



Stagnant water, uncontrolled sewage runoff, uncleared garbage, and clogged drains are a common occurrence throughout India, particularly around rural and urban slums. To qualify for municipal refuse collection does not guarantee removal (this is often the case in slum areas). Most of the refuse here was contributed by the truck stop/motel from where the picture was taken. Garbage was collected from the guest rooms and restaurant and tossed over the outside rail. These collections of water, feces, and debris often occur in areas frequented both by people and animals. The dirt you see in the foreground of the picture is a walking path for families making their way from one end of the field to the next.

Questions:

1. What potential health problems (direct and indirect) could arise from this situation?
2. As a public health official in the area, what are the first steps you would take to improve upon this situation?
3. Who would need to be involved? How would you ensure compliance and cooperation among these individuals?
4. At the government level, how might these problems creatively be approached?
5. At the grass roots levels, how might these problems creatively be approached?