

## Annual Sustainability Audit for Manpura and Jagasya Villages Project, Sponsored by Reed Travel Exhibitions June 2012



### Introduction

In June 2011, Just a Drop – thanks to the generous support of Reed Travel Exhibitions and in collaboration with Haritika – constructed a number of check dams and provided a piped water supply and latrines to the villages of Manpura and Jagasya in rural India. The project benefitted approximately 1,000 people.

In March 2012, Just a Drop's Project Officer, Geoff Pook, travelled to each village to carry out a sustainability audit and review of the projects.

### Background

Manpura and Jagasya villages are located in one of the poorest and most deprived areas in India, Madyha Pradesh. The majority of the village workers are farmers and many have small plots for their own use. Housing consists of a mixture of local mud bricks or rough concrete and the roads are predominantly little more than dirt tracks. Many of the communities living in Manpura and Jagasya belong to the 'Untouchable' or Dalit castes. Branded as impure from the moment of birth, they are outcasts - people considered too impure to rank as worthy human beings and as such, they are shunned from society and denied any form of social welfare.

It's not surprising then, that the water and sanitation coverage in these outlying hamlets is virtually non-existent. To compound this, the few available surface water sources - such as rivers and impounded reservoirs - dry up each year during the dry season, becoming nothing more than muddy streams or ponds. In addition, the lack of any formal sanitation leads to open defecation in the fields. This is of significant risk to women and young children as instances of physical and sexual attacks are well documented.

### Aim of the Project

To provide a reliable, sustainable and clean water supply together with sanitation facilities and hygiene education to the people of Manpura and Jagasya villages.

### Local Partner

Established in 1994, Haritika (which means 'make it green') is an NGO working throughout the region on water and community education and empowerment projects. It works closely with - and is respected by - Indian government agencies.



## Manpura Village

Manpura is a village of approximately 600 people. As a result of the project, the village now has the following:

- A 12 metre well, submersible solar-powered pump and high level storage tanks which together provide a piped distribution system allowing villagers to have connections in their own homes or yards – a luxury never experienced before
- Each household now also has its own toilet facilities
- The four existing check dams were repaired and are now functioning efficiently; the surface water is available for agricultural use, irrigation, animal watering and improving ground water recharge, thus making the wells more sustainable
- The water storage tanks provide the village with a 70,000 litre storage capacity – equivalent to at least 10 days' supply
- Haritika health education department reports a 60% decrease in cases of diarrhoea
- Women are reporting a reduction in genito-urinary infections, as well as reduced back-pain from carrying water
- School attendance in girls has increased by 40% as a result of a reduction in both the amount of time spent carrying water and the incidence of water related illnesses



## Case Study



In Manpura village, drinking dirty, unsafe water and getting washed in public were just two problems faced by 8 year old Preem and her family. Preem also had to be careful to avoid scorpions and snakes when she went to the toilet in the field next to her house.

As a result of the project, the people in Preem's village now have clean, safe drinking water and private toilet and washing facilities; it also means that Preem no longer misses school because she has to spend time collecting water. She says, *"Having clean water we can drink whenever we want is great; it makes us healthier and life much easier. It is also good that we can wash and use the toilet in our own yard, which is safer, nicer and private."*

**Click on the image to see a short clip of Preem drawing water from her new well!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBiDTRhSxnU&feature=youtu.be>





## Jagasya Village

This project was similar to Manpura, but on a slightly smaller scale being a village of only 70 households. Instead of river bed check dams, the mass storage element was the excavation and de-silting of an existing man-made lake and reinforcement of the mass earth dam. To date, 40 latrines have been built by home owners and a water supply has been provided to 50 houses.

All elements are working well and are being maintained. The pump house has had solar panels installed on the roof, thus ensuring the pump operates off solar power (this is much more suitable for remote villages, where mains power is sporadic and unreliable).

As a result, the 300 inhabitants of Jagasya village are now able to benefit from the following:

- New sanitation facilities which have improved the personal safety of women and girls through access to a home-based latrine
- The lake has proved to be beneficial for agricultural use and ground water recharge
- Villagers are also able to fish from the lake which provides supplements to their daily diet

For 14 year old Rohini, drinking dirty water and having to go to the toilet in public were simply her way of life in Jagasya village. What she didn't understand was why her family didn't have their own bathroom like so many of the people in the television programmes she had seen.

Following support from Just a Drop and Reed Travel Exhibitions, everyone in Rohini's village now has clean, safe drinking water and private toilet and washing facilities. Her father, Harishchandra, is delighted that his daughters have access to these new facilities; he says, *"When my daughters get married, I am going to insist that they all have good facilities in their new homes. My eldest daughter is now engaged and her fiancée was pleased to see that he was marrying a girl who came from a proper home"*.

## Case Study



Our sincere thanks to Reed Travel Exhibitions for making this project possible