

Supervision and Quality Assurance

Jekuben, Chhaya village - Bhavnagar

Jekuben is an example for all other women Pani Samiti members of the state. She is a fearless decision maker who stood against all odds to put a stop on construction malpractices. Jekuben a member of the Pani Samiti, used to regularly visit the construction site and monitor the work being done. During one such visit, she realised that the contractor is not using the building materials in prescribed quantities. Without wasting time, she rallied together other Pani Samiti members and brought the sub-standard construction work to a halt.

The Pani Samiti members did not allow the contractor to continue the work until he gave an assurance that no malpractice would take place in the future. When the contractor threatened to leave the work incomplete, the entire village got together and took the task of completion on itself. Jekuben confidently attributes all this to the pre-construction training, workshops and exposure visits conducted by WASMO for Pani Samiti members. She says, "I had attended the pre-construction training of WASMO and hence realised that the contractor was cheating us. I could not allow such compromise on the quality of work which was meant for the benefit of the entire village and therefore decided to put a stop to the work with support from others." Two years after the project has ended, the people in the village are quite satisfied with the water supply system established. The Pani Samiti is still functional and meets 2-3 times every year and maintains financial records.

Shayaraben, Vadinar village – Jamnagar

Vadinar village of Khambhaliya taluka has two parts – Vadinar and Vadinar Dhar, with communities from both always at loggerheads. This only aggravated the shortage of drinking water and implementation of community-managed water and sanitation was difficult due to the internal discord. During the Gram Sabha, when people showed lack of interest to collect community contribution, Shayaraben, along with other women shared the difficulties they faced to fetch water from distant places. As a result one more Gram Sabha was held in the area where the water shortage was acute and a Pani Samiti was formed consisting only women members. The Pani Samiti members collected community contribution amounting to Rs. 60,000., by visiting all households at night after completing all the household chores.

The women also took interest in monitoring the construction work. They looked after the laying of pipeline, construction of structures and were present till all the work got completed. To monitor the construction work they adopted a unique way of measuring the depth with a one metre log of wood. They carried it to all the places where digging was in progress to check the depth. The construction agency was also regularly asked to adhere to the prescribed norms. Women took turns to monitor and keep a check on them. The dedication of all women Pani Samiti members ensured high quality construction and pipeline work in the village.