



Government of Gujarat

सत्यमेव जयते

Many People, One Voice

Water Facility of Our Choice

Water Supply Department
Government of Gujarat

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The Water Belongs to Us



Backdrop

The concept of sustainable, decentralized and community-based approach to rural drinking water was taken up in a mission mode in Gujarat State. Development and strengthening of local institutions Pani Samiti, active involvement and participation of communities at every stage of water supply programme implementation in their own areas is at core of the approach. Water and Sanitation Management Organisation (WASMO) was established as a Special Purpose Vehicle to provide technical and software support to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Alliances have also been forged with voluntary sector and allied agencies for efficient water supply programme management. Various media-mix is an important feature used to trigger off awareness and eventually community participation, to build their capacity and thus develop a conducive environment for creation and effective operation of in-village water facilities.

Some interesting features and results have emerged during the course of project implementation. The drivers of change in villages are several. Some have been playing an instrumental role in demand generation and community contribution, whereas several others have remained at the backstage but been the backbone of their village programme implementation. The otherwise fragile entities - women and weaker sections have also been at the forefront in the programme. Women, even have influenced men by taking lead in community contribution, quality control of construction work and generating funds for operation and maintenance of water supply systems where men have shown no interest. Villagers freely articulate their needs and collectively develop an action plan which is relevant to their local context. Social inclusion issues have been prudently addressed by the community.

People from these communities are stepping forward to become leaders and reach out to their peers. The village community can do work on their own but it is difficult to sustain the accomplished tasks. Empowered communities have gone way ahead drawing on the experiences of community leadership. People have gained confidence to remove leaders with vested interest and establish new leadership who practice honesty and accountability. They now manage their scheme with greater self esteem and a proud ownership feeling, breaking the socio-caste barriers.

The following pages provide a glimpse of reflections of and of change makers across the state, their own feeling about their struggle, change in their understanding and attitude, of impact, the interventions in water supply sector are making on people's lives in rural areas. Their story....their words.....



Kanjibhai Gadhara, Bharapar, Kutch

We paid Rs. 80,000 to Water Supply Board in October 2006 as accumulated water supply charges for 36 years. Finally we have realised that our fate lies in our hands. We just can not depend on government for our year round water needs.



Gabhabhai Hinge, Payarka, Kutch

When the 'khichdi' cooks properly, we know that the water is good. Otherwise the khichdi would smell and taste bad. Illnesses were common because of poor water and sanitation facilities, and it was a routine matter for villagers to take medicine with their meals. Today, instead of drinking water from an open well, the people now practice household level chlorination. Some of the common ailments prevalent in the village have now reduced significantly.



Karmiben, Filon, Kutch

People did not believe that it was possible to keep the village clean. But then we thought about it and decided to clean it up. The greatest impact has been on health. Earlier, fevers and stomach ailments were very common among children. This has now declined as we realise the importance of clean water. All of us use the strainer and ladle that has been provided to us."

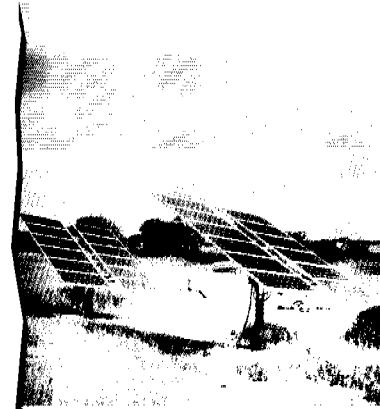


Yusufbhai, Sadai, Kutch

There was a shortfall of one bag of cement when construction of ESR was ongoing in our village. I went about 6 kms on my motorcycle to fetch one bag of cement so that the work does not come to a standstill. Even though I am the Chairperson of the Pani Samiti, I still have to work as hard as the others.

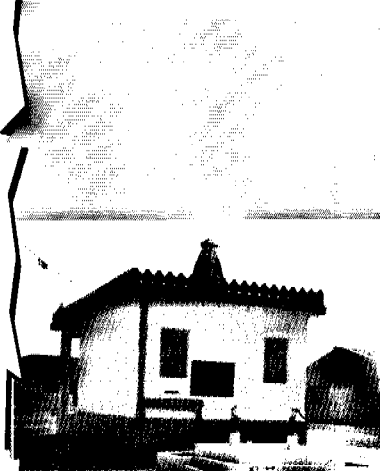
Sarpanch, Dhordo, Kutch

Our village is having an underground tank with a solar pump for in village drinking water distribution. We used to have several cases of fever, malaria and vomiting. But after the scheme we frequently do chlorinisation and avoid contamination of drinking water. Now not even a single case of fever or malaria is registered.



Vaalbai, Payarka, Kutch

Today we get sufficient water at our doorstep. We can now devote good amount of time to our children and household chores. We can also support the men in the weaving work.



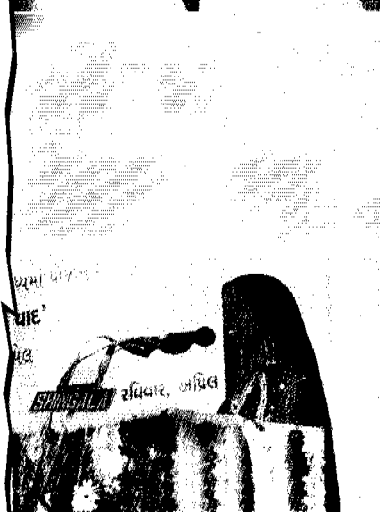
Musabhai Rashipotra, Ghadiyalo, Kutch

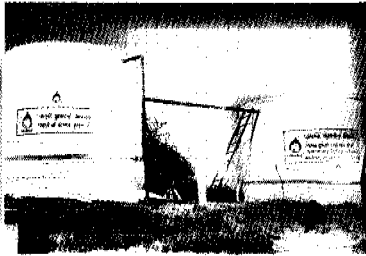
The earthquake damaged the tanks completely. After Shroff Foundation introduced WASMO's community managed programme, people were a little skeptical about the community contribution. But their confidence was restored as they gradually saw the work being done. We now have a system of 3 tanks of 10,000 liters capacity and a 5,000 liter capacity tank in the school. We have enough storage capacity now to last us for ten days. After working hard to meet our water requirements we now understand the importance of water conservation much more. Although we have enough water, we still greet our guests with only half a glass of water, so as to ensure that it is not wasted.



Devuben Aahir, Gado, Kutch

When VIKSAT introduced us to WASMO and the programme, we were ready. But the men folk raised doubts. Who would raise the community contribution? That is when the women came forward and agreed to raise contribution starting at a minimum of Rs 100 per household. Our efforts and persistence met with success. We now have household connections for drinking water supply. Every household has constructed soak pits for wastewater disposal.





Abdul Rehman, Ajrahpar, Kutch

Construction was never my subject. I earn my living from block printing. After training, I could effectively monitor the quality of construction. In fact, two contractors left midway since I demanded good quality material and work.



Vankabhai, Filon, Kutch

We were unaware about our responsibilities such as the need to pay for water or to maintain the systems. After we got associated with the WASMO programme, we developed an understanding. Discussing the issues in Gram Sabhas, exposure visits to other villages, training programmes, all helped us understand our responsibility and the need to pay for our drinking water. Now, by 10th of every month, Rs. 5 per person is collected as operation and maintenance charges. Defaulters are fined an extra Rs. 2.50. Migrants are exempted from payment during their absence.



Hemubha, Nani Khakhar , Kutch

As the village population increased, we proposed to increase the water tariff from 7.50 to Rs. 13 per month per household. People readily agreed to pay this sum because they have found trust in the management done by Pani Samiti.



Monghiba, Gelda, Kutch

When ESR was being constructed all the women Pani Samiti members monitored the activity by taking turns. Since the water supply scheme is over we have water availability in vicinity. The time saved from traveling to fetch water is utilized now for making Papads and supporting the families.

Damjibhai, Dadamapar, Kutch

Giving 10% community contribution brings accountability in the functioning of water system. Everyone is alert about the quality of work and takes interest in account keeping as well.

Bhalbai, Varli, Kutch

When people from WASMO come to my house I tell them that they are getting tea at such an early hour only because now we are getting water at our doorsteps. In the earlier days, we would go out before day-break at 4 am to fetch water and you would have been waiting for us.

Dinesh Bhanushali, Dadampar, Kutch

Earlier, in summer we had to ensure that some one constantly monitors the pump near the well. Also, running the pump for long meant heavy expenditure. But now, after 271 families in the village contributed to get a solar pump, we will not have to worry about supply of water or rising price of diesel.

Kunvarben, Galpadar, Kutch

We never imagined we could do such a good quality work for our village. The women got active under the guidance of WASMO and NGOs and households had tape connectivity. Now we are confident to take up tasks related to our requirement than depending on others.

Kamlaben Pokar, Jiyapar- Nakhtrana, Kutch

Our village has water and sanitation facilities with people's participation with the support of WASMO and Viksat - Implementing Support Agencies. The awareness programmes and various trainings have opened a new window of knowledge for us. These efforts have created better understanding amongst us. WE did not have the courage to visit any Taluka office. But after participating in the Nirmal Gram campaign and achievement of Nirmal Gram award we could visit Rashtrapati Bhavan and meet our Hon. President. What could be of more pride for us?





Kanchabhai Rabari, Ranara, Kutch

In our village in-village water supply components like ESR, cattle trough and stand posts were built with the support of WASMO and Vivekanad Research and Training Institute. Our is a small village and we are now hopeful that those families who had migrated in search of better employment, would come back and settle in the village. Now with availability of water they will have enough fodder to feed their cattle.



Habhubhai Rabari, Ulat, Kutch

Our village Ulat has 12 households of Rabari and Muslim communities. Our livelihood is small scale animal husbandry and labour work. We experienced severe scarcity of water for humans and cattle for years. We wanted to get out of this vulnerable situation but did not know the way out. Then we came to know that for in-village water supply systems we can contribute by way of labour. We grabbed this opportunity and constructed stand posts and laid pipeline with our own skills and technical guidance of WASMO. We learnt the importance of labour. With water availability in proximity, our daughters do not have to reel under the pressure of fetching water. They are now able to go to school.



Govindbhai Patel, Gangapar, Kutch

Our village has constructed checkdam to capture water. We learnt in the training that it helps to improve quality of water. We also learnt which water is good for drinking and which is not. Along with we were given the testing kit. We have taken up testing as a regular activity. In the last two years we have been able to prevent malaria and diarrhea, not a single case has been reported so far.



Tejabhai Ahir, Fachariya, Kutch

This in-village drinking water supply systems could be established and implemented successfully because all government agencies, Panchayat and villagers have acted responsibly.

Jiluben, Chotila, Surendranagar

Water is the most essential commodity. The water supply scheme has come as a boon to us. Earlier everyday I would spend Rs. 10 out of my total daily earnings of Rs. 50 on water. Yet it was not adequate for the entire family. Now we get water at the door steps and even after paying the tariff, we are able to save money for our children's education.



Pani Samiti, Nimaknagar, Dhrangadhra, Surendranagar

Our village is well known for salt production. Salinity in ground and surface water is high making potable drinking water availability a serious issue. With assistance from WASMO, each house has constructed a rain water harvesting tank and this is used by all for drinking purposes. In addition, a distribution pipeline has been set-up in the village, providing water to all households through individual tap connections. We get adequate and regular drinking water of potable quality round the year through this system and we are proud of the fact that in the 60th year of independence we are spared from all the drudgery of fetching water and have become self-reliant.



Ushaben, Kharaghoda, Surendranagar

Now, we get pure and salt-free water very close to our homes for only two rupees which is quite affordable. Paying Rs. 2 for 20 litres of pure water from the RO plant is nothing compared to paying a rupee for a small pouch of water. Ever since the RO plant has become functional, I come here regularly for drinking water and for other uses tap water is available at home. Our stress has reduced and we now experience immense relief.



Shardaben, Kharva, Surendranagar


Recently a new family that has come from America was caught disposing the waste water into the by-lanes. When asked to pay the fine of Rs.100, the offenders were reluctant to do so. All we did was ask if they did the same in America too? Out of sheer shame they paid the fine right away!





Gangadas, Kholadiyad, Surendranagar

The total cost of creation of in-village water facilities came to Rs. 13,30,000 and the village gave Rs. 1,35,750 as 10 per cent community contribution. We decided to fix differential rates for contribution taking into account the paying capacity of the households. Accordingly, socially and economically backward community households paid Rs. 50 per household and the economically sound households paid Rs. 1000 per household.



Babiben, Aaseda, Banaskantha

When I came to this village after getting married, I used to go a long distance to fetch water and my turn would come after half an hour. Today we get water at our doorsteps and that too with good pressure. I will ensure that my daughter gets married into a village with a good system for drinking water.



Hiraba Vaghela, Morvada, Banaskantha

According to the customs of Darbar community women cannot go out to fetch water. The men fetched water - 3 or 4 pots - after returning at night from the fields or early in the morning. So the women would have to manage the entire day with just 3-4 pots of water. As a result we could bath once in a week and wash clothes once a fortnight. Now that we have water there is much relief for the men.



Gemarbbhai Patel, Kundel, Banaskantha

We had passed a resolution for joining hands with Swajaldhara programme. While the process was being finalized, the village received heavy rains and a lot of damage happened. In such a situation it was difficult to get community contribution. Time was running out. If contribution was not collected in time, we had to wash off hands from getting water facilities at doorsteps. So we called a Gram Sabha and suggested that the households who are members of dairy cooperative will pay off Rs. 100 directly from the payment they receive from the cooperative for providing milk. The villagers agreed and at the end of the month village had a corpus of Rs. 9,000. The rest of the village members also paid contribution after some time and the amount went up to Rs. 15,000. We have streetwise contribution collectors and this system is functioning effectively.

Padar Mahudi, Sabarkantha

Construction of chekdam near the village boundary with people's contribution has benefited the entire village. The water level in the village well has risen, the soil has enough moisture, soil erosion is controlled. Now we can harvest thrice a year. Even in the soil where no cropping was done for many years is being ploughed for the last three years. Because of the change in cropping pattern due to favourable conditions we are able to earn more than we used to and are able to provide education to our children.

Pani Samiti, Laakh, Surat

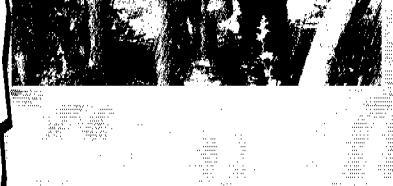
Earlier in summer we would have to wait for 2-3 hours to get water. We used to suffer from body pain because of pulling water from the well and on an average we used to waste three hours everyday on fetching water. Now we get sufficient water within half an hour and there is enough water for our livestock too.

Deviben, Boradi

We women get together every Sunday and visit from house to house to appeal to the women and children for keeping their courtyards clean and tell them that cleanliness can keep many diseases away. We also make them understand that it is in their own interest.

Vanitaben Somabhai, Jogvel, Valsad

Prior to the scheme we had to drink turbid water that we got from the 'khankas' (small pits dug in the ground) and in summer we had to dig new khankas regularly. The house connections have now really eased our lives. And even on special occasions water is available round the clock at the stand post





Haribhai, Kantasayan, Bharuch

Our village had water works and wells but the water was not potable. We have now placed a pumping motor to draw water from the well situated in the village pond and laid a pipeline to the R.O plant. The plant is managed by us and safe water is provided at the rate of 30 paise per litre and everyday about 800 litres of water is supplied to the community. Meanwhile during my visit to Haripur village of Bhavnagar district I came to know about rain water harvesting systems. I found the quality of rain water good. Our village is located in the coastal belt. We receive good rainfall but had never thought of preserving nature's gift. All the rain water got drained in the Gulf of Khambhat. So I decided to have rain water tank in my village and constructed rain water storage tank in my house. Now my neighbours are also motivated to have this system.



Ajayben Muchchal, Char, Junagadh

Earlier we used to always be in a rush trying to juggle between household chores, looking after the children, going to the field and fetching drinking water. Often we had to leave our children home crying to fetch water. But today through the household tap connections we get water at our doorsteps. Now life is far more peaceful!



Maganbhai Dobariya, Goladhar, Junagadh

Initially I used to think what is so great about quality in water? Any water is always good for drinking. But when we had water quality testing campaign in the village, I realized that water can be cause of so many diseases. Presently, our Pani Samiti is doing water quality surveillance and chlorination regularly.



Devubha Ranjithsingh, Bhimrana, Jamnagar

The Pani Samiti decided to record the daily construction work related to the water and sanitation scheme that was undertaken in the village and telecast it on the local cable network. This helped to generate awareness and interest in each and every house and we got support from the community. Every evening the villagers were able to watch the developments of Pani Samiti's work, either at home or in the tea shops and they soon came forward to join the programme.

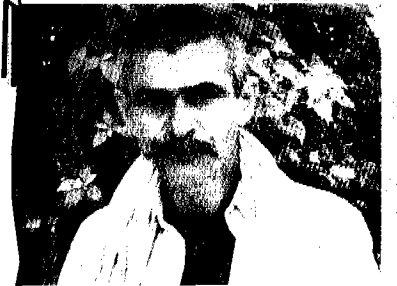
Pani Samiti, Singotaria, Patan

We got affiliated with community managed water programme but the major hurdle was community contribution and tariff collection. Our village has more population of salt pan workers and farm workers who survive on meager income. Moreover, they had contributed for construction of a temple in the village, just some time ago. The village had two options - either to build the temple or have water facilities. We thought that building facilities for water and meeting the basic needs of humanity is as important and pious a work as God's worship. And we made up our mind to use the community contribution for creation of water facilities. We wanted to stand up to the trust the government had rested in us. Thus together a 'Jalmandir' was created.



Laxmanbhai, Garamdi, Patan

The situation at present has changed. The only source of drinking water in our village with a population of 2,000 was a standpost. When drinking water was provided through tankers, it would lead to quarrels and scenes of utter chaos. In such conditions VIKSAT an NGO, came to our village with a scheme on drinking water management. People were so desperate for a solution that everyone agreed in unison for participating in the project and within a month the community collected Rs. 67,000 as community contribution. A storage tank, individual household connections, washing facilities and a rain water harvesting structure in the school were constructed in the village. All this work was done in two months. After all, since the problem was so acute it had to be dealt with speedily. The villagers took interest in the work execution and actively monitored quality of work. Since last 8 months all the villagers are getting drinking water regularly and at any point of time 50,000 liters of water is available in the village water storage tank. Adequate and regular water has brought peace and happiness to the village.



Bavabhai Sindhav, Bhamathar, Patan

The well water is open and stagnant and therefore more likely to have disease causing organisms. To prevent this we get the chlorination of the well done from the health worker with help of volunteer in the village.





Baghuben, Ghogha, Bhavnagar

It is after 50 long years that the women's need for water has been satisfied. What the men could not achieve after all these years, the women achieved. It is because we value water, we make sure that we look after the water structures and also ensure that there is no wasteful consumption of water.



Samjuben and Raiyabhai, Mithi Viridi, Bhavnagar

We have constructed a rain water storage tank in our courtyard. We clean the tank when there is the first shower of rains. With the second spell we start filling the tank with rain water. The filled tank during raining season takes care of water needs for about five to six months. Just an effort once a year and for six months we have respite.



Jamnaben, Nagdhaniba, Bhavnagar

When I attended the operator's (linemen) training, people thought, 'How can a woman be an operator?' But the Pani Samiti, ISA and WASMO members supported me. I have learnt technical aspects including repairing and chlorination required for successful operation and supply of assured potable water to my village people.



Jekuben, Chhaya, Bhavnagar

I had attended the pre-construction training of WASMO and hence realized that the contractor was cheating us. I could not allow such a compromise on the quality of work which was meant for the benefit of the entire village and therefore decided to put a stop to the work with the support from others.



Harshaben, Navaratanpar, Bhavnagar

We realised our strength during the implementation of the Ghogha project. We started attending meetings and going to the banks. Our decisions were respected during meetings.

Jashuben, Alang, Bhavnagar

The village got involved in community managed water supply scheme and announcements were made that village will have tap water. All water woes will be gone. But nobody said anything on community contribution. When we did the follow up, the men did not pay heed. Ultimately, we women decided to manage the community contribution. We took along the women of Darbar community, who for the first time ever after getting married in this village got the opportunity to move in the village. They were not aware how big our village is! While collecting contribution people asked us when the water will be provided. We gave them the assurance that water will reach your doorsteps. And we managed the contribution through repeated efforts gave to the men and asked them to take up the task of providing water immediately. Today, our village is well equipped with water facilities.



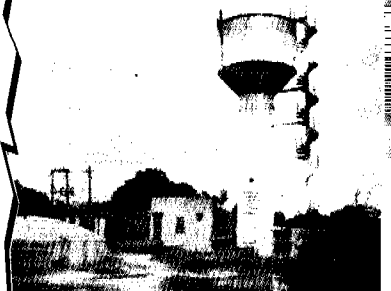
Tidiben, Navaratanpar, Bhavnagar

Now that we know that public money is being spent, it is our duty to see that it is appropriately utilised. Besides, being a construction labourer, I understand what quality work is.



Mansinghbhai Chaudhary, Navi Umari Village, Mehsana

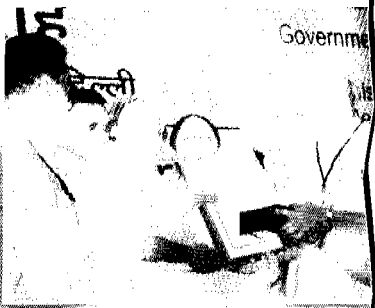
Water used to be a scarce commodity in our village. Normally we get water from the Dharoi dam but when the supply is not there, we have to fetch the water from nearby farms. Villagers discussed the issue several times within the Panchayat, but funds were never available to solve the crisis. Finally we found a ray of hope in Sector Reform (State) Scheme. We have formed Pani Samiti in the village and planned our own water supply system. The construction is complete. We maintain transparency in all our financial dealings.



Mohammad Ali, Zahirpur, Mehsana

We have not compromised with the quality of construction of water supply components ever. We, the Pani Samiti supervised all the works thoroughly. The contractor was asked to make modifications whenever the Samiti found that work deviated from specified norms. These matters were always discussed in village meetings and community was apprised of the developments from time to time. We provided additional support to the components for sustainability. Also we have fixed a fine of Rs. 100 for waste of water and improper sanitation practices. Now we aim for 100 per cent household toilet construction in the village.





Jaisangbhai Chaudhary, Fatehpura, Mehsana

My Nirmal Gram Fatehpura is like a pilgrim place clean and tidy. We have been able to achieve this only through the understanding, cooperation and unity among the villagers. I as a Sarpach was just a means to bring out the inner power of people. The Sarpach has to lead by example, take the broom and come out on street, has to be the first person to observe norms and rules on village sanitation.

Jayesh Patel, Malekpor

My teacher has made us understand that water is our lifeline. She is strict and does not allow us to waste water in school. Due to that I have developed a habit of closing the tap immediately after use. Not just that but when I see a running tap in my house or around the first thing I do is to close the tap.



Saraswatiben Rana, Derol, Panchmahal

When I got elected as Sarpanch, villagers used to say that in Panchyat where men are not able to complete tasks, what will a woman do? But I tried my best to resolve the issues in the village and create basic amenities. The work was always done in consultation with people especially women. The people saw the determination of women. No one can now dare to pass comments on women's ability.

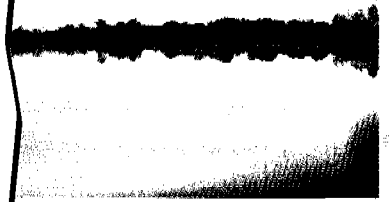


Jitubhai, Mota Fofadiya, Vadodara

We have regular schedule for cleaning the village. By having faliya wise meetings we tried to motivate the people and with participation of community we could make 283 household toilets in the village. We also took a step further. We placed dustbins in every faliya and encouraged everyone to throw garbage in the same. This collected garbage is used to prepare organic manure. Due to all these efforts in spite of heavy rains and epidemic breakout of Chikun guniya our village did not have a single case.

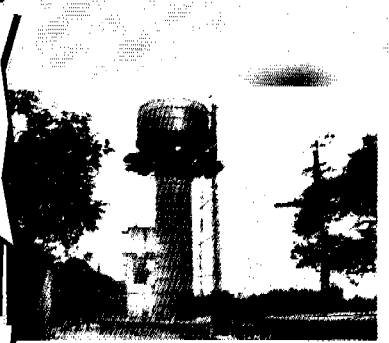
Lehriben, Rajpur, Ahmedabad

Earlier the women used to travel 10 kms to fetch water from another village. We used to have just enough water for drinking, and we had stopped taking a bath. The pond constructed in the village has provided some relief from this problem.



Laluben, Rajpur, Ahmedabad

Tanks are our lifeline. In summer when the pond gets dry, we filter the water from the tank and use it. Our neighbours too use this water. We clean our tanks before the rains every year.



Rupi Prajapati, Singarva, Ahmedabad

Drinking water was critical for us. We were forced to get water from far off wells or cattle troughs. After operationalisation of the water supply scheme, we are getting water in our houses. This saves time and money. What is satisfying that by paying a tariff of Rs. 120 every year, water is available twice a day, freedom from drudgery!



Community, Nadri , Gandhinagar

Since water from the village borewell was insufficient, we would have to roam around in search of water from private bores. Moreover, the erratic supply of electricity would sometimes keep us waiting for long hours just to fill one pot of drinking water. There were also times when people would not allow us to fill water from their private borewells and we would have to return disappointed. When some guest used to visit us we could hardly entertain them properly because of water scarcity, but today we can comfortably take care of them. We also save a lot of time on fetching water. This is all due to the new system through which we get a regular supply.

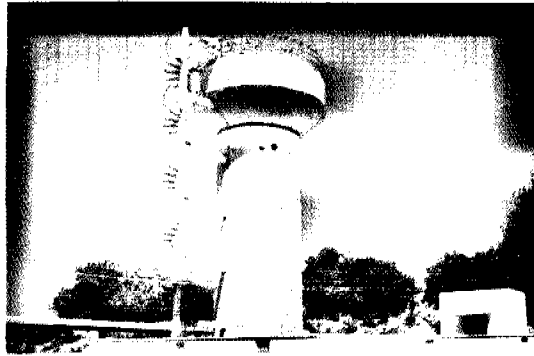




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The Water Belongs to Us



Water Tank



Pipe Line



Chlorination



Water Quality Checking



Rain Water Harvesting



Standpost



Water from Hand Pump



House Hold Connection

Building Partnership Working together



Water and Sanitation Management Organisation

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