IIP: Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
Bhubaneswar, India
Introduction

• Frances Lu (frlu@princeton.edu)
  – Operations Research and Financial Engineering
  – Interest in International Development

• Internship at J-PAL
  – Worked as an intern on “Communal Sanitation Solutions For Urban Slums in Orissa, India Project”
    • Contributions: Updating and coding a pricing model for the project’s toilet facilities; data cleaning and analysis; project documentation
Members of the BUS Team
Bhubaneswar Urban Sanitation (BUS) Project in Orissa

• Randomized Controlled Trial
  – Research method used evaluate impact of public policies

• The BUS project is evaluating the effect of improving communal toilet facilities, and implementing innovative systems for facility maintenance, on the use of community toilets in Orissa, India.

• Read more at: http://www.povertyactionlab.org/evaluation/communal-sanitation-solutions-urban-slums-orissa-india
Rewarding Aspects

• Working in a field office!
  – This allowed me to see the research being conducted first-hand. While working in the Bhubaneswar office, I visited several slums and watched the field team conduct surveys in the local language.
  – Interacted with Research Assistants on different projects and learned more about different research areas
Field Staff Gathering in Office
My Contributions This Summer

• Developing a pricing model for the organization
  – Coding the pricing model into STATA
  – Estimating revenue maximizing prices for toilet usage
  – Important component for the Operations and Maintenance systems
Impact on My Future

• After this summer, I am very interested in working in development research in the future
• Working on an RCT was a valuable experiences, as they are becoming very popular in research and public policy work