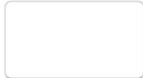


Ask a question (/node/add/queries)



SEARCH



Community-led piped water supply initiative in Bihar

Authored By : Amit Saxena (/authors/amit-saxena),S M Sehgal Foundation (/author/s-m-sehgal-foundation)
Posted By : Amita Bhaduri (/dashboard/amita-bhaduri)
Posted Date : Sat, 2020-03-28 12:34

For Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal to succeed, the state needs to look at water harvesting to augment groundwater availability.



We use cookies to personalise content, to provide social media features and to analyse traffic to and usage of our website. We also share information about your use of our site with social media, analytics and other third party partners.

The community-led piped water supply system at the panchayat level of the panchayat is supposed to have complete ownership of the system created. (Image: GG Vogman, Flickr Commons, CC BY-NC 2.0)

Accept cookies

Decline

Water is a precious natural resource that ensures human well-being. However, across the globe there is a severe water crisis, which is heightened by issues of inaccessibility and contamination. “The right to water and sanitation is a human right (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2010/10/354542-right-water-and-sanitation-legally-binding-affirms-key-un-body>) equal to all other human rights, which implies that it is justiciable and enforceable” (UN Human Rights Council, 2010).

The United Nations World Development Report (2019) demonstrates how improvements in water resource management and access to water supply and sanitation services are essential to address various social and economic inequities so that “no one is left behind” when it comes to enjoying the multiple benefits and opportunities that water provides.

Niti Aayog estimates that 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress (<https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-08/CWMI-2.0-latest.pdf>). India is in the grip of acute water shortage. Eighty-four per cent of rural households do not have piped water. In the wake of such statistics, the Government of India launched the *Jal Jeevan Mission* in 2019 to provide tap water to all rural households by 2024.

Water issues in Bihar

The state of Bihar, despite its abundant natural resources, perennial rivers, and fertile lands, grapples with water quality problems. Of all the contaminants found, excessive iron and biological contamination remains the most prevalent and pervasive risk in the region.



Rural people in villages depend on *chapakals* (hand pumps), which are usually 25 to 30 feet deep. Studies indicate that water from this depth had high levels of iron contamination, which is very detrimental for health. Potable water is available at 200 to 350 feet depth but borings are costly, so people are forced to consume the contaminated water.

Bihar also bears the brunt of climate change. Due to changes in rainfall patterns, it is prone to floods and droughts. The main source of water for the people is groundwater. Due to droughts, groundwater levels have

gone down drastically in many parts of the state, leading to drying of hand pumps and bore wells. There is a widespread civil outcry due to drying up of ponds, water reservoirs, lakes, etc., as these help recharge the water table and provide water for irrigation and livestock.

The shortage problems are further magnified by water contamination. Rural populations are the worst affected as they have no money to order, repair and pump water. That is a considerable size of the population looks up to the government to address the myriad water issues they face.

The Bihar government under the *Saat Nishchay* (<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/bihar/patna/bihar-cabinet-gives-nod-to-implement-nitish-kumars-saat-nishchay-yojna/articleshow/51059937.cms>) scheme prioritizes good governance and as a

Accept cookies

Decline

The *Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal* scheme has given temporary relief to people, but to ensure availability of water in the long run, proper water management is needed. Even in this scheme, if the system of redressal of complaints is not quick, there may be leakages, contaminated water, or no availability of water, which may lead to the scheme becoming defunct in a village. This scheme, if properly maintained, can help in unnecessary water wastage and will be able to provide water to all.

Bihar does not have any surface water management systems due to which groundwater is drying up at a fast pace. A check is needed in the boring of tube wells and hand pumps. Fines and punishment must be imposed on illegal boring. Through piped water supply, the government will be able to provide water to people and also be able to regulate it. The scheme largely relies on groundwater resources that are fast depleting. A paradigm shift is needed to harvest rainwater to ensure that the pressure from groundwater sources can be relieved.

Amit Saxena is a Research Associate (Development Research and Policy Initiatives) at S M Sehgal Foundation, a public charitable trust working to strengthen community-led development initiatives across rural India.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of India Water Portal.

Attachments

Topics

We use cookies to personalise content, to provide social media features and to analyse traffic to and usage of our website. We also share information about your use of our site with social media, analytics and other third party partners.

Accept cookies

Decline

- [Technology \(/topics/technology\)](/topics/technology)
- [Treatment and Purification \(/topics/treatment-and-purification\)](/topics/treatment-and-purification)
- [Quality, Standards and Testing \(/topics/quality-standards-and-testing\)](/topics/quality-standards-and-testing)
- [Borewells and Tubewells \(/topics/borewells-and-tubewells\)](/topics/borewells-and-tubewells)
- [Lakes, Ponds and Wetlands \(/topics/lakes-ponds-and-wetlands\)](/topics/lakes-ponds-and-wetlands)
- [Lifting and Extraction \(/topics/lifting-and-extraction\)](/topics/lifting-and-extraction)
- [Pumps and Motors \(/topics/pumps-and-motors\)](/topics/pumps-and-motors)
- [Metering and Pricing \(/topics/metering-and-pricing\)](/topics/metering-and-pricing)
- [Contamination, Pollution and Quality \(/topics/contamination-pollution-and-quality\)](/topics/contamination-pollution-and-quality)
- [Geogenic Contamination \(/topics/geogenic-contamination\)](/topics/geogenic-contamination)
- [Fluoride \(/topics/fluoride\)](/topics/fluoride)
- [Arsenic \(/topics/arsenic\)](/topics/arsenic)
- [Chemical Pollution \(/topics/chemical-pollution\)](/topics/chemical-pollution)
- [Biological Pollution \(/topics/biological-pollution\)](/topics/biological-pollution)
- [Drinking and other Domestic Uses \(/topics/drinking-and-other-domestic-uses\)](/topics/drinking-and-other-domestic-uses)
- [Governance \(/topics/governance\)](/topics/governance)
- [Voluntary Citizen or Civil Society Sector \(/topics/voluntary-citizen-or-civil-society-sector\)](/topics/voluntary-citizen-or-civil-society-sector)
- [Citizens' Rights and Duties \(/topics/citizens-rights-and-duties\)](/topics/citizens-rights-and-duties)
- [Public Infrastructure and Services \(/topics/public-infrastructure-and-services\)](/topics/public-infrastructure-and-services)
- [Government Programmes \(/topics/government-programmes\)](/topics/government-programmes)
- [Panchayati Raj Institutions \(/topics/panchayati-raj-institutions\)](/topics/panchayati-raj-institutions)
- [Groundwater \(/topics/groundwater\)](/topics/groundwater)
- [Rural Water \(/topics/rural-water\)](/topics/rural-water)
- [Surface Water \(/topics/surface-water\)](/topics/surface-water)
- [Sustainability \(/topics/sustainability\)](/topics/sustainability)

Sub-Categories

- [News and Articles \(/views-subcategory\)](/views-subcategory)

Regions

- [Political \(/regions/political\)](/regions/political)
- [Bihar \(/regions/bihar\)](/regions/bihar)
- [Samastipur District \(/regions/samastipur-district\)](/regions/samastipur-district)
- [Samastipur \(/regions/samastipur\)](/regions/samastipur)

 (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/node/116736/feed>)

We use cookies to personalise content, to provide social media features

All Articles

and to analyse traffic to and usage of our website. We also share

information about your use of our site with social media, analytics and

other third party partners.



[\(/articles/gender-sensitive-response-climate-crisis\)](/articles/gender-sensitive-response-climate-crisis)

FRIDAY, 14 AUGUST 2020 11:19

Gender-sensitive response to the climate crisis

[\(/articles/gender-sensitive-response-climate-crisis\)](/articles/gender-sensitive-response-climate-crisis)

[Accept cookies](#)

[Decline](#)



(/articles/groundwater-extraction-ngt-gets-strict-commercial-entities)

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2020 8:41

Groundwater extraction: NGT gets strict with commercial entities (/articles/groundwater-extraction-ngt-gets-strict-commercial-entities)



(/articles/monsoon-experiences-countrywide-deficit-10-percent-july)

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2020 8:27

Monsoon experiences a countrywide deficit of 10 percent in July (/articles/monsoon-experiences-countrywide-deficit-10-percent-july)



(/articles/amphans-impact-farming-and-livelihood-sunderbans)

TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2020 17:46

Amphan's impact on farming and livelihood in Sunderbans (/articles/amphans-impact-farming-and-livelihood-sunderbans)

Related Articles

Tap water to all (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/tap-water-all>)

Will piped water to all no longer be a pipe dream? (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/jal-jeevan-mission-will-piped-water-every-household-no-longer-be-pipe-dream>)

Nal se Jal: hit or miss? (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/nal-se-jal-hit-or-miss>)

Women lead the way in water quality surveillance (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/women-lead-way-water-quality-surveillance>)

Is the budget allocation enough to meet the piped dream? (<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/budget-2020-allocation-enough-meet-piped-water-dream>)

ABOUT US (/ABOUT) **WORK WITH US (/WORKWITHUS)** **WEBFORMS (/WEBFORMS)** **CONTACT US (/CONTACT)** **SHARE YOUR**

and to analyse traffic to and usage of our website. We also share

CONTENT (/NODE/ADD/ARTICLES) **TERMS OF USE (HTTPS://WWW.INDIAWATERPORTAL.ORG/STATIC-**

other third party partners.

Accept cookies

Decline

