

## Proactive role in raising demand

Rethal village has a population of more than 5000. Naynaben Rathod the Pani Samiti Chairperson and Sarpanch since last four years, has completed matriculation and is dedicated to usher in changes in her village. For water supply the village had only on old tank very much in a dilapidated state, which could neither be used by people living in the heart nor the fringes of the village. Women fetching water from distant places were a common sight. When Naynaben came to know of the Swajaldhara programme, she took the first proactive step to contact the DWSC and applied for the village to join the programme.

When the question of collecting community contribution arose, a Gram Sabha was called to make everyone understand about the need and details of programme. In a few days community contribution was collected and under Swajaldhara programme work of Rs. 14,91,000/- that consists of water tank (ESR), pipeline, sump, cattle trough etc. was sanctioned. Apart from this Naynaben regularly attends meetings and training programmes organised by DWSC. She shares the information with other village women and also makes it a point to adhere to all that she has learnt about sanitation and safe handling of drinking water. All this has resulted in proper disposal of used water and regular chlorination in the village. Naynaben says, "The Swajaldhara programme has helped almost all the houses in getting adequate drinking water and the rest shall be covered when the programme is completely implemented. It has saved our time and children are free to pursue studies. Now it is my dream to make Rethal village a model for sanitation by motivating people to have toilets for all the households."