

JEEVIKA Community Based Organizations Role in Implementation of Pipe Water System under Jal Jeevan Mission: A Study of Gaya District.

Dr. Renu Singh¹, Santosh Kumar Singh²

¹Assistant Professor, V. S College Chandauli, Affiliated to Kashi Vidyapith Varanasi, India.

²Block Development Officer, Dumraon, Buxar India.

Abstract

Water is a vital resource. It is equated with life since it directly affects people's health. One of the most fundamental human necessities and a human right is access to clean, enough water to drink. Numerous studies have revealed that community involvement is essential for the project's effective operation as it relates to the provision of drinking water. Participation of community-based organizations, such as SHGs, improves the program's quality of output. Women's engagement within class and caste considerations is guaranteed by incorporating Jeevika SHGs group women participation is ensured to ensure the sustainability of JJM and similar projects. The Bihar government has given these two key projects a boost by putting them in the Nischay programmes, which include building toilets and providing drinking water through pipes in rural regions. The execution of this strategy will be a great challenge, but scientific thought will help. With the sort of overall thinking that the Panchayati Raj Department has put out by the Government of Bihar, there is no question that the ambition of distributing drinking water through pipes in all rural parts of Bihar would be achieved within the next 3 to 4 years. This essay attempts to examine the function of Jeevika SHGs, local community-based organizations, in the development of Bihar's Pipe Drinking Water (PWS) system.

Keywords: - Jeevika, SHGS, Community, Pipe Water System (PWS), MDGs, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) and National Rural drinking water Programme (NRDWP), Sustainable Development

1.1 Introduction

Water is an essential resource. It is linked with life because of its direct impact on human health. Drinking water in appropriate quantity and quality is a basic human necessity and a human right (SDC 2005). The most important infrastructure service that is indicative of quality of life is the provision of clean, sufficient, and inexpensive water. Fresh water is the most significant renewable resource since it is difficult to clean, expensive to transport, and impossible to substitute (Mehta 2012). Millions of people in India rely on unpredictable, low-quality water supplies that are expensive and far from their homes. Water shortage has various socioeconomic consequences. Women and girls are entrusted with the responsibility of gathering water for domestic chores in 72 percent of households globally (Unicef, 2011). As a result, if there is a lack of clean water, the poor and women are the first to suffer. Water governance is considered as a tool for not just addressing the flaws of the larger

governance process, but also for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Governance as a process entails changes in human behaviour, which are frequently mediated by values, norms, and laws for the common welfare of society (Rogers and Hall,2003). The planning commission has stated that women and children who constitute 70 percent of the population deserve special attention thus enduring gender based inequities faced by girls and women's must be accorded highest priority(pc,2011)

The unfortunate distinction of having the most individuals defecating in the open belongs to India (Singh, 2019). Only 2% of the world's landmass and 4% of its freshwater resources are in India. According to estimates from 1951, there were 5,177 cubic metres of freshwater available annually per person, but in 2011 there were only 1,545 cubic metres. According to estimates, it will be about 1,368 cubic metres in 2019 and is expected to further decline to 1,293 cubic metres in 2025. If current trends continue, freshwater availability is probably only going to be 1,140 cubic metres in 2050. (DDWS, 2019).Clean and safe drinking water is important for the overall health and wellbeing; therefore, access to safe potable drinking water is one of the basic amenities of humankind. Among the various sources of water, groundwater is considered to be the safest source of drinking water (Rawat etal, 2019).

Bihar is the most populated and least affluent state in the country, with an estimated 83 million citizens. According to the 2011 census, its inhabitants make up one-seventh of India's population who live below the poverty line (BPL). Bihar's rural areas are where poverty is most prevalent. World Bank, 2018. Bihar continues to have the lowest human development index among India's major states (HDI). 90% of the people in Bihar are employed in agriculture. The nation's lowest health and educational outcomes are for rural women. Only 34% of individuals are literate, and the average maternal mortality rate in the country is 404. (Census, 2011). The percentage of those living in poverty is 0.246, according to the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Several policy papers have emphasised the significance of women in water management. When women SHGs are consulted, water projects are more likely to be technically sound, conveniently located, and well-used and maintained. A significant focus is put on guaranteeing the participation and involvement of women in water development initiatives under the UN resolution on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life" (2005-2015). (Singh,2020). Launched in 2017, the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) sought to "allow all families to have access to and utilise safe & sufficient drinking water inside premises to the degree practicable" by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (UN-SDG 6). Providing rural communities with a piped water supply for residential use and drinking is a highly important and difficult endeavour. Important lessons have been learned from the water supply programmes over the years, including the fact that insufficient investments to cover both capital requirements and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) led to failing water delivery systems. Poor upkeep of the projects caused investments to turn into white elephants. Numerous studies have revealed that community involvement is essential for the smooth operation of initiatives involving the delivery of drinking water. Participation from SHGs and panchayats improves the scheme's quality of output. Studies showed that community involvement is essential for the smooth operation of programmes involving the provision of drinking water.

1.3 Objective

The purpose of this research is to investigate the involvement of Jeevika SHGs community-based organizations in the development of the Pipe Drinking Water System (PWS) in Bihar..

1.4 Study Area and Methodology

Despite robust monsoons, Bihar suffers from a severe water deficit throughout the dry season. The research is being conducted in the Bihar district of Gaya. Gaya District's population is predominantly rural, with 86.76% living in villages. Gaya district has a rural population of 3,809,817 people, of which 1,960,592 are male and 1,849,225 are female. The sex ratio in rural Gaya district is 943 females for every 1000 males. According to the 2011 census, the literacy rate in Gaya district's rural parts is 61.01%. Male and female literacy rates were 71.32 and 50.02 percent, respectively. In total, 1,895,908 persons were literate, with males outnumbering females by 1,143,417 to 752,491.

Gaya district has one of the highest SC population densities in the state, according to its demographic profile. The majority of the castes that the District represents speak Magahi. In the area, there are about thirty castes. Six of them—the scheduled castes Mushar, Chamar, Dhobi, Dom, Dusadh, Pasi, and Netua—fall under this group. 19 "Backward Castes" exist, including the Bari, Bhar, Bind, Gaderia, Kalwar, Kamkar, Kanu, Koeri, Kohar, Kurmi, Lohar, Nau, Nonia, Paneri, Rajbhar, Sonar, Tatwa, Teli, and Yadav. The 'Forward Caste' group also includes the Brahmins, Bhumihars, Kayasthas, Mahabrahmins, and Rajputs.

The study is founded on a qualitative examination of facts and figures gathered from the field. Data were gathered through concentrated group discussions with the community of women. The current study's findings are based on qualitative research carried out in five villages in the Gaya district in three separate Blocks and interviews with 100 project beneficiaries, 50 of whom are jeevika and 50 of whom are not. Because of the advanced state of PWS implementation in these communities, community involvement in decision-making and leadership concerns were adequately handled.

Table 1.1 Distribution of study villages

S. No	District	Block	Panchayat	Village
1.	Gaya	Sherghati	Chitabh kala	Rajabigha
2.		Sherghati	Cherki	Dariyapur
3.		Sherghati	Srirampur	Nawada
4.		Bankebajar	Lutua	Lutua
5.		Bodhgaya	Bakrur	Bakrur

1.4 Jeevika

Bihar Rural Livelihood Project started in 2007 popularly known as Jeevika. This programme is aided by the World Bank. The core strategy of this programme is to create sustainable sources of income and financial inclusion, through self-managed community level organizations, particularly women Self-Help Groups (SHG). The JEEVIKA project design is based on the strategy of building a multi-tiered, self-sustaining, model of community based institutions who self manage their own development processes (Dutta, 2015). Their aim is to create sustainable sources of income and financial inclusion, through self-managed community level organisations, particularly women Self-Help Groups (SHG).

Table :1.2 Progress of Jeevika

Items	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
No Of SHG formed	365150	470220	610808	790411	817169
No of VOs formed	14363	31229	35681	46756	51299

No of CLFs formed	231	318	415	706	843
No of SHG credit linked with banks	121181	221261	391314	587616	655302
Bank Credit(in crores)	659	1300	2993	5358	6206

Source: Jeevika, Government of Bihar

The project strategy is therefore phased in a manner of first horizontally building up a very large number of primary level women based SHG groups with the rural poor, through a saturation policy. Because of the extreme poverty levels in Bihar, the project will first capitalize these SHGs, through investing part of the CIF, to supplement the self savings of these groups. The groups will also be linked to the commercial banks for low cost loans.

In the third phase, the VOs will be federated to form higher level community organizations at the cluster and block levels. These apex community level federations will be responsible for enhancing livelihood activities in a comprehensive manner acting as microfinance institutions for lower level VOs, and economic institutions that take up specific income generating activities based on the assets created at the family level, such as animal husbandry, micro-agriculture etc. For the sustainability of lower level institutions as both sustainable economic and social entities such aggregation is essential.

To ensure that assetisation of the poor is put to productive use and does not just lead to them procuring an asset or cash that is captured by the elite thereby not leading to income streams increasing, a set of service providers will be positioned in the project, through partnerships, who provide forward linkages to markets for products and services on which the poor have a very high outflow today. since women bear the brunt of the burden of poor management, they should be empowered through greater and more effective participation, and women’s involvement would improve governance (United Nations 2005).

1.2 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was started with the intention of giving every rural home a functional household tap connection (FHTC) by the year 2024. The programme primarily focuses on providing services at the home level, such as providing water on a regular basis in an appropriate amount and at the required quality. This calls for the use of modern technology in the development of water sources, the planning and implementation of water supply schemes, the treatment and provision of water, the creation of participatory models for the local community, the empowerment of Gram Panchayats to focus on service delivery, collaboration with other stakeholders, convergence with other programmes, methodical monitoring of the programme, and the automatic collection of data on service delivery to guarantee the quality of services (Prokopy, 2008).

The bulk of Bihar's population lives in rural villages. It was a difficult undertaking to provide everyone with clean drinking water through pipe. The Bihar government placed this tough undertaking at the top of priority and implemented under the "Chief Minister payjal Nischay Scheme". The duty of administering the drinking water delivery programme in rural regions was delegated to three-tier Panchayati Raj administrations under this scheme. The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, enacted in 1992, established a new Part IX to the Constitution named "The Panchayats," including provisions from Article 243 to 243 (O), as well as a new Eleventh Schedule encompassing 29 issues under the Panchayats' powers.

Entry 11 of this schedule assigned drinking water control to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Furthermore, Panchayats can collect and appropriate relevant local taxes and get grant-in-aids to carry

out the aforementioned tasks. In the State Gram Panchayat, a Ward implementation and management committee (WIMC) was constituted at the ward level below the village panchayat, which is about 1 village in the area of 1 ward. WIMCs are formed at the ward level, with the ward member serving as the ex-officio member, and the remaining five members elected by the ward sabha. At least four of the members must be women, preferably from SHGs. WIMC has been given the authority to oversee water governance in Bihar for the last three years.

Table: pipe water drinking connection status in different districts in Bihar

S.No.	District	Total Rural household	% of total household connections with PWS
1.	Araria	627766	36.73
2.	Katihar	542695	38.76
3.	Jamui	397089	38.85
4.	Kishanganj	293158	42.87
5.	Saharsa	334504	43.09
6.	Begusarai	622874	44.34
7.	Supaul	472628	44.52
8.	Madhepura	443988	45.71
9.	Sheohar	187991	46.57
10.	Bhagalpur	529729	46.94
11.	Sitamarhi	947333	47.41
12.	Banka	507855	48.80
13.	Khagaria	320228	49.48
14.	Samastipur	1204087	50.93
15.	Aurangabad	473259	51.88
16.	Purnia	606677	53.21
17.	Munger	236411	53.65
18.	Nawada	368746	55.02
19.	Madhubani	1056382	55.29
20.	Arwal	131537	81.25
21.	Siwan	567885	59.62
22.	Gopalganj	400077	59.79
23.	Kaimur (bhabua)	380372	61.23
24.	Darbhanga	828437	63.02
25.	Vaishali	676901	65.95
26.	Jehanabad	197515	66.75
27.	Purba Champaran	961196	67.42
28.	Patna	685354	68.19
29.	Muzaffarpur	887109	68.34
30.	Sheikhpura	94604	68.38
31.	Rohtas	409023	70.47
32.	Gaya	674954	73.15

33.	Buxar	256828	73.64
34.	Bhojpur	421154	73.78
35.	Saran	620575	74.94
36.	Nalanda	477682	75.22
37.	Lakhisarai	168030	76.09
38.	Pashchim Champanan	558286	77.99
TOTAL		19570949	57.82
L	State Average		

Source: <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/IMISReports/Reports/PWS> reported till (11/12/2020)

Drinking water is included as entry 11 of this schedule, and its management As a result, the Ward wise Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme was put into action. To execute the rural drinking water delivery system for the entirety of Bihar by 2020–21, 20% of the wards in the first year (2017, 30% of the wards in the second year (2018), 30% in the third year (2019), and 20% of the remaining 20% WIMC in the last year (2020) have been targeted (PRIs).

1.3 Implementation of scheme

The initiative was being managed at the state level by the Panchayat Raj Ministry. District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) is chaired by the District Magistrate, and all District level officers are affiliated to DWSC. All recommendations and comments received from Block level committees are discussed there, and various policy level choices are made. The Monitoring committee is led by the Block Development Officer at the Block level. Assistant Engineer and all block level officers from various departments, such as Revenue officer, Panchayati raj officer, agricultural officer, Mnrega officer, and so on, have been assigned to the Block level committee to oversee the scheme's overall technical supervision.

As a result, a full administrative structure is established from top to bottom. This is done from the state to the block level. As a result, the Bihar government has built a comprehensive administrative framework that can effectively administer this strategy. The District Panchayati Raj Officer and the Block Panchayati Raj Officer at the block level are the key offices for monitoring the programme in the position of Member Secretary at the district level. More financial authority is handed to Gram Panchayats by embracing the notion of decentralization. The Bihar government has increased the administrative sanction budget limit for Gram Panchayats to fifteen lakhs for preparing estimations of such plans, and a Junior Engineer is assigned to each panchayat to ensure administrative clearance of these schemes. Under Panchayat sachiv effective supervision, the administration recruited one accountant and one executive assistant. Inside each panchayat. Ward sabha and then gram sabha approve administratively the projects, and the funds are then transferred to the Ward Implementation Management Committee's (WIMC) account.

In this manner, the Ward Implementation Management Committee implements the Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme in around 78000 wards across the state; this complete job is done under the supervision of Gram Panchayat. The state government created provisions for SC/ST community families in ward selection in the first year. Dominated WIMCs must profit from the first phase. As a result of existing societal ideals of cleanliness and contamination, it was discovered that SC/ST has significant challenges when it comes to drinking water (Dutta etal, 2015). The Specialist Department of Public

Health Engineering is working on rural drinking water supply in the ward that is affected by quality, i.e., iron chloride arsenic. While the national average is 38.2% , Bihar have done remarkable progress which percentage is 57.82.

1.4 Findings of the study

She has now begun investing some good effort with the time that was previously spent on locating water over communal water sources. Due to the availability of drinking water in their houses, the adolescent girl who previously worked to gather water is now completing her education and other tasks.

Table 1.5: Time spent in water related activities

	Rural area	Semi Urban
Time spent in a day to fetch water	4 hours	1 hours
Water related domestic activities	1.5 hours	1.5 hours
Cattle related activities with water	1.5 hours	0.5 hours
Total time spent on water related activities	7 hours	3 hours

Women from SHGs claim that this is a viable plan. It is a never-ending design, which implies that water will always enter the house and some problem will require ongoing repair and attention. We have observed from the community that the water supply bill must be paid in the manner indicated at the outset, but the community is delighted as soon as the pure drinking water and toilet facility reach their house courtyard.

According to the findings, community reactions to piped drinking water systems differ depending on their socioeconomic status in society. While the middle and higher classes generally supported the scheme, the poor and weaker parts were highly opposed to the concept of charging for drinking water. The middle class saw the user price for drinking water as 'natural' and more efficient than the state-run supply; the lower class, particularly those from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, saw it as a violation of their rights (Govind, 2017).

According to the findings of the study, WIMCs that are affiliated with SHGs have high scheme compliance. And the community accepts it as a public good, and SHGs women begin controlling the management and upkeep of the PWS.

It was found that people's logical ambition now is to have piped water supply within their family premises, which will aid to enhance their standard of life, resulting in an increase in the Human Development Index (HDI). The provision of safe drinking water in the home would not only enhance the health and economical conditions of the rural people, but will also reduce the drudgery of rural women and girls. In rural locations, basic services such as drinking water, sanitation, and drainage arrangements demand special care. Even when comparing identical economic groupings (poor and non-poor), SCs and STs were found to be trailing behind in closing the gap with a slower pace of development than others and also in maintaining their current levels in 2008-2009. It demonstrates that, even when the same economic conditions prevail, different social groupings achieve differently. The findings indicate that there are elements functioning as limitations depending on social origins, resulting in denial of basic facilities (Kumar, 2014).

1.5 Conclusion

Women's empowerment and some Millennium Development Goals are inextricably linked. According to research, meaningful participation of women in water resource development and management may assist make projects more sustainable and ensuring that infrastructure development produces the highest social and economic benefits to enable progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been launched keeping in mind all earlier implementing mistakes and aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024. It advocates for use of modern technology in planning and implementation of water supply schemes, development of water sources, treatment and supply of water, and development of participatory model of local community, empowering Gram panchayat focus on service delivery, partner with other stakeholders, convergence with other programmes, methodical monitoring of the programme for result oriented growth. Looking at the social element of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation's drinking water delivery system in rural regions, we can see that the eradication of open defecation and the supply of pure drinking water through pipes to their houses has safeguarded women's self-esteem. The rural sanitation index has been improved. She has recently begun doing some beneficial work with the time she spent looking for water over communal water sources. Because of the availability of drinking water in their houses, the adolescent girl who used to work to gather water is now studying and performing other work.

To ensure sustainability of JJM and similar project there is need to put emphasis on women's participation within class and caste factors by involving Jeevika SHGs group women participation is ensured. The Bihar government has given a boost to these two important schemes by including in the Nischay schemes i.e. building toilets and the drinking water scheme through pipes in rural areas. The implementation of this scheme has to face the real challenge, but the scientific thinking with. The kind of overall thinking Panchayati Raj Department has laid down by the Government of Bihar, there is no doubt that in the coming 3 to 4 years, the dream of supplying drinking water through pipes in entire rural areas of Bihar will be realized.

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