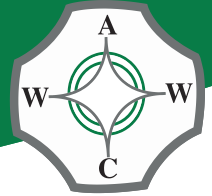


ACWW PROJECTS UPDATE

Progress Report from Project 1044



India - Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust (SWEET) Improved Access to Water in Villupuram District

The main beneficiaries of this project are the Irula Tribal people, who are in one of the lowest castes in India, considered untouchable by even the Dalits. They are under-represented in local government, and have limited access to resources. They are prohibited from accessing public drinking facilities so must fetch water from contaminated sources which causes illness. The only water sources available at the start of the project were an open well and a small pond with contaminated water. The burden of fetching water falls on women and girls, so they suffer additionally when the water sources are far away or unsafe.

Other beneficiaries include Aadhayan Tribal people and Dalit people living in the Mailam and Vanur blocks of the Vallupuram District, Tamil Nadu.

SWEET has provided 4 borewells fitted with hand pumps, which allows the communities to have access to clean water. This started with a geological survey to determine the best place for the wells, which was followed by construction. They will offer training and toolkits so that the beneficiaries can provide basic maintenance and major repairs will be carried out by the local government, with whom they have a maintenance agreement. These borewells directly benefit the entire community, which is made up of 2400 women, 1050 girl children, 2300 men, and 875 boys. Now, in addition to having clean, safe water, women will not have to walk as far to collect it, which will allow them to participate more in community life

SWEET will also be running an awareness campaign which will train the users of the borewell in sanitation and hygiene.

Water projects are very simple in their concept, inputs, and programme, but they can be transformative for communities, giving them potential for improved health, better sanitation, and better school attendance among children.



A geologist surveys the land to find water under the surface



Digging the Borewell



Installing the hand pump



Sustainable Water, Sanitation & Energy



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Project beneficiaries test out the new pumps

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

