



A story of Change: WATSAN Project in Patna Village of Bijawar Block , Chhatarpur District, Madhya-Pradesh

Supported By: Just a Drop

Implemented By: HARITIKA

Until last 7 months the people of Patna were depended on the rain to take care of their basic necessities.

- Due to the close proximity to streams of the Barana River basin, the villagers extracted water for domestic and irrigation needs during the monsoon. However the streams are not perennial and the respite was short lived. Traditionally the Bundelkhand residents used dug wells to meet their water demands however in the past few years, tube wells are coming up with increasing frequency. But in this village both were not possible because for dug wells the land was not suitable as the area is rocky, somewhere it is good for agriculture purpose and since the village tribal dominated and extremely disadvantaged & backward therefore to invest on tube-wells is mere a dream to them. The depth required to dig for water is too high as this is one of the most water scarce region of Bundelkhand. Since the village is tribal dominated and approximately 90% population belongs to tribal community thus by the Government, approximately 5 acres of land have been allotted to each & every family. Thus it is natural to visualize their dependence on agriculture as their only source of livelihood and agriculture is very closely linked with the availability of water and the village is in a water scarce zone. But due to scarcity of water in the region, they have neglected the importance of agriculture in their livelihood options. For their income generation they are completely dependent on natural resource based activities like: Collection of Mahua, Collection of tendu leaves etc. Even though they all had minimum 3 acres of fertile land, but they didn't have access to two meals per day. Neither they had basic amenities nor had they hoped to get that.

“Water collection is the most difficult task for the women of villages. For collecting water we have to travel long distance because of that we are suffering from headache problem and joint pain problem. Sometimes while collecting water women start fighting with each-other. So if there can be any scope of providing drinking water, for us this will be blessing of God.”

(According to Jagatrani, Resident of Patna Village)

“Here we get ground water flowing through fractures so we have thought that if there will be construction of check dams it will reduce water scarcity problem in village. We have requested several types with the panchayat but we didn't get positive response.”





A story of Change: WATSAN Project in Patna Village of Bijawar Block , Chhatarpur District, Madhya-Pradesh

Supported By: Just a Drop

Implemented By: HARITIKA

For coping this acute drinking water problem, HARITIKA with the support of Just a Drop and with the funding of The Gerald Trust, has implemented Rural Health & Environment Project, in which there is provision of Tapped Water Supply and construction of twin pit latrine cum bathroom in each household.

Story of Sapna Itself Tells the Situation of village Patna After

Intervention:

Sapna is a young girl completed her eleven years. She is from village Patna of Chhatarpur district. It is basically tribal populated village. She has never gone outside the village; even she doesn't know and talked to any person except her teacher who doesn't belong to her village. She is young girl suffered a lot in her early childhood. Her father had be-reaved her and family when she was just four years old. Her misfortune has not ended here she had lost eldest brother before two years in a fatal road accident. In absence of male earning members of the family these people are bound to work outside for pulling on their lives. Since it's a village suffering with acute water scarcity they had to toil for fetching water.

According to her **"prior to intervention of HARITIKA my mother and sister had to travel six kilometers for fetching water from a fractured zone where we had to stand in long queues. It was taking approximately three hours in the whole process for fetching merely two buckets of water. Because of which I had to do some of the household activities like sweeping, cleaning utensils and taking care of my brother's small child when my sister in law was cooking and it was extremely impossible for me to go to school for attending classes, I used to go to schools only during lunch break for getting meals.**

On asking about the change in her life after intervention of HARITIKA then she replied with a big & a very sweet smile, **"Now a big tank has been constructed in our village and I have started getting tapped water in my own houses. Now Mummy & elder sister don't have to go to collect water and I am able to attend my classes and like me other girls have started to take class and most importantly now I don't have to work."**



At last Sapna has said, "I want to thank HARITIKA & Just a Drop, as they have change the trend of my village, now boys also have started to collect water and they have given a smile on all the girl students' faces. Now we have a dream to study as much as possible. Thanks to all of you from us."