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HOW WOMEN OF THARU SCHEDULED TRIBE ENSURE DRINKING WATER THROUGH INDIA MARK - II HAND PUMP

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LUCKNOW U. P. INDIA.

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NOW WOMEN OF THARU SCHEDULED TRIBE
ENSURE DRINKING WATER THROUGH
INDIA MARK-II H.P.

A Report on
Training and Follow-up programme

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THARU SCHEDULED TRIBE WOMEN
ENSURE DRINKING WATER THROUGH
INDIA MARK-II HAND PUMP

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THARU SCHEDULED TRIBE WOMEN ENSURE DRINKING WATER

THROUGH INDIA MARK-II HAND PUMP

[In Distt.- Khari of U.P.]

A Seminar on "Women's contribution in the field of water supply and sanitation was organized by Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific [ESCAP] and International Research and Training Institute for Advancement of Women [INSTRAW] of UNITED NATIONS, Bangkok in Jan.1989. Ample opportunity was available to interact with the participants from the various countries and the resource persons of international stature. The subject drew serious attention of all the participants, of which majority were women. After a week long deliberations, the conclusions and recommendations drawn were encouraging, with respect to the involvement of women in water supply and sanitation projects and it was unanimously agreed that the involvement of women in planning, implementing and maintaining the drinking water supply projects, will have definite impact on the betterment of the services and the Socio-economic condition of women. A-part from this, the women's association in this field will ensure community participation for proper utilization of services. Summary of the discussions held in the seminar, is given in annexure-1.

Women take problem of drinking water to heart, because where there is no drinking water or running water, women spend hours hauling water for many uses and caring for children sick with water borne diseases. The consequences of the inadequacy of safe drinking water are far reaching and it hits the women most severely. As the women are drawers, managers, users, family health educators, motivators and agents of change; hence they are responsible in this regard not only for their health but also for the health of their families and the community at large. The extent of women's involvement as well as consequences are virtually not known

as such their participation and involvement in installation and maintenance of water supply systems, needs immediate attention.

Considering the women's vital role as drawers, managers and users of drinking water, their involvement and participation be made easy by training them suitably. Once the women's participation is ensured the hardships faced by them will get minimised to a large extent.

An effort in this direction has been initiated by organizing a training camp for women of Tharu Tribal Community in District Kheri. One month's training camp was arranged by U.P. Jal Nigam under TRYSEM [Training to ^{RURAL} youth for self employment] programme in order to equip the rural women with the boring techniques and maintenance know how of India Mark-II hand pumps which at present is the major source of safe drinking water, in villages. The details of TRYSEM PROGRAMME and course contents of the training programme are enclosed as annexure-2.

The training camp started on 5th of May, 1989 and lasted for one month. A group of fifteen women of the age agroup ranging from 18 to 35 years, [list of candidates given in annexure-3] was selected to be trained in the installation and maintenance techniques of India Mark-II hand pumps. During one month's training programme the selected group of women was given sufficient exposure so that afterwards they not only are capable of keeping the system runing but will also be in the position to take care of keeping the surroundings and platforms clean and educate the fellow villagers in better understanding of health and hygiene aspects of clean drinking water. With the help of UNICEF staff who took keen interest in this effort of U.P. Jal Nigam, the group of women were shown films on environmental-sanitation, personal-hygiene and health hazards of polluting otherwise safe drinking water source. The venue for this camp was kept at Project Centre situated in Chandan Chauki [Distt. Kheri] near Nepal border, in order to facilitate the trainees to devote maximum time for training. The group of women took keen interest in learning the

job."Inspite of lack of basic education among the trainees, their keenness and efforts to learn the english names of the parts of hand pumps, was worth appreciating. Their participation and involvement was spontaneous and natural: The photographs taken of job performance during training, are given at the end of this report.

The idea behind selecting the women of Tharu Tribal community for this training had been their history full of gallantry and prosperity as they are said to be hailing from the royal dynasty of great warrior and patriot late Maharana Pratap. Women of this community are physically strong, hard working and constitute the major working force in this area.

It will not be out of place to mention that the district Kheri has been included in Indo-Dutch rural water supply, through Sub Project VI alongwith other Districts. The Dutch mission has laid emphasis on community participation in installation and maintenance of India Mark-II hand pumps. This effort of involving local women in maintenance of India Mark-II hand pumps will perhaps fulfill the requirement of Dutch aided project, to some extent. INDO DUTCH MISSION REPORT on community participation is enclosed as Annexure-4.

The women's involvement in site selection for hand pumps is a vital issue which needs immediate attention of the government for issuing suitable directives in this regard by either amending or extending the existing orders onsite selection by Gram Pradhans.

It is envisaged that this group of trained women will remain responsible for maintenance of India Mark-II hand pumps installed in the villages of Tribal area. The special efforts had been made in this area for motivating and educating the villagers to participate actively in maintaining the system and keep the surroundings clean. For this, display boards, hand bills and audiovisual helps were given. As such the trained women are expected to carry out this component of programme more effectively by contacting the users personally.

FOLLOW-UP PROGRAMME OF AFTER-TRAINING-SUPPORT

The group of women thus trained, is required to be engaged in established hand pump mechanics. The plan to engage them usefully in providing after training support, has been drawn in the following manner.

1. The training has been organized under TRYSEM PROGRAMME which provides facility of loaning with 30% to 50% subsidy for purchase of necessary tools and equipments. This facility is also available to this group of women.

2. Every women out of the group trained, shall be entrusted to loan after atleast 10 hand pumps. They will be responsible for 'preventive maintenance' and also for carrying out major repairs with the help of members of sub groups as mentioned in para 3 below.

3. The above group of 15 women shall be divided into two sub-groups. Each sub group [Repairing team] will be responsible for major repairs under the supervision of skilled mechanic of U.P. Jal Nigam.

- i) Inspection of each hand pump at least twice a month
- ii) Teach and guide the villagers i.e. users regarding the importance of safe drinking water and proper use of hand pumps
- iii) Ensuring the cleaning of platform and the surroundings.
- iv) Ensuring the proper drainage of waste water and educating the villagers regarding the same.
- v) Greasing the necessary parts of hand pumps above ground level
- vi) Tightening the nut bolts of hand pumps and fixing the missing ones.
- vii) To report the major defects at "project centre" situated at Chandan Chauki.

In the Tribal area 107 India Mark-II hand pumps have been installed and 60 more hand pumps are proposed to be installed. In order to keep these 167 nos. of hand pumps functioning regularly, each sub group consisting of 7 to 8 women, shall be able to take care of major repairs including repairs below ground level. These trained women shall be available for carrying out the repairs of defective hand pumps as and when required and directed by U.P. Jal Nigam, within that area.

Each women may function on contract basis or job completion basis. They will be provided with tool boxes and bicycles. Sets of special tool kits necessary for carrying out major repairs shall remain available at "project centre" Chandan Chauki. The necessary spare parts shall be



WOMEN BEING TRAINED IN EXTRACTION
OF 32 MM DIA G.I. PIPE ASSEMBLY
OF INDIA MARK-II HAND PUMP



WOMEN LEARNING BORING PROCESS AND HANDLING
OF PIPE ASSEMBLY OF INDIA MARK-II H.P.



GROUP OF WOMEN EXTRACTING
32 MM DIA G.I. PIPE ASSEMBLY



इण्डिया मार्क II हैंड पम्प

के

रख रखाव एवं प्रयोग हेतु सुझाव

- डायरिया, पेचिश, हेपाटाइटिस, कालरा एवं टाइफाइड जैसी बीमारियों से बचने के लिये हैंड पम्प का पानी पीने हेतु प्रयोग करें।
- हैंड पम्प को धीरे-धीरे आसानी से चलाये।
- हैंड पम्प के चबूतरे एवं आस पास के स्थान की नियमित सफाई करें।
- हैंड पम्प के पास गन्दा पानी, कूड़ा एवं खाद एकत्र न होने दें।
- हैंड पम्प चबूतरे पर नहाने एवं बर्तन व कपड़ा धोने का कार्य कदापि न करें।
- जानवरों को हैंड पम्प के पास न लायें।
- हैंड पम्प आपकी अपनी सम्पत्ति है, इसकी व्यक्तिगत रूप से सुरक्षा करें।

जल ही जीवन है

हैंड पम्प जल

शुद्ध जल



शुद्ध जल

स्वस्थ जीवन

DISPLAY BOARD FOR EDUCATING AND MOTIVATING
THE USERS FOR PROPER USE OF INDIA MARK-II H.P

(Affixed on some permanent object near
each hand pump)



ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TRAINING WOMAN
RECEIVING TOKEN PRIZE AT CLOSING FUNCTION

FORM OF AGREEMENTFor Engaging the trained women as "care taker of
India Mark-II hand pump.

This agreement is drawn between the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P. Jal Nigam Lakhimpur, hereby will be called the "Executive Engineer" and Mrs./MissW/o,D/o..... villageP.O. Chandan Chauki, Tehsil Nighasan, District Lakhimpur Kheri hereby will be called the "care taker" for the maintenance hereby will be called the "work" of India Mark II hand pumps hereby will be called Hand Pumps. The work shall be carried out as per terms and conditions given in para 3 of this agreement. The hand pump care taker shall be paid on the agreed terms as per para 6 of this agreement.

2. The period of agreement can be extended depending on the job performance. Criteria for judging the performance are mentioned in para 5 of this agreement.

3. The care taker is required to maintain the Hand pumps as per list enclosed. The work shall include the preventive maintenance and the repairs of defective hand pumps under the supervision of skilled mechanic as and when directed by the Executive Engineer or his representative. The care taker is required to carry out preventive maintenance on the following lines:

- (i) Each hand pumps from the enclosed list shall be inspected at least twice a month to ensure whether the hand pump is functioning properly. In case of defective hand pumps the exact defect and approximate date on which the defect developed shall be ascertained.
- (ii) Cleaning the hand pump parts above ground level after opening the top cover.
- (iii) Greasing all parts of the hand pumps above ground level.
- (iv) Tightening the loose nut bolts and replacing the missing ones.
- (v) Ensuring the cleanliness of platform drain and the surrounding areas.
- (vi) Educating the users, regarding the proper use of hand pumps health aspects of drinking potable water from hand pump keeping the surroundings clean and ensuring proper drainage of waste water from the hand pumps.

(vii) The defects noticed during the inspection of hand pump shall be entered/got entered in a register available at project centre Chandan Chauki (The information shall be entered in the register by the care taker herself or by the person authorised by the project officer, Chandan Chauki).

Authorised representative of the Executive Engineer shall go to project centre Chandan Chauki twice a month and shall collect the information of the defective hand pumps from the above mentioned register and shall give the date for repair of each hand pump to the care taker. On the date a skilled mechanic shall be deployed by the Jal Nigam who shall get the hand pumps repaired with the help of care taker.

Care taker shall be given a register to enter the names and addresses of the villagers(users) whom she had educated and motivated regarding the use of hand pump, benefits of safe drinking water and ensuring cleanliness around the hand pump. She will get the signatures of the user, near whose house, the hand pump is installed.

4. The necessary tools and plants and spare parts to carry out presentive maintenance and repair work, shall be supplied by the Jal Nigam as and when necessary

5. The authorised representatives of the Executive Engineer shall verify the work done by the care taker and may also be inspected by the Executive Engineer himself and the senior officers of the organisation.

6. The care taker shall be paid Rs. 120/- per hand pump per annum per carrying out the work as per agreement. If the work is not carried out as per terms and conditions in respect of any hand pump under the charge of the care taker the full or part of the payment shall be deducted. The discretion of the Executive Engineer shall be final in this regard. The payment shall be made on monthly basis and shall be released latest by 7th of each month on the basis of certificate issued by the Assistant Engineer

7. The care taker shall be provided a bicycle by the U P Jal Nigam for speedy performance of the work. The Bicycle shall be in running condition through out the period of agreement. Failing which this facility may be withdrawn even before expiry of the agreement

8 The agreement initially is drawn for one year and may be extended for the period agreed upon by both parties but not more than one year at a time

9 The agreement may be cancelled by either party after issuing one months notice at any time, without assigning any reason

10 In the matter of any dispute the decision of the Executive Engineer shall be final and the binding.

I have carefully gone through the terms and conditions of the agreement and I am willing to carry out the work as per provisions of the agreement

WITNESSS

CARE TAKER.

1 GRAM PRADHAN

2. JUNIOR ENGINEER

J N

3 ASSISTANT ENGINEER
J N.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
U.P. JAL NIGAM

DATE:-

Note:- The agreement is required to be drawn on stamped paper of requisit value and the stamp duty shall be borne by the U P. Jal Nigam.

MAINTENANCE OF INDIA MARK-II HAND PUMP.

BLOCK		PALIA KALAN		DISTRICT		KHERI	
SL. NO.	NAME	NAME OF FATHER/	RESIDENT OF VILLAGE	CASTE CATEGORY	NAME OF VILLAGE & NO. OF INDIA MARK-II HAND PUMP INSTALLED WHOSE MAINTENANCE IS BEING DONE	PROVIDED FACILITIES	OTHER DETAILS
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	SMT.MUNNI	W/O SRI GOKRAN	PATCH PEDHA	THARU KHE.MA 94/752	PATCH PEDHA BAKHTA POYA MORA PURWA CHANDAN CHOWKI (PARIYOJNA KARYALAYA) TOTAL	3 3 2 1 1 1 <u>10</u>	1. TOOLS AND WORKING OTHER SINCE 20.6.89 MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR HAND PUMP MAINTENANCE. 2. ₹.120.00 PER H.P. PER YEAR (₹.10.00 H.P./MONTH) ON EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE.
2.	SMT RAMDULARI	W/O CHANDAR	BALERA	THARU KHE.MA 27/146	BALERA BELDADI GHUSKIA PARSIA MOINCHI (HAMLET OF PARSIA)	2 2 3 2 1 <u>10</u>	AS ABOVE. WORKING SINCE 20.6.89
3.	KM. MEENA	D/O MADHURI PARSAD	BANGAWAN	HARIJAN - 177/335	BANGAWAN KAJARIA BANKATI	2 3 5 <u>10</u>	AS ABOVE -DO-
4.	KM.KUSUM	D/O SUKHLAL	BANGAWAN	HARIJAN - 180/358	SEDHAMEDHA MOODA SIRIYA PADHA	3 4 3 <u>10</u>	AS ABOVE WORKING SINCE 4.7.89 FOR SEDHAMEDHA & FOR REST SINCE 22.7.89
5.	SMT.KANHA	W/O SRI BHAGI- RATH	PATCHPEDHA	THARU LAGITU 90/695	RAM NAGAR RAMGARH BUDHAPURWA PURENA CHANDAN CHOWKI	2 2 1 2 2 <u>9</u>	- PROPOSED DATE OF WORK 1.8.89

4/81

It is the feeling of elevation that counts

LUCKNOW:

In a small area to the North of the famous Dudhwa National Park in Lakhimpur Khari district of Uttar Pradesh, bordering Nepal, are situated 39 villages of Tharu tribals. Women enjoy a special status in this community. They are physically strong and hard working and constitute the major working force in the area. By tradition they are free from inhibitions in contrast to non-tribal women of the district and a casual visitor would never fail to notice their ubiquitous presence in their traditional colourful attire in the lush green, densely forested land sparsely with sugarcane and paddy fields.

The special status enjoyed by Tharu women has prompted Mrs. Heera Sharma, the only woman superintending engineer of the UP Jal Nigam, to conduct a new experiment in training rural women in mechanical skills. The experiment aims at achieving the twin objectives of creating local technicians for the maintenance of the Nigam hand pumps installed in the area to provide drinking water to the people as well as ensuring community participation.

Mrs. Sharma says women take the problem of drinking water to heart, because where there is no drinking or running water, they spend hours hauling water. As women are mainly drawers, managers and users of drinking water, they are responsible not only for themselves but also to the family and community as well.

The extent of women's involvement and its consequences are not known, as such their par-

ticipation in installation and maintenance of water supply systems can be interesting to experiment with. It should, however, be amply clear that once participation of women is ensured, the hardship faced by them would be minimised to a great extent.

An effort in this direction was initiated by organising a training camp for women of the Tharu community in May last. The one-month camp was arranged by Jal Nigam under TRYSEM (Training to Youth for Self Employment) programme to equip the rural women with boring techniques and maintenance know-how of India Mark II hand pumps which are being installed in the area to provide drinking water.

A group of 15 women was selected to learn the installation and maintenance techniques. The selected group was given exposure so that its members were not only capable of keeping the system running but were also in a position to take care of keeping the surrounding sanitation, personal hygiene and health hazards of polluting otherwise safe drinking water sources. The venue of the training project was Chandan Chowki, in the heart of 'Tharu land' nearly 100 kms from the district headquarters.

A follow-up programme of after training support was prepared for a gainful exploitation of the training results. The programmes envisaged handing over specified number of installed hand pumps to trained women who would be responsible for 'preventive maintenance' and also for carrying out major repairs in due course.

For preventive maintenance every trained woman is required to perform inspection of each hand pump under her charge at least once a month. She would teach and guide the users regarding the importance of safe drinking water and proper use of hand pumps. Ensuring cleaning of platform and the surrounding proper drainage of water, greasing the necessary parts of hand pumps above ground level, tightening nutbolts and fixing misplaced ones are also among their many jobs. In case of major defects, they are required to report to the project centre at Chandan Chowki.

Considering the results obtainable the programme does not appear to be over ambitious. Out of the 15 trained women, seven are already on the job and their performance is appreciated by the community. Ram Dulari, a young woman with a small child has been made responsible for the preventive maintenance of 19 hand pumps in nine villages. She comes from village Balera and villages under her charge are situated within a radius of a few kilometres from her village. She feels she can manage the job well and can increase her operational area if she had a bicycle.

The same is the feeling of other women. They do not complain of the meagre amount of Rs. 350 they get for the maintenance of a hand pump a month as they feel an increased mobility will result in increased income which is not very difficult. In the case of Ram Dulari, she earns Rs. 350 a month, not so paltry in the rural economy of the area.

Part time job

Jal Nigam officials express their difficulty in crediting the amount as the total amount for hand pump maintenance has been fixed at Rs. 350 only per annum. This also includes the cost of spare parts. Then for the women it is only a part time job. If they look after two to three hand pumps every day, their day's work is done.

The engineers are still conscious of the fact that if a method could be found to make the job more profitable, the programme would be more successful. The executive engineer-in-charge of the district Mr. R. K. Sharma said that he was planning to train mechanics who could undertake major repairs and installation of hand pumps well. An all women group would not be practicable but efforts could be made to prepare mixed groups with men and women belonging to the same families. This may provide whole time employment to the trained personnel, Mr. Sharma said.

Monetary considerations are not at all important for every one and in some cases the woman is ready to accept the meagre amount as what matters most for her is the sense of possession and pride she derives from the fact that she has been accorded a superior status by her selection as one who has to play a supervisory role in the community. Pana Devi from village Barbata is an elderly woman belonging to a comparatively well-off tribal family. She cannot undertake journeys to other villages because of her age. But she readily accepted the job of a maintenance mechanic for the three hand pumps installed in her own village. For her, it is not the money but the feeling of elevation that counts.

This aspect of the emerging situation seems to have its own beneficial effects in the Terai area.



Keeping the pump base and surroundings clean.



A trained Tharu woman explaining the scheme's benefits.

neri is not a water scarcity district. The sense of the term. The district is situated in the foot of the Himalayas and rainfall is average. What makes it a problem is the unavailability of safe drinking water. The marshy forests and breeding of mosquitoes and bacteria contaminate the entire water system through seepage of surface water. Authorities have, therefore, cautioned against use of first strata underground water in all the 1,690 villages of the district.

The situation in the villages, however, shows that the benefits of being ignored by a majority of the villagers. Though wells providing water only at a depth of a few feet have almost been discarded, hand pumps are still in use in large numbers. This is because the number of Jal Nigam hand pumps is not adequate. To save the cost of going to the nearest India Mark II hand pump, which may, in certain cases, be 50 km away, villagers many a time prefer to use shallow pumps at their doors, not realizing that by doing so they are inviting disease. Trained by the Jal Nigam at this time, the women also come into the picture, dissuading the villagers from using unsafe water and persuading them to use only Nigam hand pump water. Besides, mechanics they have trained and educators for the community extension and don't's of health and hygiene. Staff Reporter



Jal Nigam engineers educating tribal women on maintenance.

INDEX MAP
DISTRICT ALMORA
SCALE 1:25000
INFRA STRUCTURE

