

APPENDIX F: ENGLISH ETHICS CONSENT FORM

**ALTERNATIVE WATER SYSTEMS PROJECT
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH**

FOCUS GROUPS/INTERVIEW SESSIONS



You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Syed Imran Ali, from the School of Engineering at the University of Guelph. The results of this study will contribute to a PhD dissertation. This research is supported by the Urban Poverty and Environment Program Initiative at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Syed Imran Ali at 917-648-5940 (India) or the supervising faculty member, Dr. Kevin Hall at 1-519-824-4120 ext.53081 (Canada).

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The objective of the Alternative Water Systems Project is the participatory development and assessment of an alternative model for safe water provision in an urban slum in India, in order to reduce the burden of water-related diseases.

These Focus Groups/Interviews sessions aim to investigate end-user and stakeholder perceptions of safe water systems including desired features and design requirements.

PROCEDURES

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we would ask you to do the following things:

Please answer, to the best of your knowledge, the questions asked to you by the moderator. Free to talk as they please, don't feel pressurized to speak or not speak in a specific way. All of your opinions are important to us, there are no right or wrong answers, and both negative and positive comments are equally important. You can decide how much to tell or not. You are not expected to reach a consensus at the end. Please feel free to ask questions when and if you please during the session. Also, please allow others to speak and don't interrupt one another. We request that you speak one at a time so as to make the recording clear. This session will last about 1½ hours. This session will be recorded using an audio device. Your participation may be sought for future research activities of this project.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

Some of the questions in this session deal with personal perceptions of trust and cooperation in your community. All recordings will be handled with the utmost concern for privacy and will be stored in a secure location on IIT campus and will be accessible only to research staff. Participants will not be identified by name and the recordings will be anonymous..

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

There are no direct benefits to participants expected from this research activity. However, the information collected in this survey and subsequent research activities will guide the development of a safe water system that may improve the quality of clean water available to residents of Mylai Balaji Nagar. The results of this research will also be disseminated to the government level and has the potential to improve policies for safe, clean water provision in other low-income communities in Chennai and elsewhere in India.

PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

Participants will not be paid for participation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality of any identifying information that is obtained in connection with this study. All data will be securely stored in a locked cabinet in faculty offices at IIT Madras and will be accessible only to project staff. It will be retained for 6 months after the project completion date of May 31, 2012 after which point the original data will be destroyed. Participants will ultimately determine the level of confidentiality of the focus group sessions, so we ask that participants please not discuss what was said during the session or who was present when they leave the session

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. You may exercise the option of removing your data from the study. You may also refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise that warrant doing so.

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Guelph Research Ethics Board. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact:

**Research Ethics Coordinator
University of Guelph
437 University Centre
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1**

**Telephone: (519) 824-4120, ext. 56606
E-mail: sauld@uoguelph.ca
Fax: (519) 821-5236**

**Syed Imran Ali
Project Coordinator
Alternative Water Systems Project
Rm 30, EWRE
Dept. of Civil Engineering
IIT Madras, Chennai 600 036**

**Telephone: +91-917-648-5940 (mobile)
Email: alis@uoguelph.ca**

SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

I have read the information provided for the study "Alternative Water Systems Project - Focus group/Interview sessions" as described herein. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

Name of Participant (please print)

Signature of Participant or Legal Representative

Date

[The name and signature of the legal representative is ONLY necessary if the participant is not competent to consent. If the participant is competent, please do not include these options.]

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

Name of Witness (please print)

Signature of Witness

Date

[The witness is ideally NOT the investigator, but if there is no readily available alternative, the investigator can act as witness.]