



A water hand pump in Barmer, Rajasthan serves as a vital resource, providing access to water for the community

## No more going the extra mile

Groundwater vulnerability is a concern in rural communities, especially in Rajasthan owing to its topography. Women have to walk considerable distances only to collect water—a basic necessity for drinking and other tasks. To address the issue and improve sanitation, the Foundation implemented the piped-water supply program bringing drinking water to many hard-to-reach areas.

"Water supply was not there previously; we used to fetch water from afar," says Leela Devi.

Leela Devi is one voice out of thousands.

Hailing from Bhadresh village in Barmer, Rajasthan, she is one beneficiary of the program.

She would have to walk five to six km daily to collect water for drinking and other household purposes. While she looked after her family, she would yearn to help her husband with his tailoring business. The doorstep access to water reduced the drudgery of walking daily, and saved her four to five hours. It enabled her to lend a hand in her husband's tailoring work, and is now facilitating an additional income for the household.

With ambitions to better the quality of life of as many people as possible, the rural water supply in Barmer benefits 3,500+ people across four villages.



**Leela Devi**

Bhadresh Village,  
Barmer, Rajasthan

Our focus is to ensure water secure communities.

## Moving towards water security

Our holistic approach is focused on ensuring our communities have access to safe drinking water and undertaking long-term planning for sustainable water resources, while also enabling water security for both domestic and agricultural uses.

We design need-specific solutions in order to increase the availability of drinking water for the community. Since groundwater is essential to India's agricultural economy, we work diligently to increase its supply and construct additional surface-water storage structures in areas where they are most needed.



As part of a comprehensive integrated watershed management program, a check dam in Palghar, Maharashtra serves to augment the local water storage capacity

### Impact highlights

**100,000**

Households benefitted by drinking water supply till date

**1.8M m<sup>3</sup>**

Additional water storage capacity created till date

**31,150**

Saplings planted to increase green cover

**310**

Hectares of degraded mangrove land restored till date

**Planted 350,000 of mangrove saplings**

### Key interventions



Ensuring sustainable drinking water sources



Rejuvenation of lakes



Restoring conventional water sources



Watershed management



### Enabling access to safe drinking water

For the purpose of providing safe drinking water, we build and repair open borewells, install roof rain structures, erect Ground and Elevated Storage Reservoirs (GSR and ESR) as per the need. We have partnered

with gram panchayats to lay pipelines in areas where water sources are available. These initiatives complement the Jal Jeevan Mission of Government of India.

## Enhancing availability of water through watershed management

A holistic approach to water management entails looking at water as a shared natural resource. Thus, we work on both demand side and supply side to ensure water availability.

Through implementation partners, such as, Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) and International

Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), we support our communities to capture and conserve water by constructing rainwater harvesting structures, undertake soil and moisture conservation measures, provide treatment to check soil erosion and empower local communities to manage the created assets effectively.

### Demand side

Promoting efficient use of water through participatory water governance by forming water management committees

### Supply side

Promoting integrated watershed management.

## Rejuvenation of traditional water bodies

To address the issue of availability of water we undertook desiltation and rejuvenation of water bodies such as lakes, tanks, canals, etc. This has not only resulted in creating extra surface-water-storage capacities, but also helped to create extra water-recharging opportunities thus increasing availability of water in the wells of the surrounding areas.



A rejuvenated pond in Raigad, Maharashtra with fresh water, ready to serve the local community and ecosystem



The rejuvenated Margondanhalli lake sparkles in sunlight, surrounded by a bed of colorful flowers



## Margondanhalli Lake, Bengaluru

Once called the city of lakes, Bengaluru and its surrounding regions had hundreds of water bodies. Besides creating pleasant microclimate in the area, they also sufficed as sources of water for drinking, irrigation, fishing, washing, and cover the domestic needs of the people living there. However, over the last four decades these waterbodies could not survive the onslaught of rapid urbanisation and have been reduced to neglected sewage dumps. Years of exploitation and slow-killing of Bengaluru's lakes resulted in the breakdown of the chain of water harvesting in the city, which has resulted in frequent flooding with devastating effects.

To tackle the issue, JSW Foundation partnered with Anand Malligavad, a renowned lake rejuvenation expert to restore the Margondanhalli Lake in the Electronic city.

The lake was dewatered, desilted, de-weeded and cleared of any encroachments and debris. The silt was used to rebuild its walls and raise its height to prevent the lake from getting silted again, eliminating the use of cement and concrete in the rejuvenation process.

The lake has been brought back to life in an eco-friendly manner, minimising the carbon footprint by using local and natural materials. Floating wetlands were constructed to treat the sewage water entering the lake. The roots of plants such as canna, vetiver used to construct the wetlands act as natural purifiers by absorbing the pollutants, leaving water naturally treated, devoid of odour and colour.

The once-silted Margondanhalli Lake has been restored back to its glory and a house to thriving flora and fauna. Several species of birds, butterflies and insects visit the lake. The lake and its verdant surroundings comes as a respite to morning and evening walkers who frequent it.



# 1 Lakh m<sup>3</sup>

Additional water holding capacity created through Margondanhalli Lake.

We make strides to enrich India's green cover through nature-based solutions.

# Increasing green cover

## Developing miyawaki forests

JSW Miyawaki Forest and Biodiversity Park in Tarapur, Maharashtra is a dense cover of native trees developed using the Miyawaki method. The park is spread over a two-acre plot, which was transformed from a dump yard in collaboration with Tarapur MIDC. This green lung was inaugurated on May 28, 2022. The project took two years to complete, and now positively impacts

the water table, hosts more than 8,000 species of indigenous trees that attract butterflies, birds and more.

Taking inspiration from the intervention's success in Tarapur, the Foundation initiated a Miyawaki Forest in Salem, Tamil Nadu. This dense forest has been developed in 26,000 sq. ft with 10,000 saplings and 27 star plants, native to Salem.

# 1.63 Million

Saplings planted since inception

## Mangrove conservation and alternate livelihoods

In 2016, JSWF undertook the Mangrove Conservation and Alternate Livelihoods program to protect the mangrove ecosystem, stop or minimise the ingress of saline water into agricultural land and secure coastal communities with alternate livelihoods.

The project is implemented in phases with active involvement of self-help groups and has restored 320 hectares of degraded mangroves by planting use this impact indicator on the left over the past

six years. The innovation in the project was its interfacing with community through livelihood generation for local women, which rallied round to garnering the support and failsafe involvement of the natives in the same. It has engaged more than 2,000 women from 12 villages and 200+ women self-help groups.

By sustaining the mangrove ecosystem, the Foundation aims to maximise the social and economic well-being of coastal communities.

## Strategic collaborations for a healthy planet

JSWF and the Forest Department of the Government of Karnataka have signed agreements to continue its efforts in these areas: afforestation, forest

preservation, and wildlife conservation at Ballari, Daroji and Toranagallu Reserve Forests respectively. This is an important step in sustaining a healthy planet.



Beautiful flowers bloom in the JSW Miyawaki Forest and Biodiversity park in Tarapur, Maharashtra, adding color and vibrancy to the industrial MIDC area

Improving sanitation and hygiene practices in communities by raising awareness

## Sanitation for a better tomorrow

At JSWF, our focus is on raising sanitation awareness, integrating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and nudging behavioural change. The program undertakes consistent community-wide awareness campaigns, ongoing informational education communication to empower people to promote cleanliness and enable better health.

### Promoting better health through Integrated WaSH Program, Odisha

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) directly impact human health and can have far-reaching consequences when ignored. To improve cleanliness, hygiene and general quality of life in rural areas, we have implemented a sustainable solid waste management program in 20 villages of Joda block of Keonjhar and Koida block of Sundargarh district.

Together with our partner FINISH Society, we strive to introduce decentralised waste management solutions and safe water supply facilities in the areas. Our efforts have helped create livelihoods in recycling, improved community engagement in waste management and generated awareness.

In these villages, we construct structures like solar-operated water tanks and composters to ensure a quality water supply and waste management. Each village is given tricycles for door-to-door collection of waste. Information Education Communication (IEC) tools like wall paintings and other Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities like contests, competitions, and drives create awareness on issues of WaSH. We provide training and orientations for capacity building of stakeholders like SHG members, village water and sanitation committee members, and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members.



Community members engage in Hand Wash Demonstrations

### Key achievements

12

Installation of solar operated water tanks

19

Village water and sanitation committees formed

2,672

Households benefitted

16,000

Individuals benefitting



## Women sanitation leaders

The Harischandrapur village, only five km from Koida's block headquarters in Odisha, has 116 households and over 500 tribal people. But the residents were unaware of the WaSH best practices. They, instead, collected water from an unhygienic water-logging point in their locality.

Our team analysed this problem by regularly visiting the villagers. We started a behavioural-change campaign for

WaSH. Through community meetings and awareness drives amongst self-help groups and communities, we encouraged villagers, especially women, to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation.

Since attending those cleanliness drives and understanding the basic needs, the villagers now maintain good sanitation and hygiene at their homes.



A group of determined women sanitation leaders engage in shramdaan, working to maintain hygiene and cleanliness around a drinking water standpost in their community