Sample

The sample of households in this study are those that have been identified as owning a functional latrine in the four study areas of the Promoting Latrine Use in Rural India Window, organized by 3ie and r.i.c.e.

The study will visit the areas in which the four projects participating in the 3ie and r.i.c.e. window on Promoting Latrine Use in Rural India will be working – in Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka, and Gujarat. This study will collect data from households in 24 villages per project and will visit randomly selected households that have been identified as having a functional latrine through a village census, but are not already included in the sample selected by the teams participating in the window. The study aims to minimize any impact it may have on the Latrine Promotion projects, and thus will be visiting different households from the ones that are included in the window projects as much as possible.

Research methodology

The study will observe variation along two dimensions: different latrine use questions, and different teams. The types of questions that will be tested include one that fully aggregates within a household (the method used by the NFHS), and one that completely disaggregates among household members (an individual-level question asked through a household roster). These questions will be embedded within a questionnaire that asks about other topics as well, in order to help prevent reactivity. The type of question asked of a particular household will be randomized at the household level. Multiple observations from the same village collected by different teams will also allow better estimation of the variance of the estimates. Moreover, documenting the variation in estimation will hopefully provide insights into data collection processes, and will help to better understand the types of questions and ways of asking that work best to assess latrine use.

Analysis

The main research question that this study seeks to answer is to what extent the measurement of open defecation differs by how the question is asked. The main analysis will compare estimates of open defecation from the household-level question to estimates from the individual-level question. Estimates will be presented by study area, and pooled across study areas. Analysis may also include a break-down in measured open defecation based on the type of latrine infrastructure, and age and sex of the individual. Standard errors will be clustered at the village level.