

Environmental Justice and Dalit Women:

Using Sanitation Technology to Improve Human Rights in Gujarat, India

Abstract

Manual scavenging, the act of human removal of excreta from dry pit latrines, is detrimental to both environmental and public health. This practice is prevalent in Gujarat, India where water shortages have made the widespread use of public wet toilets unfeasible. In June of 2006, a team of twelve students from MIT, Harvard and Tufts traveled to India to consult for Navsarjan, a local non-governmental organization. The objective of their project was to create a baseline survey assessment of manual scavengers and develop a technical solution to dry latrines. The survey (n=77 households) was implemented by Navsarjan enumerators. While results of the survey were not statistically significant, observational data are presented that indicated that manual scavengers and their children are at an increased risk of discrimination, violence and exposure to harmful pathogens. A discussion of the importance of practicing proper survey methodology is also included in this paper.

Appendix 2: Financial Expenditures

Location³	Item	Cost
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Roundtrip airfare from Boston	\$1,338.08
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India	Roundtrip airfare from Mumbai	\$150.00
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India	Hotel	\$682.00
Mumbai & Ahmedabad	Food & Bottled water	\$650.00
Mumbai & Ahmedabad	Transportation	\$65.00
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India	Hotel near airport for layovers upon arrival & departure	\$300.00
Mumbai & Ahmedabad	Internet/phone cards	\$20.00
Ahmedabad	Medical care & medication for amebiasis	\$50.00
all locations	International health/travel insurance	\$169.00
all locations	Transit Visa	\$30.00
Ahmedabad	appropriate/local clothing	\$50.00
Boston, MA	Trip supplies (Oral re-hydration therapy packets, framepack, Malarone anti-malarial pills, etc)	\$200.00
	TOTAL	\$3,704.08

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