

VEDANTA'S SSLT ALUMINIUM BUSINESS UNIT

• Background

Lanjigarh is regarded as an isolated region of India, with minimal availability and access to even the most basic amenities including education, livelihood, health and sanitation. Lack of modern health & sanitation facilities and overdependence on customary healing practices have resulted in large-scale deaths of local population, in general, and the tribal population in particular inhabiting the largely isolated and inaccessible hilly terrain. Some of the health issues that Lanjigarh communities suffered from in the past included: diarrhea, malaria, Sickle cell anaemia, nutritional anaemia, malnutrition, high birth order, and high maternal & infant mortality. In a baseline study by the Association for Social & Health Advancement (ASHA) in the year 2013, it was noticed that the sense of sanitation was lacking in peripheral villages of the operations.

Only 12% of the families had household toilets and even their use was not frequent. Open defecation was a bigger malady in the area. Cultural & traditional reason and lack of education is the major reason of these unhygienic practices. To counter this issue and to align with the national level program of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Campaign Clean India), the company signed an MOU with the District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) for the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHLs).

• Location, Date

Kalahandi district, Odisha; 2015

• Areas

Rural

• Stage/Scale

Not available

• Objective of the assignment

To improve the general quality of life in rural areas with respect to hygiene & sanitation issues by accelerating sanitation coverage in rural areas to achieve the vision of “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”. This would be done by motivating communities and Panchayat Raj Institutions to promoting sustainable sanitation facilities through awareness creation and health education.

• What was done

- An MOU was signed on 4th December, 2014 between the District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM), Kalahandi, under Rural Development Department, Govt. of Odisha, and Vedanta's Lanjigarh business unit. The programme has been taken up in 40 villages of 4 Gram Panchayats – Lanjigarh, Chhatrapur, Baterlima and Champadiepur.
- Around 4000 households were provided with Individual Household Latrines. As per the MOU, there will be two categories of beneficiaries:
 - Category I - Households that have no toilet, and have not availed any financial benefits from DWSM, and come under BPL / IAPL category.

- Category II - Households who have already availed financial benefits for construction of toilets from DWSSM, Kalahandi and the toilets are now damaged or have become defunct.
- The unit cost of an Individual Household Toilet is INR 12,000. The cost of each unit for the beneficiaries of Category I was to be borne by DWSSM, Kalahandi and the cost for category II was to be borne by Vedanta's Lanjigarh business unit. After the completion of the construction in 40 villages, the project was extended to other villages of the Lanjigarh Block.
- The strategy of implementing the project included a focus on behavior change, triggering the population to think about toilet construction and its use. The priority was being given to IEC/ BCC activities (Information, Education & Communication/ Behavior Change Communication).



- **Impact**

The toilets minimized the risk of contamination of drinking water sources thus reducing the health related problems in rural areas. A toilet in each household provided not a matter of dignity but also brought a sense of security and safety.

- **Financials**

The spending is part of the CSR budget of the company.

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

- **Vedanta Limited**
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- **Sources and References**

- Corporate sector involvement in Sanitation by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), 2013