

Monthly Newsletter – October 2019

WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA

❖ WATER FOR PEOPLE INDIA ADVOCACY FOR CLEANLINESS, HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. 150 years of Celebrating the Mahatma



On the eve of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, nationwide celebrations were held on 2nd October 2019 as part of Swachh Bharat (Clean India) mission to achieve the dream of total sanitation for all. Water For People India celebrated the occasion with its partner organizations in all five blocks (53 Gram Panchayats) in Sheohar district, Bihar by implementing the Everyone Forever program with the government machinery at the block and district levels. As a befitting tribute to the Father of the Nation, Water For People India also took part in the launch of 'Jal Jeevan Hariyal'

Abhiyan (safeguarding water and nature) with the objective of water conservation and planting trees to protect the environment. As part of the demonstration, model soak pits were constructed with massive community involvement. Altogether around 300 people participated in the event.

In panchayats and schools awareness sessions on key milestones set by Gandhi Ji were shared and communities were sensitized on the importance of overall sanitation in Khoyrasol and Rajnagar Blocks in Birbhum District, West Bengal. A rally was held by students and teachers from Aligarh Primary School, Rajnagar block with slogans on cleanliness and the need for waste management at the household level. Key messages on personal hygiene and waste management were displayed on placards. Nirmal Bandhus also participated in the rally and cleaned the alleys by which the rally passed.



2. Clean Hands for All -- Global Handwashing Day 2019



Global Handwashing Day (GH Day) was observed on 15th October 2019 on the theme "Clean Hands for All." Water for People India in collaboration with Suez India Foundation observed GH Day at Belgachhia Urdu High school in Kolkata, West Bengal. The co-ed school with around 1200 students will be provided with improved water and sanitation facilities under the school sanitation project 'Swachh Parivesh Swachh Vidyalaya' (Clean environment, Clean school). The newly formed child cabinet 'Special 21' demonstrated handwashing steps to the students disseminating the message that we all must be inclusive when addressing handwashing disparities.

GH Day was also celebrated in Anganwadi centres, community, slums and schools across three districts in West Bengal. Students, teachers, adolescents, pregnant and lactating mothers were sensitized on the importance of handwashing with soap (at critical times) as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. A signature campaign was followed by quiz

competition on safe sanitation practices. Stickers on the essence of GH day were pasted on public and private vehicles for a wider reach.

In Bihar, Water For People India and its partner organizations celebrated the annual global advocacy day with a week-long event commencing from 15th October. With 1,069 participants orientation on the importance of handwashing was given in communities as well as schools in the presence of Water User Committee and other ward members in six Gram Panchayats. For greater involvement of the students, a signature campaign followed by a quiz competition was organized in 14 schools.



3. Nationwide clean-up drive to beat plastic blues



In a bid to reduce the detrimental effect of uncollected plastic waste on human beings, animals and the environment at large, *Swachhata Hi Seva* (SHS) 2019 - a mass movement for cleanliness -- has been launched with focus on 'Plastic Waste Management' as part of the plan of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. From 3rd-27th October (till Diwali), the collected and segregated plastic waste will be effectively recycled and disposed.

Water For People India, in solidarity, observed a massive cleanliness drive covering five districts in three states -- West Bengal, Odisha and Assam -- reaching out to 2500 people. Students and teachers from 17 schools and 300 people from two community toilets came out in support of the campaign. A cleanliness drive was done across all locations and plastic waste to tune of 55 kgs was collected for safe disposal. Quiz and drawing competitions and key messages on cleanliness through a talking doll and magic shows were held in schools. Students were also involved in dustbin making in Howrah, West Bengal.

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

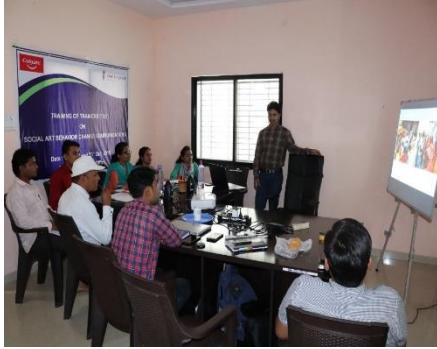
Formation of Water User Committee in West Bengal

The first of three Mark-II tube well has been constructed under "*Save Water Cause Campaign*" - a collaborative initiative of Water For People India and Colgate Metro with support of village community in Kanmora Dangal Para, Birbhum district, West Bengal. On 22nd October 2019, a programme was organized for the formation and orientation of the newly formed Water User Committee '*Kanmora Dangalpara Jol Byaboharkari*' to ensure proper maintenance of the installed handpump. The inauguration program was attended by 60 villagers including Upa Pradhan, Panchayat Secretary, and Panchayat members. During the oath-taking ceremony, the water user committee made a vow to protect the water point and for safe usage of water. The committee also pledged to use water filter while collecting water and utilize it for drinking purposes only. A rally by the women folk disseminated slogans on water conservation around the village. To mark this special day a tree was planted next to the site by the Upa Pradhan.



❖ IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Amravati team partakes in SABC workshop



A three-day Social Art for Behavior Change (SABC) workshop was held from 22nd – 24th October 2019 for Water For People India Amravati team in Maharashtra. During the training session, a presentation was given on understanding IEC, BCC and SBCC components for behaviour change and ways to communicate effectively. The training further focused on the history and importance of sanitation; different level of schemes implemented by central and state government to achieve open defecation free status for India in tandem to SDGs; fundamental right of everyone for WASH services; concept of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and its approach; and understanding the triggering process and tools. Additionally,

every staff member was oriented by the Project-In charge on water quality testing and its parameters followed by a demo to use the kit at field level.
