

ANYTIME WATER (COMMUNITY OWNED SAFE DRINKING WATER PROJECT)

Inadequacies in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (collectively known as WASH) are responsible for several health problems in India. WHO (2012) estimates that about 40 million people are affected by water borne diseases each year, of which over 75% are children. Nearly 800,000 deaths are attributable to contaminated water and more than 400,000 are attributed to diarrhea alone. Diarrhea and respiratory infections are the biggest causes of death amongst children in India. Reportedly, while 85% households in rural India have sufficient drinking water, only one third (over 30%) of households use treated potable water.



Aim



To set up a community-owned and operated safe drinking water dispensing facility at the village level, that mitigates water-borne health hazards and serves as a model for surrounding villages.

Vision and Approach



ChildFund India is implementing the WASH program in nine locations of India. Everywhere, safe drinking water was a major problem and villagers were suffering from water borne diseases like jaundice, ARI and diarrhoea. The organization's vision is to eliminate these problems through a simple, locally relevant solution. The "Water ATM" is an automated water purification system that dispenses safe water 24X7. It comprises of a water treatment plant, and a sanitary well that are set up with support from the villagers and Panchayat members, who are also responsible for maintaining.



Target area:

9 districts in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Jharkhand



Beneficiaries:

40,000 children, families and community in 9 districts



Project period: 3 years



Highlights



Water ATMs

An innovative intervention Water ATM like bank ATMs, has solved their drinking water needs of over 100,000 people. This is an automated water purification system, which provides access to safe water to people 24x7. Each household can collect at least 20 liters of drinking water per day at a cost of 10 paisa per liter.

Water treatment plant and sanitary wells

With the support of industry experts, water treatment plant sand sanitary wells have been set up at the gram panchayat level. The expertise was provided by companies experienced in installation, operation & maintenance of reverse osmosis water treatment. The facilities are completely owned by the community. The water plant dispenses 500-1000 liters of water every day, meeting the needs of up to 10,000 families.



Behavior change communication

The project supplies essential WASH materials to families and ensures correct usage through regular home visits. In addition, families, mothers' groups, self help groups and PRI members were familiarized with WASH interventions.

Essential WASH materials provided

Each family was provided hygiene kits; adolescent girls were given low cost sanitary napkins.

Linkages with other departments and institutions

Project staff and volunteers establish connections and conduct meetings with the government water department and program for water aid to villages, and other departments of the Panchayati Raj institutions for long-term sustainability of the project.



Impact



Within one year of intervention, more than 200,000 people in the intervention areas have benefited from this innovative project. This includes 40,000 children.