

Conflict Resolution

Kharva village - Jamnagar

People could avail the benefit of the water and sanitation programme only because of the grit and courage shown by the women in Kharva village of Dhrol taluka of Jamnagar. Like the name itself, water in the village was saline and unusable. In the beginning due to some internal disagreements implementation could not take place. When the women learnt of the internal tussle regarding the programme, they thought of resolving the matter by themselves and collecting contributions from the community. During the Gram Sabha, the issue of WASMO programme was completely dealt by women. At present the Pani Samiti of Kharva village has an all-women team to look into issues of water and sanitation from mobilising the community and developing VAP, to monitoring construction and water quality testing.

Women as Motivators

Kesharben, Mota Bhadukiya village – Jamnagar

Kesharben of Mota Bhadukiya village of Kalawad taluka, Jamnagar, prepares women to take lead and work for the village development. She says, “It is our involvement in the programme that has given us the courage to speak for ourselves and for the development of the village at large. Earlier we were so intimidated to speak in front of people or in Gram Sabha, but now everything has changed and increased our confidence.” Women, now have no reluctance to come forward to make their village a better place to live. They now travel long distances not to fetch water but to attend meetings and trainings to gather details and information about projects and schemes as well as to motivate other women in the village.

Kiranben, Gangva village – Banaskantha

Kiranben Suthar hails from Navavas village (Danta) and works as a school teacher in Gangva after completing MA and B.Ed. She was always inclined towards gathering information on developmental schemes for the village. Her interest was instrumental in implementing Swajaldhara programme in Gangva village. Kiranben initiated street-wise meetings in the village and generated acceptance among the villagers towards the concept of community contribution. Especially, women were encouraged by Kiranben to take their decisions for the benefit of the village. At present, the community undertakes regular cleaning of the village tank and the

villagers are being sensitised to drink chlorinated water. Also the school has more number of girl students as they are free from the burden of fetching water. Kiranben herself is an example of the changes that proper education could achieve. Now it has become Kiranben's motto to, "Make our immediate surrounding a better place to live even before thinking of improving the world."