

# SRI SATHYA SAI DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

## • Background

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was founded in 1972 by Sri Sathya Sai Baba as a Public Charitable Trust with the objective of extending;

*“relief to the poor along with education and medical relief and other works of general public utility as defined in Sec 2(15) of I.T. Act 1961. At no stage would there be any discrimination towards those receiving the services at any of these institutions”* (Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust , 2015-16).

The trust is based on a spiritual foundation however, the work done by the trust in the social sector is significant. The **SOCIOCARE** branch of the trust undertook a project to implement water supply schemes in Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh. The area was affected by excessive fluoride and bacteriological contamination of water with low rainfall and frequent droughts. The reason being the lack of proper water supply and purification systems in the area. Hence, the trust collected funds through private investors after the local government was not able to cope with the needs of the people.

## • Location, Date

Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh (1995-2016)

## • Areas

731 Villages in Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh

## • Stage/Scale

Village Level

## • Objective of the assignment

The objective was to establish proper infiltration wells, summer storage tanks, balancing reservoir for sustainable water supply in the villages.

## • What was done

- A preliminary assessment found contamination and wastage of drinking water in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh because of lack of government infrastructure that supports clean water supply. The Trust then mobilised funds from private donors worldwide.
- A partnership was established between the Government in Planning and Post-Construction Operation and Maintenance, and partnerships with the communities for capacity building of the population to handle operation and maintenance facilities.
- A private firm, Larsen & Toubro was contracted for project management, construction, commissioning and O&M. While, the community gave access to private property and workmen around the clock.
- The project was completed in 18 months and the O&M of the project was handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016.

## • Impact

- Infiltration Wells were built in 262 villages
- Summer Storage Tanks in 97 villages
- Balancing Reservoir in 93 villages
- Protected Water Supply (PWS) in 279 villages
- In Phase II of the project an additional 138 villages were provided with 44 Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizagapatam, Vishakhapatnam, W. Godavari and Chittoor. This was an addition to the first part of the project started in Anantapur.



## • Challenges and Issues

There was a lack of government funds and cooperation in the districts. Hence, the villagers suffered from chronic water contamination diseases, droughts and low rainfall.

## • Innovation

There is a combination of religious beliefs with large scale humanitarian development. The funds were collected by private donors who were followers of Sri Sathya Sai. Hence, where the public sector failed the private religious sector came to the rescue. To use positive religious beliefs for humanitarian development at a vast scale with expert consultations from professionals in the field made it possible for the district of Anantapur and Andhra Pradesh to receive clean water supply.

## • Lessons learnt

Not Available

## • Financials

\$69 Million by voluntary contributions from Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust

## • Economic sustainability/Revenue Model

The O&M of the facilities was handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh

## • Implementer Contact Persons

- Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust  
The Secretary  
[pro@sssct.org](mailto:pro@sssct.org)

## • Sources and References

- Raman, A., & Ramakrishna. (n.a.). Unique Partnership Brings Safe Water to One Million Drought Stricken Poor in India. New Delhi, India: CITI Foundation.
- Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. (2015-16). Annual Report 2015-2016. n.a.: Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.