

JALSWARAJYA: THE SELF GOVERNANCE OF WATER

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ABSTRACT

The Jalswarajya project is aimed at successfully resolving various challenges in operationalising the new policy, strategy and approach statewide. Government of Maharashtra looks forward to developing a meaningful partnership with the World Bank led IDA not only in filling up the financing gaps, but also in supporting the state with its reach international experience. Government of Maharashtra have great hopes about the success often Jalswarajya project because it will empower the Gram Sabhas and Village Panchayats and prepare them to be more responsive to the poor and the women. The project will lead to more sustainable outcomes based on the principles of equity and inclusion.

INTRODUCTION

The state of Maharashtra, located on the west coast of the peninsular India lined by the Arabian Sea was carved out in 1960. Maharashtra is the second largest state in India in terms of population and the third largest state in terms of area. As per census 2001, the state's population is 57 million living in 11 million households in 86,681 habitations in the 33 rural districts of the state. The state is spread over 3,07,713 sq. km and has got a 720 km, long coastal line.

Maharashtra gets an average rainfall of 1360 mm to 650 mm, 85% of which is received from southwest monsoon. Rainfall is non uniform in various regions as well as it varies between years and droughts are recurrent. Total surface water available for utilization is 139227 MCM out of which present expected requirement is 97,668 MCM. The entire geographical area of Maharashtra is occupied by major river basin namely- Godavari, Krishna, Tapi, Narmada, and west flowing rivers in Kokan coastal. Nearly 80% rural water supply depends on ground water.

OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT :-

Jlswarajya a project started with the prime objective of increasing the access of house holds to improve and sustainable drinking water and sanitation services and to institutionalize and decentralization or rural water supply and sanitation service delivery to rural local governments and communities.

The project will support Government of Maharashtra's path breaking reform initiatives in the water supply and sanitation sector and its scaling up throughout the state. The project has been designed using participatory methodologies involving to a great extent the primary stakeholders.

At village level, Gram Sabha is vested with all powers of decision-making. A Village water supply and sanitation committee constituted by the Gram Sabha as a committee of the village panchayat execute project activities.

The estimated cost of project is 13955.25 crores. The capacity building and infrastructure support under the project will cover 2800 VPS in 26 districts. The project will be implemented in three successive batches of VPS and tribal

self.

Project Scope

The proposed project will operationalize statewide implementation of the Reform Agenda in Rural Water Supply and sanitation sector. Considering the large number of non-covered and partially covered habitations in the state, the project will adopt in a programmatic long-term approach in developing the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation sector in two phases. The project also recognizes the need for high degree of learning experimenting and piloting to institutionallise the new sectoral policies. The current project is the phase-I of the long term programmatic approach toward the sector development covering about 2800 Vps. The first phase will be implemented over a 5 year term spanning 2003-2008 Vps.

Project Area

The project will be implemented in the entire state covering 33 districts. Initially focus toward 2800 villages in 26 districts currently not covered by either sector reform pilot or kfw project.

Project Justification and Benefit Analysis of the Project

The project is designed to provide drinking water supply and sanitation facilities in 2800 VPs in 26 districts of the state. The project will directly benefit about 7 million population, which are predominantly the rural poor including women. The project is expected to directly benefit 0.5 million tribal (indigenous people) in about 1700 tribal (indigenous people) settlements.

Financial and Economic Analysis

GoM carried out a detailed financial and economic analysis for the project, for quantifying the benefits to the population on account of the project.

Project Benefits

The typical project benefits envisages are, time savings in collecting water, increased availability of safe water, health benefits from access to cleaner water, time savings from using household latrines, improved sanitation knowledge and better sanitation practices, environmental benefits and strengthened community, panchayat and sate institutions.

The benefits that have been quantified are :

1. Value of time saved in water collection.
2. Value of incremental increase in water supply.
3. Value of time saved in defection by using household toilets.
4. Value of health benefits from reduction in gastroenteritis, diarrhea and malaria.
5. Value of recurring and capital cost saved.
6. Income multipliers of micro credit disbursement.

Summary of the Benefits to the Stake Holders

Stakeholder Category	Benefits
Beneficiary Households	Increased access to safe drinking water Improved personal hygiene and health status. Better household and environmental sanitation Savings and economic benefits on water supply, sanitation and health related expenses. Enhanced capacity to participate in developmental activities. Increased confidence and co-operation for social and collective endeavours.
Women	Reduced drudgery on water collection. Privacy and comforts for sanitation. Enhanced capacity to participate in developmental activities. Improved leadership qualities. Better economic status Increased happiness due to healthy family members.
BPL, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other Marginalized sections.	Improved social status due to mainstreaming Inclusion in community decision making. Equity of benefits from development efforts. Savings and economic benefits on water supply, sanitation and health related expenses.

VWSC/BLSC/Sub-committee	Enhanced capacity to undertake developmental activities. Enhanced ability to perform social action in an inclusive, transparent and equitable manner. Improved communication and leadership skills. Improved skills in financial management, engineering aspects etc.
Gram Sabha	Enhanced purpose and relevance. Increased attendance and improved transaction of business Better proceedings and documentation of proceedings. Increased ownership by voters.
Village Panchayats	Decreasing external dependency Better management of development activities. Increased ownership by community. Improved resource mobilization capacity. Better governance through fast and efficient decision making, ensuring transparency, equity and inclusion. Better co-ordination of development activities. Better management and regulation of water resources.
Zilla Parishad	Enhanced capacity to manage developmental activities. Better co-ordination of lower tiers of the Panchaati Raj Institutions. Efficient technical assistance and appraisal leading to fast technical sanctions. Developments of integrated water resource and sanitation management systems at the district level.
Government of Maharashtra	Enhanced devolution of powers of LSGs. Scientific and efficient sector policy

Project Components

The project will include the following components :

1. Community Development and Infrastructure Building.
2. Institutional Strengthening.
3. Sector Development and Strengthening.
4. Pilot Components.

Village Level Planning

Using participatory appraisal methodologies, the village communities continue to search for alternative solutions for sources, facilities, procurement etc. and priorities and select the various options through self-appraisal. The most important considerations for assessing feasibility and selection are affordability by communication members, amenability for continued management by the community and environmental considerations, so that the sustainability of service and facilities is ensured.

The key activities and sub-activities to be undertaken during the village level planning phase are summarized in the Table elaborated below :

Main Activity	Sub-Activity	Responsibility	Key output/outcome
Preparing Village Action Plan on water Supply	* Training VWSC and BLSC members on source selection, surveying, estimating etc. * Exploring existing investments for improvement. * Exploring alternate water sources * Preparing menu of available technology options. * Conducting comparative feasibility analysis. * Discussing menu of options in Gram Sabha and deciding on feasible option. * Preparing detailed design, drawings and estimation of most preferred options. * Conducting social audit.	SO, DFT VWSC, SO VWSC, SO VWSC, SO VWSC, VP, Gram Sabha VWSC, SO	Most preferred option for water supply selected The planning process follow project principles.
Preparing Village Action Plan on Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion	* Designing, estimating and drawing for community toilets/school latrines. * Designing, estimating and drawing for drainage improvement. * Designing programmes of IEC for behavioural change * Conducting social audit. * Discussing Village Action Plan-Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion with VP. * Discussing capital cost and contribution, O and M arrangements, costs and user charges with Gram Sabha	VWSC, SO VWSC, SO VWSC, SO SAC, VP, Gram Sabha VP, VWSC VWSC, VP, Women Gram Sabha, Gram Sabha VWSC, VP, Women Gram Sabha, Gram Sabha	The planning process Follow Project principles Village Action Plan-Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion appraised and approved by the community
Preparing Village Action Plan- Women Empowerment Fund	* Identifying eligible entrepreneurs * Forming Women Development	SO SO, Women Gram Sabha,	WEC formed

Financial and Economical Analysis

Government of Maharashtra carried out a detailed financial and economical analysis for the project, for qualifying the benefits to the population on account of the project.

Types of Schemes

The economic analysis of the project is based on a representative is base on a representative sample of 20 proposed schemes and a survey of 670 households in 5 districts. The sample schemes were selected across the five districts on the basis of sources of water supply and the types of technology, as follows:

1. Value of time saved in water collection.
2. Value of incremental increase in water supply
3. Value of time saved in defecation by using household toilets.
4. Value of health from reduction is gastroenteritis, diarrhea (quantified as water supply benefits) and malaria (quantified as environmental sanitation benefits).
5. Value of recurring and capital cost saved (cost incurred to maintain the existing supply of water without project scenario).
6. Income multipliers of micro credit disbursement.

Institutional Arrangements

The key principles with which the institutional arrangements for the project has been designed are:

- Devolution of decision-making and management responsibility of water supply and sanitation facilities to the lowest appropriate tier of PRIs and communities.
- Increased access to financial resources by the communities.
- Transparency and information sharing.
- Balanced and consistent information flow among all stakeholders.
- Thrust on building the capacity of all stakeholders so as to empower them to perform the new roles under the new sector policy.
- Extend the capacity of the PRIs and the communities to handle other development programmes and

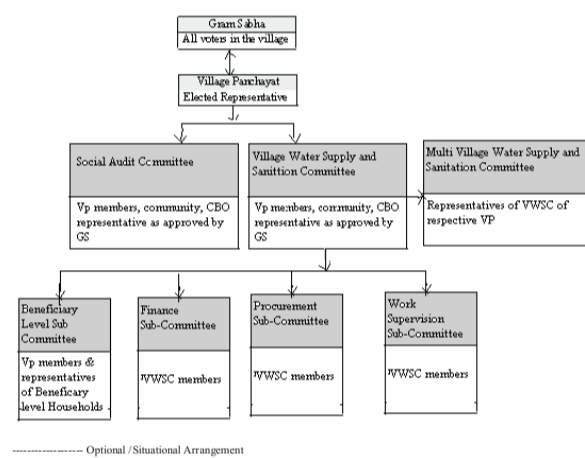
activities beyond water supply and sanitation through community action at village level.

Institutional Arrangements at Village Level

The institutional arrangement at the village level is entrusted with the primary responsibility of implementing the project. The village level arrangement mainly aim at achieving the following key results.

- Creating a sustainable and participatory grass root level institutional set up which is responsive, inclusive, equitable, accountable and efficient in governance system.
- Empowerment the user communities with decision-making responsibilities, by providing access to ready-to-use information, providing appropriate skills, creating an enabling environment and devolving financial management responsibilities.
- Equipping the Grama Sabha, which has been vested with the constitutional status as the supreme authority at the village level, with more pronounced roles and purposes to make it a more relevant platform for participatory democracy.

Proposed Institutional Arrangement at Village Level



Social Safeguards

The project will not attract social safeguard provisions except, land availability and indigenous people.

Rules of taking Possession of Land for Project Purpose

Land requirement for project purposes arises for two purposes:

- For locating water source and
- For the construction of overhead tanks/water treatment units.

Water supply will be either from the existing sources (wells, ponds, streams, rain water, surface water etc.) or from establishing new sources. The ownership of the land is either public or private. While it is easier to access public land, arrangements will be made for taking over privately owned land. The prevailing practice in the state for securing lands is either through voluntary donation or by outright purchase. The discussions with the communities and experts as well as the experiences from the previous project on acquiring land reveal that:

1. Almost all villages do have an existing water supply system and the project intervention will be restricted to improving/rehabilitating/augmenting the existing supplies which would mean land requirement will be limited;
2. Most villages do have sufficient public/Panchayat lands and
3. In case it becomes inevitable, the local community will secure lands either through voluntary donations or

outright purchase.

Conclusion

The Jalswarajya means independence given to the villages to develop and manage the water resources. From detailed study of this project, it will reveal that, it will provide sustainable outcomes, which will be based on the principle of equity and inclusion. This project will no doubt give a fillip to operational sing statewide the new reform policy in the water supply and sanitation sector of the state.