

Citizens' report

WaterAid India is facilitating the production of a Citizens' report on domestic water and sanitation issues. The purpose of this report is to look at all contemporary issues involving domestic water, sanitation and hygiene from citizens' point of view by looking at pilot projects and experiments that have been carried out to date.

This Citizens' Report is precisely meant to explain and explore the complex sector of water and sanitation from citizens' perspectives. The findings of the report will bring out the burning issues in the domestic water and sanitation sector based on the evidence collected from the ground.

It will also point out community efforts to solve drinking water problems and making sanitation a natural habit. The purpose is to influence the policies and practices to ensure equity in access of water and sanitation services.

Progress so far

Last year, state level consultation meetings covering 10 states with all relevant stake holders, including experts, state & central government officials, donors and CSOs, were organized to seek ideas for the report. A tentative chapter outline and structure has now been completed. The report is now in its second stage of writing and research and consultation meetings are being held.

Currently, around 30 researcher/writers in four states are working on the ideas generated during the state consultation meetings. Besides this at WaterAid India office, research interns and a specially contracted researcher are working continuously on research and content for the report.

New emerging challenges

The report will have special coverage of new emerging challenges in the WATSAN sector like climate change and mining and their impacts on drinking water and sanitation. WaterAid have already held three national level workshops on (a) Drought prone areas and issues of drinking water, (b) Climate change and the WATSAN sector and (c) Tribal areas and issues of WATSAN.

'Special reports'

Outputs from such meetings feed into the report through 'special reports'. We are on verge of finishing two more special reports – research and writing on the bottled water industry and a paper on mining and drinking water. Also, two special research papers – one on coastal areas and issue of WATSAN and one on conflicts over drinking water – are under preparation. An advocacy group and a task force has also been formed as a part of this process.

Call for input

The report is also open for inputs and we invite you to share your experiences from the field, you can point us to state of the art research on the subject and you can simply endorse the initiative. For any further queries, please write to Dr. Indira Khurana (Indirakhurana@wateraid.org) or Mr. Richard Mahapatra (Richardmahapatra@wateraid.org).