



“NIRMAL JHARA”- The safe drinking water project



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Odisha

Water is ‘Elixir of Life’. Providing clean and safe drinking water to the needy in places which do not have access to the same is one of the flagship projects of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. Providing clean drinking water is one of the top needs for these villagers as it enhances their health and quality of life. Bhagawan in all His mercy has given His Divine Guidelines on selecting the area setting up the plant and maintaining the project and has demonstrated through the example of Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water project.

Keeping Swami’s message in view, the SSSSO, Odisha has established 11 Nirmal Jhar plants in Odisha which provide safe and potable drinking water to more than 16000 villagers in remote areas. Once again SSSSO, Odisha decided to install such a plant in Jagatsinghpur district which is a coastal district where maximum people were facing acute difficulty in getting potable drinking water because of saline nature of ground water both in shallow and deeper conditions. After a preliminary survey, one such village named ‘Pradhageri” of Ersama Block, Jagatsinghpur District was selected where the villagers had to go for more than five km distance to collect non-saline water for drinking & other domestic purpose. Most of the time they had to manage with the saline water. As the village is remotely located, the villagers had no other option other than to take saline contaminated water for drinking and cooking purposes. The village people had already begun to be affected by various ailments due to intake of high saline water.

In this connection, one Grama Sabha was conducted on 8.12.19 where Sri Narayan Prasad Sar, State President, Sri Antaryami Pattnaik, State Trust Convenor and Sri Ashok Kumar Biswal, State Techno – Media In-Charge, District President, Jagatsinghpur and others elaborated the detail operational modalities about functioning of this project. The villagers agreed, cooperated and supported for the establishment of plant.



With His divine grace, the water plant was inaugurated on 26.12.19 amidst Vedic Chants, Bhajan filling the atmosphere with divine vibration. Sri Nimish Pandya, revered All India President, Sri H. Srinivaslu, National Coordinator, Techno-Media Group, Sri Appa Rao, Sri Narayan Sar, State President, SSSSO Odisha and other dignitaries were present on this grand occasion. While dedicating this project to the service of the villagers, Sri Nimish Pandya requested them to take care of the plant as it is the prasadam for them from our beloved Swami.





The plant capacity was determined on the basis of population of a village. It was estimated that each person requires 3 liters of drinking water per day and therefore a family comprising 5 people require 15 liters a day. On this basis, it was designed for delivery of 20 liters per day per family with a token price of Rs 2 per 20 liters to meet the expense for the maintenance of the plant, operator's charge and electricity charges. The extra saving will be used for the welfare of the villagers like taking care of the poorest of the poor in the village, providing food, shelter, education and medical expenses for the poor and also for festival celebrations in the village.

The plant was established on following methodology-

- (i) All the village members were invited and explained the approach in establishing the plant facility in terms of technicalities and management aspects.
- (ii) A working committee was formed for operating and managing the facility.
- (iii) For this purpose the water committee comprises two women members-two male member and an elderly village person were nominated by themselves.
- (iv) A bank account was opened in the name of the village water plant committee for money transactions.
- (v) Each home in the village was issued with electronic smart card that cost Rs 60 for a month's usage.
- (vi) Each home can take 20 liters of water per day in this manner with this smart card. Every month this card recharged for usage.
- (vii) This card is brought to the water plant by the householder and swiped at the machine and then 20 liters of water per day is drawn.
- (viii) This means 20 liters of water cost just Rs 2 only.

The financial operation and management of this facility is as follows:

- (a) From this collected amount, the water committee pays the electricity bill, the operator's salary and also the maintenance, repairs and replacements required for the plant.
- (b) After paying for all the said mentioned expenses, they will still be left with Re 1 for every 20 liters of water supplied. In a village of 200 homes the savings will be Rs 200 per day or Rs 6000 a month after paying the expenses. This work out to Rs 72,000 annually.
- (c) This money which thus remains is to be used for the welfare activity of the village in the form of medical needs, creating a shelter for villagers, as an educational support for a poor children of the village or any community activity of the village. It is named as village welfare fund.
- (d) It must be noted that the actual expense of running the plant is under one rupee only for 20 liters and the other extra rupee is used for the welfare activity fund of the village itself. *It is a project for the people, by the people and of the people approach.*



-Jai Sairam-