

RO WATER PLANT- A COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

A STEP TOWARDS FOSTERING GOOD HEALTH AND SELF RELIANCE

The Villages in Narnoor mandals faced an acute shortage of water availability - both for drinking and irrigation purposes. The drinking water was not only scarcely available but was of very poor quality with high levels of fluoride and salinity, thus posing a serious health issue to the the people.

Gadiguda , one such village which is located -29 km from mandal headquarters Narnoor with 120 households and a population of 500 people. Being a Grampachayat headquarter it is visited by many people from the nearby villages to access government services like PHC, High School , Post Office etc.

Around ten years ago, three bore wells were dug in village to meet the water needs of the villagers. However the bore well which was in the heart of the village had fluoride, and due to high salinity in the water it was unfit to drink. The villagers were using the other two bore wells to meet their daily needs of drinking water.

In the village meetings the community raised the issue of safe drinking water during discussions in Entry point Activity of the Watershed program. In 2012 the CPF project staff proposed and supported Watershed Committee of Gadiguda for establishment of 1000 litres capacity RO plant in the village, proving part-time employment to a villager and a source of income to Watershed Committee.



The total cost of the RO plant was Rs 210,000, wherein the village contribution was 40%, of Rs.50, 000/-. In the village they had available space adjacent to the bore well location belonging to the temple; villagers discussed in Gramsabha (village meeting) and unanimously accepted the proposal constructed the room for RO plant and constructed the room with village fund and Sramdan, which enhanced the *social cohesion*.

Social benefits:

The purified water from RO plant is managed by the Watershed Committee of Gadiguda, and is the most accessible safe drinking water source not only for the village but also for other nearby villagers and those who visit the village for other works.

Atram Lashmi bai says with a smile “I used to walk for one kilometer to fetch drinking water which was unclean, but today with this plant; I am getting safe drinking water just near my house”.

The Watershed Committee President Mesram Jaivanthrao can't hide his joy and excitement while narrating RO establishment process and proudly claims "We were aware of the advantages of drinking purified water, CPF proposed RO plant as entry point activity we were overwhelmed and extremely happy that IWMP/CPF has made it possible".

Economic Benefits:

The Committee decided to collect minimum cost to encourage people towards safe drinking water habit, hence initially it was one rupee for 10 liters; later from December onwards it has been increased to Rs.2/- per 10 liters. During first months 6 families regularly took the water, slowly the demand has increased and now around 28 families are regularly taking water. Watershed Committee is successfully managing the plant with the help of an operator. The expenditure incurred for maintaining the plant is met from the income from the plant.

The good quality of purified water will arrest the incidence of diseases and lead to a healthy life.