

Sharing resources and responsibility

The Pani Samiti of Boriachch village of Vandsa taluka in Navsari, has with support from the NGO BAIF, developed a Sameep hand pump based system catering to the needs of scattered households. To start with a platform was built around the Sameep hand pump and 8 household near the hand pump and another 14 at a height of about 20 feet were connected to the pump by laying a 32 mm dia pipeline. The hand pump was fitted with a non-return valve and a slow sand filter. The excess water from the pump flows into a standpost and cattle trough constructed nearby to prevent wastage of water. With this system, even the houses situated at a distance of about 900 feet from the hand pump and a height of 20 feet get water through the system. Apart from the cost of the hand pump the rest of the system has been built at a price of Rs. 11,000 only.

The Pani Samiti has laid down rules for O&M of the system. All households take turns in operating the hand pump and for repair and maintenance Rs. 5 is collected from every household. Bhavlubhai Gaekwad, who has relevant experience of hand pump repairs, is also responsible for repairs of the Sameep hand pump in Boriachch. Sukarbhai Gaekwad, the Pani Samiti chairperson says, "Initially we could not believe that we could draw water from one single hand pump and take it to houses at a height of 20 feet. But this system is effective and has brought relief to all"