Year 2020, Issue:3

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission
Building Partnerships
Changing Lives

Jal Jeevan
Samvad

December, 2020

Note from the desk of Mission Director…

New Delhi
December , 2020

Today is the last day of 2020. This is the time to look back at the year passed by and plan for the future. No doubt, CoVid-19 pandemic has the biggest disruptive impact on our lives. However, people of this country have collectively demonstrated that working along with our systems and institutions, we are capable of facing this challenge and overcoming it. With availability of various vaccines around the corner, we look forward to new year with optimism.

Since announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2019 and release of Operational Guidelines for the implementation on Good Governance Day – 2019, the mission to provide tap water connections to every household is being implemented with intelligent planning. It's a matter of satisfaction that in this period, more than 3 Crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections. As a result, now more than 6.23 Crore rural households are getting potable tap water in their homes.

During this year, every State/ UT did extensive planning following 'bottom up approach' and have firmed up their completion date to provide tap water connection to every home. Goa became the first State to have assured tap water supply to every rural household. In the whole country, all households in 26 districts and more than 65 thousand villages, have functional tap water connections. This shows that the core principle of the mission 'no one in the village is left out', is pursued vigorously.

We Indians always invest on future of children. Ensuring disease free life and holistic development is our collective duty rather 'dharma'. In this spirit, on 2nd October, 2020 a nation-wide campaign started to make provision of piped water in every school, anganwadi centre (AWC) and ashramshalas, i.e. residential schools for Scheduled Tribe children. This campaign galvanised the whole society and work has been taken up in right earnest. Under this campaign, it is envisaged that potable tap water will not only be available for drinking and cooking of mid-day meals, but also for regular hand washing to protect children from CoVid 19 and running tap water in toilets. It is a matter of great satisfaction that so far in 3 months, more than 4.37 lakh rural schools and about 3.70 lakh AWCs have started getting potable tap water. Punjab and Tamil Nadu have every school with tap water supply. Also, every AWC in Tamil Nadu is provided with tap water. Other States too are catching up.

This shows the speed and scale of our collective resolve to ensure potable piped water to every home and above all, children's homes – schools and AWCs. No doubt, CoVid-19 pandemic slowed down our speed but not our determination. Some of our colleagues in different States/ UTs at personal as well as family level, experienced the virus. However, we overcame the odd and rededicated ourselves to this noble task.

The ensure assured piped water supply to every home pose enormous challenge. We have to make judicious investment on improving existing and building new water supply systems. Every State/ UT has focussed on 'low hanging fruits' i.e. providing tap water connections to remaining households in villages with existing piped water supply system. We have to complete this task by March, 2021. To measure and monitor piped water supply in terms of quality, quantity and regularity, Mission is running a grand challenge in partnership with the MeiTY to develop 'sensor based IoT devices', which will be deployed to monitor water supply in villages on real time basis. In many States, pilots are also being run. This is the first step to develop and manage a public utility.

Consumption of contaminated water has adverse impact on our health especially children. It is important to first know the contaminant and then address it. In this backdrop, upgradation of water quality testing laboratories and its accreditation from NABL, have been taken up. There are about 2,300 water quality testing laboratories with States/ UTs and these labs have been opened up to general public so that they can get their water sample tested at a nominal cost. Also, local village community is able to keep surveillance on quality of water supply and/ or source, regular water sample testing by Field Testing Kits (FTKs) has been given high priority. A grand challenge is going on in partnership with the DPIIT to develop 'portable domestic water quality testing devices', which is likely to revolutionize the sector.

To achieve the goal of JJM in a time-bound manner, robust plan needs to be in place. Village Action Plans (VAPs) for five years, co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission are prepared so that fund being made available to PRIs can be gainfully utilized by GPs for assured water supply delivery to homes. These VAPs are aggregated at district level to formulate the District Action Plans (DAPs), which are consolidated at State level to formulate the State Action Plan (SAP). State Action Plan to cover projects like regional water supply schemes, bulk water supply and distribution projects, etc. to ensure drinking water security in the State.

The mission requires skilled human resources in areas like masonry, plumbing, fitting, electricity, pump mechanics, etc., in every village/ habitation, whose services will be used creation of water supply schemes as well as regular O&M. Such a pool of skilled human resources in rural areas will make villages a self-reliant unit for regular upkeep and maintenance of water supply systems in line with idea 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'. This programme is best placed to provide employment opportunities and boost local economy.

National Jal Jeevan Mission is assisting States/ UTs, which also include teams visiting villages to review the implementation and offer technical assistance to expedite the implementation with focus on prudent investment. The teams interact with GPs/ VWSCs members and local community as well as PHED officials with focus on community participation and institutional arrangements made for expeditious implementation. It I heartening to note that local village communities, NGOs, SHGs, sector partners have joined the hand to make Jal Jeevan Mission truly a 'people's programme'. We salute all those who have dedicated themselves to this noble mission. In this issue, you will find many stories from the field where inspiring works have been done.

In 2020, despite CoVid 19 pandemic, we all have been able to galvanize people to carry out exemplary work. Yesterday, during review of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Pragati with Chief Secretaries of different States/ UTs, the Prime Minister appealed to further expedite the implementation and complete it before planned date. I am sure, every State/ UT has started working on the mandate given by the Prime Minister. Only last quarter of the current financial year is left. Let's review the progress and plan for the last quarter as well as next financial year. With these efforts, results will be visible in coming months.

On the eve of new year 2021, I along with my colleagues here, compliment you for your excellent work and wish you and your colleagues as well as respective families, a very happy new year ahead.

[**Bharat Lal**]
Additional Secretary & Mission Director
Jal Jeevan Mission

Jal Jeevan Mission

On 15th August, 2019, during his Independence Day address to the nation, the Prime Minister announced the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Mission has been designed with an integrated approach with end-to-end measures: from source to supply to reuse and recharge. The 'Har Ghar Jal' programme has been envisioned as a 'Jan Aandolan' - people's movement.

Jal Jeevan Mission is implemented in partnership with States to enable every rural home in the villages to have Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024. JJM is a programme to end the drudgery faced by women and young girls in rural India who walk distance everyday to fetch potable water for their daily household needs.

Vision

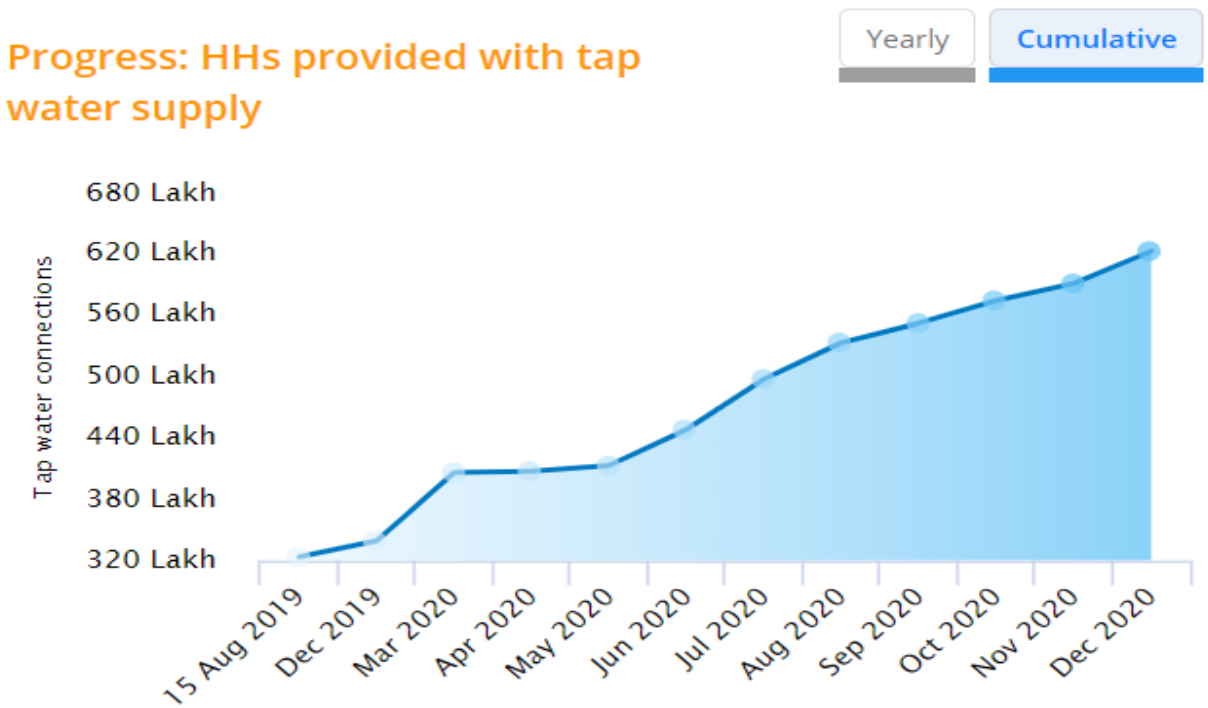
Every rural household to receive drinking water supply **in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis** at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities.

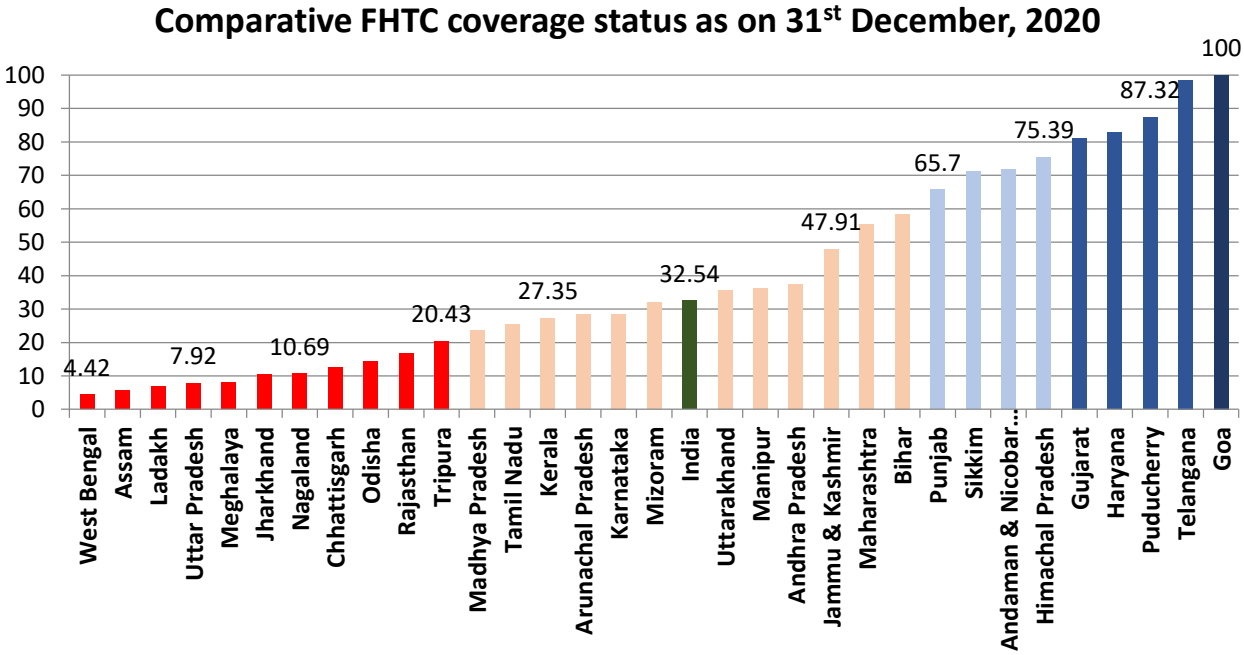
PM reviews the progress of JJM under 34th PRAGATI interaction

On 30th December, 2020, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired the 34th PRAGATI (Proactive governance and timely implementation) interaction to review the various of programmes of the Government.

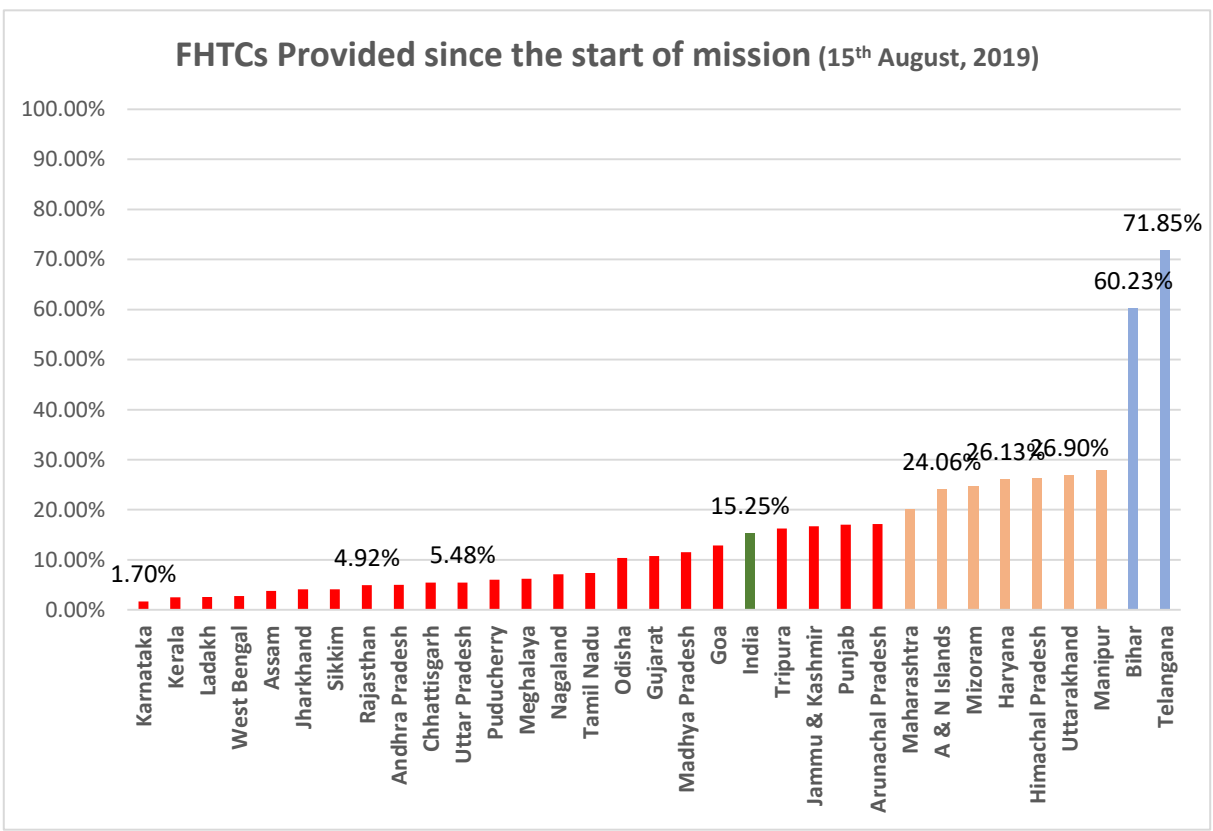
During the interaction, he encouraged the States/ UTs to implement JJM in mission mode to accomplish the target in a time-bound manner. Appreciating the efforts of good performing States/ UTs, the Prime Minister asked other States/ UTs to put up best efforts to ensure 'Har Ghar Jal' as the mission will bring improvements in the lives of people living in rural areas by addressing the problems of water-borne diseases, malnutrition, etc.

Progressive FHTC coverage in the country (as on 31st December, 2020)





At present, more than 32.54 percent rural households in India have tap water connections in their homes. While 15 States/ UTs have above national average percentage of tap water connections, 17 States/ UTs fall below the national average. Goa has become the first State to become '**Har Ghar Jal State**'. The State of Telangana is also inching closer to achieve 100% '**Har Ghar Jal'.** Puducherry, Haryana and Gujarat have provided Tap Water Connections in more than 80% of their rural households.



Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

India | Status of tap water supply in rural homes

Total number of households (HHs)	Households with tap water connections as on 15 Aug 2019	Households with tap water connections as on date
		+1,73,638
19,13,80,214	3,23,62,838	6,22,83,779
	(16.91%)	(32.54%)

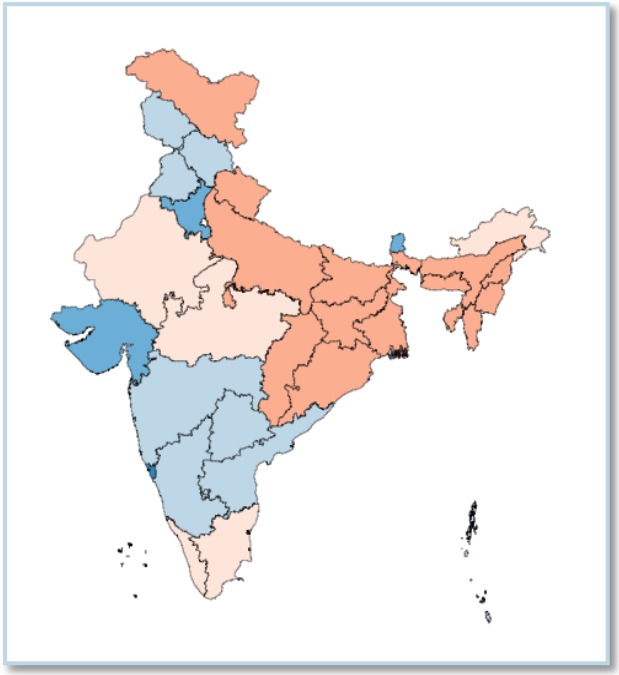
Har Ghar Jal [100 % HHs with tap water connections]

100 % FHTC States/ UTs

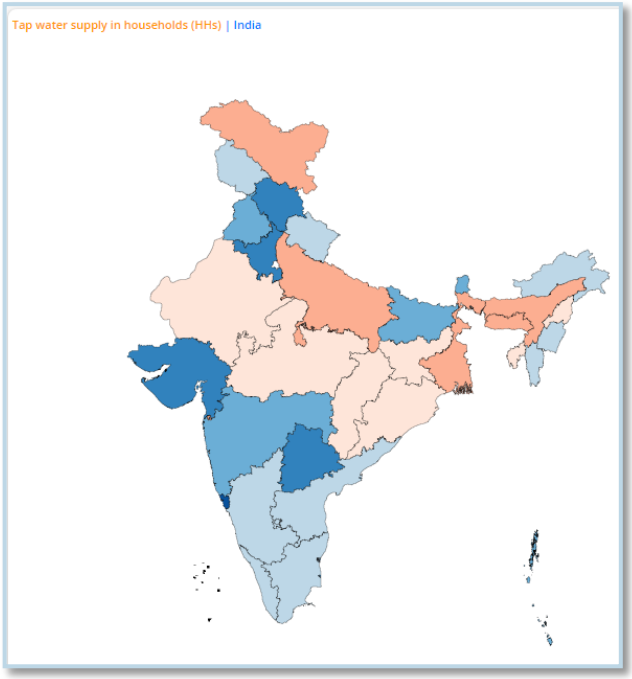
Goa

100 % FHTC Districts	100 % FHTC Blocks	100 % FHTC Panchayats	100 % FHTC Villages
26	454	34,787	65,388

As on 15th August, 2019



As on 31st December, 2020



0%-10% | 11%-25% | 26%-50% | 51%-75% | 76%-<100% | 100%

Source: JJM - IMIS

Decentralizing water supply service delivery in J&K

> *I have learnt to live with the sound of shelling & infiltration attempts,"- says Rukmesh Kumari - the woman sarpanch of the border village of Upper Kangri in Sunderbani, Rajouri district of Jammu, while she carries a calm smile on her face. The stern & composed demeanor of hers is a testimony of the struggles faced by her village in pursuit of a decent life. Villages around the border are plagued with a plethora of issues related to basic infrastructure and services. Water supply is one significant issues in the region.*

Village Kangri, with far-flung habitations, is poorly connected through hilly bridled paths with 1,500 households. Dense forest cover and scattered population, the village is merely 5 km from the LoC in Nowshera sector. For years, the inhabitants depended upon local spring and pond located at far off places for their daily water needs. The inhabitants used horses to fetch water from far off areas. In summer, as water flow reduces in local springs and ponds dry up, the inhabitants struggle in search of water increases.

During the rainy season while the quantum of water increases at these sources, but the water body gets polluted by surface water from the streams and rivulets, thereby increasing water-borne diseases. The water supply scheme Ambhkhori commissioned in March, 2020 was designed to bring an end to the drudgery caused by a lack of such basic service. Retrofitting work was taken up under Jal Jeevan Mission to provide tap water connections to all households. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connection to all rural households in India by 2024, and Jammu & Kashmir has committed to complete this task by 2022, ahead of the national goal.

Provision of functional tap connections has to be achieved through community participation. The recent modification of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 strengthens the local bodies with a three-tier structure directly elected by the people – district development councils, Halqa panchayats, and block development councils. These bodies will aid in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. Implementation support agencies are being engaged for capacity building of Paani Samitis so that communities are empowered to take up planning, implementation, operation, and maintenance of their water supply systems along with technical support from the UT Public Health Engineering department of the Union Territory.

100-Day Campaign to provide piped water supply in Anganwadi Centres, Ashramshalas and Schools

On 29th September 2020, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave a 'Call to Action', urging the State Governments/ UT Administration to ensure assured tap water supply to every anganwadi centre, ashramshala and school in the country under the 100-day Campaign started from 2nd October, 2020.

The 100-days campaign aims to bring awareness among rural community, anganwadi workers, school teachers, school management committee about the importance of WASH and assured availability of safe water to children for their overall development; support children with fully integrated life skills education, focusing on key hygiene

behaviour - overall water security and safety, safe handling and storage of drinking water hand washing with soap, personal and community hygiene; and eventually to make water 'everyone's business' by forging effective partnerships with all stakeholders.

The Campaign's guidelines were released on 2nd October, 2020 to assist the State/ UTs and district officials in developing a framework for the Campaign. Along with the guidelines, an independent reporting framework has been created which not only assists in physical and financial progress assessment but also bring in the sense of competitiveness among the States/ UTs to further expedite the process. States have been adopting different multi-pronged strategies *viz.* existing piped water supply being retrofitted and/ or augmented where defunct or tap connections are not provided to institutions.

Standalone water supply schemes with required purification systems is being provided for institutions in villages with no proposed PWS this year. Solar powered stand-alone water supply systems are being developed for institutions in sparse settlements like hilly/ forested/ desert/ tribal areas with no PWS. Institutions under 'Jalmani' are being reassessed for their functionality and priority to locations where repair/ restoration is feasible; community water purification plants being installed in water quality-affected habitations.

In addition to providing functional tap water connections, the emphasis is laid on in-situ treatment of greywater and rainwater harvesting. Provisions are being made in water-stressed, drought-prone, hilly, forested, and desert areas to ensure overall water security. The campaign mainstreams raising plant nurseries, watering plants, sharing knowledge about 'potable' water and parameters to ascertain its quality as part of larger environmental education.

Given the centrality of WASH for good health, its importance is further felt in current CoVid-19 pandemic situation. Ensuring good WASH behaviour and practices in anganwadi centres, ashramshalas, and schools and communities will help in preventing human-to-human transmission and contain the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus causing CoVid-19. Many of these institutions have acted as CoVid-19 care centres, and thus ensuring sanitation and improving the infrastructure and facilities is a priority. So, when the schools reopen after the CoVid-19 pandemic and activities begin in these institutions, safe water is available for drinking, cooking mid-day meals, hand washing, and toilets. This will be a perfect gift for our young ones!

Community ownership: Experiences from Odisha to achieve audacious goal of Jal Jeevan Mission

- Liby Johnson
ED, Gram Vikas Trust

Jal Jeevan Mission has taken up the ambitious target to cover every rural household in India with a functional household tap connection. It envisages achieving this as a movement of the people, where the drinking water supply is owned and managed by people and their representative institutions. Once achieved, this will go down as among the most audacious ways of achieving the principles of decentralization of finances and functions and strengthening local governance institutions to respond to their citizens' demands effectively.

Gram Vikas, a non-government organization in Odisha has been promoting a community-owned and managed integrated water and sanitation intervention in the villages since 1995. More than 1,400 village communities, covering 82,000 households have benefitted from these interventions, in partnership with the Government of Odisha and donor agencies.

'Gram Vikas' experience indicates that it is possible to build single village water supply systems owned and managed by village communities even in the most remote areas. The institutional and technical capabilities required for this can be built, and communities motivated to pay towards a part of the capital costs as well as a substantial amount of the operations and maintenance costs. A recent survey that covered nearly 41,500 households in 626 villages where Gram Vikas had supported building piped water supply systems shows that 87% of the surveyed households reported a functional tap connection at their homes. The intervention in these villages happened during the years between 1995 and 2018. It may be noted that only 67% of the households surveyed were part of the intervention when it was taken up in their villages. 33% of the households came up after Gram Vikas had exited the villages, and the respective community institutions had taken up the management of the piped water supply system.

What are the factors that enable the success of a community-managed piped water supply system in rural India?

Gram Vikas's experience suggests that the following four principles are essential and necessary conditions for this.

1.) It is necessary that 100% of the households in a village are included at all stages. No household, irrespective of its social or economic condition should be left out. This is necessary to ensure that poor people and socially excluded would not be left out. If not included from the beginning, it is very likely that poor people would find it difficult to join later, especially in more sharply stratified villages. Besides serving equity, the all or none approach also creates a unique opportunity for the entire village to work together for a shared purpose.

2.) Ensuring participation of every section and taking affirmative steps to ensure that women and poor people are included in management. Besides empowering the marginalized people, even if in a limited way, such inclusive processes are essential to ensure that the facility would continue to be managed well and for the benefit of all.

3.) Everyone has to share the costs. Insisting on a significant contribution to the initial capital cost and that people bear the cost of running and maintaining the facility helps build people's stakes.

4.) The insistence that people 'take responsibility' from an early stage to generate consensus, mobilize local contributions, manage construction, and take charge of operations & maintenance is a sound way to ensure long term sustainability. It creates an experience in the community of negotiating with each other and with outsiders and of working together.

These four principles taken on their own will not be successful. It has to be the combination of all of the – inclusion, participation, cost-sharing, and taking responsibility – will help build a sustainable and effective process right from the beginning. These fundamental principles need to supplement with three key interventions. Building management and leadership capabilities of the community institutions.

Substantial efforts need to be put into training programmes for men and women focusing on administrative and management aspects and motivational elements for effective leadership.

Exposure visits are a good way to build capacities. Men and women from the villages are trained in technical aspects of plumbing, pipeline repairs, and maintenance of pumping systems. Much of this training can happen 'on the job' while the initial work is taken up in the village. Periodic refresher and practical training can help build capacities further.

Gram Vikas helped each village set up a corpus fund with contributions from every household. The fund, invested and managed by the village institution in the form of a bank fixed deposit, serves as a 'resource in perpetuity.' The interest from the corpus fund is used for the extension of services to new households and meeting major maintenance needs.

The maintenance fund is a recurring financial instrument that helps meet the costs of the operations and maintenance of the piped water supply system, such as electricity charges, wages of the technical personnel, and regular repairs and maintenance. Villages have devised multiple methods for raising the maintenance funds. Respective village committees fixed for all the households to pay a monthly fee. In some villages, a proportion of the gross product at the time of harvest (0.25%-0.50%) is contributed towards the maintenance fund. In many villages, income from common property resources such as the village pond for pisci culture or common wasteland developed as wood lots or orchards is deposited in the maintenance fund, thus ensuring the availability of sufficient funds to meet the expenses.

Innovation Challenge launched to develop 'portable devices' for water testing

Drinking water supply in rural areas is from both from ground water (80%) and surface water (20%) sources. However, due to the depleting groundwater level, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, the use of surface water is on the rise. For both ground water and surface water based rural drinking water supply systems, it is important to measure relevant area-specific contaminations to ensure access to potable water. The Uniform Drinking Water Quality Protocol, 2019 has specified some important parameters to be monitored for assuring portability of drinking water as per BIS IS 10500:2012 and subsequent amendments.

People receiving piped water supply in their homes do not have any means to test the potability of water coming from their taps. This leads to a situation wherein, quite often, people are reluctant to consume tap water directly. People in urban areas end up installing household water treatment unit incurring additional expenditure.

National Jal Jeevan Mission has launched an innovation challenge in partnership with Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India to develop portable devices for water testing. The main objective of the exercise is to bring an innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution to develop portable devices that can be used at the household level to test the drinking water quality instantly, easily and accurately.

The aim of the innovation challenge is to ensure that water sources are tested at various locations, at different levels; thereby, helping the policy framers to design programs which address the water contamination issues. Water quality testing is one of the priority areas under Jal Jeevan Mission, the flagship programme of Union Government.

Skill Development Training by Assam

Jal Jeevan Mission, flagship programme of the Government aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024. In order to achieve the set target, skilled human resources and water supply material is an immediate concern in the villages to help meet the construction requirements. The main force deployed to take forward the programme on the field are masons, plumbers, electricians, fitters, pump operators and mechanics.

To implement the programme with .spedd and scale', a huge pool of skilled human resources will be required. Moreover, as Operation & Maintenance (O&M) in the post implementation phase will be undertaken by the Gram Panchayats (GP)/ its sub-committee i.e, VWSCs/ Paani Samiti at village level, there will be a need of high quality human resources at the local level for long-term sustainability of the schemes.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, huge labour force has returned to their respective villages/ habitations. It becomes important to not just engage the migrant work force in gainful employment but at the same time work towards honing their skills The developmental work being carried out in the villages across the country can be tapped to ensure that people are able to earn by working in the water supply works.

Availability of trained human resource within the Gram Panchayats will be helpful in ensuring functionality of taps and Operation & Maintenance of water supply systems on long-term basis. The objective is to provide every GP with reliable human resource so that regular water supply for long term, may be ascertained.

In this context, training programme was organized by the Government of Assam in November. Shri Rihon Daimary, Minister, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Assam formally inaugurated the skill development training organized under Jal Jeevan Mission in Guwahati.

Assam aims to provide safe drinking water to 63.35 lakhs household by 2024, while 13 lakh households will be covered by 2020. A total of 8,033 existing water connections will be retrofitted, while another 15,000 to 20,000 schemes will be installed to achieve the target by 2024. PHED, Assam collaborated with Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) to facilitate empanelment of training providers to conduct Skill Training of local youth throughout the state. The training will be imparted in three phases based on skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled resources required under the programme.

In the 1st phase 2,640 people will be trained. Upon successful completion of the training a certificate will be provided with an insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh. The training which began on 27th November, 2020 was imparted to 60 people. Assam plans to train 50,000 people under different job roles. The skill training in Assam will go a long way in not only meeting the requirements of JJM, but also addressing unemployment.

Voices from the ground

Jal Jeevan Mission in Madhya Pradesh: Improving household water security with tap water connections

Barwani, a district situated in the lap of Satpura ranges south of Narmada river, bears the undulating topography of barren hills during summers turning into lush green peaks during monsoon. Despite the availability of water, the district is considered semi-arid due to a combination of high run-off and the lack of water conservation and harvesting measures. In summers, majority of the district's population suffers from water scarcity. The starkness of the problem is also what makes Barwani stands out as a success story amidst the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which has seen faster implementation due to community ownership and leadership of the district administration. Barwani aims to provide 51,679 rural homes with tap water connections by 2021.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is under implementation with the goal of providing safe drinking water to every household in the country through functional household tap connections, thereby promoting better water usage. Madhya Pradesh's Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) with technical support from UNICEF initiated support to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), for planning, implementing, and operating the drinking water schemes.

So far, UNICEF has built capacity and ensuring a pool of over 5,700 skilled stakeholders across the State. The training was conducted following a cascade approach, where training was imparted at zonal, district, and village-level. The focus was at strengthening in-village piped water supply infrastructure, which necessitated understanding of available technological interventions for retrofitting of pipes and households' structures, water treatment, greywater management, and overall operations and maintenance work.

PHED was supported in developing a roadmap outlining how to tackle predictable challenges ahead, starting with identifying gaps, and a calendar for capacity-building efforts, which included dividing the work into phases. The training, traditionally done in person, were conducted virtually to adhere to safety protocols in the midst of the pandemic.

In three focus districts – Barwani, Guna, and Indore, Village Action Plans (VAP) are being prepared that effectively integrate community ownership into future management needs, and feed into the District Action Plan (DAP) for achieving drinking water security. Members of the PRI (*Sarpanch, Sachiv, Gram Rozgar Sahayak*), the Women and Child Development Department (Anganwadi supervisor, Worker, and Sahyika), Education Department (*Rajya Shiksha Kendra* officials and teachers), Health Department (*ASHA workers*) and Rural Livelihood Mission (Women from self-help groups) have all come together.

To ensure robust monitoring and provide a platform for cross-learning, a database is managed and updated regularly through the **'M-Water Portal',** a comprehensive mobile-based application to consolidate VAP information. With the support of the various frontline workers and community leaders, the State is able to track the number of Anganwadis (pre-school centres), schools and households covered with FHTCs. In addition to the portal, WhatsApp groups have been formed for smooth communication and cross-learning among various village water and sanitation committees (VWSCs). Support is rendered for developing IEC materials, guidance for PRA, and village activities such as chaupals (village meetings), training to PRI members and construction supervision.

To Vijay Mehra-resident of Barwani village, the Mission is already a great success. His village did not have a hand-pump nor tube well and the Anganwadi and school didn't have access to anything other than an uncovered well. His wife, Manju and two daughters used to travel approximately a quarter of a mile each time the family needed water. Vijay has special needs and is unable to help, even if he wanted to.

But his passion for finding a solution surpassed his personal barriers, and he mobilized the local community by organizing a conversation on when to initiate the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) process, during which focal points in the village do a transect walk to appraise water sources and seasonal issues and conduct a baseline survey that would feed into the subsequent VAP. Manju rose as a natural leader during the process and was selected as the president of the VWSC.

VWSC is oriented on water and its linkages with health and water quality monitoring through demonstration with a field-testing kit, tracking of construction activities, and material supervision at the village level. Local action further propelled the construction by enlisting local mechanics, plumbers and technicians to be oriented on O&M of the water supply scheme. The register allowed monitoring of progress, expenditure, and plan follow-through during the roll-out.

"A wave of happiness laps over the village today as 339 households are soon to have household tap water connections, allowing for equitable access to water supply for all in the community".

Every household in Lelta village of Kalsi block in Dehradun gets tap water connections

Long were the days when the drudgery of village women became unbearable to fetch water in a mountainous terrain in the remote village of Lelta, about 100 kms from the capital town Dehradun, in Uttarakhand. The women had to toil for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening to carry water from the springs flowing on the other side of the mountain village.

As most of the village young men were outbound to the nearest cities, the elderly women folk took the painful stride to keep their cattle's nourished, household chores running and even extending their hand for farming. Today the smile of these humble 115 families of Lelta village, which is a community belonging to the SC, ST class, is resonating to the awesome beauty of the Garhwal range of the mighty Himalayas.

Thanks to the Piped Water Supply system commissioned in the year 2019. Under the aegis of Jal Jeevan Mission, every household has got tap water connection. So much so, the water available to the villagers is for 24/7. The community water storage tank built at a much higher level above the village is enough to deliver water at adequate pressure. The villagers have ensured that all the roof top tanks are fitted with a float valve to

prevent wastage of water when full. They have prepared a Village Action Plan and have constituted VWSC to ensure that they are able to maintain the system efficiently.

Today, the old village head speaks about the improving quality of life of the villagers, which he has dreamt of during his younger years. The women folk now happily lend their hand to cattle rearing and cultivation in their nearby orchards.

Water is life, as we know, and what a beautiful life to cherish when you have water at your door step in the mountains of the mighty Himalayas.

Communities lead the way in drinking water management in Punjab

Takhni village in Kandi area of Hoshiarpur district is a remote village located at the foot of Shivalik hills, having 165 households. Traditionally the villagers had to rely on the rivulets passing through the region and open wells for drinking water purposes. The villagers faced health problems due to consumption of contaminated water.

One fine day the villagers decided to resolve the drinking water problem and approached the local authority (PHED) resulting in groundwater-based Single village Scheme (SVS) commissioned in June, 2020. The Takhni SVS provides tap water connections to all the households in the village, including schools and anganwadis. The scheme is completely operated by Gram Panchayat Water Sanitation Committee (GPWSC). The GPWSC collects a tariff of Rs 150 per month from each household to cover the monthly O&M expenses. A special feature of the scheme is that it supplies water to 40 households situated at higher elevation, where water is lifted through booster pumping. Households at higher elevation received potable water of sufficient quantity after 40 years through this scheme. Community surveillance of water quality is being done using FTKs.

Takhni, Tana and Naulakha villages are some classic example of community led single village water supply schemes adhering to the ethos of Jal Jeevan Mission in planning, implementation and operation and maintenance by the local village community. In both the schemes, GPWSCs comprises of more than 50% women members responsibly carrying out the activities.

Most villages in Punjab have active community participation in the Operation & Management (O&M) of schemes through GPWSC. Out of 13,690 piped water supply (PWS) villages, 5,624 PWS villages are completely managed by GPWSCs. Punjab has a uniform policy to collect community contribution for in-village infrastructure of water supply schemes. In the plains- Rs. 800 per household (general category) and Rs. 400 per household (SC category) is collected. Likewise, for hills - Rs. 400 per household (general category) and Rs. 200 per household (SC category) is collected by Gram Panchayat. As a policy, new water supply works are taken up only after the entire community contribution has been collected and deposited in the bank account of GPWSC).

Many villages in Punjab have water meters installed at the household level. In some of the villages, volumetric tariffs are being charged based on the water meter reading. However, most of the villages still charge a flat tariff. Most of the water supply schemes run by GPWSCs are financially sustainable and they collect the entire O&M costs through household-level tariffs. State emphasizes on 100% volumetric tariffs so that water wastage can be minimized.

The goal is to improve the lives of the villagers, particularly women & children and provide better quality of life by through “Functional Household Tap Connections” (FHTCs) to every rural household by 2022. The State is committed to be a ‘Har Ghar Jal Rajya’ by 2022.

Odisha: Empowering women for testing drinking water sources

It is important to know the quality of water one is critical for people's health and wellbeing. Empowering women to monitor water quality at the community level using Field Test Kits (FTKs) is a priority under Jal Jeevan Mission. Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (RWS&S), Odisha ran a month-long campaign from 1st to 30th November, 2020 to test 4 lakh drinking water sources like hand-pumps, tube-wells/ dug-well/ delivery points through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

There is a paradigm shift in the approach of water quality monitoring & surveillance from the closet of the departmental prerogative to the democratic right of the community. This new approach has expanded partnership with the community and not just "shifted the responsibility". It has demystified the belief that water quality management is not a domain of public health engineers but communities can take it up if properly handholded.

It was challenging for the department to ensure testing of water sources during COVID-19 pandemic. 12 thousand Self-Employed Mechanics (SEMs) & more than 11 thousand members of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were trained & provided with 7,000 FTKs to act as water warriors. The State Water Testing Laboratory of RWS&S, Odisha created a pool of resource persons of 105 Lab personnel and 314 Junior Engineers at Block level. These resource persons are the driving force in mentoring the SEMs & SHGs for the Campaign.

The diagrammatic form of capacity-building framework of the Campaign helped even the lowest literate communities from hinterland like Malkanagiri, Nawarangpur, Sundergarh in testing of water sources using FTKs.

The SHG members collected samples and conducted the test in presence of community and sensitized them if any contamination was found in the drinking water source. All the samples that showed contamination either bacteriologically or chemically were sent to district & sub-divisional level laboratories for confirmation.

Monitoring water supply in rural houses by smart metering

It was a proud moment for Sarpanch Shri Jashpal Singh as Dabali village becomes Har Ghar Jal village under Jal Jeevan Mission this year. Water meters have been installed in 145 household connections to monitor the water consumption in the home. Dabali is a small agriculturally sound village in SAS Nagar district of Punjab. Earlier people here depended on tube wells to fulfil their daily needs of required water. Jaspal Singh initiated the installation of water meters with panchayat fund. The Gram Panchayat Water Sanitation Committee (GPWSC) takes water reading, collect bills and manages operation and management (O&M) cost of water supply schemes. GPWSCs like Mohan Majra village of Fatehgarh Sahib District, Singhpura village of SAS Nagar district, Sahpur village of Jalandhar district are few examples who have championed the cause starting from installation of water meters to providing 24*7 water supply to collection of water bills to managing O&M cost and guiding communities in developing ownership.

The State of Punjab marches ahead in monitoring water consumption at household level in the form of installing water meters at rural homes. Metering and billing are being promoted as a means to encourage people save water, prevent leakages and wastage. 90% of consumers have smart water meters installed at their houses and are paying water bills regularly. Water meters help in monitoring the water consumption and pay for it. It also helps in conserving the ground water and promoting equity in the community.

The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation (DWSS), Punjab took a decision to provide free water meters with household tap connections in 35 villages of Mohali district. As a pilot project it installed 7,899 water meters with the objective of making the rural communities responsible for construction and management of their own water supply systems, to reduce wastage of water, to make the system financially sustainable, and to provide quality service to the consumers by charging water tariff on volumetric basis for O&M of water supply schemes.

Currently 609 villages have water meter installed at household level. The department also installs bulk water meter at source to measure the quantity of water being supplied at the village. Source and consumption at beneficiary level are well tracked as detection of any leakage in the system, unauthorized water connects becomes easy. Two types of water meters i.e Multi-jet and Magnetic Transmission are being installed with average cost Rs 1,800 - 2,000 per meter including labour.

The water metering helps in addressing the issue of unequal distribution of drinking water and misuse of water, GPWSCs are able to meet the O&M cost. Water auditing of the schemes become possible by measuring inflow and outflow. Nonetheless, equitable water supply to all households has increased the satisfaction level of community.

Life of a Pump Operator in Vallam village, Tamil Nadu

-Rachna Gahilote Bisht

Smt. G. Kala, 48-year old and mother of two children, is the only female pump operator in Vallam village of Vellore district. Her journey as a pump operator and technician began 9 years ago. It was the time when their family was mourning the sudden demise of a dear friend with whom her husband worked in partnership. The friend served as a pump operator in Kullathumeda habitation. His sudden demise brought the work of operating the pump to a halt. There was no skilled person available in the village to take up the job. Inspite of being in grief, Kala stepped forward. Till now she had only worked as a labourer along with her husband. She proposed her name as the pump operator. The Department too encouraged her by providing basic training of how to operate the pump. Kala filled the vacant position in a man's world as the only female pump operator in the district and started operating 3 Over Head Tanks (OHTs).

G. Kala proudly caters to the needs to 475 households which has 28.6% Functional Household Tap Connection coverage. The work under Jal Jeevan Mission is underway to ensure that potable drinking water reaches every household. A new borewell has been dug and the plan is to provide "**Har Ghar Jal"** by January, 2021 in the entire village.

Kala is self-motivated who has with time learnt the skill of carrying out minor repair works. In all these years she has earned the respect of the community and is the **GO TO PERSON** for any leakages in the pipeline. Under the JJM programme she is extending support to the Public Health & Engineering Department by monitoring the construction works carried out and helping map the places where the pipelines already exist or require new ones. If G. Kala sees any leakages she repairs the same upto Rs 500/- using money from her ow pocket. Later, the same is reimbursed to her by the Panchayat. In case money required for the repair is more than Kala seeks prior permission from the Panchayat. Even the Mason and Plumber are quick to respond to Kala's request The villagers are very happy to have G. Kala in the village who is approachable even over phone. G. Kala wants more women in come forward and take up the profession as mechanics and pump operators. "*It is not just a man's bastion. It is the women who is most affected by non-availability of water. When we can do other works then why not a skilled job. I have earned love and respect from my people in this profession."*

The PHED officials are working on a plan where skill training is imparted to SHGs in the village to help sustain the infrastructure created and make the Har Ghar Jal programme more inclusive.

Kanikapuram village in Ranipet district with 90 households has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connectivity under Jal Jeevan Mission's 'Har Ghar Jal' programme. 24-year old Bhagya Lakshmi is very happy to receive potable tap connection in the house. She came to live in the village after marriage to Sanjeev.

For the past three years since her marriage she has been struggling to secure water. Everyday she takes 20 rounds, up and down the stand post to meet the daily requirements of water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing and cleaning.

FHTC brings smile and relief in the lives of rural families of Tamil Nadu

Bhagya Lakshmi and her family members are relived that she no longer has to carry the heavy weight on her head as she is pregnant. *"Since it is my first-time pregnancy in three years of marriage the family is taking extra care. . I dreaded carrying 5 kg load when I learnt of my pregnancy but now recently government has come to my rescue. I will be able to stay comfortably at my in-laws place till the last leg of delivery"*. My husband is part of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee. Learning about my physical condition he saw that water reached our house to ensure ease of living for me and my aged mother-in-law. Jal Jeevan Mission has brought happiness to thousands of families like Bhagya Lakhsmi.

Okkiburwa Sakhiya of Assam leads by example

All of us talk about working for larger good of the society but there are very few who show the way. One such person is Smt Okkiburwa Sakhiya who lives in Shantipur village from Assam. For years together, she had seen everyone struggle to meet the basic needs including tapped water supply in her village. They had to walk up to the spring to fetch water.

The ray of hope emerged when the Public Health & Engineering Department visited their village to provide tap connections. The officials went around looking for land to set up the water supply infrastructure but they could not find space which would serve the purpose. As hope began to fade Okkhoburwa Sakhiya decided to donate 2 acres land for the greater good of the society. She offered the officials to set up the water supply system on her land thereby ensuring that piped water supply reaches every household. Currently, 85 households are getting potable drinking water and it is planned that remaining 125 households would soon get tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission. Seeing Okkhoburwa Sakhiya show the way, now the community has agreed to pay Rs 50/- as user fee against piped water usage. A proper ledger with all the payment details has been maintained. 10% late fees charges is being collected.

JJM brings happiness to the villages of Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh

-Devina Srivastava

One just can't ignore the charming smiles and gleam in the eyes of these kids of village Hanna Binaika of District Chitrakoot of Uttar Pradesh. The village lies in the Hanuman Ganj habitation of water-stressed Bundelkhand area. The modest upbringing and the limited means have not been a deterrent for them in aiming high. Till few months back these kids were forced to compromise on school hours as they were sharing the burden of household chores thus, forcing them to do many rounds in a day to fetch water from handpumps. But now in three months the village has underwent a drastic change. With the availability of tap water connection in every home, the quality of life of villagers, particularly women & children have improved manifold.

"I don't get scolded by my teacher for reaching late to school"-chuckles Chotu- an 8-year village boy. His innocence touches your chord, and makes you contemplate the depth of water paucity & its impact on the day-to-day life of the inhabitants of this region. The kids are now getting more time to play & study.

Earlier lack of access to drinking water in the school and anganwadi had affected their learning environment, but now the clean potable water through tap connection in school & anganwadi is facilitating a better environment to both students & teachers.

With the availability of tap water connection in every home, women of the village are benefitted the most. As women are typically saddled with the burden of being water providers for their families, the pressure robs them of health, posture and quality time for themselves. Hiramani, a lady in her 40s is extremely happy and satisfied here with the provision water tap at her home. Her health has improved a lot and now she has more time for leisure. Similarly, many women of this village are enjoying the new-found comfort of clean water at home. Ram Savai, another lady is relaxed as she feels that her kids' health has improved- all thanks to the clean water at home provided under Jal Jeevan Mission. Village Hanna Binaika has 632 households and has now have 100% FHTC coverage, also including tap water connection in the schools and anganwadi here.

Here new scheme is constructed costing Rs 203.89 Lakhs having 200KL capacity Over Head Tank (OHT)/ with approximately 10.46 km GI/ DI distribution network. Another village in Habitation Hanuman Ganj, Village Lauri Dist. Chitrakoot has achieved the 100% FHTC status. The village has 183 households all covered with tap water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission. As you enter the village, the neat rows of households with electricity, cooking gas supply and now tap water connection very well explains the upgraded lifestyle of the villagers. The inhabitants here feel that the provision of tap connections through Jal Jeevan Mission has filled in the missing link which was needed for the holistic development of the village.

Re-engineering for Jal Jeevan Mission

-VK Madhavan, Chief Executive
Water Aid India

"Every household will pay Ninety Two Rupees per month to cover the costs of operation and maintenance". This statement by a member of the Village Water & Sanitation Committee of Dhaboti village of Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh really threw me off. Here I was, trying to understand the process by which they had created their village action plan (VAP), but this committee had even calculated operation and maintenance costs on an annual basis, and the cost per household. All before even implementation of the plan had commenced. They were clearly familiar with the Detailed Project Report created by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) including cost estimates.

In Tanda Kheda Dasai, Dhar district, the uncertainty around availability of water in the summer months and the burden on women to fetch water was clear. Water at their doorstep, throughout out the year, could significantly alter their lives and well-being, and consequently the heightened sense of anticipation was tangible. They had identified a dug-well as the source of water for their scheme. The possibility of sinking a bore-well closer by to the houses existed, and yet they had identified the dug-well as their source. My curiosity was piqued and we visited this dug-well. Beautifully located, just beyond and beneath a large earthen bund with water and quite clearly receiving water from several directions. Made so much sense to listen and allow villagers to plan for their needs.

In both instances, it was clear that the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) was active and their plan was the consequence of participatory processes. However, the support and involvement of the PHED and the role of non-profit organisations (Samarthan in Sehore and Centre for Advanced Research and Development in Dhar) and their coordinated efforts were clear. Madhya Pradesh expects to have Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) in place to play a similar role by mid-January 2021.

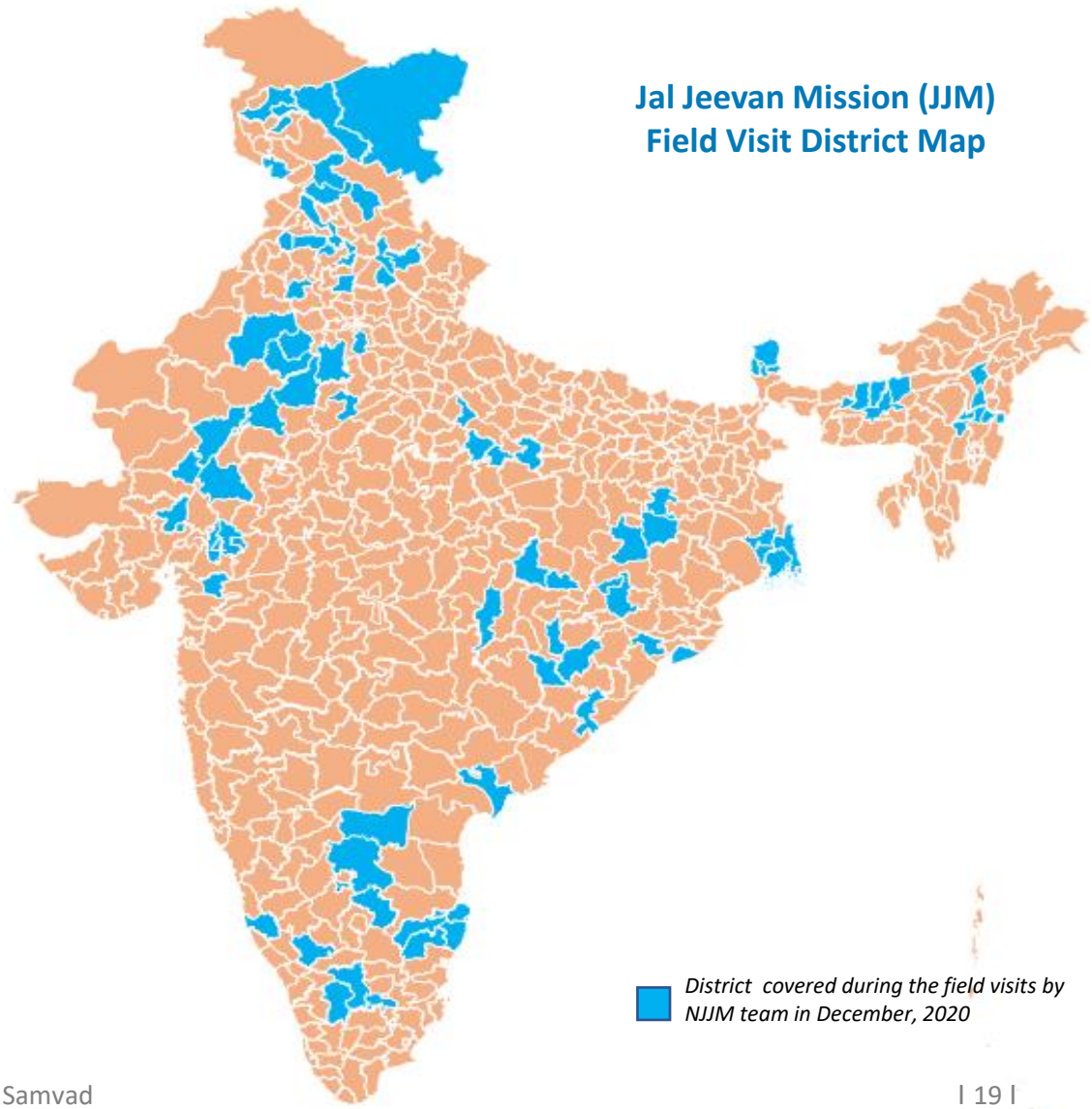
VWSCs are central to the success of Jal Jeevan Mission and the village action plan is but a reflection of their aspirations. Since these committees must manage their water schemes, the imperatives for design, budgets and planning have to be different.

If the cost of a scheme is high, villagers will have to pay a higher contribution. If the scheme is complex, it will pose management challenges later. It is not enough to think of this as an engineering challenge to provide water at every doorstep – that is the easy part. The primary questions that must guide every step of the process are – will this strengthen and empower the VWSC and will it make it easier for them to operate and maintain. The challenge before the PHED and ISAs is not merely one of implementing a scheme or facilitating creation of a plan. Investment in infrastructure without investment in institutional capacity will fail. The challenge is to help create vibrant institutions in every village that can plan, design, own and manage their drinking water systems that deliver – safe, assured water to every household, throughout the year!

Actions from the field

India

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
Field Visit District Map



District covered during the field visits by NJJM team in December, 2020

Assam visit

Three teams from National JJM visited the State of Assam from 13-17 December, 2020 in seven districts Kamrup, Jorhat, Majuli, Nalbari, Darrang, Bongaigaon and Barapeta covering 47 villages.

Assam has adopted few best practices which deserve mention like moving from diesel/ electrical based motors to solar energy based systems as a means to conserve energy and promote clean energy. In Majuli, user fee is being collected which in turn helps in Operation & Maintenance of the water supply system.

A team of 5 women members has been formed to carry out testing of water through use of Field Test Kits. Training was imparted to the women so that test results are accurate and reliable.

In few villages the community is willing to donate land as a means of supporting the water supply programme. The land is mostly required to set up the Pump House, and make platform around FHTC connections out of individual funds to check contamination of ground water. Retrofitting of existing FHTCs is being carried out to ensure speed in meeting the set target.

Haryana

The National Jal Jeevan Missin team visited six districts viz; Faridabad, Palwal, Mewat, Karnal, Ambala and Panchkula in Haryana during 10-12 November, 2020. Presently, 65% Functional Households have Tap Water Connections (FHTCs) in the State. In order to achieve the target of 100% FHTC coverage by 2022, 31.05 lakh households have to be provided with FHTC.

PHED in the State has developed a dedicated rural water dashboard to enable regular monitoring of the progress made under the scheme as per the parameters laid down under Jal Jeevan Mission. To mitigate the issue of total dissolved solids (TDS) in Mewat, innovative rainwater harvesting system has been developed to recharge the aquifer.

Andhra Pradesh

Jayamma from Raghavampalli village of Mustur Gram Panchayat in Anatpur district is happy to get tap connection as it has improved her life".

People in Vaddemanu village of Kurnool district receive daily six-hour water supply. The villagers use tap water for all other purposes except drinking as they prefer the taste of water extracted from the hand pump. Reemapeta Gram Panchayat in Vizianagaram district has been provided with 100% FHTC. 50% women participation norm has been adhered to while forming the Village Water & Sanitation Committee following the Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines. The VWSC members ensure regular chlorination of water.

"Our visits to the local doctor have considerably reduced with installation of tap connection in every household. With potable water conncetion in Anganwadi, where infants comes during COVID, all the AWSCs are getting safe water which is a boon for all of us", says Smt Sai Devi. O&M charges are being collected by the Gram Panchayat as part of Property Tax. Every household is provided with 55 lpcd water.

S. Bandiapalle village in Marthadu Gram Panchayat of Ananthpuramu district with a total population of 572 covering 147 households is Fluoride affected. The ground water is not fit for drinking. The village is provided with treated surface water from Chitrawati Balancing Reservoir under Satya Sai Rural Water Supply scheme. While 40 households have FHTCs, the remaining 107 have temporary non-regularized tap connections.

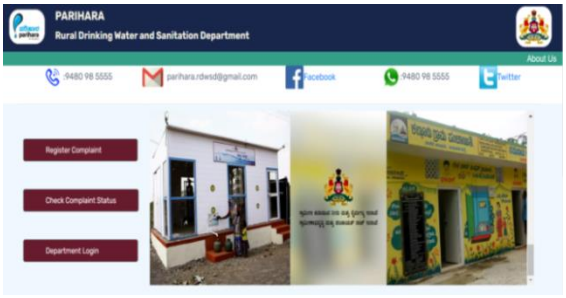
Bhargavi is a young 2nd year graduate student and a VWSC member says, "Our life has become easy since the time tap connections have been installed in our homes. We now get time to study and undertake other activities."

R. Lilawatamma, and old lady residing in the village added, "At my age it is very difficult to carry water from the public stand post every day. Nonetheless, I had to do it to meet my daily need but with the facility of tap connection in the house, I now feel relieved. At least in old age I will not be forced to carry heavy buckets. It makes me really happy to see the water flow."

Karnataka

Karnataka Rural Drinking Water Supply Division has started an online complaint redressal dashboard called 'Parihara'. It is an effective and efficient way to manage water issues.
The complaint goes to the respective official directly through SMS for rectification in a time bound manner. If the matter is not resolved within a given timeframe then the complaint is automatically escalated to senior officials. The Dashboard reflects complaint redressal at various levels.

A community managed treatment plant has been set up by the government of Karnataka which has a Smart Card rechargeable facility. At the rate of Rs 2/- to Rs 5/- for 20 litre water. The households pay User Charge in the range of Rs 50/- to Rs 100/- towards Operation & Maintenance keeping in line with the JJM guidelines.



Every Gram Panchayat in Karnataka has a Field Test Kit to conduct regular water testing at water source and delivery point. There is a centralized helpline number available for the public to register their online complain. The status of the complaint is informed to the complainant through SMS. Decentralized community managed RO Treatment Plant has been set up at Gandamnagenahalli, where 24 x 7 safe drinking water is being provided through automated Smart Water ATM. The community can recharge Smart Water Card through a Mobile App.

Jharkhand

The NJJM team travelled to three districts in Jharkhand viz; Gumla, Ranchi and Hazaribagh during 2-5 December, 2020. They visited 14 villages covering single-village scheme, multi-village scheme and FHTCs provided through Solar power. In Jharkhand, Swachh Bharat Mission had developed a cadre of 1350 women called 'Jalshya' whose primary responsibility was to motivate the community for toilet construction and regular toilet use. Now these group of 'Jalshya' have been aligned with the Engineering Department. As they have good community connect, they are being used to create awareness about the programme, encourage people to have water tap connections and pay user charges.

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is set to achieve the target of 100% tap water connection to all rural households by 2023 and aims to cover 33.94 lakh homes 2020-21. During 13-16 December, 2020, three teams of two members each visited the Kanchipuram, Thrivallur, Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruppur, Vellore, and Ranipet.

People were happy to have Functional Household Tap Connections with adequate supply of water for 2 hours daily in the morning. It has been observed that 10 members Village Water & Sanitation Committee have been constituted with proper representation of women. All schools and anganwadi in the visited districts had tap water connections. A team of 5 members have been selected for water quality surveillance. Pump operators have been appointed and Rs 30/- per month is collected from households as User Fee towards water charges.

TWAD Board will we taking up the work of retrofitting to existing water supply systems, so that progress is faster. Complaint redressal mechanism has been set in place and at certain places a toll free number has been provided to register complaints related to water. Self Help Groups are involved in the programme. Soak pits are there or being planned under the convergence under SBM-G and 15th Finance Commission Grants to PRIs grey water management.

Water testing laboratories have been set up but the rates need to be standardised. On average 10 water samples are tested everyday. The labs can test 16 chemical parameters and complete biological contaminations. The State is seeking NABL accreditation under 11 parameters.

West Bengal

A team of NJJM visited the state from 2 - 5 December, 2020 to see the implementation of JJM. Ongoing schemes in 4 districts of Howrah, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas were visited. It was good to observe that the work on site was happening at a good pace.

Another observation in West Bengal was the verification of FHTC was being done almost side by side and this actually gives a true picture of having provided the FHTC. In this system the agency engaged to verify the FHTC provided do so by linking Aadhar or any other photo ID (Voter ID) of the household head within 2 days and the data is updated on the West Bengal PHE app of **Jal Swapna**. The dashboard also mentions the best performing 5 districts in number of FHTCs provided in terms of monthly progress.

Prime Minister inaugurated the 100 MLD desalination plant at Mandvi, Kutch

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled desalination plant and a hybrid renewable energy park in Gujarat on 15 December, 2020 in the presence of Shri Vijay Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the 100 MLD desalination plant at Mandvi Kutch benefitting 8 lakh people living in the region of Mundra, Lakhpat, Abdasa and Nakhatrana talukas. The desalinated surplus water from the plant will also be shared with people living in the upstream districts of Bhachau, Rapar and Gandhidham.

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"These projects will accrue to the tribals, farmers, cattle ranchers and common people of the region. Kutch is one of the fastest growing regions of the country. Gujarat Government has introduced many farmer friendly water schemes in the last twenty years..."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Catch the Rain" Awareness Generation Campaign launched

"Catch the Rain" an awareness campaign was launched jointly by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti and Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports and Minority Affairs in the presence of Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice & Empowerment covering 623 districts across the country.

The campaign aims to involve youth on water conservation and rainwater harvesting on integrated water management approach. The four-month campaign started in mid-December and shall continue up to March, 2021. Awareness on water conservation will be built through mass awareness campaigns, wall writings, banners, e-posters, knowledge competitions, nukkad natakas, and IEC materials. The campaign includes engagement with district administration, line departments, water agencies, PRI members, local influencers and volunteers.

The tag line used for the campaign is "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls" to nudge stakeholders develop Rain Water Harvesting Structures suitable to climatic conditions and sub-soil strata to store rain water especially during monsoon season. The State and district administration will be constructing water harvesting pits, rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, check dams, remove encroachments, de-silt tanks to increase storage capacity, remove obstruction in channels to bring water from the catchment areas, repair traditional water harvesting structures like step-wells, use defunct bore-wells and old wells to put water back in aquifers. The Ministries have collaborated with Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan as a means to connect with the grassroots for effective campaign and IEC activity.

Launch of "Mission Hilsa at Prayagaraj" by Union Minister in Farakka, West Bengal

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Secretary, Shri U.P. Singh visited the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Hilsa Ranching Station at Farakka, West Bengal on 18 December, 2020. The Union Minister released tagged Hilsa in River Ganga at Farakka, during the occasion.

The Institute under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India's Programme has initiated the *"Mission Hilsa at Prayagaraj"* with a target of ranching of 30,000 adult Hilsa in the middle stretch of River Ganga during 2020-23. During 2020-21, a total of 5,082 Hilsa adult of average weight of 205 gm has been ranched at the upstream of the Farakka Barrage, West Bengal. The Institute has taken-up Hilsa Ranching initiatives towards Hilsa Fisheries re-establishment in the middle stretches of the River Ganga particularly from Prayagraj to Farakka for livelihood improvement of the fishermen.

Visit of Union Minister to upcoming institute in Kolkata

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti reviewed the progress of the upcoming Public Health Engineering Institute in Kolkata. The Institute will impart knowledge and support in building the capacity of public health engineers thereby ensuring potable piped water supply in every household. The institute will promote innovation and help in development of new technologies in water sector by partnering with other eminent institutes and serve as a Center of Excellence.

Samvad with stakeholders by National Jal Jeevan Mission

In the continuing series of 'Jal Jeevan Samvad', organized a webinar on '***GPs/ VWSCs as public utility for management of piped water supply in Villages***" *was held on 12th December, 2020 for State*, district and sub-district officials, and was very well received and appreciated by the officers and staff working in rural water supply sector in State, district, block and GP level. The webinar was also webcasted on social media platforms.

The webinar discussed on the key role of GPs in making provision of water supply on long-term basis and constitution of VWSCs/ Pani Samitis as sub-committee of Gram Panchayats. Preparation of VAP, role & responsibility of ISAs & sustaining VWSCs as public utilities were some other key themes discussed in the webinar.

In his key note speech, Shri Bharat Lal, expressed the need to focus on strengthening drinking water sources, water supply, re-use of grey water and O&M for assured piped water to every home on regular & long-term basis.

The other speakers of the event were Shri Ajit Kumar Jain, Director- Centre for Sustainable Governance, Shri Manish Wasuja, WASH Specialist-UNICEF & Shri Liby Johnson, Executive Director-Gram Vikas Trust, Odisha.

Another Jal Jeevan Samvad on **"Engineering princlples and design for assured otable water supply to every *household"*** on 19th December, 2020.

In the key note Shri Bharat Lal, Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission sensitized Public Health/ RWS engineers to make the best use of training/ change management provided by NJJM to build capacities to function as water utilities and to adopt 'service delivery' approach.

He also emphasized that ensuring public expenditure is done judiciously in a prudent manner with effective convergence by dovetailing resources of other schemes in villages is a priority under Jal Jeeva n Mission. The other Key speakers of the webinar were Shri Murlidharan, Deputy Advisor, NJJM, Shri H. Hingorani, Retd Chief Engineer (PHE), Shri Rana R. Singh, PHE Specialist, NJJM. In the pursuit of building a PAN India knowledge—network for optimizing outputs under JJM, effort is being made to link national, State, district, block and Gram Panchayat levels in a fruitful exchange of information and good practices. In order to create a strong brand identity, **'Jal Jeevan Samvad'** has been initiated in form of monthly newsletters as well as webinars.

Har Ghar Jal
Jal Jeevan Mission

Har Ghar Jal Samvad

"**कैच द रेन**" वर्षाजल संरक्षण के प्रति जनमानस में जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु संरचित एक कार्यक्रम है जिसके अन्तर्गत रेन वॉटर हार्वेस्टिंग स्ट्रक्चर्स का निर्माण किया जाएगा और जनता को वर्षाजल बचाने की तकनीकों से अवगत कराया जाएगा।

Union Minister, Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

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