



SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST (Registered Trust)

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THE DREAM OF SAFE AND CLEAN DRINKING WATER FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN JAWADI HILLS IN VELLORE DISTRICT A REALITY TODAY

Seb's Project have been working with the tribal communities of the Jawadhi Hills for over a decade, with the aim to increase access to education, health and nutrition amongst one of the poorest communities in Tamil Nadu. This community experiences a range of challenges with regards to access to basic resources and water, education, livelihood opportunities and healthcare. Today Seb's project runs 8 primary schools in remote villages making quality education available to every child in these communities.



Need for safe and clean drinking water in Jawadhi hills

Water is the source of our life. It nurtures and sustains all life forms and is among nature's most precious gift to mankind.

The right to water entitles everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use. In the Jawadhi hills the water available from different sources in the village are found to be contaminated. It is a well known fact that there is a direct relationship between water and health. Consumption of unsafe drinking water leads to various water borne diseases resulting in poor health conditions.



Problem identification

Safe drinking water continued to be the biggest challenge in our communities. In the Initial days we visited the communities to collect facts and water samples from the available 26 water points in 8 of the Seb's Projects communities. Making clean water available was our priority, as the water sources tested at CMC labs had shown 99 percent of water tested was polluted with faecal matter and the E.coli levels were very high and worrying, pointing to serious health hazards



Challenges to bring safe drinking water



It was difficult to chlorinate the open wells and the over-head tanks. Another challenge was the, poor supply of electricity

Our children were taught to strain and boil the water for drinking and the same method was practiced in our school premises. Through our children their families were taught to adopt safe drinking practices.

The community recognizing the need and the importance of safe drinking water in addition to the change in behavior amongst our school children was heartwarming.

Since 2016 Seb's team have been in discussion with various water solution companies to explore the possibility of providing sustainable clean drinking water which will benefit the communities in the long run .



Our partners

Introduction to Tata Swach: *Tata Swach is committed to make water, clean, safe & affordable to one and all for years to come. The core value of the Tata Swach lies in sustainable development through innovation, and therefore Tata Swach offers eco-friendly products for different requirements.*

Ncourage Social Enterprise Foundation: *A wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Chemicals Ltd. understands the importance of drinking water and thus has a vision to provide clean, affordable and safe drinking water.*



Seb's Projects signed

an agreement with

TATA

on 18th February, 2021

Tata Swach Jal and Ncourage Foundation as part of their CSR endeavor offered Seb's Projects the Technology for purifying the water free of charge. Seb's Projects signed an agreement for 8 of our tribal School communities benefitting about 720 families.

The purifier has a tri- filtration process which clears micro organisms, sediments and an activated carbon filter to remove impurities and a UV filament to kill bacteria and virus. This facility will provide 1000 liters of clean drinking water per hour.

Corporater: We could not have done this without the support we received from a corporate partner- the Corporater who is committed to bringing about positive impact in communities through their CSR, generously came forward to support the cost of maintenance for 3 years which was paid to Tata Swach Jal while signing the agreement. Seb's projects in the meantime are also fund raising towards the implementation costs in each of our communities



Implementation of the project

The Tata Tech Jal team visited all the eight villages and conducted a pilot study. The TDS of all the water samples were tested. Discussions were conducted with the community to learn more about the availability and usage of water, the efficiency of the electric power and the use of overhead tanks available in the village.

The Tata Tech Jal team in discussion with the Seb's team drew out a plan for the implementation and installation using cost effective methods and bearing in mind the specific needs of each village. It was a learning process for Seb's team to understand the process of installation and functioning of the purifier and the infrastructure development in laying pipe lines, motor pump purchase and alternative solution for power supply during low voltage conditions



Installation of the first water purifier in Periyapanaparai village

The community has been involved over the years to improve the quality of water. It was an open perennial spring so both human and cattle found their way to the spring. 2 years ago the community built a wall around it to prevent cattle walking into the water and provided water to the cattle through an outlet but keeping the community out was a challenge as they bathed and washed beside the spring.



Inauguration of Periyapanaparai water purifier

21st March, 2021 was a historic day for all involved in making drinking water a reality for the Periyapanaparai tribal community. The entire community along with Seb's team was in a celebratory mood.



The children of Seb's school with their water bottles and the women with their shiny colorful pots ready to fill clean drinking water.



Mrs. Neema - representative of Corporater and Mr. Koushik and Mr. Srinivas - representatives of TATA, inaugurated the clean drinking water project.



The community was excited to witness this great event. We hope this facility will usher in good health for all of the people living in Periyapanaparai and also the neighboring communities from where children attend Seb's school.

THE DREAM FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER A REALITY AT LAST IN JAWADHI HILLS