SHRI fights alongside communities to eliminate open defecation as a key step in the ongoing struggle for health equity and social and economic justice.
**SUMMER 2010**
First conversations with rural community in Bihar to investigate sanitation status.

**FALL 2010**
Founders of SHRI commit to eliminating open defecation in rural Bihar. Idea to link community toilets to biogas digester is born.

**SUMMER 2011**
First toilets for school children at local tutoring center are built.

**SPRING 2013**
Land is purchased where SHRI's pilot community sanitation complex will be constructed.

**SUMMER 2012**
Second place finish at the Dell Social Innovation Challenge grants SHRI with $30,000.

**SUMMER 2013**
Designs for facility are drawn and finalized.

**SUMMER 2014**

**SUMMER 2015**
Second community obtains government land, which is handed over to SHRI for the construction of another community sanitation complex.

**SPRING 2015**
Water filtration plant is installed at site. Powered by the electricity generated from the biogas. SHRI begins selling safe drinking water to the community. Revenue used to offset maintenance costs.
OVER 100 MILLION INDIANS LACK ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER.

600 MILLION INDIANS DEFECATE IN THE OPEN

100 MILLION

10 MILLION PEOPLE
800,000 new cases of waterborne diseases are reported every year in the region where SHRI operates.

500,000 Indians die from these waterborne diseases as a result of consuming food and water contaminated with dangerous fecal waste.

$34 billion is spent every year on health care costs stemming from the lack of toilets.

6% of India’s GDP is spent on the negative consequences associated with outdoor defecation.

Women and girls are exposed to sexual assault and rape as they walk to the fields alone to relieve themselves.

40% of female school dropouts cite the lack of school toilets as the reason.
our solution

toilets

water

maintenance

community
THE SHRI SYSTEM

SHRI COMMUNITY TOILET BLOCK

UTILITY CONSUMPTION

WATER FILTRATION

BIODIGESTER

GENERATOR

Energy will be used to meet the unique needs (UTILITIES) of each community.

Clean Water

Energy

Human Waste

Methane Gas

Revenue
our toilets

1. Access Water

2. Inlet Tank

3. Organic Material

4. Methane Gas

Anaerobic Process

Water Storage Tank

BioGas Digester
The toilet facilities are always free to use in order to encourage consistent use by community members of all ages and levels of incomes.

WASTE COLLECTION

Human waste is disposed of hygienically. In the biogas digester, anaerobic digestion produces methane gas.

METHANE GAS AS ENERGY

Methane gas is used as energy to run a generator which is used to power the water filtration and distribution system.

TOILET CONSTRUCTION

SHRI constructs toilet facilities on government land for $30,000. This cost includes 8 toilets for men, 8 for women, plumbing, 10 hand washing stations, an office, a supply room, and the biogas digester (where waste decomposes to produce methane gas).
SHRI’s water filtration system is installed through a partnership with DrinkWell Systems. It is World Health Organization certified and removes arsenic, fluoride, iron, and bacteria from water, making it safe to drink.

SHRI needs to register approximately 250 water customers to generate $900 per month in order to cover the operation and maintenance costs of its toilet facilities.

SHRI registers water customers from the same catchment area as the toilet facility. The water filtration and distribution system also has the capacity to provide hundreds of families beyond this immediate community with safe drinking water.

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safe drinking water
MAINTENANCE
$900/MONTH
This includes salaries for 6 staff, who track toilet attendance and ensure the facility is kept clean at all times. It also includes all cleaning supplies and extra diesel for the generator to supplement energy demands not met by the methane gas.

By utilizing the revenue from water sales to offset this monthly cost, SHRI’s community sanitation facilities are self-sustaining.
FREE TO USE
SHRI’s toilets are free to use to motivate consistent use by community members.

RURAL ACCESS
SHRI is uniquely working to bring toilets to last mile communities in rural India because 90% of India’s population that defecates outside does so in rural areas.

WATER FILTRATION
SHRI is the only organization harnessing anaerobically produced methane gas to power a water filtration system. We are committed to giving communities access to both toilets and safe drinking water.
SHRI fights alongside communities meaning that partnership with local leaders and community members is essential to our success.

Namely, these citizens petition their local government to hand over government land for SHRI to use for construction. This early investment in the project ensures that community members have agency in the process from the beginning stages and have an investment in working with us to ensure that the facility is utilized and maintained.
SHRI fights to make WASH services a right, not just a privilege.
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