

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF ODISHA

• Background

The Rural Development Department of Odisha was created on 1st July 1990 to deal with Minor Irrigation, Lift Irrigation, Rural Roads, Rural Govt. Buildings, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation sectors. Later, in 1996, the Department was restructured and Minor Irrigation and Lift Irrigation were transferred to Water Resources Department. Further during 2017, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation transferred to Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department.

At present, the Rural Development Department oversees Rural Govt. Buildings and Rural Connectivity. Rural Works Organisation is working out the rural connectivity programme. The Rural Development Department has been very active in water supply in the villages in Odisha. It has devoted large funds towards clean water supply in the villages who have contaminated wells and faulty water supply equipment. It is a remarkable how aggressively the department is pursuing this project. This case study highlights the cases of five villages who we selected for Rural Water Supply Schemes.

• Location, Date

Odisha, 2003

• Areas

Rural (Marlaba, Mandiapalli, Bahalpur, Bandhabhuin and Kandhara villages)

• Stage/Scale

Full Scale

• Objective of the assignment

To provide stable and sustainable rural water supply systems in vulnerable districts

• What was done

- In the villages preliminary surveys were conducted by the Rural Development Department with the support from Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department (RWSS) and Gram Vikash an NGO working in the area.
- The preliminary surveys indicated that the villages did not possess clean water supply systems. Women had to travel long distances to collect usable water for domestic use. This created a long of travelling for women and at times they would not sleep at night because of the scarcity of water. During the summer the handpumps installed would go dry and further reduce the water supply.
- In the case of Mandiapalli and Bandhabhuin, the water supply in the villages through wells and other sources was not able to match the requirements of the current population of the village and estimates incorporating the increase in population of the village over the years revealed even less water availability in future.
- In Bahalpur and Kandhara, the water supply of the village was contaminated with polluted water in two natural wells and high fluoride content in the existing tube wells. Hence, the villagers had a history of skin diseases, diarrhoea and other seasonal diseases that came from polluted and scare water supply.

- The counter to these problems was to install a sustainable low-maintenance water supply system that would provide safe drinking water to the villages. The Rural Development Department with RWSS and Gram Vikash installed pipe lines with electric motors and water storage tanks under the Rural Pipe Water Scheme and the Rural Water Supply Scheme. This provided clean water supply within the homes and storage provisions for scarce months.
- Awareness camps were organised to inform the people on village water supply systems and how to use and maintain clean water for domestic use.

• **Impact**

- Clean water supply has significantly increased.
- The water supply now meets the population needs.
- Improvement of health and hygiene has resulted the better output in fishery, agriculture, wage earning, business and service sectors.
- There is a reduction in work hours of water collection and storage leading to more productivity.
- Overall awareness on sanitation, health and maintenance of clean water for domestic use has increased.
- People are now more protective of their new functioning water supply system and assist in or provide Operation and Maintenance.

• **Challenges and Issues**

- Lack of pipelines and water storage infrastructure
- Lack of awareness on governmental schemes on safe provision of water

• **Innovation**

The government of Odisha installed water supply and storage technology in the villages according to their custom needs. They paired the introduction of new technology with Information, Education and Communication Programs to successfully implement safe water storage and usage practices in the villages.

• **Lessons learnt**

- The existing technology could not provide enough water required by the population. Hence, it needed to be replaced by better water supply and storage systems.
- The usage of local Self Help Groups (SHGs) was an effective tactic to spread awareness and ensure quality outputs of the project with the help of villagers.
- Local inputs on potential water supply and storage technology options helped in providing custom apparatus for the village.

• **Financials**

The projects had a onetime investment between INR 8-50 lakhs depending on the type of equipment needed in the village. The technology was such that the O&M cost was negligible to the point that it can be maintained by the locally trained masons.

• **Economic sustainability/Revenue Model**

Not available

- **Implementer Contact Persons**

- Rural Development Department, Government of Odisha

- **Sources and References**

- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS). (n.d.). Case Studies/Best Practices. Retrieved October 4, 2017, from Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation: <http://www.mdws.gov.in/documents/case-studies-best-practices>
- Rural Development Department. (n.d.). Publications. Retrieved October 4, 2017, from Rural Development Department, Government of Odisha: <http://www.rdodisha.gov.in/content/40>