

Rampur, Telangana, India
Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
www.cawst.org

Table of Contents

1. Community Information Sheet | Page 2 - 3
2. Profile Cards | Page 4 – 6
3. Organization Response | Page 7



Rampur, Telangana, India

The languages spoken in Rampur are Telugu and Urdu. The population is 5,277 and the life expectancy is 71.3 years. There is a bank in Rampur, and many people work in agriculture. However, this work is seasonal and dependent on crops and weather. There is also a regional bus, and it is a half hour bus ride to the nearest urban centre. Some are unable to afford the bus fare.

This close-knit community has been known to work together to find and implement solutions to their collective issues. People listen to radio programs, dance, play music, and play sports such as field hockey, soccer, and cricket. It's common to see a community leader inviting neighbours to dinner at their house!

The community is close-knit, but sometimes to the point that community members exclude and distrust those who are originally from other regions of India. Within the community, some men are resistant to listening to the ideas of women.

The Challenge: Nearly half of the people in rural India lack access to safely managed drinking water. In Rampur, unsafe water and sanitation is a significant challenge that affects everyone's daily lives. Many community members suffer from water-borne and water-washed illnesses. As a result, several people are unable to fully participate in work or school, and this can be very costly.

Sickness results in medical bills and reduced work time, leaving families without enough money to purchase the things they need. The illness persists, income depletes, and economic

poverty for many families becomes reality. Community members would like their lives to be better, but they are unsure of where to start.

Fluoride contamination in water can be another challenge in Rampur. It occurs naturally and can be very expensive to treat the contaminated water. People suffer from fluorosis as a result. However, new research is revealing that fluoride contamination can be countered by a healthy diet and by fighting malnourishment.

Glossary

Life Expectancy: The average age of death in a population. Life expectancies can reflect global inequalities. Higher income countries typically have high life expectancies and lower income countries have lower life expectancies.

Pit Latrine: The simple pit latrine is a toilet dug into the ground. It is the cheapest and most basic form of improved sanitation available.

WASH: An acronym for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. These three words are combined because safe water, sanitation, and hygiene are all needed to benefit people and prevent the spread of disease.

- **Water:** Safe sources of water used for drinking, cooking, or personal hygiene that meet microbiological and chemical standards of water quality.
- **Sanitation:** The promotion of health through safe sanitation systems that ensure a hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact.
- **Hygiene:** The things people do to keep themselves and their surroundings clean in order to maintain good health. Ex: hand-washing, food hygiene, menstrual hygiene, etc.

Jaya

33 year old woman

Married

Mother of two children

Jaya is a woman in her early-thirties. She has lived in Rampur her whole life. She is married with two children; a ten-year-old son, Ramesh, and a twelve-year-old daughter, Ruchi. Sadly, she lost two children to sickness when they were babies.

Jaya takes care of the household duties and also has her own business: a fresh fruit stand at the local market. She understands the value of education and wants her children to go to school. However, when her business is busy, some days she has to ask them to help her with household duties. Jaya tends to ask her daughter, Ruchi, to stay home more than her son. She feels guilty about this, but it's very common for girls to take on more of the household responsibilities. Jaya also feels pressure from her husband to make sure their son's education is prioritized.

Kamal

39 year old man

Married

Father of two children

Kamal is a man in his late-thirties. Like many fathers in Rampur, he regularly travels to work in a neighbouring region to earn a modest income.

Lately, his earnings have decreased due to the economic uncertainty in the country. Job loss and unemployment has been rampant. Kamal is often saddened to be away from his family for long periods of time and wishes for a better life for his children. He often has to make tough decisions to stretch their limited resources.

Ruchi

12 year old girl

Lives with two parents and brother

Ruchi is a twelve-year-old girl. She was born in Rampur. She goes to school every day and is a very smart and attentive student. When she has her period and hygiene products are unavailable, she doesn't always attend school. Ruchi enjoys sports but doesn't usually have time to play because she helps her mom with household chores.

Ramesh

10 year old boy

Lives with two parents and sister

Ramesh is a ten-year-old boy. He was born in Rampur and enjoys school like his sister, Ruchi. However, he often feels a lot of pressure from his father to achieve academically. While he likes school, he doesn't tend to say so around his friends. Ramesh spends a lot of time playing sports with his peers, but it is challenging due to his uncorrected myopia (nearsightedness).

Prakash

48 year old man
Single

Prakash is a man in his late-forties. He has been a health worker for about twenty years, but has worked in Rampur for only two years. He has observed a seasonal pattern in Rampur: during the rainy season, the health centre gets overrun with people complaining about diarrhea. This is dangerous because if people don't get re-hydrated quickly they can die of dehydration.

Prakash tries to tell everyone who comes in the clinic to boil their water and wash their hands. He often feels like no one listens to his advice because of his regional accent, which is distinct from the accent of those from Rampur. He would like to engage the community to learn more about the health challenges they face, but he is busy at all hours at the health centre.

Lirthika

55 year old woman
Widowed
Mother of four children

Lirthika is a woman in her mid-fifties and a community leader. She has lived in Rampur since she was a little girl. She has raised four children. Her husband recently passed away unexpectedly.

Last year, Lirthika was trained by an NGO (non-governmental organization) that works in the closest major city on safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). As a result, she bought a filter to clean and disinfect her water. She also built a latrine on her property and encourages others to wash their hands before sharing meals at her home. Lirthika finds that she is healthy all year round. She would like to bring more training on WASH to her community, but even as a community leader, she finds the men tend to be resistant to her ideas.

Centre for Affordable Sanitation Technology (CAWST)

Founded in 2001, CAWST is a Canadian charity and licensed engineering firm with a mission to provide technical training and consulting, and act as a centre of expertise in water and sanitation for the poor in developing countries.

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide are trapped in a cycle of poverty and disease because they lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The statistics are chilling: over 1.8 billion people are drinking fecally contaminated water, while 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation.

CAWST addresses this global need for safe drinking water and sanitation by building local knowledge and skills on household solutions people can implement themselves.

Read more: <https://www.cawst.org/>

Organization Response

The community of Rampur is starting a club to find solutions. They will gather regularly to discuss, learn about, and address the problems they face. They receive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education from CAWST, covering topics such as: water contamination and treatment options, safe water storage, handwashing, and safe sanitation practices including promoting the use of latrines. The purpose of this training is to equip the community club to identify WASH challenges and develop creative solutions.

Working together, Rampur's community members could pool their money to afford technologies like water filters and latrines, and encourage and sustain positive behaviours for their health and wellbeing.

