the beneficiaries about the financial package offered and about the benefits of safe sanitation systems in general?
- Do the constructed sanitation facilities respect certain basic environmental standards and are they efficiently used by the owners?



Mr. Tamas Medovarszki (FIN-Sciences Po Paris) discussing the proceedings of the survey with the team in Balakati, Khurda

The validation survey was led by Mr. Tamas Medovarszki a FIN intern from the Sciences-Po institute (Paris). He was assisted by Mr. Paranjyothi and Mr. Ganapathy of FIN. Many thanks are acknowledged to Ms. Gita Balakrishnan of Ethos, FIN collaborator, who wrote to several academic institutions in Orissa. Thus, nine students of architecture or civil engineering: Sandipan Chatterjee, Abhishek Sethi, Abhishek Sahu, Dibya Prakash, Zishan Khan, Nishant Bhushan, Sandeep Prusty, Hem Narayan Chaudhary, Anand Utsav, Prasanta Bage from the academic institutions: SMIT Berhampur, HIT Haldia, NIT Rourkela and PMCA cuttack - formed the research team.

The survey covered low-, middle- and high density districts in order to produce a representative sample and reached out to remote areas as well despite unfavourable weather conditions and Naxalite activism in certain areas. By the 21st of July, the validation covered a total of 8 districts, 38 villages and nearly 1000 sanitation loans beneficiaries. The findings of the study revealed to be extremely useful and its lessons are likely to further improve the performance of the FINISH programme. The survey team of FIN would like to give special thanks to the representatives of the MFI for their precious assistance throughout the project, especially Mr. Abhijit of the MFI, who was with the FIN research team till the day of departure.