EVALUATION REPORT

Sustainable Water and Sanitation Management Program as a Community-Led Development Model in Chilakkalapalli, India

Most Significant Impacts

Submitted to:
The Director,

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PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

Project Goal:	**Objectives:**
Have a model healthy village of people with civilised human behaviour by breaking the vicious cycle of poor sanitation, poor health and poverty	1. Foster community ownership of a clean water and sanitation program. 2. Achieve a disease-free and healthy community by ensuring safe drinking water to all villagers. 3. Enhance the self-esteem of beneficiaries through improved housing and cleaner environment with adequate drainage. 4. Eliminate open defecation. 5. Reduce soil and water pollution by implementing a sustainable and ecological sanitation system.

Expected Results

1. Installation of a drinking water plant utilizing a reverse osmosis system.
2. Construction of drainage lines.
3. Provision of new homes for families in extreme poverty through government assistance.
4. Construction of usable sanitary latrines for over a hundred families.
5. Establishment of a waste management system to produce compost manure from wet waste and a plastic recycling unit.

Target Population: Around 5000 - the total population of Chilakkalapalli Village

Geographic Location: Chilakkalapalli is located in Parvathipuram district of Andhra Pradesh closer to the boarder of Odisha state towards north and around 200 kilometres from the nearest city Visakhapatnam.

Project Duration: 12 months starting from 1st March 2024.

Implementing Partners: Local NGO - Society for Community Organisation and People's Education (SCOPE) in collaboration with Spanish NGO Fontilles.

Funding Organisation: Ferrovial – Spanish infrastructure firm with a focus on sustainable development

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY:

Evaluation Design:

The task at hand was to evaluate a community action aimed at creating a sustainable water and sanitation programme. A distinctive methodology was designed to conduct the evaluation in a limited period of time and capture all aspects, especially involvement of the community. Data collection was done using qualitative methods.

Data Collection Methods:

- Interviews with major stakeholders: This is an important method of data collection in any context. In this project, it helped the Evaluators to understand the background and the support they received from many in the government departments and also from the local Panchayat – the local self-government body. However, it also indicated certain challenges the implementers had to face, due to conflicts of the interest groups.
- Group discussions at community level: As community participation has been fundamental to the implementation methodology, it was imperative to meet the groups benefitted from household toilets, community toilets and water purification plant.
- Review of work reports and financial statements: The implementing organisation provided the Evaluators with all related documents including proposal, approved budget, work reports and Expenditure statements.
- Facility observation, reviewing the structures created
- Case histories of beneficiaries: The most significant impacts of the project were reviewed through individual experiences of people. The Evaluators visited selected cases and conducted detailed discussions with their families and individual members, which formed an important part of the methodology of this evaluation.
- Tele-interviews with primary stakeholders: Through SCOPE – the implementing NGO, the Evaluators collected telephone numbers of the villagers which included beneficiaries and people who did not benefit directly through the project. This method was adopted to avoid biased opinions on critical questions. On-lookers from the neighbourhood, village leaders or even staff of the implementing NGO could have influenced the responses.

KEY FINDINGS:

Relevance:

The first dimension of the project considered by the Evaluators was to check the relevance of the project itself. India being the most populated country in the world with sharp contrasts in socioeconomic and living conditions, it is very important for a large majority of its population to change their lives to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The major challenges of today's world include environment issues, sharp inequalities existing in many societies and unpreparedness of societies to face epidemics and calamities of mass destruction. The most relevant themes for under-developed parts of India include sanitation and safe drinking water. No other country in the world has so many millions of people living without sanitary latrines, adding filth to their own surrounding on a daily basis. Action plan developed by the implementing NGO focussing on behavioural change and their method of community participation are very relevant in the context of Andhra Pradesh and India in general.

Achievements of the project:

SAFE DRINKING WATER:

As aimed at the beginning of the project, a water purification plant was completed through the following steps:

1. **Social processes** which included raising awareness about drinking safe water, spreading information to the villagers about results of lab tests of the stool of their children, test results of quality of water they are drinking, health discussions after video shows, house to house activities of the Village Volunteers and formation of Safe Drinking Water Committee. Later, this Committee gave way to The Water Purification Plant Maintenance Committee.
2. **Selection of a site**: As laid down in the strategy, the selection of place for installing water purification plant is done by the community through a people's Committee. Information gathered from the Committee members revealed that the selection of place has been a tedious process. All the villagers wanted the plant near their home. But everyone wanted it a few steps away, so that the plant doesn't hide the visibility of their house from road, or does not take away a piece of Panchayat land they have been eying to capture for a long time etc. This sense of convenience and rejection in crowded settlements, put the organisation into difficulty in getting site for the plant and to start construction on time. Finally, a place was identified – what it looked like a convenient place for water purification plant with a close-by site for Community Toilet. As SCOPE informed to the Evaluator, a new set of trouble started only after initiating the work, like cleaning of the site, downloading materials and the Engineers started marking the foundation. A few people who didn't want any construction in that area made SCOPE stop the work.
3. **Meeting hall**: The Water Committee actively searched and found a new locality to the convenience of all concerned. The new site proved to be a good choice in terms of sufficient space for the building and movement of purified water cans to reach to all the houses in the village. Ensuring sustainability of the social capital created, SCOPE decided to add another room for conducting meetings of Village Sanitation Committee and Maintenance Committee of the Water Purification Plant.

4. **Installation of the Plant**: Information on the installation process and construction of the building was collected through Group Discussions, interviews of key informants and facility observation. The people were very happy about the plant, especially after getting sensitised about quality of water they drink and impact of drinking water on health. Many of them could relate health issues in the community to the high TDS in water they were drinking for long time. The Committee members were especially happy with the quality of construction of the building. The floor was constructed at an extra height adding to the safety from flies and insects.
5. **Training to Local Volunteers**: The training organised by SCOPE for the local youth and Committee members is highly appreciable. Now they have the confidence to run and maintain the water purification plant. This will give the Committee Members enough comfort and alternative hands to run the plant should they decide to change Operator-in charge under any circumstance. The trained Volunteers are able to monitor the water quality using the testers provided by the Trainer.
6. **The Water-plant Maintenance Committee**: The Water Purification plant was formally handed over to the Committee on 20th February 2025. The handing-over document makes it obligatory that any operational or maintenance issues would be addressed by the Committee from time to time. Committee and community will actively work to ensure regular supply of purified water to the community. Cleaning of the tank, repair, and upkeep of the RO water plant, functionality and proper use of the meeting hall also will be direct responsibility of this committee.
7. **Sustainability**: As drinking water is an essential commodity, and all the villagers would get purified water from this system, the demand-supply side looks perfect. Nevertheless, on the backdrop of the lack of experience of the villagers in managing a collective enterprise, continuation of the supply system would be a real challenge. Technical issues and machine maintenance are guaranteed by the supplier of the plant. Training to the person in-charge and the local youth and committee members also is an important step towards ensuring sustainability.

   Many people actively participated and shared information in the group discussions organised by SCOPE to facilitate the evaluation process. It is observed that, none of them had a previous experience of anything like this, where they shoulder responsibilities collectively, though the government had many welfare activities done in the village. Though they have been beneficiaries of many programmes, they never had a say in any aspects of its implementation.

   The implementation of the safe drinking water supply programme by setting up a purification plant through Reverse Osmosis mechanism has been a big success. The NGO could take credit of People's involvement and participation and making it a unique activity in the context of health development and of the village. Nevertheless, the Evaluators assess that the people's Committees would need a handholding until such time that they take independent decisions and keep the systems running.

THE THEME OF OD (OPEN DEFECATION):

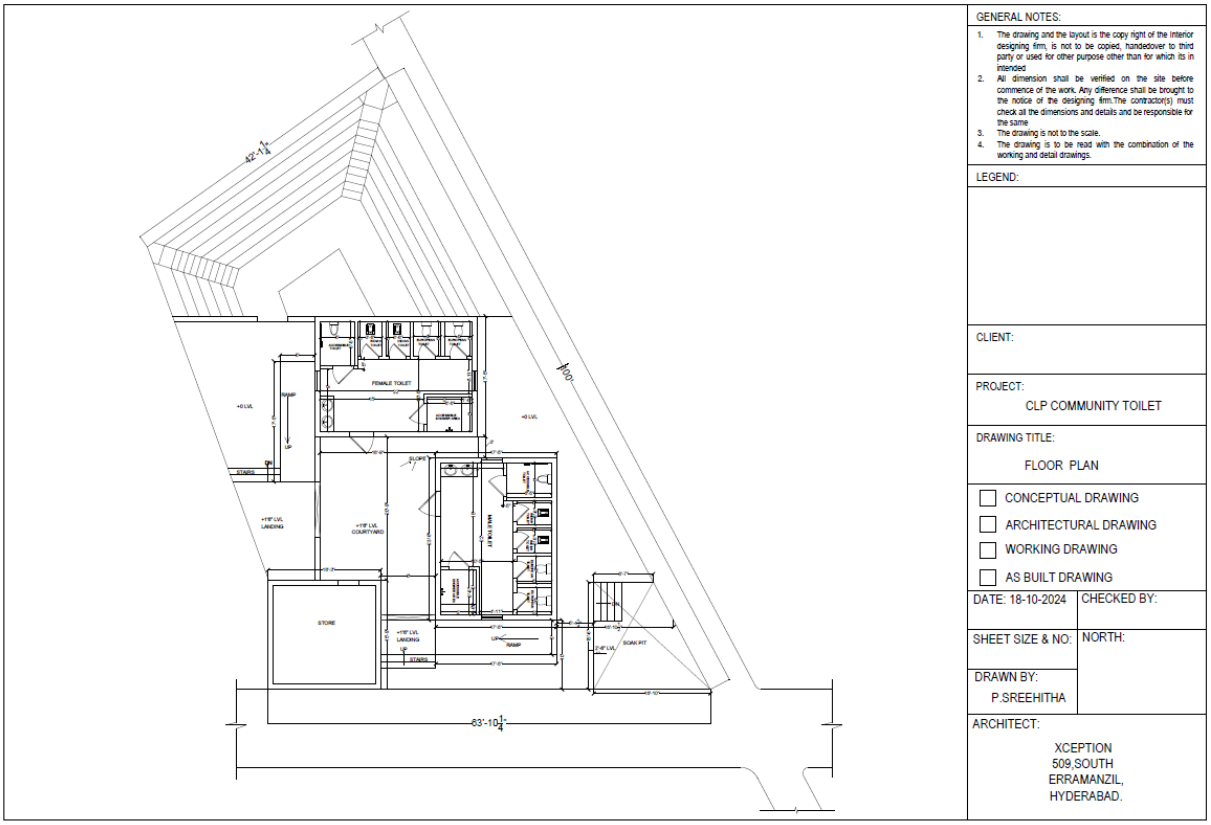
1. **Relevance:** The adverse health effects of OD are many: acute effects include infectious intestinal diseases, including diarrheal diseases which are exacerbated by poor water supplies, sanitation and hygiene; adverse pregnancy outcomes; and life-threatening violence against women and girls (as reported and unreported in many parts of India). The IEC at Chilakkalapalli touched upon all those aspects and the messages reached up-to the

entire population. As SCOPE explains, their key focus was on the dignity of people. The project aimed at promoting the initiative of the community which was possible only if they feel dignified and responsible. Open defecation not only worsened the sanitation of the village, but also hurt their dignity which affected even the educational performance of their children – especially the girls. The real-life stories collected by the Evaluators showed significant changes in the thinking and behaviour of the villagers. Though the project did not end open defecation in Chilakkalapalli, it definitely made a big change in the way people approach it and in understanding the need for keeping the village cleaner. The theme in the context of the village and the country, is very relevant for a water and sanitation project

2. **Campaigns and Consultations**: The project started with extensive campaigns and small group meetings of neighbourhoods, which included dissemination of health information, analysis of lab test results of their children and importance of clean and healthy environment in improving their life. These disseminations and discussions led to the important issue of open defecation practised in the village. Till then OD was part of an accepted way of life for the villagers. Gradually they realised that they have to find a way out to stop this practice. But it was not easy. There were many hurdles in having a proper toilet.
3. **Quality of construction of toilets**: The most important among the hurdles was their own notion of toilet as something dirty which we should not keep inside a house. But when they learnt the evils of OD, they wanted individual toilets as the idea of community toilet was even worse. Lack of space was another important hurdle. In the crowded settlements, many people lived in a single room with a leftover space for kitchen. SCOPE says that they came up with the idea of community toilet at this point, but there were no takers. It took around 3 months to arrive at a final decision on the site of the Community Toilet, which completed construction in February 2024. SCOPE says that one of the reasons why it wanted good quality toilets in both categories of individual toilets and Community toilet is this compulsion to change the idea of a toilet as a 'dirty thing', and convert it to a symbol of cleanliness.
4. **Level of satisfaction**: Only qualitative methods were used to measure the level of satisfaction. The users of both new individual toilets and Community toilet are excited and very happy about the process and construction of the toilets. The quality of buildings is much more than what they expected as revealed in the telephonic interviews. The women and girls were happier than their male counterparts in the families. The decision makers of the families are men – even when they are away from their home and working in outside cities. By and large, they ignored the embarrassment of girls who found it more difficult during day time to find proper hiding for urination or defecation. The boys attending schools and colleges also were happy to have toilets at home. The students from families who got new toilets constructed wanted the project to extend support for toilets for more families so that their friends could also get benefitted. The satisfaction level of the users in general was quite high and makes a positive impact among their neighbourhood.
5. **Sustainability**: The Evaluators observed unused toilets constructed by government in the backyards of the houses of many beneficiaries. A few of them were even new. Sustainability is never a concern for the Contractors who execute the construction of toilets in the village. The beneficiaries who lose the space, making their habitat more congested, remain mute spectators, knowing very well that they are not going to use it.

The question was raised to the beneficiaries on why they did not use the government supplied toilet, and whether they would use the new toilet constructed by SCOPE? The responses of the beneficiaries are more important from a sustainability point of view, which is explained in detail in the next section on the 'Most Significant Impacts'. From the implementers' point of view, this aspect is covered from the planning stage. Community consultations started during the proposal development stage. Selection of beneficiaries for the household toilets was done after many rounds of neighbourhood meetings, and only those who were sure of using the new toilet were selected. The conscientisation of the community, sensitisation and awareness programmes focussed on dignity and civil behaviour, aiming at reducing the casual approach of the community towards open defecation. Ensuring sustainability couldn't have been possible, if the technical were not taken care of. Though the village has water supply, there was no system to ensure water in the toilets. The villagers never had the experience of using a toilet, and they were ignorant about its maintenance. To address these issues SCOPE designed the toilets with three compulsory components for all toilets: 1. Independent septic tank and soak-pit which could be cleaned at any time when needed. This makes the user free from the fear of filling and spilling over of faecal waste. 2. To keep it clean and odourless, only flush toilets are constructed. 3. All toilets are provided with OH tank ensuring availability of enough water anytime.

6. Community Toilet: All technical and software details of individual toilets sit well with the community toilet also. Handing-over of the community toilet was celebrated by the users with a lot of enthusiasm. SCOPE has made it acceptable for the community through its initial steps of maintaining good quality and educating the members of the users' committee. The deep-rooted stigma in the minds of the local community against ideas of 'community toilet', 'public toilet' etc which is fortified with the two common toilets in the village was the first challenge faced by the implementing organisation. As SCOPE informs, the Architect who designed the community toilet planned a conceptual innovation by planning a village shop and an amphitheatre- mainly for educational video shows, tuition support for school children and community meetings. The idea was to keep the premises active making it necessary to keep surroundings clean. But the amphitheatre did not work out due to financial constraints. But SCOPE offered technical support to the Panchayat to complete this portion of the building plan. The toilet blocks provided easy access round the clock. It provided complete privacy inside the toilet rooms. The feeling of bright surroundings is maintained in all units.



ORIGINAL PLAN OF THE COMMUNITY TOILET

DRAINAGE LINES

SCOPE informs that their Engineers surveyed the drainage systems and proposed improvements, incorporating suggestions from a volunteers' team from Ferrovial. They also identified places where new drainage lines to be constructed. Although the Panchayat acknowledged the recommendations, they postponed implementation due to administrative issues, citing ongoing government tenders for drainage renovations. Environmental considerations were made regarding water quality and ecosystem preservation. Training sessions were held for community members and construction workers on maintenance and proper drainage use. During the construction phase, excavation and site preparation occurred in clusters D and E, with 2600 feet of drainage built using concrete materials and strategically placed catch basins and manholes to manage water flow.

The main problem in Chilakkalapalli village was not lack of drainages, but drainages turning into source of water stagnation, dirt and breeding ground for vectors, houseflies and insects. The Evaluators walked along a clogged drainage line to find out the reason for clogging. The line was broken at a point where heavy concrete junk was dumped. This lane posed a serious threat to sanitation of a crowded habitat. SCOPE informed that they tried to clear up the concrete junk in order to smoothen the line which is the only way to de-clog it. But they were not allowed to do so as the land was disputed and onward portion of the line had been levelled up and in use. On another area, SCOPE's effort to de-clog

the line was thwarted by a farmer. He complained that the filth and plastic waste from the drainage would damage his land.

Construction of drainage was limited. More importance was given to cleaning activities. Should the drainage lines serve its function and be sustainable, the beneficiaries, those are the villagers, need to understand its role and importance in keeping their surroundings clean and perhaps more importantly, the importance of cleanliness itself in their life. According to the functionaries of SCOPE, change in the behaviour of people living in these crowded clusters was more important than abrupt changes in infrastructure. Working towards this change, SCOPE studied the reasons and contents of the clogged filth in the drainage. It started with educating the mothers to reduce buying too many plastic items and avoid throwing those into streets and drainage lines. In the long run, Chilakkalapalli need to keep their drainages clean and would require all the toilets connected to sewerage lines and a sewerage treatment plant. The drainage lines if properly maintained could be connected to available canals which could absorb storm and runoff rain water.

WASTE-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Though the government spent a lot of money in its efforts to develop a waste management system, it is a problem looming large in the sanitation situation in Chilakkalapalli village. SCOPE engaged with local residents through various methods such as meetings and surveys to identify existing waste disposal practices and challenges. Key issues identified include open dumping, blocked drainage lines, air pollution from burning waste, and a lack of proper waste bins, all of which pose significant public health and environmental risks.

SCOPE's collaboration with local authorities indicates a proactive approach to developing a waste management system, emphasizing community involvement through the formation of a Village Sanitation Committee. The organization has also focused on educating the community, particularly children, about waste management through awareness programmes in schools, which is crucial for fostering long-term behavioural change.

The establishment of designated waste collection points and regular collection schedules demonstrates SCOPE's commitment to improving waste management logistics. Apart from educating the families to segregate plastic waste at source, SCOPE provided colour coded waste bins to keep plastic and non-plastic wastes separately. SCOPE trained the Panchayat staff to lift these wastes from the bins timely and not mix those. However, it needs support from the parts of the government and Panchayat to initiate a sustainable waste management system by setting up recycling units and processing of wet-waste for the benefit of farmers.

From the part of the NGO, they did very well in drawing attention of the Panchayat and concerned government departments to give priority on setting up a waste management system. To sensitise the community, who need to dispose waste every day, they did their bit of educational activities. Furthermore, the involvement of women and youth in leadership roles is a positive step towards promoting community cohesion and sustainability.

MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

VARSHITHA'S EXPERIENCE

(As narrated by Varshitha 14 years and Chinnappamma 61 years to the Investigator)

Varshitha is 14 years old. Many months ago, she saw the same '*Akka*' (a local term to refer to elder sister) in her school, explaining about clean water, need to use sanitary latrines and waste management, who showed a video in her neighbourhood, earlier. Varshitha was carefully listening to what the *Akka* said and the video show in the neighbourhood. 'But is it going to happen in my life', she thought. Next day she told her wish of having a toilet in the house to Chinni while both were going for their routine toilet on the way to open fields. Chinni is her regular companion to the field for many years now. In the recent years Chinni has a mobile phone and its torch helps both the friends to navigate the distance which is more than half a kilometre to the field. Everyday Varshita waits for Chinni when it is still dark in the morning, for their routine visit to the field. 'But why do you need a toilet in the house?', Chinni didn't like the idea; 'is it not fun to chit-chat, gossip – if we go to the field every day like this? If you stop, I have to find someone new to go with me, which I don't like', resented Chinni.

Varshita's grandmother, Chinnappamma thought too much, neither about the health hazards of open defecation, nor about the aspect of dignity. But she decided to approach the SCOPE Volunteer of the village to find out whether she could get a toilet constructed. Her worry was about the safety of Varshitha. The fear has been perennial – on a daily basis. There are venomous snakes on the way. Chinnappamma knows about people died due to snakebite in the village. Sometimes there is disturbance of eve-teasers, which the girls normally do not make a complaint about it fearing escalation of the trouble and family fights. Moreover, as the girl is growing, it is a problem to attend natures call or even passing urine during day time. Chinnappamma is looking after Varshitha single-handedly for around two years now. Only those two souls are there in the house. Vasishta's father lives in another town, where he works. Mother left the family on a dispute. The Volunteer said she could get a toilet under the project, but Chinnappamma needed to organise digging of septic tank and

soak-pit. This was the NGO's strategy to ensure interest and participation of the beneficiary. That day Chinnappamma was waiting for Vasishta to come back from school to share the big news, that her father, Chinnappamma's son agreed to bear the cost of digging septic tank and soak pit. Vasishta jumped in joy. Chinnappamma called a mason to dig the septic tank and soak pit. The same mason continued to build the toilet under the supervision of Engineers from SCOPE. It took a few months to get all the works done. The project covered all associated costs, including construction, water supply, plumbing, electric lines and drainage systems.

Finally, a sanitary latrine of elegance and beauty in the backyard of Varshita. "I can use it anytime. There is light inside and outside. There is water all the time. I can use it midnight or midday", boasted Varshitha. But she was sad for Chinni. Now Chinni is forcing her father to construct a toilet in their house. Chinni's father approached SCOPE for some partial help at least. But SCOPE doesn't know when such an opportunity comes again.

WE CARE FOR YOU, LALITHAMMA!

Like **Lalithamma** many senior citizens in Chilakalapalli feel ignored and neglected. Lalithamma is 68 years old and lives alone in her small house in the colony of the backward communities (BC) in Chilakkalapalli village. Her son is settled in Hyderabad. Struggling with health issues like arthritis and fatigue, she had to walk long distances to relieve herself. The daily walk to the open field for defecation was painful and exhausting. She often felt weak and dizzy after the walk, which further deteriorated her health. Lalithamma had no privacy while attending nature's call. Open defecation was the only option, as she lives in a small hut on the road-side. Getting a companion to walk to the field was not easy for her. When she could manage a companion from the neighbourhood, she went to open fields and used the roadside on other occasions. Open fields in the dark have been risky for being bitten by scorpions, centipedes and snakes.

Lalithamma often felt ashamed when she had to depend on others for walking to the open field for defecation. When she doesn't have a companion, she finds the nearest point on the roadside. But her house is in a crowded locality, which makes her walk more than half a kilometre to reach a place which is not the front side of another house.

The construction of sanitary latrine was a great relief for Lalithamma. SCOPE provided her with training on use and maintenance of the toilet. Her in Hyderabad was very happy to hear the development when Lalithamma informed him about help from SCOPE for a toilet. He consulted SCOPE and said that he would contribute by adding a washbasin and additional facilities for bathroom and also a tap so that Lalithamma could collect water for kitchen anytime in the day, by taking advantage of the overhead tank provided by SCOPE.

When the Investigators from the Evaluation team visited Lalithamma, she was found very cheerful and happy. She shared her painful past, when she felt helpless and totally ignored. She remembered experience of standing up suddenly in the middle of defecation, sighting the high beam of headlight of vehicles passing through.

Having a latrine at her disposal restored Lalithamma's sense of dignity. She no longer has to depend on others for something as personal as using the restroom. "It feels like I have my own private space now. I am not ashamed anymore, and I don't need to ask anyone for help. I feel like I have my dignity back," she shares with a smile.

Lalithamma's experience has inspired other people in Chilakkalapalli village. Many people approached SCOPE for support in construction of toilet. Some have already started the process of constructing their own latrines, encouraged by the difference it made for Lalithamma.

MAUNIKA'S AGONY COMES TO AN END

Mounika and Manasa feel that they are the happiest people in the world today! Not just because they have a toilet, but because they own the most beautiful toilet they have ever seen. They endured such a disgraceful teenage without a toilet. Mounika – the elder one among the two sisters is 25 years old now. The younger one, Manasa is 21 years old and studies for her degree in a college. Their father, Jayaraju is 58 years old now and works as a labourer. Mother Meramma is 49 years old. She also is an unskilled labourer without any steady income.

The children grow without visiting a latrine ever in life, and none ever feels uncomfortable or unusual about open defecation. When the female literacy was very low, even the young girls in the village were at home with open defecation. Only condition was to follow the norm that they go early in the morning or at night when it is dark. Inconvenience of girls or women was not a concern (in a society with high gender disparities). In the case of Mounika, the problem started when she joined a college for her graduation. She was one among the good students in school and wanted to better in academics. By the time she was in the college, she developed a higher self-esteem and became more hygiene conscious.

One day when she was still in college, she was invited by her thick friend for her brother's marriage. She wanted Mounika to stay with her for two days. Mounika was a little nervous, but she could not ignore her friend's desire. Her friend is from an average educated family, which she found very different from her own. There was no compulsion to get up early in the morning. The parents and relatives of her friend spoke nicely and with respect to Mounika.

But Mounika never dared to invite her friends' family to her house – not even her friend herself. She never felt so shameful about not having a toilet at home, before.

Even after coming back home, she continued thinking about it. She couldn't think about any solutions. Her sister Manasa, too started sharing the same feelings. Their mother tried to make the girls understand about their social status and advised them to be like the neighbours. The mother found it abnormal with Mounika that she started getting isolated herself from her neighbourhood friends. She also thought Manasa has developed psychological problems when she hesitated to go for defecation in the morning. Manasa also complained about lewd comments of some boys in the village. Meramma – her mother silenced her for creating problems of family feuds. "You should go earlier in the morning, before the boys wake up." But Manasa said she is afraid of darkness.

When SCOPE started the campaign on sanitation and stopping open defecation, Mounika and Manasa joined the campaign and insisted their parents to avail the opportunity. While the mother supported the girls, Jayaraju was not willing to get the septic tank work done, which SCOPE put as a pre-condition to ensure participation and genuine interest of the beneficiaries, in addition to attend the training schedules on usage and maintenance of sanitary latrines. When the whole family convinced him, he too agreed. He approached SCOPE and requested to get him included in the project. As Jayaraju and Meramma participated with their physical labour, they did not have to spend much money to get the sanitary latrine completed.

The construction of an individual toilet in the house has profoundly affected the mental health of the daughters of Jayaraju and Meramma. Mounika and Manasa no longer struggle with anxiety, fear, or embarrassment related to their sanitation needs. With improved privacy, dignity, and safety, the children are thriving emotionally and socially. Their college attendance has improved, self-esteem has risen, and their mental well-being is stronger.

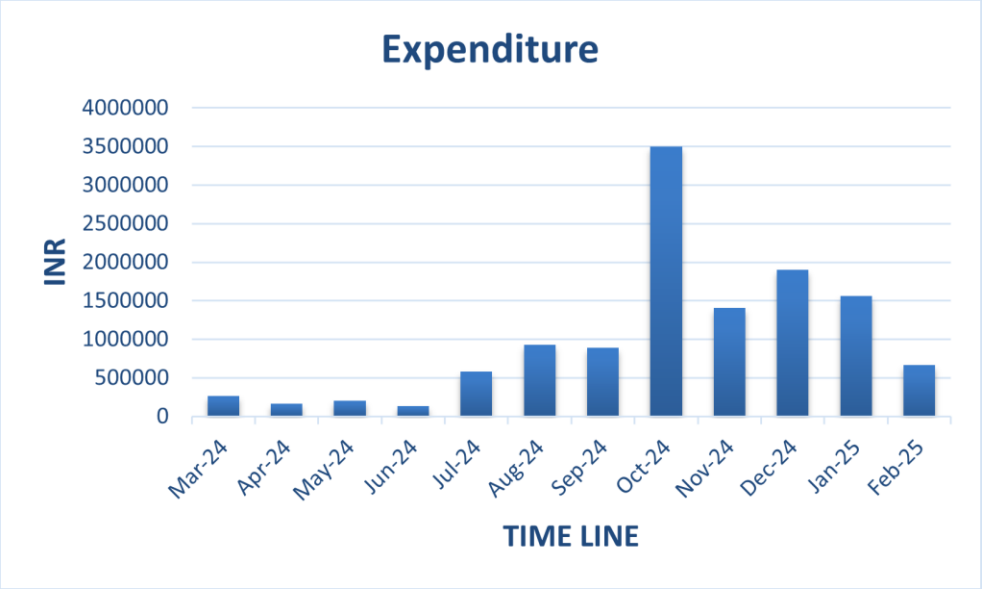
FINANCIAL REVIEW

Training and capacity building of local Volunteers and training of the beneficiaries to use and maintain the sanitary latrines and water purification plant, were among the best ways of financial utilisation under this project. Raising Community awareness and focus on sustainability are also counted as efficient financial management. SCOPE tried to create a convergence of local resources starting from local community and Panchayat to government at higher levels to improve socioeconomic status of the most marginalised in the village. Though it did not work as expected on the time-scale, people benefitted from this approach by channelising government funds in renovating houses, and later availing toilets under the current project.

The overall finance management appears quite satisfactory, on examining the expenditure categories and patterns. The funds allocated under the major heads were almost maintained.

	Euros
Direct Costs requested from Ferrovial/Fontilles	135,510
Funds received by SCOPE from Ferrovial/Fontilles	135,510
Expenditure out of the received amount	137,322
SCOPE'S Contribution	1,812

The balance sheet of the project shows a 100% utilisation of the funds received from the donors under the Direct costs. As informed by SCOPE, there was a review after the first quarter of the project, and reallocations were made within the approved budget and from among the approved activities. A detailed analysis of the timeline of expenses, show a healthy trendline in which maximum expenditure on activities, especially on infrastructure development happening towards the middle and no hurried spending towards the end of the project. This also shows good planning. The implementers made review and reallocation well in advance so that money is not wasted on any unproductive and unsustainable activities.



SUMMARY:

The project under study, is aimed at improving sanitation and access to safe drinking water in Chilakkalapalli, India. The project addresses the pressing issues of open defecation (OD) and availability of drinking water, which are critical for achieving Sustainable Development Goals in a country with stark socioeconomic disparities. The project has successfully established a water purification plant and promoted the construction of sanitary latrines, significantly enhancing the health and dignity of the local population.

Key achievements include the completion of a water purification plant through community engagement and training of local volunteers, ensuring sustainability and operational efficiency. The project also tackled the cultural stigma surrounding toilets, leading to a shift in community attitudes towards sanitation. The construction of individual and community toilets has improved the quality of life for many villagers, particularly women and children, who previously faced significant challenges due to open defecation.

Despite these successes, the project faces ongoing challenges related to sustainability, particularly in managing collective enterprises and ensuring the continued engagement of the community. Continuation of ongoing support and training for local committees to maintain the systems established is going to be very important. Overall, the project demonstrates a successful model of community involvement and participatory development, with significant positive impacts on health, dignity, and social cohesion. SCOPE has been successful in creating demand for maintenance of drainage lines, waste-management system and above all proper, sustainable sanitary latrines. The Evaluator recommends SCOPE to design a follow-up project to fulfil the demand they created in the community, which could end open defecation and complete the agenda of waste-management and drainage lines, with the support of government and Panchayat.