



Har Ghar Jal  
Jal Jeevan Mission

# STORIES OF CHANGE

Cases from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India





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## Foreword



सीआर पाटिल

केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री  
भारत सरकार

भारत के ग्रामीण और आदिवासी क्षेत्र, खासकर, “विशेष रूप से कमज़ोर जनजातीय समूह (पीवीटीजी)” वाले इलाके, जहां जीवन की मूलभूत सुविधाएं जैसे स्वच्छ और सुरक्षित पेयजल की कमी, हमेशा एक बड़ी चुनौती रही है। इस कमी ने न केवल इनके स्वास्थ्य और आजीविका को प्रभावित किया, बल्कि इनके समग्र विकास में भी बाधा उत्पन्न की है।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में, 2019 में शुरू हुआ जल जीवन मिशन, इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करने और हर ग्रामीण घर तक नल के माध्यम से स्वच्छ पेयजल पहुंचाने की एक ऐतिहासिक पहल है। इस मिशन ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि सबसे दुर्गम और वंचित क्षेत्रों में रहने वाले लोगों को भी जीवन के इस अनमोल संसाधन का लाभ मिले।

“स्टोरीज़ ऑफ चेंज” जल जीवन मिशन की ऐसी ही प्रेरक कहानियों का संग्रह है, जो दर्शाता है कि कैसे यह मिशन पीवीटीजी क्षेत्रों में जीवन को न केवल सरल बना रहा है, बल्कि सामाजिक और आर्थिक रूप से समृद्ध भी कर रहा है। मैं पेयजल और स्वच्छता विभाग को पीवीटीजी क्षेत्रों की प्रेरणादायक कहानियों को सम्मिलित करते हुए इस उत्कृष्ट पुस्तक के प्रकाशन पर हार्दिक बधाई देता हूँ। इन कहानियों के माध्यम से हमें यह समझने का अवसर मिलता है कि स्वच्छ जल का होना केवल स्वास्थ्य के लिए नहीं, बल्कि गरिमा, शिक्षा, सशक्तिकरण और आजीविका के नए अवसरों का द्वार खोलता है।

इस मिशन की सफलता का श्रेय उन समुदायों को जाता है जिन्होंने इसे अपनाया और उन स्थानीय जल योद्धाओं, महिलाओं और युवाओं को, जिन्होंने इस बदलाव को संभव बनाया। यह मिशन हमारे सामूहिक प्रयासों का प्रतीक है और यह दिखाता है कि जब सरकार और समुदाय एक साथ आते हैं, तो कोई भी लक्ष्य कठिन नहीं होता है।

मैं आशा करता हूँ कि यह पुस्तक हर पाठक को प्रेरणा देगी और जल जीवन मिशन के उद्देश्यों को जन-जन तक पहुंचाने में मदद करेगी। यह हमारे लिए गर्व की बात है कि हम एक ऐसे भारत की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं, जहां हर घर को स्वच्छ पेयजल की सुविधा प्राप्त हो और हर नागरिक का जीवन खुशहाल और गरिमापूर्ण हो।

जय हिन्द!

सी आर पाटील





सत्यमेव जयते

## Foreword



V. Somanna

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Water is the essence of life and a critical enabler of sustainable development. For countless communities across India, especially in the remote and underserved areas, the absence of clean and accessible water had long been a barrier to wellbeing and ease. This situation, however, is changing, thanks to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

The mission's goal of 'Har Ghar Jal' is not just about providing tap water connections but about ensuring transformative and lasting impacts on rural lives. By bringing safe and clean water directly to households, JJM is reducing the drudgery of water collection, improving health outcomes, empowering women, and fostering a sense of dignity and self-reliance.

This booklet, *Stories of Change*, captures the essence of this transformation. It celebrates the resilience and determination of some of the most vulnerable communities in India – our Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) – as they embrace a new chapter of opportunity and empowerment. These stories highlight how access to clean drinking water has paved the way for healthier families, increased school attendance, and greater participation in economic activities, especially for women.

Women's leadership emerges as a common thread in these narratives, showcasing their pivotal role in driving change and inspiring communities to safeguard and sustain their water resources. Their contributions reinforce the mission's underlying principle that local participation and collective ownership are key to lasting progress.

As you turn the pages of this booklet, I hope you find these stories as inspiring and enlightening as I do. They serve as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment in reaching even the most remote corners of our nation.

It is my sincere belief that these narratives will motivate stakeholders across the nation to redouble their efforts to reach the unreached and ensure that the benefits of clean water touch every household, every family, and every individual. Together, let us continue this journey toward achieving the vision of 'Har Ghar Jal' and building a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all.

Jai Hind!

  
(Veeranna Somanna)



## Foreword



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Water is a fundamental pillar of life and development, shaping health, livelihoods, and societal progress. The vision of Jal Jeevan Mission is to harness the potential of water to improve the quality of life for every individual, especially in the most remote and underserved areas. For many communities across India, the lack of access to clean water has cast long shadows over their lives. For years, these shadows have been marked by unrelenting struggles – distances walked, time lost, health compromised, and dreams deferred. The stories chronicled in this booklet reveal how something as seemingly simple as clean water can be a profound agent of change, transforming not just individual lives but entire communities. This is the essence of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The absence of clean, accessible water had dictated the daily rhythms of the rural landscape. Hours spent fetching water stole time from education, income generation, and rest. Unsafe sources compromised health, and the struggle for water weighed most heavily on women and children. These narratives, while deeply personal, echo a universal truth: water is an enabler of equity, empowerment, and progress.

The pages of this booklet bring to life the silent revolutions taking place in villages once defined by scarcity. They speak of women who no longer carry the burden of long treks for water, of children who can now trade water pots for schoolbooks, and of communities that have come together to take ownership of their water systems. These are stories of resilience, innovation, and the unyielding human spirit.

Yet, the transformative power of water is only as enduring as the systems that deliver it. Behind every success lies the collective effort of individuals, communities, and government initiatives working in unison to build sustainable solutions. These achievements remind us that while access to clean water is transformative, its sustainability requires vigilance, participation, and a shared commitment to conserve and cherish this vital resource.

As you read these stories, let them inspire and challenge you. They are not just tales of what has been achieved – they are calls to action, urging us to ensure that the promise of clean water reaches every corner of our country. Let these voices guide us toward a future where no one has to endure the indignity of water scarcity, where every drop is a beacon of hope and possibility.

Water, after all, does more than quench thirst. It nurtures lives, bridges inequalities, and creates pathways to a better tomorrow. This booklet stands as a testament to that truth and an invitation for all of us to be part of this extraordinary journey.

(ASHOK K. K. MEENA)



## Foreword



Kamal Kishore Soan

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India has moved forward significantly over the years, with few things remaining unchanged. The country's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) have lived in seclusion for decades, facing difficulties that made even basic survival a challenge for them. Lack of clean drinking water intensified their hardships, affecting not only their health but also the possibility of nurturing hope.

The launch of Jal Jeevan Mission brought attention to these previously overlooked regions. It was one of the rare instances when their presence in a dignified manner became a priority rather than an afterthought. The Mission recognized that a tap connection in every rural household, while primarily meant for drinking water, would also promote dignity, health, and transformation.

The availability of clean drinking water has brought happiness to the people who had been struggling for years. Better health is being experienced, more time for livelihoods and household works are being saved, new prospects have emerged, and the shackles of despair have begun to recede.

As depicted in this booklet, the stories narrate how villages once devoid of basic necessities are now alive with hope. It reflects the profound transformation of these PVTG hamlets, where services have been extended to meet their needs, and the focus has shifted toward the sustainable management of water resources. These anecdotes illustrate the possibility of achieving meaningful change when efforts and actions are aligned with purpose.

I congratulate the IEC team of DDWS for coming up with "Stories of Change" that demonstrate how listening, caring, and acting with intent is crucial to achieve change beyond mere intentions. The success stories presented here are a testament to the strength of our collective will and determination.

This booklet is a reflection of a strong commitment to action, essential to drive progress. May it continue to inspire continued collaboration and efforts towards building a water-secure and empowered rural India.

  
(Kamal Kishore Soan)

## Andhra Pradesh

### 1. From Scarcity to Sustainability: Neredubanda's Water Story

**Village:** Neredubanda, H/o Gaduthuru

**Mandal:** G. Madugula

**District:** Alluri Seetharam Raju

The picturesque Araku Valley of Visakhapatnam district is home to the Kodhu tribe, residing in Neredubanda village. For years, access to water, an essential resource, posed daily challenges for the people there. Over time, this struggle only grew more challenging. Whether it was the exhausting distance to the nearest stream, the health risks posed by unsafe water, or the countless hours lost each day to fetching it, the difficulties seemed endless.

Summers brought added hardship. The stream, often the only source of water, would dwindle and stagnate under the scorching heat, leaving villagers no choice but to rely on muddy, unsafe water. Diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid, and dysentery became common, especially among children and the elderly.

Each trip to fetch water consumed valuable time and energy, leaving women drained and children deprived of education as they helped with this never-ending task.

Over time, this grueling routine became a way of life for the 65 residents of Neredubanda. It was difficult, yet unavoidable. The residents carried on, adjusting to the challenges as best they could. But beneath the surface, the strain on their health, education, and livelihoods grew heavier with each passing year. With a population of 65 and 13 households, each now equipped with drinking water taps, the village has undergone a remarkable transformation. Today, the struggle for water is a distant memory in Neredubanda. Women no longer have to wake before dawn or walk late into the evening to fetch water.



The Kodhu tribe of Neredubanda village  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

Change often comes quietly, and it arrives when you least expect it. In Neredubanda, it came with Jal Jeevan Mission – a programme that initially felt like a distant promise, almost too good to believe. For a community long accustomed to the daily grind of fetching water, the idea of clean water flowing into every home seemed like a dream. But as plans turned into action and progress became visible, that quiet change began to reshape their lives, bringing hope where despair had once taken root.

The hours they once spent trekking to the stream are now used to care for their families, tend to their farms, and even explore income-generating opportunities. The relief is visible in their faces, and the newfound time has brought a sense of freedom they had never known.

For children, especially girls, the change is profound. With water readily available, they no longer have to miss school to help fetch water. Their days are now spent learning, playing, and dreaming of brighter futures. Families are healthier too. The clean, safe water has drastically reduced waterborne diseases, sparing the community from frequent illnesses and the associated financial burdens.

The success of Jal Jeevan Mission in Neredubanda is rooted in community participation and innovative practices. Workshops and training sessions have educated villagers about water conservation and sanitation, ensuring the sustainability of the water supply. Women, trained in using Field Testing Kits (FTKs), now monitor water quality regularly, ensuring it remains safe for drinking.



Flow of water from tap bring new lease of life  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh



JJM leads to significant improvement in the quality of life of women  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

The mission has also introduced sustainable practices, like rainwater harvesting, to help the village withstand dry spells. By involving the community in every step of the process, from planning to execution, Jal Jeevan Mission has fostered a sense of ownership among the residents, ensuring the infrastructure is maintained for generations to come.

Neredubanda is no longer defined by its struggles. The taps that now flow freely in every home have brought more than just water – they have brought health, education, and opportunity. The women, once bound by the endless task of fetching water, now lead lives filled with purpose and productivity. The children, no longer burdened by the task of fetching water, are thriving in school and looking forward to brighter futures.



**నీటి కొరత నుంచి నీటి సుస్థిరత వరకు-  
నేరేడుబండ గ్రామ త్రాగు నీటి కథ సారాంశం**

**గ్రామం:** నేరేడుబండ,  
**మండలం:** జి. మడుగుల

**జిల్లా:** అల్లూరి సీతారామ రాజు

విశాఖపట్నం జిల్లాలోని అరకు లోయలో “కొడు తెగకు” కు మంచి ఆదరణ ఉన్నది . వీరు నేరేడుబండ గ్రామంలో నివసిస్తున్నారు. అక్కడి ప్రజలు నీటి కోసంను కొన్ని సంవత్సరాలుగా ప్రతిరోజూ సవాళ్లగా ఎదుర్కొంటూ వచ్చారు. కాలంతో పాటు, ఈ పోరాటం మరింత క్లిష్టమైంది. దగ్గరిలో ఉన్న నీటి వాగు ప్రవాహానికి వీరు త్రాగు నీటి కోసం అనేక కిలోమీటర్ల ప్రయాణం చేసివారు . అయితే ఈ అసురక్షితమైన నీటిని త్రాగటం వలన అనేక ఆరోగ్య సమస్యలు, ఎన్నో గంటలు సమయం వృధా చేయడం అనేటి ఈ కష్టాలుకు అంతం లేకుండా ఉండేది .

ఈ సమస్యలు వేసవి కాలంలో మరింత తీవ్రమయ్యేవి. ఊరికి అందుబాటులో ఉన్న ఏకైక నీటి వనరు అయిన వాగు ప్రవాహం వేసవిలో వేడి వలన తగ్గిపోతూ, కలుషితమైన నీటిగా మారేది. ఈ పరిస్థితిలో గ్రామస్తులు మురికి, అసురక్షిత నీటి మీద ఆధారపడడం తప్ప మరే దారిలేకపోయింది. దీని వలన అతిసారం, టైఫాయిడ్, విరోచనాలు వంటి వ్యాధులు సర్వ సాధారణంమై , ముఖ్యంగా పిల్లలు మరియు వృద్ధులలో ఎక్కువ ప్రభావితం కావడం జరిగేది . ప్రతిసారి నీటికోసం పిల్లలు మరియు మహిళలు వెళ్లడం విలువైన సమయాన్ని మరియు శక్తి వృధా అయ్యేది . దీంతో మహిళలు పూర్తిగా అలసిపోయేవారు మరియు పిల్లలు ఈ తమకు కాని పనిలో సహాయం చేయడానికి తమ విద్య సమయము ను కోల్పోయేవారు.

ఈ క్లిష్టమైన జీవన విధానం కాలక్రమంలో మారిపూయింది నేరేడుబండ గ్రామంలోని 65 మంది కుటుంబాలు జీవనశైలి కి జల జీవన్ మిషన్ పథకం వరం లాగ మారింది . గ్రామస్తులందరూ ఏలైనంతగా ఈ సవాళ్లకు తగ్గట్టు తమను తాము మార్చుకున్నారు. అయితే, ఈ అన్ని కష్టాల వెనుక, సమిష్టి కృషి వలన వారి ఆరోగ్యం, విద్య, మరియు జీవనోపాధుల మరింత పెరిగాయి.



నేరేడుబండ గ్రామానికి చెందిన కొడు తెగ  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్

“మార్పు అనేది తరచుగా నిశ్శబ్దం లా వస్తుంది, మరియు అది మీరు ఆశించని సమయంలోనే రావడమనేది గొప్ప విషయం . నేరేడుబండలో ఈ మార్పు జల జీవన్ మిషన్ రూపంలో వచ్చింది - ఈ మార్పు ఆచరణ సాధ్యం కానిది మరియు వాగ్దానంలా అనిపించింది. అనేక సంవత్సరాలుగా ప్రతిరోజూ నీటికోసం శ్రమించే జీవితానికి అలవాటు పడిన గ్రామ మహిళలు , పిల్లలకు , ఇప్పుడు ప్రతి ఇంట్లో పరిశుద్ధమైన నీరు త్రాగడం అనేది కలలా గ్రామస్తులకు అనిపిస్తుంది . కానీ ప్రణాళికలు కార్యరూపం దాల్చి , పురోగతి కనిపించగా, ఆ నిశ్శబ్ద మార్పు వారి జీవితాలలో మార్పు తీసుకు రావడం లో నిరాస , నిస్సహాయం తొడిగి , సురక్షితమైన త్రాగు నీరు అందుబాటు లోకి రావడము తో ప్రజల ఆనందానికి అంతు లేదు .

13 కుటుంబాలు కలిగి , 65 మంది జనాభా ఉన్న ఆ ప్రాంతం, ఇప్పుడు ప్రతీ ఇంటికి త్రాగునీటి కుళాయిలు అందుబాటులోకి రావడంతో, నేరేడుబండ గ్రామం గణనీయమైన మార్పును పొందింది. ఈరోజు, ఈ గ్రామంలో నీటికోసం చేసిన జరిగిన ఒకప్పటి పోరాటం ఒక ఒక చరిత్రగా మిగిలిపోయింది. మహిళలు ఎప్పటి నుండి తెల్లవారుజామున లేవాల్సిన అవసరంగాని,



నీరు తీసుకురావడానికి సాయంత్రం వరకు నడవాలైన అవసరం గాని లేదు. ఒకప్పుడు దగ్గరలో గల నీటి ప్రవాహం వరకు వెళ్లడానికి వెచ్చించిన గంటలు ఇప్పుడు తమ కుటుంబాలను చూసుకోవడం, తమ పొలాలను పర్యవేక్షించడం మరియు ఆదాయం పొందే అవకాశాలను అన్వేషించడం కోసం వినియోగిస్తున్నారు. వారి ముఖాల్లో ఉపశమనం స్పష్టంగా కనిపిస్తోంది, మరియు ఈ ఆదా అయిన సమయం, వారు గతం లో అనుభవించని స్వాతంత్ర్య భావనను స్పష్టంగా కనిపిస్తుంది.

త్రాగు నీరు అందుబాటులో ఉండటంతో పిల్లలు పాఠశాలకు వెళ్ళకుండా మానివేయవలసిన అవసరం లేకుండా పోయింది , ముఖ్యంగా బాలికలలు చదువు కొనుటకు మరియు వారి హక్కుల కల్పనకు ఈ మార్పు వారికి చాలా ఆనందాన్ని సమయాన్ని ఇచ్చింది

. పిల్లలు రోజూ ఇప్పుడు చదువుకోవడం, ఆడుకోవడం, మరియు మెరుగైన భవిష్యత్తుల కోసం కలలు కనడంలో గడుపుతున్నారు . ఈ గ్రామ కుటుంబాలు ఎప్పుడు ఆరోగ్యంగా ఉన్నాయి. శుభ్రమైన, సురక్షితమైన నీటి అందుబాటులోకి రావడం తో , నీటివలన వచ్చే వ్యాధులు గణనీయంగా తగ్గాయి, తద్వారా గ్రామస్థులకు తరచుగా వచ్చే వ్యాధులు మరియు వారి ఆర్థిక భారం నుండి విముక్తి పొందగలిగారు.

నేరేడుబండ గ్రామములో జల జీవన్ మిషన్ విజయానికి ప్రదానమైన మూలం , ప్రజల భాగస్వామ్యం తో వినూత్న అభ్యాసాలు చేయడం . జల సంరక్షణ మరియు పారిశుధ్యంపై గ్రామస్థులు కు అవగాహన కల్పించేందుకు వర్కషాప్లు మరియు శిక్షణా తరగతులు నిర్వహించబడడం , నీటి సరఫరా స్థిరత్వాన్ని నిర్ధారించడం . మహిళలు, ఫీల్డ్ సెస్టింగ్ కిట్స్ (FTKs) వాడటంలో శిక్షణ పొందడం ద్వారా, నీటి నాణ్యతను తరచుగా పర్యవేక్షించేయడం , తద్వారా త్రాగునీరు సురక్షితంగా ఉండేలా చూడడం వంటి పనులు ద్వారా ఈ మిషన్ విజయవంతమైనది.

ఈ మిషన్ ద్వారా భవిష్యత్ లో గ్రామానికి సహాయపడే విధంగా వర్షపు నీటి సంరక్షణ వంటి స్థిరమైన పద్ధతులను కూడా పరిచయం చేసింది. ప్రణాళిక దశ నుండి అమలు దశ వరకు , జల జీవన్ మిషన్ ప్రతి దశలో సమాజాన్ని భాగస్వామ్యం చేయడం ద్వారా,

గ్రామస్థులలో “ మాది అనే భావాన్ని” పెంచి, ఈ సదుపాయాలను భవిష్యత్ తరాల కోసం పర్యవేక్షణ చేస్తూనే ఉండేలా చేసింది.

ఇప్పుడు నేరేడుబండ గ్రామములో నీటి పోరాటాలు లేదు. ప్రతి ఇంటికి కుళాయిలు కలిగి కేవలం త్రాగునీటినే కాకుండా ఆరోగ్యం, విద్య, మరియు ఇతర అవకాశాలను కూడా అందిస్తున్నాయి. ఒకప్పుడు త్రాగు నీటి కోసం పోరాటం చేసిన మహిళలు ఇప్పుడు ప్రయోజనకరమైన ఆనందదాయకమైన జీవితాలను గడుపుతున్నారు . పిల్లలు ఇప్పుడు పాఠశాలలో వెలుతు రాణిస్తూ, ఉజ్వల భవిష్యత్తుల కోసం ఎదురు చూస్తున్నారు.



కొళాయి నుండి నీటి ప్రవాహం కొత్త జీవితాన్ని తీసుకువస్తుంది  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



జల జీవన్ మిషన్ మహిళల జీవన ప్రమాణంలో గణనీయమైన మెరుగుదలకు దారితీసింది  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

## 2. Bairlutygudem Leads the Way: A Model of Community Empowerment and Sustainability

**Village:** Bairlutygudem

**District:** Nandyal

Nestled at the edge of the dense Nallamala forest, Bairlutygudem Gram Panchayat is home to the Chenchu and Koya tribes, whose lives are intricately tied to the rhythm of the forest. For generations, these communities have relied on the forest's resources – honey, tamarind, saffron nuts, and medicinal plants – to sustain their livelihoods. Yet, despite their deep connection to nature, one essential resource often eluded them: clean drinking water.

The Chenchus are recognised as one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Andhra Pradesh, leading a traditional lifestyle that revolves around forest-based activities and knowledge of medicinal plants. The Koya tribe, also indigenous to the region, has historically practiced a combination of agriculture and forest produce collection.

Life here once revolved around a daily battle for water. Women, the lifeline of Bairlutygudem, would set out each day, trekking through rough forest terrain to fetch water from distant stone brooks and large forest pits.

These walks, sometimes as long as half a kilometer, were not just exhausting but fraught with danger. Encounters with forest animals were a constant threat, and the water



Bairlutygudem village in laps of Nallamala forest  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

they collected was far from safe. Diseases like malaria, typhoid, jaundice, and diarrhoea were an unfortunate reality, with families spending more than they could afford on healthcare.

Years of struggle brought little relief. Over two decades, the government made efforts – 13 borewells were drilled, hand pumps installed, and cisterns connected. Yet, conflicts over water persisted. The sources were overburdened, the water unsafe, and the hours spent collecting it stretched endlessly. Women carried this burden most heavily, their time consumed by the unrelenting task, leaving little room for anything else.



Women walking miles to fetch water  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

*“Okka kutumba sabhyuni manamu neeti kosam pampinchavalu, kaani adhi mana samayam, arogyaanni, mariyu pillala bhavishyatunu tyagam cheyyaleni paristhithini teesukochindi”*  
(We used to send one family member just to fetch water, but it came at the cost of everything else – our time, our health, even our children's futures), recalls a villager.

The turning point came with the arrival of Jal Jeevan Mission. Its promise of a tap in every home felt almost too good to be true for the residents of Bairlutygudem. But hope took root. Women led the charge, advocating for better water access and rallying the community to take ownership of the transformation. The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), with women at its helm, became the heart of this change.

Today, the sight of clean water flowing from taps in all 64 homes is more than a convenience—it is a symbol of freedom. Women no longer walk the treacherous forest paths, their mornings now spent with their families or working to improve their livelihoods. Children attend school regularly, unburdened by the task of fetching water, their laughter echoing through the village. Health has improved, with fewer illnesses and reduced medical expenses easing financial strain. hygiene and respect for this precious resource.

The transformation doesn't stop there. Five women, trained in water quality management, now test water regularly using Field Testing Kits (FTKs). Their efforts ensure that the water remains safe, with results shared openly in the Panchayat office for everyone to see. Regular chlorination and tank cleaning have become part of village life, fostering a culture of hygiene and respect for this precious resource.

The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission on Bairlutygudem is visible in every corner of the village. Time once lost is now invested in farming, livestock rearing, and other income-generating activities. The community's participation in MGNREGS has increased, bringing economic stability to households. Women, once bound by the unending search for water, now stand as leaders in their community, guiding it toward a brighter future.

The story of Bairlutygudem, driven by the strength and dedication of its women, stands as an inspiring example of the transformative power of collective action and government initiatives. Through Jal Jeevan Mission, a once-struggling community has emerged stronger, more resilient, and poised for a brighter future.



A paradigm shift with JJM  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

Awareness meetings and door-to-door visits have inspired a deeper understanding of water conservation and sanitation. Villagers now take pride in maintaining their water systems, ensuring sustainability for future generations. *“Meeru ippudu neeti gurinchi chinta padatam ledu. Adi mana illu mundu undi, mariyu adi prati danini maarichindi.”* (We no longer worry about water. It is there, right in front of our homes, and it has changed everything), shares a woman from the village.



Community engagement with JJM  
Source: PHED, Andhra Pradesh Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh



## సమాజ సాధికారత మరియు సుస్థిరతకు ఒక నమూనా- బైర్లుటిగూడెం

**గ్రామం:** బైర్లుటిగూడెం  
**జిల్లా:** నంద్యాల

బైర్లుటిగూడెం గ్రామము దట్టమైన నల్లమల అడవుల అంచున ఉన్నది. “చెంచు మరియు కోయ తెగలు” ఈ గ్రామములో జీవిస్తున్నారు. వీరి జీవితాలు అడవి “లయల తో” ముడిపడి ఉన్నాయి. తరతరాలుగా ఈ ప్రజలు తమ జీవనోపాధిని కొనసాగించడానికి అటవీ వనరులపై ఆధారపడి ఉన్నారు - తేనె, చింతపండు, కుంకుడు మరియు ఔషధ మొక్కలు వంటివి వీరి జీవనాదారం - ప్రకృతితో వారికి ఈ వనరులతో లోతైన సంబంధం ఉన్నప్పటికీ, ఒక ముఖ్యమైన జీవన వనరు దూరంగా ఉండేది, “ అదే స్వచ్ఛమైన త్రాగునీరు లభ్యత”.

చెంచులు ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్రం లోని ప్రత్యేక అటవీ ప్రాంతాల్లో గిరిజన సమాహారంలో ఒకరు గా (PVTGలు) గుర్తించబడ్డారు, అటవీ ఆధారిత కార్యకలాపాలు మరియు ఔషధ మొక్కల చుట్టూ తిరిగే సంప్రదాయ జీవనశైలిని కలిగి ఉన్నారు. ఈ ప్రాంతానికి చెందిన కోయ తెగ, చారిత్రాత్మకంగా వ్యవసాయం మరియు అటవీ ఉత్పత్తుల సేకరణను ఆచరిస్తున్నారు.

ఇక్కడి ప్రజల జీవితం త్రాగు నీటి కోసం రోజువారీ యుద్ధం చేస్తునే ఉండేవారు. బైర్లుటిగూడెం గ్రామ స్త్రీలు ప్రతిరోజూ సుదూర రాతి వాగులు మరియు పెద్ద అటవీ గుంటల నుండి త్రాగు నీటిని తీసుకురావడానికి కఠినమైన అటవీ భూభాగంలో అన్వేషిస్తూ ఉండేవారు. ఈ నడకలు ద్వారా త్రాగు నీటి సముపార్జన కోసం,

కొన్నిసార్లు అర కిలోమీటరు/ కిలోమీటర్ కి అలసిపోవడమే కాకుండా ప్రమాదంతో కూడుకున్న, అటవీ జంతువులతో నిరంతరం ముప్పు ఏర్పడేది. అయినప్పటికీ వారు సేకరించిన త్రాగు నీరు సురక్షితంగా ఉండేది కాదు. మలేరియా, టైఫాయిడ్, కామెర్లు మరియు విరేచనాలు వంటి వ్యాధులు కలుగజేసేగా ఉండేవి. ఇది ఒక దురదృష్టకరమైన వాతావరణం / వాస్తవం, వారి కుటుంబాలు ఆరోగ్య సంరక్షణ కోసం ఎక్కువ మొత్తంలో భరించగలిగే దానికంటే ఎక్కువ ఖర్చుచేస్తుండేవారు..

జల జీవన్ మిషన్ రాక పూర్వం అనేక సంవత్సరాల నీటి యుద్ధాల పోరాటం సాగాయి. ప్రతి ఇంటికి కుళాయి అనే వాగ్దానం బైర్లుటిగూడెం నివాసితులకు పూర్తిగా నిజం కాలేదు. రెండు దశాబ్దాలుగా, ప్రభుత్వం ప్రయత్నాలు చేసి, దీనిలో భాగంగా, 13 బోర్ వెల్లు డ్రిల్లింగ్ చేయడం, చేతి పంపులు మరియు సిస్టర్న్లను కనెక్ట్ చేయడం జరిగింది. అయినప్పటికీ నీటి విషయంలో గొడవలు కొనసాగుతూనే వచ్చాయి వాటి మూలాల మీద భారం వలన త్రాగు నీరు సురక్షితం కాకుండా పోయింది మరియు నీటిని సేకరించడానికి గడిపిన గంటలు నిరంతరం గా సాగాయి. స్త్రీలు ఈ భారాన్ని చాలా ఎక్కువగా మోయసాగారు.

జిల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ రాకతో కీలక మలుపు వచ్చింది. గ్రామీణ త్రాగునీరు మరియు పారిశుధ్య కమిటీ (VWSC), లోకి అధికారంలో మహిళలు రావడం ద్వారా, ఈ మార్పుకు అవకాశము ఏర్పడింది. మహిళలు మంచి నీటి సదుపాయం కోసం ప్రభుత్వాలచే జల జీవన్ మిషన్ పథకం ద్వారా పరివర్తన



నల్లమల అటవీ ఒడిలో బైర్లుటిగూడెం గ్రామం  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



మహిళలు కిలోమీటర్ల మేర నడిచి నీళ్లు  
తెచ్చుకుంటున్నారు  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

గ్రామస్తుల మాటల్లో “మేము మా ఒక్క కుటుంబ సభ్యులను త్రాగు నీటి కోసం పంపించేవాలము, కాని అది మా సమయం, ఆరోగ్యాన్ని మరియు పిల్లల భవిష్యత్తును త్యాగం చెయ్యలేని పరిస్థితిని తీసుకు వచ్చింది” మేము మా సమయం, ఆరోగ్యాన్ని మరియు పిల్లల భవిష్యత్తును “పణంగా” పెట్టి నీటి కోసం యుద్ధాలు చేచేవాలము .

యాజమాన్యాన్ని తీసుకువచ్చి పథకం అమలు ద్వారా త్రాగునీటి సమస్యను తీర్చుకున్నారు . నేడు, మొత్తం 64 కుటుంబాలకు మంచి నీటి కుళాయిల నుండి స్వచ్ఛమైన నీరు పొందగలుగుచున్నారు -ఇది స్వేచ్ఛకు చిహ్నం. మహిళలు ప్రస్తుతం ప్రమాదకరమైన అటవీ మార్గాల్లో నడవడం లేదు, వారి కుటుంబాలతో సంతోసాలతో గడుపుచున్నారు , సమయం ఆదా వలన జీవనోపాదులు బలపడ్డాయి . పిల్లలు రోజూ పాఠశాలకు హాజరవుతున్నారు , త్రాగు నీరు తెచ్చే పని లేకపూవడం తో, వారిలో నవ్వులు గ్రామంలో ప్రతిధ్వనిస్తున్నాయి . ఆరోగ్యం మెరుగుపడింది,

పరివర్తన అక్కడితో ఆగలేదు . నీటి నాణ్యత నిర్వహణలో శిక్షణ పొందిన ఐదుగురు మహిళలు ఇప్పుడు ఫీల్డ్ సెస్టింగ్ కిట్లను (FTKలు) ఉపయోగించి క్రమం తప్పకుండా నీటిని పరీక్షిస్తున్నారు. వారి ప్రయత్నాలు ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ చూసేందుకు పంచాయతీ కార్యాలయంలో బహిరంగ ప్రదేశాలలో , నీరు సురక్షితం నివేదికలను ప్రదర్శిస్తున్నారు . రెగ్యులర్ క్లోరినేషన్ మరియు ట్యాంక్ క్లీనింగ్ వారి జీవితంలో భాగంగా మారిపోయింది , పరిశుభ్రత సంస్కృతిని పెంపొందించడం మరియు ఈ విలువైననీటి వనరు పట్ల గౌరవం

ఏర్పడింది.

బైర్లుటిగూడెం గ్రామము లో జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ యొక్క ప్రభావం నలుమూలలా కనిపిస్తోంది.

ఒకప్పుడు కోల్పోయిన సమయం ఇప్పుడు వ్యవసాయం, పశువుల పెంపకం మరియు ఇతర ఆదాయాన్ని సంపాదించే కార్యకలాపాలలో పెట్టుబడి పెడుతున్నారు . MGNREGSలో సంఘం యొక్క భాగస్వామ్యం పెరిగింది, ఇది గ్రామస్తులకు ఆర్థిక స్థిరత్వాన్ని



JJMS సోల్స్ తో ఒక నమూనా మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



అవగాహన సమావేశాలు, ఇంటింటికీ సందర్శనలు, నీటి సంరక్షణ మరియు పారిశుధ్యంపై లోతైన అవగాహన ప్రేరేపించబడినవి . గ్రామస్తులు ఇప్పుడు తమ నీటి వ్యవస్థలను నిర్వహించడం, భవిష్యత్తు తరాలకు నిలకడగా ఉండేలా చేయడంలో ముందంజలో ఉన్నారు . “ మేము ఇప్పుడు నీటి గురించి చింత పడటం లేదు. ఆది మా ఇంటి ముందు ఉంది, మరియు అది మా ప్రతి కదలికను మార్చింది అని గ్రామానికి చెందిన మహిళలు ఆనందం వ్యక్తం చేస్తున్నారు.

తీసుకువచ్చింది . ఒకప్పుడు నీటి కోసం అంతులేని అన్వేషణతో ఉన్న మహిళలు, ఇప్పుడు తమ సంఘంలో నాయకులుగా ఉన్నారు వీరు ఈ పథకాన్ని ఉజ్వల భవిష్యత్తు వైపు నడిపిస్తున్నారు. స్త్రీల బలం మరియు అంకితభావంతో బైర్లుటిగూడెం గ్రామం కథ నడుస్తుంది . సామూహిక చర్య మరియు ప్రభుత్వ కార్యక్రమాల యొక్క పరివర్తన శక్తికి స్ఫూర్తిదాయకమైన ఉదాహరణగా నిలుస్తుంది. జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ ద్వారా, ఒకప్పుడు నీటి కోసం పోరాడుతున్న ప్రజలు, ఇప్పుడు సంఘంల ద్వారా బలంగా మరింత దృఢంగా మరియు ఉజ్వల భవిష్యత్తు కోసం సిద్ధంగా ఉన్నారు.



JJMS సోర్స్ తో కమ్యూనిటీ ఎంగేజ్  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



### 3. Safe Water, Stronger Communities: Gopidevipeta's Journey

**Village:** Gopidevipeta

**District:** Srikakulam

In the small village of Gopidevipeta, nestled in Burja Mandal of Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, life was once a relentless struggle for something as basic as water. With only 31 households and a population of 99, this community, largely made up of Scheduled Tribes, faced a daily battle to secure drinking water. For generations, water meant long walks, heavy pots, and countless hours lost to fetching this vital resource from distant sources.

Women, often the primary caregivers and water collectors, bore the brunt of this hardship. With little time left for their families or work, their days revolved around an exhausting routine. The children, too, suffered – missing school to assist their parents or falling ill from unsafe water sources. The village's only well and scattered water sources could barely meet the community's needs, especially during the dry months. Health issues from poor hygiene and waterborne diseases were a grim reality, affecting everyone, from the youngest child to the oldest resident.

The situation began to shift in 2019 when the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) brought its promise of 'Har Ghar Jal' to Gopidevipeta. The mission's goal to provide functional household tap connections (FHTCs) brought a glimmer of hope to the villagers who had long suffered in silence. At the forefront of this transformation was the 36-year-old village sarpanch, Seetaramaraju. Leading from the front, he rallied the villagers, helping them understand the importance of safe water and uniting them in their efforts to achieve Har Ghar Jal status.

The sight of children playing carefree, women smiling as they spend more time with their families, and villagers discussing development rather than survival speaks volumes about the change.

The role of women in this transformation has been remarkable. A team of five women, led by P. Amani, was trained in water quality management and surveillance. Armed with Field Testing Kits (FTKs), these women now monitor the village's water sources for contamination. Their dedication ensures that every drop of water flowing through the taps is safe. They conduct regular sanitary surveys, chlorinate water sources, and educate villagers on household-level water treatment practices.



Community members and officials come together to analyse implementation and progress  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

The process was not without its challenges. Initially, the idea of paying a user charge of Rs. 40 per household each month for water seemed alien to the villagers, who had always accessed water for free – even if it came with immense physical and emotional costs. Through regular meetings, the sarpanch, supported by the DPMU and Implementing Supporting Agencies (ISAs), helped the villagers see the value of clean, accessible water. Slowly but surely, they embraced the system, collecting Rs. 4500 in user charges to maintain the infrastructure, chlorinate the water, and ensure smooth operation.



Hands-on discussion on water quality testing  
and community-driven solutions  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

Today, Gopidevipeta is a transformed village. Every household, the local school, and the Anganwadi Center now have functional taps that provide clean water.

Health and hygiene have seen significant improvement. Waterborne diseases, once a common occurrence, are now rare. The Anganwadi Center and school report higher attendance, as children are healthier and no longer have to miss classes to fetch water. Pregnant women and infants benefit from the availability of clean water, with the village achieving 100% immunisation coverage.

The change extends beyond health. Women, no longer burdened by the time-consuming task of fetching water, now participate actively in self-help groups and other community initiatives. Families save money previously spent on medical expenses, and the villagers have more time to focus on livelihoods and education, uplifting the entire community's economic and social status.

Gopidevipeta's journey from water scarcity to

sustainability stands as a beacon of hope for villages across India. It is a testament to the power of collective effort, community ownership, and government intervention. The taps that flow in Gopidevipeta do more than provide water – they symbolise health, dignity, and a brighter future for all.

Reflecting on this transformation, Sarpanch Seetamaraju shares, *"Jal Jeevan Mission has truly changed our lives. It has taught us to take responsibility for our village, our water, and our future. Today, we are healthier, happier, and more united as a community. We are deeply grateful to the government and all who have supported us in this journey."*



Community engagement under JJM  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh



## సురక్షిత త్రాగు నీరు- శక్తివంతమైన సమాజం గోపీదేవిపేట యొక్క ప్రయాణం

**గ్రామం:** గోపీదేవిపేట  
**జిల్లా:** శ్రీకాకుళం

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ రాష్ట్రంలోని శ్రీకాకుళం జిల్లాలోని బుర్ల మండలంలో ఉన్న గోపీదేవిపేట అనే చిన్న గ్రామంలో, ఒకప్పుడు ప్రజల జీవితం నీటికి సంబంధించి ఓ నిరంతర పోరాటం లాగ ఉండేది. 31 కుటుంబాలు - 99 మంది జనాభాతో కూడిన ఈ గ్రామస్థులు, ప్రధానంగా పెడ్యూల్స్ తెగలకు (గిరిజన తెగలు) చెందినవారు.

త్రాగునీటిని పొందడానికి గ్రామస్థులు ప్రతిరోజూ పోరాటం చేయాల్సి వచ్చేది. తరతరాలుగా, త్రాగు నీటి కోసం కొండలు, వాగులు అనేక కిలోమీటర్లు నడిచేవారు. మహిళలు, సాధారణంగా కుటుంబ భాద్యతలు నిర్వహించేవారు మరియు నీటిని తెచ్చే భాద్యత తీసుకొనేవారు, ఈ కష్టాన్ని ఎక్కువగా ఎదుర్కొనేవారు మహిళలు మరియు బాలికలు, వీరికి ప్రతి రోజు నీటి కష్టాలు వీరి చుట్టూ తిరిగేవి. పిల్లలు పాఠశాలకు వెళ్లకుండా తమ తల్లిదండ్రులను సహాయపడటానికి వెళ్లేవారు. గ్రామంలోని ఏకైక బావి మరియు చెల్లాచెదురుగా ఉన్న నీటి వనరులు, ముఖ్యంగా వేసవి కాలంలో, సహజ అవసరాలను తీర్చడం లో విఫలమయ్యేవారు. నీటి అసౌకర్యం మరియు కలుషితం వలన ఆరోగ్య సమస్యలు ప్రతి వయస్సు వారికీ తీవ్రంగా ప్రభావితం కలుగాజేసేవి.

2019లో జల జీవన్ మిషన్ (JJM) గోపీదేవిపేటకు 'హర్ ఘర్ జల్' ద్వారా ఆశలు చిగురించాయి. ప్రతి ఇంటికి శ్రేణి వ్యవస్థ కలిగిన త్రాగు నీటి కుళాయిలను అందించడమే ఈ మిషన్ యొక్క లక్ష్యం, ఇది గ్రామస్థులకు ధైర్యంను ఇచ్చింది. 36 ఎళ్ల గ్రామ సర్పంచ్, సీతారామరాజు. ఆయన గ్రామస్థులను ప్రోత్సహించి, సురక్షిత నీటి ప్రాముఖ్యతను అర్థం చేసుకునేలా చేసి, 'హర్ ఘర్ జల్' స్థితిని సాధించడానికి వారిని ఐక్యం చేశారు.

ఈరోజు, గోపీదేవిపేట ఒక మార్పు కలిగిన గ్రామంగా ఉంది. ప్రతి ఇంటికి, స్థానిక పాఠశాలకు మరియు ఆంగన్వాడి కేంద్రానికి శుభ్రమైన నీటిని అందించే కొళాయిలు ఉన్నాయి. పిల్లలు ఆందోళన లేకుండా ఆడుకుంటూ, మహిళలు కుటుంబాలతో మరింత సమయం గడుపుతూ ఆనందంగా కనిపిస్తున్నారు. గ్రామస్థులు ఇప్పుడు నీటి కష్టాలు గురించి కాకుండా అభివృద్ధి గురించి చర్చించడం ప్రారంభించారు.



పురోగతిని విశ్లేషించేందుకు సముదాయ సభ్యులు మరియు అధికారులు కలిసి పనిచేస్తున్నారు  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

మొదట, నీటి కోసం ప్రతి కుటుంబం నెలకు రూ. 40 చెల్లించే ఆలోచన గ్రామస్థులకు కొత్తగా అనిపించింది. అప్పటి వరకు వారు త్రాగునీటిని ఉచితంగా పొందుతున్నా, అది భారీ శారీరక మరియు భావోద్వేగ ఖర్చుతో కూడి ఉండేది. నియమిత సమావేశాల ద్వారా, సర్పంచ్, DPMU మరియు ఇంప్లిమెంటింగ్ సపోర్టింగ్ ఏజెన్సీలు (ISAs) మద్దతుతో, గ్రామస్థులకు శుభ్రమైన, అందుబాటులో ఉండే నీటి విలువను అవగాహన కార్యక్రమాల ద్వారా తెలియజేశారు. క్రమంగా వారు ఈ వ్యవస్థను అంగీకరించి, మౌలిక సదుపాయాలను నిర్వహించేందుకు, నీటిని శుద్ధి చేయడానికి మరియు సముచిత నిర్వహణకు రూ. 4500/- వసూలు చేశారు.

ఈ మార్పులో మహిళల పాత్ర అద్భుతంగా ప్రతిబింబింబించారు . పి. ఆమని నాయకత్వంలోని ఐదుగురు మహిళల బృందం నీటి నాణ్యత నిర్వహణ మరియు పర్యవేక్షణలో శిక్షణ పొందారు.

ఫీల్డ్ ట్రైనింగ్ కిట్స్ (FTKs)తో వీరు గ్రామంలోని నీటి వనరులను పర్యవేక్షిస్తున్నారు. వారి నిబద్ధతతో కుళాయిల నుండి ప్రవహించే ప్రతి నీటి బొట్టు సురక్షితమైనదిగా నిర్ధారిస్తున్నారు. పారిశుధ్య సర్వేలు నిరూపిస్తున్నారు , నీటి వనరులను క్లోరినేషన్ మరియు నీటిని శుద్ధి చేసే విధానాలపై అవగాహన కల్పిస్తున్నారు.

ఆరోగ్యం మరియు పరిశుభ్రతలో గణనీయమైన మెరుగుదల కనిపిస్తోంది. ఒకప్పుడు సాధారణంగా నీటివలన వచ్చే వ్యాధులు ఇప్పుడు అరుదుగా మాత్రమే కనిపిస్తున్నాయి. ఆంగన్వాడీ కేంద్రం, పాఠశాలలో హాజరులశాతం పెరిగింది, ఎందుకనగా , పిల్లలు ఇప్పుడు ఆరోగ్యంగా ఉన్నారు. నీటిని తెచ్చేందుకు పాఠశాలను మానవలసిన అవసరం లేదు. శుభ్రమైన నీటి లభ్యత వల్ల ,గర్భిణీ మహిళలు, శిశువులు లభి తున్నారు. ఇప్పుడు స్వయం సహాయక బృందాలు, ఇతర సముదాయ కార్యక్రమాలలో చురుకుగా పాల్గొంటున్నారు. ఒకప్పుడు వైద్య ఖర్చుల కోసం ఖర్చు చేసిన డబ్బు ఇప్పుడు కుటుంబాలు పొదుపు చేసుకుంటున్నాయి.

గ్రామస్తులు తమ జీవనోపాధి, విద్యపై ఎక్కువ సమయం కేంద్రీకరించగలుగుతున్నారు, దీని ద్వారా సమాజం మొత్తం ఆర్థిక మరియు సామాజిక స్థాయిలో అభివృద్ధి చెందుతోంది.

నీటి ఎద్దడి నుంచి సుస్థిరత దిశగా సాగుతున్న గోపిదేవిపేట ప్రయాణం భారతదేశ వ్యాప్తంగా గ్రామాలకు ఆశాజ్యోతిగా నిలుస్తోంది. సమిష్టి కృషికి, సంఘం యాజమాన్యానికి, ప్రభుత్వ జోక్యానికి ఇది నిదర్శనం. గోపిదేవిపేటలో

ప్రవహించే కుళాయిలు నీరు - అందరికీ ఆరోగ్యం, గౌరవం, ఉజ్వల భవిష్యత్తును సూచిస్తుంది.

“ ఈ పరివర్తనను ప్రతిబింబిస్తూ, సర్పంచ్ సీతారామరాజు మాటలో, “జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ నిజంగా మా జీవితాలను మార్చింది. మన గ్రామం, మన నీరు మరియు మన భవిష్యత్తు కోసం బాధ్యత వహించాలని ఇది మాకు నేర్పింది. ఈ రోజు మనం ఆరోగ్యంగా, సంతోషంగా ఉన్నాము మరియు సంఘంగా మరింత ఐక్యంగా ఉన్నాము. ఈ ప్రయాణంలో మాకు సహకరించిన ప్రభుత్వానికి మరియు అందరికీ మేము ప్రగాఢ కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలియజేస్తున్నాము”



నీటి నాణ్యత పరీక్ష మరియు సమాజ ఆధారిత పరిష్కారాలపై చర్చలు  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



అధికారులు గ్రామస్తుల సంఘ సమావేశం  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

## 4. Breaking Barriers: A New Era for Tribal Empowerment

**Village:** Mannenaik Thanda

**District:** Nandyal

In the small village of Mannenaik Thanda, nestled at the foot of the Nallamala forest in Andhra Pradesh's Owk Mandal, life is a daily struggle against the harsh realities of nature. Home to 62 households and a population of 296, this community belongs to a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Surrounded by dense forests and rugged terrains, the village's remoteness makes access to basic necessities like water a daunting challenge.

Every morning, as the first light touched the treetops, men and women prepared for the arduous task ahead. They embarked on a 1.5-kilometer journey across rocky paths to fetch water from a distant source. The path was treacherous, especially under the scorching sun or during the monsoon rains. Carrying heavy pots filled with water, they navigated the uneven terrain, their feet aching, their spirits weary. This strenuous task consumed hours each day, leaving little time for tending to their families, fields, or rest.

The children of Mannenaik Thanda were also not spared from this hardship. Often, they accompanied their parents to help carry water, missing out on school and the joys of childhood. The water they collected was not always safe, leading to frequent illnesses that further disrupt their education and well-being. The lack of clean water affected everyone, but it was the women who bore the heaviest burden, their days consumed by the endless quest for this essential resource. Summers brought an even harsher reality.

The wells and hand pumps usually dried up, and the villagers were forced to travel to neighboring villages in search of water. The single hand pump provided by the local government was inadequate for the entire community, especially considering their livestock and agricultural needs. Long queues, unnecessary quarrels, and the desperation were palpable. Hygiene practices suffered, and waterborne diseases became common, particularly among children and the elderly.

But amidst this struggle, hope arrived in the form of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The government's initiative, with its promise of 'Har Ghar Nal, Har Ghar Jal' (tap water to every



Drinking water source in the village  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

home), brought a glimmer of relief to the weary eyes of the villagers. A Gram Sabha was organised, and the objectives of

the mission were explained. The community listened intently, their faces reflecting a mix of scepticism and cautious optimism. Special emphasis was placed on involving women, acknowledging their pivotal role in managing household water.

Work began on constructing a water pipeline network and an Overhead Storage Reservoir (OHSR). The villagers watched as the pipes were laid, hope slowly replacing doubt. The day the taps started flowing was met with disbelief and overwhelming joy. Clean, safe water was soon available right outside their homes every morning and evening. The transformation was immediate and profound.

Children returned to school, their laughter echoed through the village streets. The health of the entire community improved noticeably with time. With access to clean water, the prevalence of waterborne diseases declined sharply. Families no longer have to choose between fetching water and seeking medical care. Hygiene practices have enhanced, and the village environment has become cleaner and more vibrant.

The women of Mannenaik Thanda, once burdened by the endless search for water, now find time to engage in other productive activities. They tend to their homes, support their children's education, and even participate in community decision-making. Their empowerment is evident, and the collective spirit of the village grows stronger..



Overhead Storage Reservoir (OHSR)  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

The villagers take pride in their new water supply system. They understand the importance of sustainability and are committed to maintaining it. Regular meetings are held to discuss the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure, ensuring that the benefits they now enjoy will last for generations to come.

Mannenaik Thanda transforms from a village plagued by scarcity to one flourishing with opportunity and hope. The Jal Jeevan Mission doesn't just bring water; it brings life, health, and a renewed sense of community. The smiles on the faces of the villagers, the laughter of children, and the relieved expressions of women like Lakshmi Bai and Lakshmi Devi Bai tell a story of resilience and the profound impact that access to clean water has on every facet of life.



Smt. Lakshmi Devi Bai  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

Smt. Lakshmi Devi Bai, an Anganwadi teacher in the village, shares her gratitude: *"Jal Jeevan Mission maaku chaala samayam mariyu shrama nu aada chesindi. Maa vidyarthulu ippudu paathashalaku kramanga hajaravutunnaru, mariyu vaari parishubhratha mariyu aarogyam lo gnananeeyamaina merugudala kanipistondi. Ee karyakramam garbhini strila aarogyam pai ekkuva drishti pettataniki mariyu anni pillalaki poorthi teakalu andinchatanki maaku avakasham kalpinchindi. Maaku ee jeevitam marchina neeti saraphara andinchina prabhutvanki manahpoorvaka kruthagnathalu."* (Jal Jeevan Mission has saved us so much time and effort. Our students are now attending school regularly, and we have seen a significant improvement in their hygiene and health. This initiative has also allowed us to focus more on the health of pregnant women and ensure complete immunisation for all children. We are sincerely thankful to the government for providing us with this life-changing water supply.)

Another resident, expressing her relief, said that they have been very fortunate to have been selected under Jal Jeevan Mission. The Mission has addressed the long-standing water issues of the village and that now, they have potable water available right outside their homes every morning and evening.





JJM is the reason for smiles for women and girls  
Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh

## అడ్డంకులను విడనాడి - గిరిజన సాధికారత కొత్త యుగం గ్రామం: మన్నెనాయక్ తండా

**జిల్లా:** నంద్యాల

ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ లోని నంద్యాల మండలంలో మన్నెనాయక్ తండా నల్లమల అటవీప్రాంతం దిగువన ఉన్న ఒక చిజన చిన్న గ్రామం. 62 కుటుంబాలు - 296 జనాభా కలిగిన ఈ తెగ ప్రత్యేకించి నిస్సహాయ గిరిజన సమూహం (PVTG)కి చెందినది. ఈ గ్రామము దట్టమైన అడవులు, కఠినమైన భూభాగాలతో చుట్టుముట్టబడిన మారుమూల గ్రామం. త్రాగు నీటి వంటి ప్రాథమిక అవసరాలను పొందడం ఒక భయంకరమైన సవాలుగా ఈ గ్రామానికి మారింది.

ప్రతి ఉదయం సూర్యోదయము కాంతి- చెట్ల శిఖరాలను తాకడంతో, పురుషులు, మహిళలు ముందుకు సాగుతూ ఉంటారు. వారు సుదూర మూలం నుండి నీటిని తీసుకురావడానికి రాత్రి మార్గాల్లో 1.5 కిలోమీటర్ల ప్రయాణాన్ని చేసి త్రాగు నీరు తెచ్చేవారు. ఈ మార్గంచాలా ప్రమాదకరంగా ఉండేది. ముఖ్యంగా మండుతున్న ఎండలో మరియు రుతుపవన వర్షాల సమయంలో నీటితో నిండిన బరువైన కుండలను అసమానమైన భూభాగం గుండా త్రాగు నీరు తీసుకువెళ్ళడం ద్వారా మహిళలు బాలికల పాదాలు నొప్పితో పాటు వారి శరీరాలు అలసిపోయేవి. ఈ శ్రమతో కూడిన పని ప్రతిరోజూ గంటల తరబడి వారి కుటుంబాలు నీటికోసం సమయాన్ని వెచ్చించేవారు.

మన్నెనాయక్ తండాలోని పిల్లలకు కూడా ఈ కష్టాలు తప్పలేదు. తరచుగా, వారు తమ తల్లిదండ్రులతో కలిసి నీటిని వాగులనుండి తీసుకువెళ్ళడం లో సహకరించేవారు. వీరు పాఠశాలకు వెళ్ళడం పోవడంవలన చిన్ననాటి ఆనందాలను కోల్పోయారు అయినప్పటికీ వారు సేకరించిన త్రాగు నీరు ఎల్లప్పుడూ సురక్షితం ఉండేది కాదు, ఇది వారి విద్య మరియు శ్రేయస్సుకు మరింత విఘాతం కలిగించి తరచుగా అనారోగ్యాలకు దారి తీసేది. , అయితే ఈ ముఖ్యమైన త్రాగునీటి వనరు కోసం అంతులేని భారాన్ని భరించేది స్త్రీలు మరియు బాలికలు.

వేసవికాలం మరింత కఠినమైన వాస్తవికతను తీసుకువచ్చింది. బావులు, చేతి పంపులు ఎండిపోవడంతో గ్రామస్థులు నీటి కోసం పక్క గ్రామాలకు వెళ్ళాల్సిన పరిస్థితి నెలకొంది. స్థానిక ప్రభుత్వం

అందించిన సింగిల్ హ్యాండ్ పంప్ మొత్తం గ్రామ కుటుంబాలకు త్రాగునీటి సదుపాయం అందివ్వలేకపోయింది. ముఖ్యంగా వారి పశువులు మరియు వ్యవసాయ అవసరాలకు, , అనవసర గొడవలు, నిరాశా నిస్సహాయులు వెల్లువెత్తాయి, పరిశుభ్రత పద్ధతులు దెబ్బతిన్నాయి మరియు నీటి ద్వారా వచ్చే వ్యాధులు ముఖ్యంగా పిల్లలు, వృద్ధులలో సాధారణం అయ్యాయి.



ఓవర్ హెడ్ స్టోరేజ్ రిజర్వాయర్ (OHSR) మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

నీటి పైప్ లైన్ నెట్ వర్క్, ఓవర్ హెడ్ స్టోరేజ్ రిజర్వాయర్ (OHSR) నిర్మాణం పని ప్రారంభమైంది. పైపులు వేయడాన్ని గ్రామస్థులు చూశారు, నెమ్మదిగా సందేహాలను బర్తి చేసుకొన్నారు. కుళాయిలు ప్రారంభించిన రోజు అధిక ఆనందంతో ఉప్పొంగిపోయారు. ప్రతి ఉదయం, సాయంత్రం వారి ఇళ్ల వెలుపల స్వచ్ఛమైన, సురక్షితమైన నీరు అందుబాటులోకి వచ్చింది. పిల్లలు పాఠశాలకు తిరిగి రెగ్యులర్ గా వెళ్ళడం ద్వారా, వారి నవ్వు గ్రామ వీధుల గుండా ప్రతిధ్వనించింది. మొత్తం సమాజం యొక్క ఆరోగ్యం కాలక్రమేణా గమనించదగ్గ విధంగా మెరుగుపడింది. స్వచ్ఛమైన నీరు అందుబాటులోకి రావడంతో నీటి ద్వారా వ్యాపించే వ్యాధులు బాగా తగ్గుముఖం పట్టాయి. పరిశుభ్రత పద్ధతులు మెరుగుపరచబడ్డాయి. గ్రామ పర్యావరణం పరిశుభ్రంగా మారింది.

ఒకప్పుడు నీటి కోసం అంతులేని వెతుకులాటలో ఉన్న మన్నెనాయక్ తండాలోని మహిళలు ఇప్పుడు ఇతర ఉత్పాదక కార్యకలాపాలలో నిమగ్నమయ్యారు.

పిల్లల విద్యకు మద్దతు ఇస్తున్నారు. సంఘం విదాన - నిర్ణయం తీసుకోవడంలో కూడా పాల్గొంటారు. సాధికారత స్పష్టంగా కనిపిస్తూ గ్రామం యొక్క సామూహిక స్ఫూర్తి బలంగా పెరుగుతుంది.

గ్రామస్తులు నీటి సరఫరా వ్యవస్థను గర్వంగా భావిస్తారు. స్థిరత్వం యొక్క ప్రాముఖ్యతను అర్థం చేసుకుంటు దానిని నిర్వహించడానికి కట్టుబడి ఉన్నారు. ఇప్పుడు అనుభవిస్తున్న ప్రయోజనాలు రాబోయే తరాలకు ఉండేలా చూసేందుకు, మౌలిక సదుపాయాల నిర్వహణ గురించి చర్చించడానికి తరచుగా సమావేశాలు నిర్వహించబడుతున్నాయి.

మన్నెనాయక్ తండా నీటి కొరతతో అధిగమించి అభివృద్ధి వైపు ప్రయాణం ప్రారంభించింది. జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ కేవలం నీటిని మాత్రమే తీసుకురాదు; జీవితం, ఆరోగ్యం మరియు సంఘం యొక్క నూతన భావాన్ని తెచ్చింది . గ్రామస్తుల ముఖాల్లో చిరునవ్వులు, పిల్లల కేరింతలను కొట్టేవిండగా అభివృద్ధి పయనించింది . లక్ష్మీ దేవి బాయి వంటి స్త్రీల భావ వ్యక్తీకరణ ద్వారా స్వస్థత, పరిశుభ్రమైన నీటి ప్రాప్యత జీవితంలోని ప్రతి కోణంపై చూపే ప్రగాఢమైన ప్రభావాన్ని తెలియజేసాయి.

జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ కింద ఎంపిక కావడం తమ అదృష్టమని మరో ఈ స్టూడెంట్ ఆనందానన్ని వ్యక్తం చేశారు. ఈ మిషన్ గ్రామంలోని దీర్ఘకాలిక నీటి సమస్యలను పరిష్కరించింది. ఇప్పుడు, ప్రతి రోజు ఉదయం, సాయంత్రం ఇళ్ల వద్ద త్రాగునీరు అందుబాటులో ఉంది.



గ్రామంలోని తాగునీటి వనరు  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

“ శ్రీమతి లక్ష్మీదేవి బాయి, గ్రామంలోని అంగన్వాడీ టీచర్ తన కృతజ్ఞతలను పంచుకున్నారు: “జల్ జీవన్ మిషన్ మాకు చాలా సమయం, శ్రమను ఆదా చేసింది. మా విద్యార్థులు ఇప్పుడు పాఠశాలకు క్రమంగా హాజరైవుతున్నారు. పరిశుభ్రత, ఆరోగ్యంలో గణనీయమైన మెరుగుదల కనిపిస్తుంది. ఈ కార్యక్రమం గర్భిణీ స్త్రీల ఆరోగ్యంపై ఎక్కువ దృష్టి పెట్టటానికి, పిల్లలకి పూర్తి టీకాలు అందించటంకీ మాకు అవకాశం కల్పించింది. మా జీవితం మార్చి, నీటి సరఫరా అందించిన ప్రభుత్వానికి మనఃపూర్వక కృతజ్ఞతలు.”



శ్రీమతి లక్ష్మీ దేవి బాయి  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్



మహిళలు, బాలికల ముఖాల్లో చిరునవ్వులకు కారణం జల జీవన్ మిషన్  
మూలం: గ్రామీణ నీటి సరఫరా & పారిశుధ్య శాఖ, ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్

## Jharkhand

### 5. From Margins to Mainstream: The Success of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group Villages in Jharkhand

**District:** Sahebganj

The journey of transformation in the remote villages under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been nothing short of remarkable. Particularly in the tribal regions of Sahebganj district, where the mission has reached the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across the villages of Diwana, Jhirik Danga, Aasanbani, Khesari Pahar, and Basko Mako, a significant change is evident. The mission has successfully provided safe and adequate drinking water to every household in these communities, impacting lives in ways unimaginable before.

#### Reaching the Unreached

The PVTG families in these villages have long faced challenges in accessing clean drinking water. Before the implementation of JJM, these communities relied on unprotected and distant water sources,

walking miles to fetch water from streams and other sources. This not only consumed valuable time but also exposed them to health risks, often resulting in widespread illness.

However, with the advent of JJM, this scenario has drastically changed. The mission has installed tap water connections in every household, ensuring a consistent and safe supply of water. The regular supply of clean water has brought about a significant improvement in health and hygiene, with villagers now leading healthier lives free from waterborne diseases.

#### Community Engagement and Awareness

One of the key aspects of the mission's success in these villages has been the active engagement of the local communities. Regular community meetings, street plays, and village council sessions have played a crucial role in raising awareness about the importance of safe drinking water and the need for proper water usage. This proactive approach has not only ensured the smooth implementation of the mission but also empowered the villagers to take ownership of the water management practices in their region.

The department has also been vigilant in ensuring the quality of water through regular checks conducted by the

Field Testing Kits (FTKs) by Jal Sahiyas. This ongoing monitoring has instilled a sense of confidence among the villagers regarding the safety of their water supply.

The success of Jal Jeevan Mission in these PVTG villages is a testament to the power of collective effort and the impact of targeted government initiatives.



JJM brings ease of living for senior citizens  
Source: PHED, Jharkhand



## हाशिये से मुख्यधारा तक: झारखंड के विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (पी.वी.टी.जी.) गांवों की सफलता

जल जीवन मिशन (जे.जे.एम.) के तहत दूरस्थ गांवों में परिवर्तन की यात्रा अद्भुत रही है। विशेष रूप से साहेबगंज जिले के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में, जहां मिशन ने दीवाना, झिरिक डंगा, आसनबनी, खेसारी पहाड़ और बसको माको जैसे गांवों में विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूहों ( पी.वी.टी.जी.) तक पहुंच बनाई है, एक बड़ा बदलाव देखने को मिला है। मिशन ने इन समुदायों के प्रत्येक घर को सुरक्षित और पर्याप्त पेयजल प्रदान किया है, जो पहले अकल्पनीय था।

### कठिनाइयों से समाधान तक

इन गांवों में पी.वी.टी.जी परिवार लंबे समय तक स्वच्छ पेयजल तक पहुंच के लिए संघर्ष करते रहे। जे.जे.एम. लागू होने से पहले, ये समुदाय असुरक्षित और दूरस्थ जल स्रोतों पर निर्भर थे। उन्हें पानी लाने के लिए मीलों पैदल चलना पड़ता था, जिससे समय की बर्बादी और स्वास्थ्य संबंधित जोखिम बढ़ जाते थे।

हालांकि, जल जीवन मिशन के आगमन के साथ, यह स्थिति पूरी तरह बदल गई है। मिशन के अंतर्गत हर घर में नल से जल कनेक्शन स्थापित किए हैं, जिससे पानी की नियमित और सुरक्षित आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित हुई है। स्वच्छ जल की उपलब्धता ने स्वास्थ्य और स्वच्छता में महत्वपूर्ण सुधार किया है, और अब गांव वासी जलजनित बीमारियों से मुक्त, स्वस्थ जीवन जी रहे हैं।

### सामुदायिक भागीदारी और जागरूकता

इन गांवों में मिशन की सफलता का एक मुख्य पहलू स्थानीय समुदायों की सक्रिय भागीदारी रही है। नियमित समुदाय बैठकों, नुककड़ नाटकों और ग्राम सभा सत्रों ने सुरक्षित पेयजल और उचित जल उपयोग के महत्व को समझाने में अहम भूमिका निभाई। इस मिटकोण ने न केवल मिशन के सुचाअ कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित किया, बल्कि ग्रामीणों को जल प्रबंधन प्रथाओं की जिम्मेदारी लेने के लिए सशक्त भी बनाया।

जल सहियाओं द्वारा फील्ड टेस्टिंग किट (FTKs) से नियमित जल गुणवत्ता जांच ने ग्रामीणों में जल आपूर्ति की सुरक्षा को लेकर विश्वास जगाया है।

PVTG गांवों में जल जीवन मिशन की सफलता सामूहिक प्रयासों और लक्षित सरकारी पहलों की शक्ति का प्रमाण है।



JJM brings ease of living for senior citizens  
Source: PHED, Jharkhand

## 6. Revolutionising Rural Life: Kowalu Village's Remarkable Journey

**Village:** Kowalu

**Block:** Ormanjhi

Kowalu, a remote village with Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in majority, is located in Ormanjhi Block of Ranchi, Jharkhand. The village has created a worthy example of community-led water sustainability.

For years, this small village of 35 households and a population of 171 struggled against an unforgiving reality – water scarcity. Women, the backbone of the community, bore the brunt of the water crisis, spending hours each day fetching water from nearby sources, often located far from the village.

The village relied on two hand pumps and a single well located almost a kilometre outside the village. Fetching water was not only time-consuming but also physically exhausting. Every day, women would wake up early and walk long distances to collect water. The task was repetitive and gruelling, leaving little time for them to care for their children or engage in other productive activities. The summers were particularly cruel. The scorching heat dried up water sources, and the queues at the few remaining hand pumps stretched endlessly.

Women and children stood for hours under the blazing sun, clutching empty pots and hoping for their turn. Sometimes, there wasn't enough water for everyone. The desperation forced families to turn to unsafe water sources, leading to frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Children, their immune systems fragile, were the most vulnerable, and illness became a painful routine in many homes.

"एक समय था जब हमारे गाँव में दैनिक पीने और पकाने के लिए पानी इकट्ठा करना हम महिलाओं के लिए एक बुरे सपने जैसा था, क्योंकि पानी लाने की जिम्मेदारी मुख्य रूप से हमारी थी। 'नल से जल' ने हमारी दैनिक जिंदगी को आसान बना दिया है। जल जीवन मिशन हमारे लिए वरदान साबित हुआ है। अब हमें अपने दरवाजे पर ही पानी मिल जाता है।"

says Karmi Oraon, a resident of Kowalu Village.



Karmi Oraon  
Source: PHED, Jharkhand

The burden didn't stop with drinking water. Villagers traveled even greater distances to a nearby river for bathing and washing clothes. These exhausting trips further drained their energy and time, impacting their health and hygiene. For the people of Kowalu, safe and accessible water was a distant dream, one they feared might never come true. But in 2019, hope arrived with Jal Jeevan Mission, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The mission promised what had once seemed impossible: clean drinking water for every household.

When representatives from the Department of Water and Sanitation visited Kowalu to discuss the initiative, the villagers, tired of their daily struggles, eagerly embraced the plan. Together, they participated in the creation of a Village Action Plan (VAP), mapping local water sources and planning the infrastructure needed to bring clean water to their doorsteps.

Today, Kowalu has been transformed. Every household now has a tap connection, and the daily burden of fetching water is a thing of the past. For the women of the village, this change is nothing short of revolutionary. No longer do they wake up dreading long walks for water. Instead,

they spend their time caring for their families, tending to agricultural work, and even exploring small income-generating ventures. The relief is visible in their smiles, and the empowerment they feel is palpable.

The health of the village has also improved dramatically. With clean water readily available, waterborne diseases have become rare, and children can now enjoy good health, attend school regularly, and play without fear. Families no longer face the financial and emotional strain of treating illnesses caused by contaminated water.

Hygiene practices in Kowalu have seen a significant shift. With water at their doorsteps, families maintain cleaner homes and personal hygiene. The days of trekking to the river for washing and bathing are over, and the village now enjoys a cleaner, healthier environment. The atmosphere in Kowalu has transformed from one of frustration and fatigue to one of hope and pride. The villagers' commitment to sustainability has been a cornerstone of this success. Led by Malti Devi, the Jal Sahiya of the village, the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) oversees the operation and maintenance of the water system. the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) oversees the operation and maintenance of the water system.

They ensure that the taps function efficiently, minor repairs are addressed promptly, and water conservation practices are followed. The decision to operate the water supply scheme twice a day reflects their collective resolve to prevent misuse and ensure its longevity.

Kowalu's story is one of triumph over adversity. What was once a water-scarce village is now a model of sustainable development and community empowerment. The Jal Jeevan Mission has not only quenched thirst but also nurtured dreams, turning years of hardship into a brighter, healthier future.

Today, Kowalu stands as a beacon of hope for other remote villages across India. It is a testament to the power of collective effort, government intervention, and community ownership. The taps in Kowalu do more than provide water—they bring life, dignity, and the promise of a better tomorrow.



Access to clean water brings joy  
and transformation



## ग्रामीण जीवन में क्रांति: कोवालू गांव की अद्वितीय यात्रा

गाँव: कोवालू  
प्रखंड: ओरमांझी

रांची, झारखंड के ओरमांझी प्रखंड में स्थित कोवालू, विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (PVTG) बहुल एक दूरस्थ गांव है, जिसने सामुदायिक नेतृत्व वाली जल स्थिरता का एक अनुकरणीय उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया है।

### जल संकट की चुनौती

35 घरों और 171 की जनसंख्या वाले इस छोटे से गांव ने वमों तक जल संकट का सामना किया। महिलाएं, जो समुदाय की रीढ़ हैं, पानी के संकट का सबसे अधिक भार उठाती थीं। वे प्रतिदिन पास के जल स्रोतों से पानी लाने में घंटों बिताती थीं, जो अक्सर गांव से काफी दूर होते थे।

गांव दो हैंडपंप और एक कुएं पर निर्भर था, जो गांव से लगभग एक किलोमीटर दूर था। पानी लाना न केवल समय लेने वाला था, बल्कि शारीरिक अप से भी थकाने वाला था। गर्मियों में स्थिति और भी खराब हो जाती थी। जल स्रोत सूख जाते थे, और बच्चे हुए हैंडपंपों पर लंबी कतारें लग जाती थीं।

### जल जीवन मिशन का आगमन

2019 में, जल जीवन मिशन के साथ आशा की किरण आई। इस मिशन ने हर घर में स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने का वादा किया। जल और स्वच्छता विभाग के प्रतिनिधियों ने जब कोवालू का दौरा किया और योजना पर चर्चा की, तो ग्रामीणों ने इसे उत्साह से अपनाया। उन्होंने सामूहिक रूप से एक गांव कार्य योजना (VAP) बनाई, स्थानीय जल स्रोतों की पहचान की, और उनके घरों तक स्वच्छ जल पहुंचाने के लिए ज़रूरी बुनियादी ढांचे की योजना बनाई।

### कोवालू का बदलाव

आज कोवालू पूरी तरह बदल चुका है। हर घर में अब नल कनेक्शन है, और पानी लाने का दैनिक बोझ अतीत की बात बन चुका है। महिलाओं के लिए यह बदलाव किसी क्रांति से कम नहीं है। वे अब अपने परिवार की देखभाल, खेती के कामों में ध्यान देने और छोटे आय-सृजन वाले कार्यों में भाग लेने में सक्षम हैं।

स्वच्छ पानी की उपलब्धता के साथ, गांव में जलजनित बीमारियां दुर्लभ हो गई हैं। बच्चे अब स्वस्थ हैं, नियमित रूप से स्कूल जाते हैं, और बिना किसी डर के खेलते हैं। स्वच्छता प्रथाओं में भी सुधार हुआ है।

### समुदायिक स्थिरता

गांव की जल संहिता, मालती देवी के नेतृत्व में, गांव जल और स्वच्छता समिति (VWSC) ने जल प्रणाली के संचालन और रखरखाव का जिम्मा संभाला है। वे सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि नल सही तरीके से काम करें, मरम्मत तुरंत की जाए, और जल संरक्षण प्रथाओं का पालन हो।

"एक समय था जब हमारे गाँव में दैनिक पीने और पकाने के लिए पानी इकट्ठा करना हम महिलाओं के लिए एक बुरे सपने जैसा था, क्योंकि पानी लाने की जिम्मेदारी मुख्य रूप से हमारी थी। 'नल से जल' ने हमारी दैनिक जिंदगी को आसान बना दिया है। जल जीवन मिशन हमारे लिए वरदान साबित हुआ है। अब हमें अपने दरवाजे पर ही पानी मिल जाता है।"

कर्मी उरांव, कोवालू गांव की निवासी

### प्रेरणा का स्रोत

कोवालू की कहानी संघर्ष पर विजय की एक मिसाल है। यह गांव अब एक जलसंकटग्रस्त क्षेत्र से स्थायी विकास और सामुदायिक सशक्तिकरण का उदाहरण बन चुका है। जल जीवन मिशन ने केवल प्यास नहीं बुझाई, बल्कि सपनों को भी पंख दिए हैं। कोवालू आज पूरे भारत के दूरस्थ गांवों के लिए आशा की किरण बनकर खड़ा है। यहां के नल सिर्फ पानी नहीं देते, बल्कि जीवन, सम्मान, और बेहतर भविष्य का वादा भी करते हैं।



कर्मी उरांव  
सोर्स: पीएचईडी झार



स्वच्छ पानी तक पहुंच खुशी और परिवर्तन लाती है  
सोर्स: पीएचईडी झारखंड

## Madhya Pradesh

### 7. New Hopes Realized Through Water

**Village:** Purwa

**District:** Mandla

Purwa, a village in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh, struggled with water scarcity for years. Fetching water for daily needs was a major challenge for its residents. People had to travel five kilometers to collect water for household chores, and this difficulty worsened during the summer months. This situation had a negative impact not just on their daily routines but also on their health, economic conditions, and children's education. Women and children would spend hours covering long distances to fetch water, which severely affected their studies and employment opportunities.

Then came the government's "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" (Tap Water to Every Household) initiative, which brought a positive transformation to the lives of the villagers. Under this scheme, every household in the village received a tap water connection, ensuring the availability of clean and safe drinking water at their doorsteps. These tap connections were not just a convenience but marked a new chapter in their lives. Women and children are now free from the burden of fetching water, allowing them to devote their time and energy to other productive activities.

To ensure the successful operation of this scheme, the village's 10-member Water and Sanitation Committee works tirelessly. Regular meetings are held in the village to discuss water conservation, cleanliness, and its proper usage. Walls in the village are painted with messages such as "Save Water" to raise awareness about water conservation.

Additionally, water quality is being monitored using testing



A new story of hope begins with clean water  
Source: PHED, Madhya Pradesh



A new story of hope begins with clean water  
Source: PHED, Madhya Pradesh

"Now we no longer have to go far to fetch water, and this has given us more time for household work."

- Shanti Devi

kits. These efforts have not only provided clean water to the villagers but also instilled in them an understanding of the importance of saving and using water wisely.

A resident of the village, Mrs. Usha, says, "The tap water scheme has brought us immense relief. We no longer have to travel far to fetch water, giving us more time for our household tasks and other work. We can now focus on farming and other activities, which has improved our economic condition. Compared to earlier times, we now pay more attention to cleanliness, leading to better hygiene in and around our homes."

The availability of tap water in government buildings, schools, and Anganwadi centers has also improved hygiene and health. With cleaner toilets and bathrooms, there is greater awareness about sanitation, and people have become more conscious of their health.



With tap connection facilities in government buildings, schools, and Anganwadi Centers, cleanliness and health have improved  
Source: PHED, Madhya Pradesh

The “Har Ghar Nal Se Jal” initiative has significantly uplifted the standard of living in Purwa. Where life was once a constant struggle due to water scarcity, today the villagers have gained self-reliance and confidence. This initiative is not only improving their health but also contributing to their social and economic development. Through this sensitive intervention by the Government of India, the lives of the villagers have been enriched with stability,

cleanliness, and dignity.

As a result of this transformation, the people of Purwa now consider their village free from the water crisis. This scheme has filled their lives with hope and enthusiasm, fostering a sense of self-sufficiency and empowerment among the villagers.

## जल से साकार हुई नई उम्मीदें

गाँव: पुरवा

जिला: मंडला

मध्य प्रदेश के मंडला जिले में स्थित माता दिन का पुरवा गाँव वर्षों तक जल संकट का सामना करता रहा। यहाँ के निवासियों के लिए रोजमर्रा का पानी जुटाना बड़ी चुनौती थी। घरेलू कामों के लिए लोगों को पाँच किलोमीटर दूर से पानी लाना पड़ता था, और गर्मियों के मौसम में यह परेशानी और गंभीर हो जाती थी। इस स्थिति का नकारात्मक असर न केवल उनकी दिनचर्या पर बल्कि उनके स्वास्थ्य, आर्थिक स्थिति और बच्चों की शिक्षा पर भी पड़ा। महिलाएँ और बच्चे घंटों लंबी दूरी तय कर पानी लाने में लगे रहते, जिससे उनकी पढ़ाई और रोजगार के अवसर प्रभावित होते थे।

फिर सरकार की "हर घर नल से जल" योजना आई, जिसने इस गाँव के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाया। इस योजना के अंतर्गत गाँव के प्रत्येक घर में नल कनेक्शन दिए गए, जिससे लोगों को अब घर पर ही शुद्ध और सुरक्षित पेयजल उपलब्ध होने लगा। यह नल कनेक्शन मात्र एक सुविधा नहीं, बल्कि उनके जीवन में एक नया अध्याय था। अब महिलाएँ और बच्चे पानी लाने की बाध्यता से मुक्त हो गए हैं, जिससे उनकी दिनचर्या में सुधार हुआ और वे अपने अन्य कार्यों में अधिक समय और ऊर्जा दे पा रहे हैं।

इस योजना का सफल संचालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए गाँव की जल एवं स्वच्छता समिति के दस सदस्य लगातार प्रयासरत रहते हैं। समय-समय पर गाँव में बैठकों का आयोजन किया जाता है, जिनमें जल संरक्षण, शुद्धता, और सही उपयोग पर चर्चा होती है। गाँव में दीवारों पर "पानी बचाओ" ए गए हैं ताकि हर व्यक्ति जल संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूक हो सके। साथ ही,

जैसे संदेश पेंट कि पानी की गुणवत्ता को परखने के लिए परीक्षण किट का उपयोग किया जा रहा है। इन प्रयासों से ग्रामीणों को न केवल स्वच्छ जल प्राप्त हो रहा है, बल्कि वे पानी के सही उपयोग और बचत के महत्व को भी समझने लगे हैं।

गाँव की निवासी श्रीमती उषा कहती हैं, "नल जल योजना से हमें बहुत राहत मिली है। अब हमें दूर-दूर तक पानी लाने नहीं जाना पड़ता, और इससे हमें अपने घर और कामों के लिए अधिक समय मिलने लगा है। अब हम खेती और अन्य कार्यों में पूरा समय दे पा रहे हैं, जिससे हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति में भी सुधार हुआ है। पहले की तुलना में अब हम स्वच्छता का अधिक ध्यान रखते हैं, और इससे हमारे घरों और आस-पास की सफाई में भी सुधार हुआ है।"

सरकारी भवनों, स्कूलों, और आंगनवाड़ियों में भी नल कनेक्शन की सुविधा ने स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य में सुधार किया है। शौचालय और बाथरूम की साफ-सफाई बेहतर होने से लोगों में स्वच्छता के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ी है और अब वे स्वास्थ्य के प्रति भी अधिक सजग हो गए हैं।



शहर घर जल के माध्यम से जीवन हुआ आसान  
सोर्स: मध्य प्रदेश लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग



स्वच्छ पानी से शुरू हुई है नई उम्मीदों की कहानी  
सोर्स: मध्य प्रदेश लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग

"अब हमें दूर-दूर तक पानी लाने नहीं जाना पड़ता, और इससे घर के कामों के लिए अधिक समय मिलने लगा है।" - शांति देवी



सरकारी भवनों, स्कूलों और आंगनवाड़ियों में नल कनेक्शन की सुविधा से स्वच्छता और स्वास्थ्य में हुआ सुधार  
सोर्स: मध्य प्रदेश लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग

"हर घर नल से जल" योजना के कारण माता दिन का पुरवा गाँव का जीवन स्तर ऊपर उठ गया है। पानी की कमी से जहाँ पहले लोगों का जीवन संघर्षमय था, वहीं अब उनके जीवन में आत्मनिर्भरता और आत्मविश्वास बढ़ा है। यह योजना न केवल उनके स्वास्थ्य को बेहतर बना रही है, बल्कि उनके सामाजिक और आर्थिक विकास में भी सहायक सिद्ध हो रही है। भारत सरकार की इस संवेदनशील पहल ने गाँव के लोगों के जीवन में स्थिरता, स्वच्छता, और सम्मान का नया अध्याय जोड़ा है।

इस बदलाव के कारण माता दिन का पुरवा के लोग अब अपने गाँव को जल संकट से मुक्त मानते हैं। इस योजना ने उनके जीवन में आशा और उत्साह का संचार किया है, और ग्रामीणों के बीच आत्मनिर्भरता का भाव प्रबल हुआ है।

## 8. A Tale of Transformation and Success Through Water

**Village:** Lachhoni

**Gram Panchayat:** Narayanpur

Sixty-year-old Rakesh Meena from Lachhoni village in Narayanpur Gram Panchayat, Guna district of Madhya Pradesh, shares the story of his life's struggles. Rakesh recounts how the village once relied solely on a hand pump and a well as sources of water, both of which would dry up during the summer. Due to this scarcity, women and children had to travel long distances to fetch water. During the rainy season, muddy roads often led to accidents and injuries, adding to their hardships. This was not just Rakesh's family's ordeal but the plight of the entire village. Most of the women's and children's time was spent fetching water.

The village's ASHA worker also shared how children in the past suffered from diarrhea, vomiting, and other waterborne diseases. Pregnant women faced numerous health challenges caused by unclean water. The water from the well was unsafe, yet due to a lack of awareness and resources, people had no choice but to use it as there were no methods available to purify it.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Public Health Engineering Department has now provided tap water connections to 92 families in the village. The Pradhan Mantri Janman Programme aims to uplift marginalized and deprived tribal communities, such as the Baiga, Sahariya, and Bharia, who had previously been excluded from the benefits of various government schemes. The Sahariya tribal families of Lachhoni village have also been beneficiaries under the Nal Jal Yojana, ensuring them access to clean drinking water every day.

Today, safe and clean water is regularly available in the village. The Anganwadi Center has been equipped with a Field Test Kit to test water quality periodically. As a result, the incidence of waterborne diseases has significantly decreased, and children are now able to attend school regularly. The time once spent fetching water is now being utilized for studies and recreational activities, raising hopes for an improvement in the village's education levels.

Rakesh Meena and the entire village are overjoyed with this transformation and wholeheartedly thank Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for this crucial initiative. The Jal Jeevan Mission has not only resolved their water crisis but also instilled new hope in their lives.



Access to clean water: The foundation of comfort and transformation in life.  
Source: PHED, Madhya Pradesh

## पानी से बदलाव और सफलता की दास्तां

गाँव: लाछोनी

ग्राम पंचायत: नारायणपुर

मध्य प्रदेश के गुना जिले की ग्राम पंचायत नारायणपुर के गाँव लाछोनी में रहने वाले 60 वर्षीय राकेश मीना अपने जीवन की संघर्षपूर्ण कहानी साझा करते हैं। राकेश बताते हैं कि उनके गाँव में पहले पानी का स्रोत केवल एक हैंडपंप और एक कुआँ था, जो गर्मियों में सूख जाया करता था। पानी की इस कमी के कारण महिलाओं और बच्चों को दूर-दूर से पानी लाने जाना पड़ता था। बारिश के दिनों में कीचड़ के कारण कई बार गिरने की घटनाएँ भी होती थीं, जिससे उन्हें चोटें भी आती थीं। यह परेशानी केवल राकेश के परिवार की ही नहीं, बल्कि पूरे गाँव की थी। महिलाओं और बच्चों का अधिकांश समय पानी भरने में ही बीत जाता था।

ग्राम की आशा कार्यकर्ता भी बताती हैं कि पहले गाँव के बच्चों में डायरिया, उल्टी-दस्त और जलजनित बीमारियों का संक्रमण अधिक होता था। गर्भवती महिलाओं को भी अस्वच्छ पानी के कारण अनेक समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता था। कुएँ का पानी साफ नहीं था, फिर भी जानकारी के अभाव में लोग इसका उपयोग करते थे क्योंकि उस समय पानी को साफ करने की विधियाँ भी उपलब्ध नहीं थीं।

अब जल जीवन मिशन के तहत लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग ने गाँव के 92 परिवारों को नल कनेक्शन प्रदान कर दिए हैं। प्रधानमंत्री जनमन कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य कमजोर और वंचित आदिवासी समुदायों जैसे बैगा, शाहरिया और भारिया का विकास करना है, जो विभिन्न सरकारी योजनाओं के लाभ से वंचित रह गए थे। गाँव लाछोनी के शाहरिया जनजातीय परिवार को भी नल जल योजना के अंतर्गत लाभान्वित किया गया है, जिससे उन्हें रोज़ाना नल से स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध हो रहा है।

अब गाँव में साफ और सुरक्षित पानी नियमित रूप से उपलब्ध है। आंगनवाड़ी में पानी की जांच के लिए फ़िल्ड टेस्ट किट भी दी गई है, जिससे पानी की गुणवत्ता समय-समय पर जांची जा सकती है। जलजनित बीमारियों के मामले अब काफी कम हो गए हैं, और बच्चों का स्कूल में नियमित रूप से जाना संभव हो पाया है। जो समय पहले पानी लाने में बर्बाद होता था, वह अब पढ़ाई और खेलकूद में खर्च हो रहा है। गाँव में शिक्षा का स्तर भी सुधरने की उम्मीद है।

राकेश मीना और समस्त ग्रामवासी इस बदलाव से अत्यंत खुश हैं और माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी को इस महत्वपूर्ण योजना के लिए हृदय से धन्यवाद देते हैं। जल जीवन मिशन ने न केवल उनकी जल समस्या का समाधान किया है, बल्कि उनके जीवन में एक नई उम्मीद भी जगाई है।



साफ पानी की सुविधा: जीवन में सुखद बदलाव का आधार  
स्रोत: लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, मध्य प्रदेश



## West Bengal

### 9. When Water Flows, Hope Grows: Chayan Nagar's Journey

**Village:** Chayan Nagar

**Block:** Nabagram

**District:** Murshidabad

Women of Chayan Nagar Village, belonging to tribal communities, once bore the brunt of an unrelenting struggle. Each day began with the daunting task of securing water – a resource that seemed so close yet so painfully out of reach. Long walks under the punishing sun to distant water sources were a routine, with heavy pots balanced on their heads and a heavier burden of worry weighing on their hearts.

This daily battle defined their existence. Hours were lost, dreams deferred, and aspirations curtailed. Every sip of the murky water they fetched carried the risk of disease. Children often fell sick, mothers prayed for miracles, and families lived on the edge. Water scarcity wasn't just a challenge; it was a chain binding them to a cycle of poverty and despair.

Chayan Nagar is a vibrant village today, its people thriving on multiple fronts. Clean water has brought not only physical health but emotional and social well-being. The women of the village are not just recipients of change; they are now leaders of a movement.

They are actively educating others about sustainable water use, ensuring that the gift of clean water is cherished and preserved for future generations. Their health has improved, their confidence has grown, and their dreams now have the time and space to flourish.

The story of Chayan Nagar is a celebration – a celebration of water, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of its women. Through their smiles and their stories, they inspire hope and remind us all of the transformative power of even the simplest necessities.

But today, Chayan Nagar tells a different story – a story of change, hope, and empowerment. The picture of the village changed five years ago with tap water reaching their homes, and with it, a new lease on life. They are indeed the lifelines that have transformed lives on multiple fronts.

### The Celebration of Clean Water

The joy of water found a heartfelt expression at Mira Hembram's home, where women gathered to celebrate with rituals, music, and gratitude. Adorning taps with flower garlands, they sang folk songs and lit lamps symbolizing the hope and dignity clean water brought. Mira, tying a garland around her tap, said with teary eyes, "Eta shudhu ekta nal noi, eta amader swadhinota" (This isn't just a tap; it is our freedom). Budin Hembram added, "Joler nol amader poribare anondo ebong swosti eneche." (The tap has brought joy and relief, freeing time for community work and raising awareness about water conservation.) The celebration was not just about water - it was about reclaiming lives and embracing a brighter future.





## চয়ননগরের জলের গল্প: সংগ্রামের শেষ, সম্ভাবনার শুরু

গ্রাম: চয়ন নগর  
ব্লক: নবগ্রাম  
জেলা: মুর্শিদাবাদ

চয়ননগর মুর্শিদাবাদ জেলার একটি ছোট্ট সাঁওতাল গ্রাম। গ্রামের বাসিন্দাদের জীবনধারা সংগ্রামের। পরিবারের দৈনিক জলের চাহিদার পূরণ করার দায়িত্ব গ্রামের মহিলাদের। ভারী জলের পাত্র মাথায় নিয়ে, প্রখর সূর্যের তাপে, ভারী বর্ষায় দীর্ঘ পথ হাঁটা এঁদের রোজকার কাজ।

প্রতিদিনের এই সংগ্রামই তাদের জীবনের পরিচয়। স্বপ্নগুলো হারিয়ে গেছে, আকাঙ্ক্ষাগুলো ক্রমশ ম্লিয়মান হয়েছে। দূর থেকে মাথায় করে বয়ে আনা কখনো কোনো এক নদীর বালি খুঁড়ে পাওয়া, কখনো কুয়া থেকে তোলা ঘোলাজলে থাকে জলবাহিত রোগের জীবাণু। গ্রামের শিশুরা প্রায়ই অসুস্থ হয়ে পড়ত, আর মায়েরা তাদের সুস্থতার প্রার্থনায় ঈশ্বরের শরণাপন্ন হতেন। অর্থাৎ, এটি ছিল গ্রামীণ পরিবারগুলোর দুর্ভোগের বাস্তব চিত্র। জলের অভাব তাদের কাছে কেবল একটি সমস্যা নয়, বরং এটি ছিল এক শৃঙ্খল যা তাদের জীবনকে দারিদ্র্য আর হতাশার এক অচল চক্রে আবদ্ধ করে রেখেছিল।

চয়ননগর আজ একটি প্রাণবন্ত গ্রাম। আজ যেখানে মানুষ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে সমৃদ্ধ। পরিস্ফুট পানীয়জল শুধু শারীরিক স্বাস্থ্য নয়, শান্তি ও একতা নিয়ে এসেছে। গ্রামের নারীরা শুধু পরিবর্তনের গ্রহীতা নয়; তারাই এখন আন্দোলনের নেত্রী। তারা এখন সক্রিয়ভাবে দীর্ঘস্থায়ী জল পরিষেবা ও পানীয় জলের সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার সম্পর্কে অন্যদেরও সচেতন করছে, নিশ্চিত করছে যে বিশুদ্ধজলের উপহারটি ভবিষ্যত প্রজন্মের জন্য লালন করা এবং সংরক্ষণ করা সকলের কর্তব্য। তাদের স্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতি হয়েছে, আত্মবিশ্বাস বেড়েছে, এবং সময়ের সাথে সাথে তাদের স্বপ্নগুলি এখন বিকশিত হচ্ছে।

চয়ননগরের গল্পটি গ্রামবাসীদের বাড়িতেই নিরাপদ নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা পাবার আনন্দ এবং মহিলাদের অদম্য লড়াই করার মানসিক শক্তির গল্প। তাদের হাসি আর তাদের গল্পের মাধ্যমে, তারা অন্যকে অনুপ্রাণিত করে এবং আমাদের সকলকে নিরাপদ নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবার দ্বারা মানুষের জীবন পরিবর্তন করার ক্ষমতা মনে করিয়ে দেয়।

আজ চয়ননগর একটি অন্য গল্পই বলছে। পরিবর্তন, আশা আর নিজের পায়ে দাঁড়ানোর গল্প। গ্রামের সম্পূর্ণ চিত্র পাল্টে গেল বাড়িতে বাড়িতে কলের জল পৌঁছানোর সাথে সাথে। তাদের জীবন একটি নতুন ধারা পেল।

## নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবায় আনন্দউৎসব

গ্রামের প্রতিটি বাড়িতেই পরিস্ফুট নলবাহিত পানীয় জলের সংযোগ পাওয়ার আনন্দে মীরা হেমব্রমের বাড়িতে আনন্দউৎসব আয়োজন হয়েছে। গ্রামের মহিলারা সঙ্গীত এবং গভীর কৃতজ্ঞতায় দিনটিকে স্মৃতিবন্ধন করতে উপস্থিত হয়েছিল। তাঁরা ফুলের মালা দিয়ে কলগুলিকে সজ্জিত করে, লোকগীতিগানে তাঁদের গভীর আবেগকে প্রতিধ্বনিত করে প্রদীপ জ্বালিয়ে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেছিল। নলবাহিত পানীয় জলের কল তাঁদের জীবনে এনে দিয়েছে আশা ও মর্যাদা।

আনন্দে আর উত্তেজনায়, কলের গায়ে ফুলের মালা বাঁধার সময়, মীরার হাত কাঁপছিল। জলভরা চোখে মীরা সকলকে হেসে বলল— “এটা শুধু একটা জলের কল নয়, এটা আমাদের স্বাধীনতা”।

ওইদিন শিশুরা সেখানে আনন্দে নাচ করছিল, তাদের হাসিতে গ্রাম ভরে গিয়েছিলো এবং মহিলারা একে অপরকে আনন্দে আলিঙ্গন করছিল। বুদিন হেমব্রম, আরেকজন উত্সাহী গ্রামবাসী, বলেছেন, “জলের কল আমাদের পরিবারে আনন্দ আর স্বস্তি এনে দিয়েছে। প্রচণ্ড গরমে জল আনতে আর হাঁটতে হবে না। এখন আমাদের কাছে বেশি সময় আছে অন্যান্য কাজ করার এবং আমাদের গ্রামের অন্যান্য মহিলাদের মধ্যে জলসংরক্ষণের গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা বাড়াতে সহযোগিতা করার।”

কলের উদ্বোধন শুধু জল সম্পর্কে নয়; এটি ছিল জীবন পুনরুদ্ধার করা, কষ্টের শৃঙ্খল থেকে মুক্ত হওয়া এবং উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যতের দিকে পা-রাখার বলিষ্ঠ পদক্ষেপ।





## 10. Empowering Tribal Communities: Resolving Water Crisis in Darial Village

**Village:** Darial

**Gram Panchayat:** Bhabuk

**Block:** Old Malda

For the 46 families residing in Darial Village in Bhabuk Gram Panchayat, nestled in the Old Malda Block, life revolved around a single crisis: water. Each day began with uncertainty – would they find enough water to drink, cook, and survive? The springs and wells they relied on were distant, unreliable, and often tainted with contaminants that invited illness and despair into their homes.

Children missed school, burdened by sickness or the task of fetching water. Farmers looked out at parched fields, their hopes for a decent harvest fading with each passing season. Community life felt stifled, bound by the unending search for a resource so fundamental to existence. Conversations in the village often revolved around the same questions: *“How long will this go on? Will we ever have water we can trust?”*

The turning point came when the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), alongside implementation support agencies and the local panchayat, stepped in. Their approach wasn't just about providing water; it was about listening, understanding, and involving the community in finding solutions. Engineers and community members worked side by side, mapping the land, analysing water sources, and designing a plan to bring clean, reliable water to Darial.

Today, Darial stands transformed. Water flows freely to every household, its availability reshaping the rhythm of life in the village. The air buzzes with activity and purpose. Children attend school regularly, their classrooms filled with laughter and the hope of brighter futures. The burden of disease has eased, bringing health and energy back to the community.



Marangmai Soren  
Source: PHED, West Bengal



Group Meeting in Progress  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

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The agricultural landscape has changed too. Reliable access to water has revitalised farming in the area. Fields that once lay barren now bear healthy crops, providing sustenance and income to families

Farmers, no longer worried about water scarcity,

can focus on improving yields and exploring new crops. The prosperity has a ripple effect, as families invest in education, housing, and small businesses. The social fabric of Darial has strengthened in unexpected ways. The community now comes together to protect and manage its water resources.

Led by motivated residents like Marangmai Soren, they have established a water user committee to oversee the maintenance of taps and pipelines. Marangmai's words resonate deeply: *"Jol tomar kachhe ashche, kintu etake tikaye rakhar dayitto amader shobar."* (Water comes to you, but the responsibility to sustain it belongs to all of us.)



## এক আদিবাসী অধ্যুষিত গ্রামের মানুষদের রোজকার জীবনযাত্রার রূপান্তরের গল্প

গ্রাম: দারিয়াল

গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েত: ভুবুক

ব্লক: ওল্ড মালদা

মালদা জেলার ভুবুক গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েতের অধীনে দারিয়াল গ্রাম একসময় জল সংকটে জর্জরিত ছিল। গ্রামের ৪৬টি পরিবারের প্রতিদিনের জীবন শুরু হত একটাই প্রশ্ন নিয়ে—আগামীদিনে জল কোথায় থেকে নিয়ে আসা হবে? দূরবর্তী কূপ এবং বর্ণার ওপর নির্ভরশীল পরিবারগুলি প্রতিনিয়ত রোগ, হতাশা এবং অনিশ্চয়তার সঙ্গে লড়াই করছিল।

শিশুরা মাঝে মাঝে অসুস্থতার কারণে স্কুল কামাই করত, গ্রামবাসীরাও জীবনসংগ্রামে ক্লান্ত। কখনও খরার কারণে, কখনও অতিরিক্ত বৃষ্টির কারণে ফসলের ফলন ভালো না হওয়ায় গ্রামবাসীদের আর্থিক অবস্থাও ভালো নয়। সামাজিক জীবন স্থবির, প্রতিদিন পানীয় জলের খোঁজে গ্রামবাসীরা আবদ্ধ।

গ্রামবাসীদের আলোচনার মূল বিষয়ই ছিল: “আর কতদিন এভাবে চলবে? আমরা কি কখনো কাছাকাছির মধ্যে ভালো জল পাবো যা সহজেই নিয়ে আসা যাবে?”

পরিস্থিতির বদল আসে যখন জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ (PHED), সহায়ক সংস্থা (ইমপ্লিমেন্টেশন সাপোর্ট এজেন্সি) এবং স্থানীয় পঞ্চায়েত একসঙ্গে এগিয়ে আসে। তাদের লক্ষ্য শুধু জল সরবরাহ করাই ছিল না; গ্রামবাসীদের কথা শোনা, সমস্যা বোঝা, সমাধান খুঁজে বের করা এবং জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ ও গ্রামবাসীরা একসঙ্গে মিলে জমি চিহ্নিত

করলেন, এবং দারিয়ালে পরিষ্কার ও নির্ভরযোগ্য জল সরবরাহের একটি পরিকল্পনা তৈরি করলেন।

কৃষকরা, এখন আর পানীয় জল সংকট নিয়ে চিন্তিত নয়, বেশি ফলন এবং শস্য উৎপাদনের দিকে বেশি করে মনোযোগ দিতে পারছেন। মানুষের হাতে এখন বেশি সময়, যা তারা অন্যান্য উদ্যোগে কাজে লাগাতে পারছে। এই সমৃদ্ধি টেউয়ের মতো প্রভাব ফেলছে—পরিবারগুলো শিক্ষায়, বাসস্থানের উন্নতি এবং নিজেদের কাজে বিনিয়োগ করছে।

আজ, দারিয়াল সম্পূর্ণ রূপে বদলে গেছে। পরিস্রুত পানীয় জল এখন প্রতিটি বাড়িতে নলের মাধ্যমে পৌঁছাচ্ছে, এবং গ্রামের জীবনের গতি ও ছন্দকে নতুনভাবে গড়ে তুলেছে। গ্রাম এখন কর্মব্যস্ততায় ও উদ্যমে ভরপুর। শিশুরা নিয়মিত স্কুলে যাচ্ছে, তাদের শ্রেণীকক্ষ ভরে উঠেছে হাসিতে। রোগের বোঝা হ্রাস পেয়েছে, যা স্বাস্থ্য ও উদ্যম ফিরিয়ে এনেছে পুরো গ্রামে।



বৈঠক চলছে  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



মারাংমাই সোরেন  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

এই সম্মিলিত দায়িত্ববোধ গ্রামের বাসিন্দাদের মধ্যে নতুন সম্পর্ক গড়ে তুলেছে, যা একে ওপরের প্রতি সহযোগিতার হাত বাড়িয়ে দিচ্ছে। একসময়ে পিছিয়ে পড়া প্রত্যন্ত গ্রাম এখন উন্নতির পথে যাত্রা শুরু করেছে।

দারিয়ালের গল্প কেবল জল নিয়ে নয়; এটি গ্রাম

জীবনের গল্প। স্বাস্থ্য ও শিক্ষা থেকে শুরু করে কৃষি ও সামাজিক সংহতি পর্যন্ত, নিরাপদ পানীয় জল গ্রামের উন্নতির সম্ভাবনাকে উন্মোচিত করেছে। এটি আমাদের মনে করিয়ে দেয় যে, জল পরিষেবা কেবল তাৎক্ষণিক সমস্যার সমাধান নয়, বরং সমাজকে আরও ভালো এবং সমৃদ্ধের দিকে যাত্রা করার শক্তি জোগাতে পারে।

মারাংমাই সোরেনের মতো উদ্দীপ্ত বাসিন্দাদের নেতৃত্বে, তারা একটি জল ব্যবহারকারী কমিটি গঠন করেছে, যা ট্যাপ এবং জল সরবরাহ নলের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ করে। মারাংমাইয়ের কথাগুলি গভীরভাবে প্রতিধ্বনিত হয়: “জল আমার কাছে আসছে, কিন্তু একে (পরিষেবা) টিকিয়ে রাখার দায়িত্ব আমাদের সবার।”



## 11. Redefining Possibilities, Inspiring Change

**Village:** Sar

**District:** Purba Bardhaman

**Panchayat:** Eral

For years, the people of Sar in Purba Bardhaman's Eral Panchayat, suffered deeply, struggling each day against a harsh and unending water crisis. The lone hand pump that served the community broke down more often than it worked. Villagers, mostly women, had no choice but to walk miles to fetch water, enduring the weight of heavy pots and the scorching sun.

For 52-year-old Sonali, the journey was more than physically draining – it was a bitter reminder of inequality. The need to depend on water from neighbouring high-caste households stung deeply, reinforcing a sense of marginalisation.

Sonali then heard the news about Jal Jeevan Mission and its promise of clean drinking water at an SHG meeting, her voice trembling with excitement as she shared it with others.

The village buzzed with anticipation. Within weeks, tap connections began to appear in homes, turning the dream of clean water into a reality. For the first time, water flowed freely to every household, bringing with it convenience, dignity, and relief.



Sonali Bauri is now happy with WASH facilities  
in her village

Source: PHED, West Bengal

But joy soon gave way to concern. Sonali noticed water being wasted, taps left open, streams of precious water flowing unchecked. It pained her to see the resource they had long fought for being misused. *"After all we went through to get water, how can we let it go to waste?"* she wondered.

Sonali decided to act. Armed with determination, she began visiting homes, speaking to neighbors about the importance of conserving water. Her SHG rallied behind her, organising a village-wide campaign on water conservation. Together, they approached the panchayat for support and conducted workshops to educate the community about the value of water and the small changes that could make a big difference.



Sonali's home is now a venue for SHG  
members to discuss about their work  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

## সংগ্রাম থেকে শক্তিতে: সার গ্রামে জল এবং একতার যাত্রা

গ্রাম: সার  
জেলা: পূর্ব বর্ধমান  
পঞ্চায়েত: এরাল

পূর্ব বর্ধমান জেলার এরাল পঞ্চায়েতের সার গ্রামের মানুষ বছরের পর বছর ধরে তীব্র জলকষ্টে ভুগছিল। গ্রামের একমাত্র চাপাকলটি প্রায়ই বিকল হয়ে যেত। ফলে, বেশিরভাগ মহিলাদের কাঁখে ভারী কলসি নিয়ে অনেকটা পথ হাঁটতে হতো, গ্রীষ্ম বর্ষা সব সময়েই।

৫২ বছর বয়সী সোনালীর জন্য এই পথ চলা শুধু শারীরিক কষ্টের ছিল না, এটি ছিল তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতার। মাঝে মাঝে প্রতিবেশীদের বাড়ি থেকে জল আনার সময় তার অর্থনৈতিক দুরাবস্থার দরুন মানসিক পীড়ন পেতে হতো।

বাড়ি বাড়ি নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবার কথা সোনালী প্রথম শুনলেন এক স্বনির্ভর গোষ্ঠীর (SHG) সভায়। বাড়িতেই নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের পরিষেবার কথা শুনে সোনালী তার উত্তেজনা চেপে রাখতে পারছিলো না। সে খবরটি অন্যদের সাথে ভাগ করল, এবং পুরো গ্রামে এক অনন্য উদ্দীপনা ছড়িয়ে পড়েছিল। কয়েক সপ্তাহের মধ্যেই বাড়ি বাড়ি কল বসানোর কাজ শুরু হল। যখন নিরাপদ পানীয় জল বাড়ি বাড়ি কল থেকে পড়তে শুরু করল তখন সোনালীদের মনে স্বস্তি এনে দিল।

তবে এই স্বস্তি খুব দ্রুত উদ্বেগে পরিণত হলো। সোনালী লক্ষ্য করল, জল অপচয় হচ্ছে। ট্যাপগুলি খোলা থেকে যাচ্ছে, মূল্যবান জল অকারণে বয়ে যাচ্ছে। এত কষ্টের পরে পাওয়া জল নষ্ট হতে দেখে তার মন ব্যথিত হলো। “আমরা এত কিছু সহ্য করে জল পেলাম, আর সেটি নষ্ট হতে দেব?” তার মনে



"সোনালি বাড়ির এখন তাঁর বাড়িতেই নলবাহিত পানীয় জল ও শৌচাগারের সুবিধা নিয়ে খুব খুশি। জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

এই প্রশ্ন উঁকি দিল।

সোনালী এক সিদ্ধান্ত নিলেন। দৃঢ় সংকল্প নিয়ে সে বাড়ি বাড়ি ঘুরে জল সংরক্ষণের গুরুত্ব সম্পর্কে প্রতিবেশীদের বলতে শুরু করল। তার স্বনির্ভর গোষ্ঠী তাকে সমর্থন করল, এবং তারা একটি গ্রামব্যাপী জল সংরক্ষণ প্রচারাভিযান সংগঠিত করল। তারা পঞ্চায়েতের সহায়তা নিয়ে কর্মশালা চালিয়ে জল সংরক্ষণের গুরুত্ব এবং ছোট ছোট অভ্যাসের পরিবর্তনে বড় পার্থক্য গড়ে তোলার বিষয়ে সচেতনতা তৈরি করল।

আজ, সার গ্রাম সম্পূর্ণরূপে বদলে গেছে। ট্যাপগুলোতে এখনো জল প্রবাহিত হয়, কিন্তু আর অপচয় হয় না। গ্রামবাসীরা জল সংরক্ষণের সংস্কৃতি গ্রহণ করেছে—ট্যাপ বন্ধ রাখা, এবং বিচক্ষণতার সঙ্গে জল ব্যবহার করা তাদের অভ্যাসে পরিণত হয়েছে। শিশুরা এখন নিয়মিত স্কুলে যায়, জল সংগ্রহের বোঝা থেকে মুক্ত। কৃষকরা এখন আরও আশাবাদী। গ্রামে একটি নতুন ধরনের ঐক্যের অনুভূতি এসেছে, যেখানে মানুষ তাদের মূল্যবান সম্পদ রক্ষায় একত্রে কাজ করছে।

সার এখন আর শুধুই নিরাপদ জলের গ্রাম নয়। এটি এমন একটি সম্প্রদায়, যারা একসময় যে সম্পদটির অভাবে ভুগছিল, তার মূল্য বুঝতে শিখেছে। এটি এমন একটি স্থান, যেখানে সোনালীর মতো ব্যক্তির দেখিয়ে দিয়েছেন যে একক কণ্ঠস্বর এবং একক উদ্যোগও সমষ্টিগত পরিবর্তনের অনুপ্রেরণা হতে পারে।



"সোনালির বাড়ি এখন স্বনির্ভর গোষ্ঠীর সদস্যদের কাজ নিয়ে আলোচনা করার স্থান হয়ে উঠেছে।" জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

## 12. Resilience Rewarded: Harmoni Barman's Triumph Over Water Scarcity

**Village:** Jaychanpur

**District:** Alipurduar

Every day, Harmoni Barman wakes up with a memory that still feels close and dreadful – long, exhausting walks under the scorching sun to fetch water for her family. The path was rough, nearly a kilometer each way, and the load she carried was not just the heavy pots of water but the constant worry of survival. Her children walked alongside her, their young hands helping to carry the burden when they should have been holding books or playing carefree. The lack of water at home was more than an inconvenience – it was a daily battle that consumed time, energy, and hope.

The struggles didn't end with the physical exhaustion. Without the means to install a tubewell, Harmoni's family had no choice but to depend on these distant, unreliable water sources. This dependence took a toll on their health, as illnesses from unsafe water became a frequent visitor to their home.

But 2023 brought change that seemed almost miraculous. Jal Jeevan Mission arrived in Jaychanpur, promising something Harmoni had Within months, the dream became reality.

Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) were installed, and for the first time in years, Harmoni didn't have to step out of her home for water. The stream of clean, safe water was more than a convenience; it was a lifeline.

The transformation in Harmoni's life is profound. Her family no longer suffers from waterborne diseases, and the atmosphere at home has shifted from tension to peace.

The emotional strain was equally suffocating. The pressure of securing water for basic needs often led to tensions within the household, with arguments and discord becoming part of their routine. At her lowest point, Harmoni thought of leaving the village altogether. The life they were living felt like no life at all.



A smile of contentment  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

The change extends beyond her household. In Jaychanpur, children now attend school regularly, their time no longer consumed by the task of fetching water. Families find more time to focus on farming and other livelihoods, as they are no longer bound by the daily struggle for water. The community has grown stronger, united by the relief that access to clean water has brought to their lives.

Harmoni's story is one of resilience and reward, a journey from despair to hope that reflects the transformative power of clean water. For Jaychanpur, the taps symbolise more than convenience – they represent health, harmony, and a chance to build a better future. only dreamed of – clean water delivered directly to her home.



## প্রতিবন্ধকতা থেকে প্রগতির পথে: হারমনি বর্মণের জল সংকটের উপর জয়

গ্রাম: জয়চাঁদপুর  
জেলা: আলিপুরদুয়ার

হতো। এই নির্ভরতা তাদের স্বাস্থ্যের উপর নেতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলেছিল, কারণ মাঝে মাঝে জল বাহিত রোগে কেউ না কেউ ভুগতেন।

কিন্তু ২০২৩ সালে পরিবর্তন এলো, যা প্রায় অলৌকিক মনে হলো। নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা জয়চাঁদপুরে পৌঁছাল, এমন কিছু প্রতিশ্রুতি নিয়ে যা হারমনি কেবল স্বপ্নেই দেখেছিলেন – পরিষ্কার জল সরাসরি তার বাড়িতে আসবে। কয়েক মাসের মধ্যেই সেই স্বপ্ন বাস্তবে পরিণত হলো। কার্যকরী হাউসহোল্ড ট্যাপ কানেকশন (FHTC) স্থাপন করা হলো, এবং প্রথমবারের মতো হারমনিকে তার বাড়ি ছেড়ে জল আনতে বের হতে হল না। পরিষ্কার, নিরাপদ জল বাড়িতে পাওয়া কেবল একটি সুবিধা নয়; এটি ছিল জীবনদায়ী।

হারমনির জীবনের পরিবর্তন গভীর। তার পরিবার আর জলবাহিত রোগে আক্রান্ত হয় না, এবং বাড়ির পরিবেশ এখন উত্তেজনা থেকে শান্তিতে পরিণত হয়েছে। এই পরিবর্তন তার পরিবারের বাইরে গিয়ে গোটা জয়চাঁদপুরে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে। এখন শিশুরা নিয়মিত স্কুলে যায়, তারা আর মায়ের সঙ্গে জল আনতে যায় না। পরিবারগুলো এখন তাদের কৃষি এবং অন্যান্য জীবিকার প্রতি আরও মনোযোগ দিতে পারে, কারণ তারা আর জল নিয়ে দৈনন্দিন সংগ্রামে বাঁধা নয়। গ্রামটি আরও শক্তিশালী হয়েছে, পরিস্ফুট পানীয় জল পাওয়ার স্বস্তিতে ঐক্যবদ্ধ।

হারমনির গল্প হল প্রতিকূলতার বিরুদ্ধে লড়াই এবং পুরস্কৃত হওয়ার কাহিনী, যা দুঃখ আনন্দে রূপান্তরের একটি চিত্র। জয়চাঁদপুরের জন্য, ট্যাপগুলো কেবল সুবিধা নয় – তা হল স্বাস্থ্য, সঙ্গতি এবং একটি ভাল ভবিষ্যত গড়ে তোলার সুযোগ। এখনো হারমনি বর্মণ দুঃস্বপ্ন দেখেন তিনি এক দীর্ঘ পথ হেটে চলেছেন প্রখর সূর্যের তাপে, দীর্ঘ, ক্লান্তিকর এক পথ। প্রায় এক কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ এক পথ, এবং শুধুমাত্র কলসি ভরা জলের ভার নয়, ভার উদ্বেগের, ভালো ভাবে বেঁচে থাকার লড়াই।

“জলের জন্য প্রায়ই সংসারে উত্তেজনা সৃষ্টি হত, এবং ঝগড়া ও অশান্তি তাদের দৈনন্দিন জীবনের অংশ হয়ে উঠেছিল। তার সর্বনিম্ন অবস্থায়, হারমনি ভেবেছিলেন গ্রাম ছেড়ে চলে যাবেন।”



"সন্তোষের হাসি"  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

তার সন্তানরা যখন তার সাথে জল আনতে যেত, তাদের ছোট হাতগুলো মায়ের বোঝা লাঘব করতে সাহায্য করত, যখন তাদের বই ধরার বা নির্দিষ্ট খেলার সময়। বাড়িতে জল না থাকা কেবল একটি অস্বস্তি নয় – এটি একটি প্রতিদিনের যুদ্ধ, যা সময়, শক্তি এবং আশা শুষ্ক নেয়। এই সংগ্রাম শারীরিক ক্লান্তির সাথে শেষ হয়নি। একটি টিউবওয়েল স্থাপন করার উপায় না থাকায়, হারমনির পরিবারকে এই দূরবর্তী চাপাকলগুলির উপর নির্ভর করতে হতো। এই নির্ভরতা তাদের স্বাস্থ্যের উপর নেতিবাচক প্রভাব ফেলেছিল, কারণ মাঝে মাঝে জল বাহিত রোগে কেউ না কেউ ভুগতেন।

কিন্তু ২০২৩ সালে পরিবর্তন এলো, যা প্রায় অলৌকিক মনে হলো। নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা জয়চাঁদপুরে পৌঁছাল, এমন কিছু প্রতিশ্রুতি নিয়ে যা হারমনি কেবল স্বপ্নেই দেখেছিলেন – পরিষ্কার জল সরাসরি তার বাড়িতে আসবে। কয়েক মাসের মধ্যেই সেই স্বপ্ন বাস্তবে পরিণত হলো। কার্যকরী হাউসহোল্ড ট্যাপ কানেকশন (FHTC) স্থাপন করা হলো, এবং প্রথমবারের মতো হারমনিকে তার বাড়ি ছেড়ে জল আনতে বের হতে হল না। পরিষ্কার, নিরাপদ জল বাড়িতে পাওয়া কেবল একটি সুবিধা নয়; এটি ছিল জীবনদায়ী।

হারমনির জীবনের পরিবর্তন গভীর। তার পরিবার আর জলবাহিত রোগে আক্রান্ত হয় না, এবং বাড়ির পরিবেশ এখন উত্তেজনা থেকে শান্তিতে পরিণত হয়েছে। এই পরিবর্তন তার পরিবারের বাইরে গিয়ে গোটা জয়চাঁদপুরে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে। এখন শিশুরা নিয়মিত স্কুলে যায়, তারা আর মায়ের সঙ্গে জল আনতে যায় না। পরিবারগুলো এখন তাদের কৃষি এবং অন্যান্য জীবিকার প্রতি আরও মনোযোগ দিতে পারে, কারণ তারা আর জল নিয়ে দৈনন্দিন সংগ্রামে বাঁধা নয়। গ্রামটি আরও শক্তিশালী হয়েছে, পরিস্ফুট পানীয় জল পাওয়ার স্বস্তিতে ঐক্যবদ্ধ। হারমনির গল্প হল প্রতিকূলতার বিরুদ্ধে লড়াই এবং পুরস্কৃত হওয়ার কাহিনী, যা দুঃখ আনন্দে রূপান্তরের একটি চিত্র। জয়চাঁদপুরের জন্য, ট্যাপগুলো কেবল সুবিধা নয় – তা হল স্বাস্থ্য, সঙ্গতি এবং একটি ভাল ভবিষ্যত গড়ে তোলার সুযোগ।

### 13. Rising Above Challenges with Access to Clean Water

**Village:** Mandahar

**Gram Panchayat:** Karanji

**Block:** Kushmandi, District: Dakshin Dinajpur

Smt. Maloti Tudu, a resident of Mandahar village under the Karanji Gram Panchayat in the Kushmandi block of Dakshin Dinajpur district, has experienced a remarkable transformation in her life thanks to the introduction of potable water through the Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Maloti's husband, Sunilal Tudu, was the pillar of their family, and together they faced a pressing challenge – the scarcity of clean drinking water in their area. In the absence of a reliable water supply, their daily lives were marked by hardship and inconvenience. Maloti vividly recalls the days when she had to embark on a long and arduous journey to fetch drinking water for her family. This daily task was not only physically exhausting but also consumed valuable time that could have been spent with her children.

The situation was further compounded by the need to use unhygienic water sources for cooking and other uses, such as cleaning and washing. Fetching water from nearby ponds and wells which were unclean and ill-maintained exposed the family to the risk of waterborne diseases, leading to additional financial burdens due to illness.

However, thanks to the intervention of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department and the Jal Jeevan Mission, Maloti's life took a significant turn for the better. The introduction of the FHTC connection brought a regular and reliable supply of clean water right to her doorstep. Tragically, Sunilal Tudu passed away a few months ago, leaving Maloti to manage the household on her own. The FHTC connection has been a lifeline, ensuring that she can continue to access clean water without the physical strain and time-consuming effort that she once endured.

Maloti Tudu's story is a testament to the transformative power of clean water access. It underscores the importance of initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission in improving the quality of life for individuals and families in remote areas, offering them not only safe water but also the gift of time and health.



Safe drinking water now within reach  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

Now, Maloti no longer has to endure the grueling task of fetching water daily. The time she used to spend on water collection has been reclaimed, allowing her to invest it in spending quality moments with her children. The worries and health risks associated with unclean water have become a thing of the past, as they now enjoy the benefits of pure and safe drinking water.

## জীবনের মোড় পরিবর্তন: মালোতি টুডুর নিরাপদ পানীয় জল সংগ্রহের সংগ্রাম থেকে সমাধানে যাত্রা

গ্রাম: মাগুহার

গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েত: করঞ্জি

ব্লক: কুশমন্ডি

জেলা: দক্ষিণ দিনাজপুর

জীবনযাত্রার মান উন্নয়নে এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে। শ্রীমতী মালোতি টুডু দক্ষিণ দিনাজপুর জেলার কুশমন্ডি ব্লকের করঞ্জি গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েতের অধীন মান্দাহার গ্রামের বাসিন্দা। বাড়ি বাড়ি কার্যকরী নলবাহিত পানীয় জলের কল সংযোগের (এফএইচটিসি) জন্য তার জীবনে একটি অসাধারণ পরিবর্তন হয়েছে।

মালোতির ও তার স্বামী সুনীলাল টুডু, একটি কঠিন সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হয়েছিলেন – তাদের এলাকায় নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের অভাব। নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ জলের অভাবে তাদের জীবন কষ্টের ছিল।

মালোতি সেই দিনগুলির কথা মনে করে যখন তাকে তার পরিবারের জন্য পানীয় জল দূর থেকে বয়ে আনতে হতো এই প্রতিদিনের কাজটি কেবল শারীরিকভাবে ক্লান্তিকর ছিল না বরং মূল্যবান সময়ও দিতে হতো যা তার সন্তানদের সাথে কাটাতে পারত।

রান্না এবং অন্যান্য ব্যবহারের জন্য, অপরিষ্কার জল ব্যবহার করার কারণে পরিস্থিতি আরও জটিল হয়েছিল। নিকটবর্তী পুকুর এবং কূপগুলি থেকে আনা জল ব্যবহার করায় তার পরিবার জলবাহিত রোগে ভুগতো, যার কারণে তাঁদের অতিরিক্ত আর্থিক বোঝা বইতে হতো।

সরকারি নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা মালোতির জীবন উন্নতির জন্য একটি উল্লেখযোগ্য মোড় নেয়। FHTC সংযোগ তার দোরগোড়ায় পরিষ্কার জলের নিয়মিত এবং নির্ভরযোগ্য সরবরাহ নিয়ে এসেছে।

পানীয় জল না পাওয়ার উদ্বেগ এবং জল বাহিত রোগ অতীতের বিষয় হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে, কারণ তাঁরা এখন বিশুদ্ধ ও নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের সুবিধা ভোগ করে।

দুঃখজনকভাবে, মালোতির স্বামী সুনীলাল টুডু কয়েক মাস আগে মারা গিয়েছিলেন। নলবাহিত পানীয় জল সংযোগ নিশ্চিত করেছে



"নিরাপদ পানীয় জল এখন হাতের নাগালে।"  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



এখন, মালোতিকে আর প্রতিদিন জল আনার কষ্ট সহ্য করতে হয় না। তিনি জল সংগ্রহের জন্য যে সময় ব্যয় করতেন তা আর করতে হয় না, এবং কল সংযোগ তার সন্তানদের সাথে সময় কাটানোর সুযোগ করে দিয়েছে। ”

যে মালতিকে শারীরিক কষ্ট ছাড়া পানীয় জল পেতে পারেন। নিরাপদ পানীয় জল পরিষেবা জীবনযাত্রার মান উন্নয়নে এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করছে।

## 14. From Challenges to Cheer: How Tap Water Supply Uplifted Specially-Abled Siblings

**Village:** Balpara

**Gram Panchayat:** Panjul

**District:** Dakshin Dinajpur

Madan Chandra Mandal and his wife, Manu, have spent their lives carrying the weight of their family's struggles in the border village of Balpara, nestled in Panjul Gram Panchayat of Hili Block, Dakshin Dinajpur district. As parents to two specially-abled children, Debabrata and Tantu, their days revolve around constant care and an unyielding fight to meet even the most basic needs. But one challenge has stood above the rest – accessing clean water.



Debabrata and Tantu in their home  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

Every day, Manu faced the same exhausting routine. With no reliable water source nearby, she walked long distances to the village tubewell, carrying back heavy pots of water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. The tubewell itself was often overburdened, with long waits under the harsh sun, leaving her physically drained before she even began the return journey.

At home, Debabrata and Tantu waited for her, alone and vulnerable.

Manu's heart ached each time she left them. *"Ami oder eka chere beshi khon thakte partam na, kintu dur theke jol anata chara kono upay chhilo na,"* (I couldn't leave them alone for long, and yet the only option was to bring water from far away), she says, her voice heavy with the memories of those endless, difficult days.

The struggle didn't end with the journey. The water she brought back was often unclean, exposing the family to

constant health risks. Waterborne diseases became a regular burden, robbing the family of both health and precious resources to treat frequent illnesses. Summers made the treks unbearable, as the searing heat bore down on her, while monsoons turned the paths into treacherous terrain, adding danger to her already exhausting task.

Madan, a farmer, worked tirelessly to provide for the family, but his efforts often seemed swallowed by the all-consuming need for water. The time spent fetching water robbed them of opportunities to focus on farming or care for their children, creating a cycle of hardship that seemed impossible to break. For years, their lives were dictated by this unrelenting battle, leaving them with little hope for change.

Then came the turning point. The Panjul Piped Water Supply Scheme, introduced under the Jal Jeevan Mission, brought clean, piped water directly to their home. The simple yet profound transformation was immediate. For the first time, Manu no longer had to leave her children or make the exhausting journey to fetch water. The taps in their home brought not only water but also a sense of relief, safety, and dignity that had been missing for so long.



Manu Mondol, mother of Debabrata and Tantu  
Source: PHED, West Bengal



*“Porishkar jol amar poribarar jonyo aram, shasthyo ebong shurokha eneche. Jol anar jonno amake aar lomba shomoy taader eka chere beriye thakte hoy na.”* (This water supply has brought relief, health and safety. I no longer worry about leaving them alone just to fetch water), Manu says, her gratitude shining through her words. With clean water now flowing steadily, the family is healthier, and the constant fear of illness has faded into the past.

The transformation extends to the entire village. Balpara’s 234 families now have access to safe, reliable water. Children attend school regularly, families focus on farming and livestock, and the community has shed the weight of its shared struggle. Health standards have risen, and the village has become a place of progress and promise.

For the Mandal family, the taps symbolise freedom from years of hardship. Their story, like that of Balpara, is a testament to how clean water can change lives – not just by quenching thirst, but by restoring hope, dignity, and the opportunity to thrive.

## নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের সেবার মাধ্যমে বলপাড়া গ্রামে মন্ডল পরিবারের জীবনে পরিবর্তন

গ্রাম: বলপাড়া

গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েত: পাঞ্জুল

জেলা: দক্ষিণ দিনাজপুর

দক্ষিণ দিনাজপুর জেলার হিলি ব্লকের পানজুল গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েতের সীমান্ত গ্রামের বলপাড়ায় মদন চন্দ্র মণ্ডল তাঁর স্ত্রী মনু ও তাদের পরিবার জীবন সংগ্রামের ভার বহন করে কাটাচ্ছেন। দেবব্রত এবং তন্তু নামের বিশেষ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন দুই শিশুর বাবা-মা হিসাবে, তাদের নিরন্তর যত্ন এবং চাহিদা পূরণ করার অদম্য লড়াইকে ঘিরে। তবে একটি সমস্যা তাদের ব্যতিব্যস্ত করে রেখেছে নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের পরিষেবা না থাকা।



দেবব্রত এবং তন্তু তাদের বাড়িতে।  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরি বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

প্রতিদিন, মনুর ক্লাস্তিকর রুটিন ছিল। কাছাকাছি কোনও নির্ভরযোগ্য কল বা চাপাকল না থাকায়, তিনি পরিবারের জন্য জল ভারী পাত্র করে বয়ে নিয়ে আসতেন এক চাপাকল থেকে দীর্ঘ পথ হেঁটে। চাপাকলটিতে প্রায়শই অতিরিক্ত চাপ থাকতো, কড়া রোদের নীচে দীর্ঘ অপেক্ষার কারণে, ফিরতি যাত্রার আগেই মনু ক্লাস্ত হয়ে পড়তেন।

বাড়িতে, দেবব্রত এবং তন্তু তার জন্য একা একা অপেক্ষা করত এবং যতবার মনু তাদের একা ছেড়ে বাইরে যেত প্রতিবারই তার হৃদয় ভার হয়ে থাকতো। "আমি ওদের এক মুহূর্ত একা ছেড়ে থাকতে পারতাম না, কিন্তু দূর থেকে জল বয়ে আনা ছাড়া আর কোন উপায় ছিলো না," এই অন্তহীন, কঠিন দিনের স্মৃতিতে তার কণ্ঠ ভারী হয়ে আসছিলো।

কাজ তার কেবলমাত্র জল বয়ে শেষ হয়নি। যে জল

আনতেন তা প্রায়শই ঘোলাটে হতো। জলবাহিত রোগে অসুস্থতার কারণে স্বাস্থ্য ভেঙে পড়া এবং চিকিৎসার খরচ পরিবারকে বিপর্যস্ত করে দিয়েছিলো।

মদন, একজন কৃষক, তার পরিবারের ভরণপোষণের জন্য অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম করছিলেন। জল আনার জন্য সময় ব্যয় করায় চাষাবাদ বা সন্তানদের যত্ন নেওয়ার সুযোগ কেড়ে নিয়েছিল, এমন একটি কষ্টের চক্র তৈরি করেছিল যা ভাঙ্গা অসম্ভব বলে মনে হয়েছিল। বছরের পর বছর ধরে, তাদের জীবন এই নিরলস যুদ্ধে ক্লাস্ত। কোনো ভাবে অবস্থার পরিবর্তনের এক সামান্য আশা শুধুমাত্র তাদের ছিল।

তারপর সরকারি উদ্যোগে নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা চালু হল, সরাসরি তাদের বাড়িতে পরিষ্কার, নলবাহিত পানীয় জল আসে। মনুকে আর তার সন্তানদের ছেড়ে যেতে হয়নি জল আনার জন্য। তাদের বাড়ির কলগুলি কেবল জলই নয়, স্বাস্থ্য, সুরক্ষা এবং মর্যাদার অনুভূতিও এনেছিল যা এত দিন ধরে অনুপস্থিত ছিল।

বলপাড়ার ২৩৪টি পরিবার এখন নিরাপদ, নির্ভরযোগ্য জলের পরিষেবা পাচ্ছে। শিশুরা নিয়মিত স্কুলে যায়, পরিবারগুলি কৃষিকাজ এবং গবাদি পশুপালনের দিকে মনোনিবেশ করে। স্বাস্থ্যের মান বেড়েছে, এবং গ্রাম হয়ে উঠেছে উন্নতি ও প্রতিশ্রুতির জায়গা।

মন্ডল পরিবারের জন্য, কলগুলি বছরের পর বছর কষ্ট থেকে মুক্তির প্রতীক। তাদের গল্প, বলপাড়ার মতো, পরিষ্কার জল কীভাবে জীবনকে বদলে দিতে পারে তার প্রমাণ - শুধু তৃষ্ণা নিবারণের মাধ্যমে নয়, আশা, মর্যাদা এবং উন্নতির সুযোগ পুনরুদ্ধার করে।



"মনু মণ্ডল, দেবব্রত এবং তন্তুর মা।"  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরি বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



"পরিষ্কার জল আমার পরিবারের জন্য আরাম, স্বাস্থ্য এবং সুরক্ষা এনেছে। এখন আর আমাকে তাদের একা রেখে জল আনতে দীর্ঘ সময় বাইরে থাকতে হয় না," বলেন মনু, তার

কৃতজ্ঞতা তার শব্দে স্পষ্ট। এখন নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার জল প্রবাহিত হওয়ায়, পরিবারটি আরও সুস্থ হয়েছে এবং অসুস্থতার অবিরাম ভয় অতীতের অংশ হয়ে গেছে।



## 15. Lakshmi Murmu: Rising from Adversity, One Step at a Time

**Gram Panchayat:** Gonpur

**Block:** Mohammad Bazar

**District:** Birbhum

Every morning in Moubellia village, Lakshmi Murmu began her day with a heavy heart and an even heavier load. Her family depended on her to fetch water from a distant stream, a task that consumed hours of her time and drained her energy. The stream, once a lifeline, had begun to dry up, forcing her to walk further and carry back less. With no other source of income, Lakshmi also ventured into the forest, collecting leaves to sell. Her earnings were meager, and each day felt like a struggle for survival.

As her family grew, so did her responsibilities. Fetching water, cooking, tending to her children, and gathering leaves left her with no time to dream of a better future. The drying stream only deepened her struggles, and the thought of how to provide for her family weighed heavily on her mind. Life in Moubellia seemed to stand still, bound by hardship and scarcity.

There came a turning point in her life when Jal Jeevan Mission came with a promise of clean drinking water through functional household tap connection (FHTC), marking a quiet but profound transformation in Lakshmi's life. The installation of a FHTC at her doorstep brought a sense of ease and comfort she had never known before.

As she watched the tap flow for the first time, a profound sense of relief settled over her – a long-carried burden, both physical and emotional, seemed to finally ease.



Lakshmi Murmu enjoying the benefits of clean tap water  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

Now, Lakshmi wakes up to a different reality. The hours she once spent fetching water are now devoted to expanding her leaf-selling business. With more time and renewed energy, she gathers and sells more leaves, increasing her income. Clean water at home has improved her family's health, as they no longer suffer from waterborne illnesses. For the first time in years, she feels a sense of stability and hope.

*"Ami amar dinogulo joler chinta kore katatam. Ekhon, ami amar kaj ebong poribarar bhoishyot niye monojog dite pari."* (I used to spend my days worrying about water. Now, I can focus on my work and my family's future), Lakshmi says with a smile that reflects her newfound confidence. Her faith in the government's efforts has been restored, and she dreams of a brighter future – one where her children can have opportunities she never did.

The impact of Jal Jeevan Mission extends beyond Lakshmi's household. In Moubellia, the taps flow steadily, bringing clean water to every family. Children now attend school regularly, their health no longer compromised by unsafe water. Women in the village, once burdened by the daily grind of fetching water, have reclaimed their time and are using it to pursue livelihoods, care for their families, and contribute to the community's growth.



Excited children running through Moubellia village spreading news that water is coming from the taps!  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

*Lakshmi Murmu's story is a reflection of countless others in Moubellia and beyond. Her journey from hardship to hope is a testament to how access to clean water can empower individuals, uplift communities, and pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. Today, as the taps continue to flow, Moubellia shines as an example of the transformative power of water, a resource that changes lives in ways that go far beyond quenching thirst.*



Residents of Moubellia enjoying a group dance with 'dhamsa' & 'madol', expressing their joy  
Source: PHED, West Bengal



Moubellia PWSS  
Source: PHED, West Bengal

Padma Mandi lives alone at home. She works in the fields. She mentioned that since there was no handpump at home, she had to go far away to another neighbourhood to fetch water. As a result, she couldn't get water on time, which affected her work. Now, after receiving a tap from the PHED, she has greatly benefited, and the people in the neighborhood are also very pleased. Their families and the people in the neighborhood express their gratitude to the government.

## লক্ষ্মী মুর্মু: প্রতিকূলতাকে অতিক্রম করে, এক ধাপ করে এগিয়ে চলা

গ্রাম: মৌবেলিয়া  
গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েত: গোনপুর  
ব্লক: মোহাম্মদ বাজার  
জেলা: বীরভূম

প্রতি সকালে মৌবেলিয়া গ্রামে লক্ষ্মী মুর্মুর দিন শুরু করতেন ভারাক্রান্ত মন আর আরো এক দিনের সংগ্রাম নিয়ে। তার পরিবার নির্ভর করত দূরের এক শীর্গকায় নদীর উপর, যেখান থেকে জল আনতে অনেকটা সময় আর পরিশ্রম করতে হতো। গরমকালে এই নদী শুকিয়ে গেলে আরও দূরে হাঁটতে হতো এবং কম জলেই বাড়ির কাজ সারতে হতো। পারিবারিক উপার্জন সীমিত থাকায় লক্ষ্মী জঙ্গলে যেতেন শাল পাতা সংগ্রহ করতে, যা বিক্রি করতেন। তার উপার্জন ছিল সামান্য, আর প্রতিদিনই ছিল টিকে থাকার জন্য এক কঠিন লড়াই।

তার পরিবার বড় হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তার দায়িত্বও বেড়েছে। জল আনতে যাওয়া, রান্না করা, সন্তানদের দেখভাল এবং পাতা সংগ্রহ—এই সব কাজের ভিড়ে তার নিজের ভবিষ্যৎ নিয়ে স্বপ্ন দেখার কোনো সময়ই ছিল না। কাছাকাছি নিরাপদ জলের উৎস না থাকায় তার সংগ্রামের মাত্রা আরও বাড়িয়ে দিয়েছিল, আর সংসার কিভাবে চালানো যাবে সেই চিন্তা তাকে দিনরাত তাড়িয়ে বেড়াত। মৌবেলিয়ার জীবন যেন থমকে ছিল কষ্ট ও অভাবের মধ্যে।

তার জীবনে এক মোড় আসে যখন জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরি বিভাগ তার বাড়িতে কল সংযোগের (FHTC) মাধ্যমে নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের পরিষেবা দেয়, যা লক্ষ্মীর জীবনে এক গভীর পরিবর্তন নিয়ে আসে। তার বাড়িতে নলবাহিত পানীয় জলের সংযোগ স্থাপন তার জীবনে এমন এক আরাম



"লক্ষ্মী মুর্মু: নলের নিরাপদ জলে পেয়েছেন নতুন জীবনের আনন্দ"  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরি বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

ও স্বস্তি নিয়ে আসে, যা তিনি আগে কখনও অনুভব করেননি।

প্রথমবার কল থেকে জল প্রবাহিত হতে দেখে, তার মনে এক গভীর স্বস্তির অনুভূতি হয়—দীর্ঘকাল ধরে বহন করা শারীরিক ও মানসিক বোঝা যেন অবশেষে লাঘব হল।

নলবাহিত পানীয় জল পরিষেবা লক্ষ্মীর পরিবার ছাড়িয়ে পুরো মৌবেলিয়া গ্রামে ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে। গ্রামে প্রতিটি পরিবারেই নিরাপদ জল সরবরাহ হচ্ছে। শিশুরা এখন নিয়মিত স্কুলে যাচ্ছে, তাদের স্বাস্থ্য আর অপরিষ্কার জলের কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে না। গ্রামের নারীরা, যারা আগে প্রতিদিন জল আনার কষ্টে ক্লান্ত থাকতেন, এখন তাদের সময় ফিরে পেয়েছেন এবং তা জীবিকা নির্বাহ, পরিবার দেখাশোনা এবং সমাজের উন্নয়নে কাজে লাগাচ্ছেন।

লক্ষ্মী মুর্মুর গল্প মৌবেলিয়া এবং এর বাইরের আরও অসংখ্য মানুষের জীবনের প্রতিফলন। তার সংগ্রাম থেকে আশার পথে যাত্রা দেখায়, কিভাবে নলবাহিত নিরাপদ পানীয় জলের পরিষেবা মানুষকে উদ্যম দিতে পারে, সমাজকে উন্নত করতে পারে এবং এক উজ্জ্বল আগামী নির্মাণের পথ খুলে দিতে পারে। আজ, যখন কল থেকে জল প্রবাহিত হয়, মৌবেলিয়া এক উজ্জ্বল উদাহরণ হিসেবে উঠে এসেছে, দেখিয়ে দেয় যে কিভাবে জল শুধু তৃষ্ণা মেটানোর বাইরে জীবনকে পরিবর্তন করতে পারে।

"আমি আমার দিনগুলো জলের চিন্তা করে কাটাতাম। এখন, আমি আমার কাজ এবং পরিবারের ভবিষ্যৎ নিয়ে মনোযোগ দিতে পারি," লক্ষ্মী হাসি মুখে বলেন, যা তার নবজাগৃত আত্মবিশ্বাসকে প্রকাশ করে। সরকারের প্রচেষ্টার প্রতি তার বিশ্বাস আবার ফিরে এসেছে, আর তিনি এখন এক উজ্জ্বল ভবিষ্যতের স্বপ্ন দেখেন—একটি ভবিষ্যৎ, যেখানে তার সন্তানেরা এমন সুযোগ পাবে যা তিনি কখনও পাননি।



"উৎসাহিত শিশুরা মৌবেলিয়া গ্রামে দৌড়ে খবর ছড়িয়ে দিচ্ছে যে নল থেকে জল আসছে!"  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরি বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



এখন, লক্ষ্মী এক ভিন্ন বাস্তবতার সঙ্গে দিন শুরু করেন। যে সময় তিনি আগে জল আনতে ব্যয় করতেন, এখন তা পাতা বিক্রির ব্যবসা বাড়ানোর জন্য ব্যয় করেন। বেশি সময় ও নতুন উদ্যম নিয়ে তিনি আরও বেশি পাতা সংগ্রহ করে বিক্রি করেন, যার ফলে তার উপার্জন বেড়েছে। বাড়িতে নিরাপদ জল থাকার কারণে তার পরিবারের স্বাস্থ্যও উন্নত হয়েছে, কারণ তারা আর জল বাহিত রোগে আক্রান্ত হয় না। দীর্ঘ সময় পর, তিনি এক স্থিতিশীলতা ও আশা অনুভব করছেন।



"মৌবেলিয়া পানীয় জল সরবরাহ প্রকল্প)  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার



মৌবেলিয়ার বাসিন্দারা 'ধামসা' এবং  
'মাদল'-এর সুরে গ্রুপ  
নৃত্য মেতে উঠে তাঁদের আনন্দ প্রকাশ করছেন।  
জনস্বাস্থ্য কারিগরী বিভাগ, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার

## Where Water Flows, Life Grows



Empowered women celebrating the success of community-driven initiatives under the Har Ghar Jal programme  
Source: PHED, West Bengal



Transforming lives with clean water access – a step towards healthier and happier rural communities  
Source: PHED, Chhattisgarh





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