

Water harvesting and conservation in the villages of Henva River Valley

Completion Report

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Water harvesting and conservation in the villages of Herval River Valley

Water harvesting and conservation initiatives in the Herval river catchment villages of Narendra Nagar Block – Tehri Garhwal District-Uttarakhand is creating a very positive environment by involving men, women, youth groups and school children in this program implemented by Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan (UJJS). Himalaya Resources activists and volunteers powered by the Wild Geese Foundation generous contributions have been constantly supporting the field team with interesting ideas and lot of moral support in successfully implementing this program.

The highlight of the program has been a large group of women activists and school children joining this initiative with high level of enthusiasm and commitment. UJJS is regularly bringing in experts on water harvesting and conservation to empower and channel this energy in a constructive direction.

1. Construction of small ponds



Small Pond Construction at Pipleth Village

A total of ten (10) small ponds or percolation tanks, locally called *Chahals*, have been constructed under the program in Bhandar Goan (2), Chidiyali (3), Pipleth (3), and Kathiya (2) villages with active participation and support of the women mutual support groups (WMSG) and youth groups of respective villages. These villages are situated in the Herval river valley that is a tributary of the

Ganges. WMSG are established in all the villages. Members of these groups are working on water conservation, environment restoration, livelihood and issues related to the women and village. In each group there are 20 to 30 members and some groups have more than 60 members who participated in the construction of small ponds.



Water Pond Construction at Kathiya Village

Making of small ponds is really a celebration event for the village community. Women, youth, children

and concerned people of the village gathered in desilting the mud, clearing the big stones from pond surface and it was so enthusiastic for all participating. WMSGs made semolina pudding on the construction site of ponds. They did the worship of village deities and offered pudding/halwa to deities before the construction. Village children gathered around the construction site of pond and they played there while eating the pudding. It was like a festival for all the people who were engaged in pond construction.



District Administrator visit at Small Pond

The construction of small ponds was covered very well by social media and print media. The District Administrator/ District Magistrate showed interest in visiting one of the water ponds made by the WMSG after seeing the coverage in the newspaper. She had visited the water pond at Pipleth village with other district level officers and social activists. She thanked the WMSG and conveyed her appreciation for their

water conservation initiatives. She also directed officials to take up similar initiatives for water conservation in other villages.

These are multipurpose percolation tanks and the water harvesting is used by farmers for agriculture and animal husbandry. These ponds create a moisture regime and help in recharging the aquifers there by improving the status of springs that have come under pressure in the Himalayan region. UJJS efforts have received a good local media attention through its coverage and also widely shared in social media by concerned citizens.

2. Roof water harvesting Ferro cement tanks



Rain Water Harvesting Tank at Chidiyali village

A beneficiary of the rain water harvesting program, Ms. *Kamla Devi* said that “after construction of this tank there is no more worrying about water. There was a very acute water problem in the *Chidiyali* village. People were bringing water from the hand pumps which is 1.5 km away from the village. *Kamla Devi* is a resident of the *Chidiyali* village and was facing the same challenge for fulfilling the water

needs of her family. Now she is relaxed due to the water availability at her door steps. Her family now has 3000 liters of water available and this is the reason for a smile on her face. The same problem is faced by the villagers of *Pali* village. The women and children are bringing water approx. 1 kilometer away from the homes. *Satye Singh* is a village water man and he takes initiative for making water available for families of the village. In his house he faced a water crisis. The Rain Water Harvesting Tank is a big relief for him and his family for their daily water needs. *Rama devi* is a resident of *Sabali* village and *Mamta Devi* is from the *Ranichauri* village. Both women are now happy after having Rain Water Harvesting Tanks and satisfied for the water needs of agriculture and domestic use.



RWH Tank at Pali Village

The proposed five (5) roofs / rain water harvesting Ferro cement tanks have been constructed in *Chidiyali*, *Pali*, *Sabli* and *Ranichouri* villages. More farmers in the region have shown interest in constructing these roof harvesting structures for harvesting water.

The beneficiaries have now got a 3000 ltr. capacity storage tank giving much relief to the women and children specially who had to otherwise walk long distances fetching water for their daily needs.

3. Repairing old water storage structures



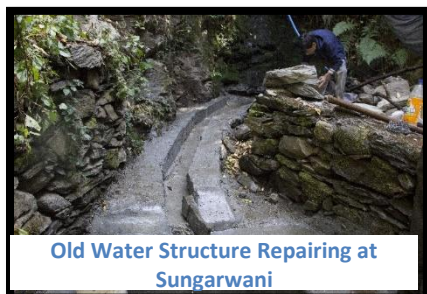
Old Water Structure Repairing at KGBH, Aampata

UJJS team has repaired and constructed two (2) old water storage structures in Aampata at



Old Water Structure Repairing at KGBH, Aampata

the Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Hostel and on the spring shed covering Koti, Pali-Kakdasari villages. In Aampata, this has been done in the senior girls hostel, in addition to the two roof water harvesting ferro cement tanks (supported by Me & My Charity) that we have constructed in the junior girls hostel adjacent to it. This input



Old Water Structure Repairing at Sungarwani

has brought in a lot of relief for the resident girl students of the hostel. The repaired water harvesting structure of 16000



Old Water Structure Repairing at Sungarwani

liters capacity at the girls' hostel is a big relief for the sixty (60) residents of the school, and the intervention in the *Sungrwani* spring source has greatly benefitted approx. 200 households covering a population of 1000 people.

Plantation for spring recharge

Plantation at Chidiyali Village



Around 3500 broad leaf species saplings and water conserving bushes and shrubs were planted under this program covering approx. 3.5 hectares of community land in the watershed areas of Chiriyali, Tipali, Pipleth and Bhandargaun villages. A good variety of Oak, Bhimal, Guriyal and other bushes and shrubs were planted with

active participation of village communities. School and college students also participated in these plantation drives during this monsoon season along with the village women groups.

Plantation at Pipleth Village



Women, youth, children and many people gathered for the plantation drives and showed great enthusiasm. Many old people also participated in the plantation. Some women brought saplings and some women went to bring cuttings of water conserving bushes and grasses. A pudding was cooked at the plantation site itself and served after the plantation, sometimes also sweets were served. People also take care of the samplings planted during earlier plantation drives and take care of them during these community initiatives. Plantation drives took almost a month during the monsoon period in different locations selected with community participation in which hundreds of men, women youth and school children actively participated with a lot of enthusiasm generating a positive spirit to conserve the Himalayan ecology.

4. Water campaign



Water Campaign Meeting at GIC Bhaisyaroun

The active water campaign initiated by UJS activists is now being called "Jal Jagar" meaning water awakening and has received a very positive response among the school children in the region. UJS together with Himalaya Seva Sangh (a Gandhian network) has brought a

compilation of songs and poems on water, land and forest issues to animate the community. A dedicated social medial facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Jal-Jagar-1702252450086682/> has been created calling it Jal Jagar for documenting the campaign in the region. UJJS has covered and involved students and teachers of 15 Govt. schools and colleges under this program. Several meetings and workshops were organized in Jajal, Bhainsyarau, Khankar, Girls Hostel (6th to 8th Class), Girls Hostel (9th to 12th Class), Nagani, Nagrjadhar, Baagi, Dabarkhal, Kharsada, Ataal, Devprayag, Bharat Mandir Rishkesh.

UJJS along with this Henva Jagar campaign involved the school children through the Water Clubs that were formed during this period in the schools and colleges. We made an assessment format of the water quality and quantity available in the villages of our program area where students with the help of their teachers and family members had to get the required data, inputs and a rough map / sketch which helped us in making an assessment while implementing this program. This has also helped in building up an awareness in our program villages regarding water and forest issues that the community is confronting today. A small example sheet showing the study format and a map drawn by the students is given below. These data sheets gave us the ideas and direction to work in future.

हेंवल जागर

जल स्रोत ऑकलन प्रपत्र

हेंवल क्लब का नाम ... रा. ३० कॉ. ३० दापराधार

विद्यालय / गाँव का नाम ... रा. ३० कॉ. ३० दापराधार, चम्बा (दि. ३०.००)

गाँव का नाम (जहाँ का जलस्रोत है) ... मीजाड गाँव

विकासखण्ड का नाम ... चम्बा जिला ... दिहरी गढ़वाल

जलस्रोत का नाम / तोक ... मीजाड गाँव गाँव से दूरी ... 500 m

जलस्रोत की स्थिति - अच्छी मध्यम सूखा

जल स्रोत की उपलब्धता - वर्ष भर मौसमी

जलस्रोत पर पानी की उपलब्धता- लीटर प्रति सेकण्ड / मिनट

गाँव की जल स्रोत पर निर्भरता -

पूर्णतः आंशिक कभी-कभी

जलस्रोत पर निर्भर जनसंख्या - पेयजल सिंचाई अन्य

पिछले वर्षों में जलस्रोत की स्थिति में आया अंतर -

कोई अंतर नहीं पानी कम हुआ पानी बढ़ा सूखा

जलस्रोत के आस-पास की वनस्पति- जल स्रोत के आस-पास बाँस के जंगल हैं जोट उपजाऊ खेत हैं। इसके अलावा यहाँ कुछ भूमि के पेड़ तथा अन्य दौरे-दौरे पेड़ हैं।

जलस्रोत के ऊपरी भाग की स्थिति-

खेत जंगल बंजर भूमि सड़क बस्ती

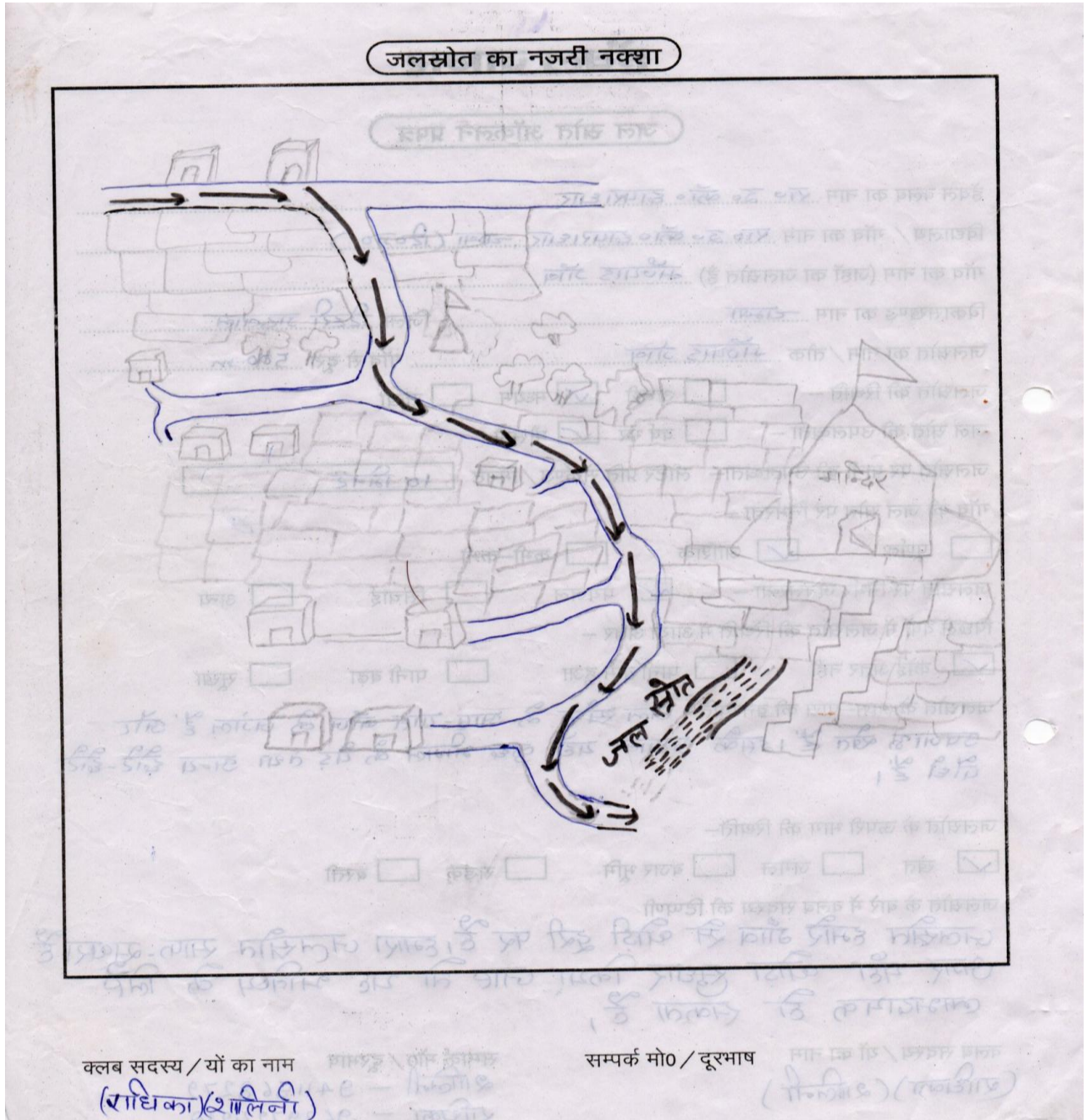
जलस्रोत के बारे में क्लब सदस्य की टिप्पणी

जलस्रोत हमारे गाँव से थोड़ी दूरी पर है, हमारा जलस्रोत साफ-सुथरा है अगर यहाँ थोड़ा सुधार किया जाए तो यह भविष्य के लिए लाभदायक हो सकता है,

क्लब सदस्य / यों का नाम (राधिका) (शालिनी)

सम्पर्क मो० / दूरभाष शालिनी - 9411568279 राधिका - 9639724218

A water spring source Monitoring Format



A rough Sketch of water sources in the villages drawn by the students

UJS together with Pragya Arts organized a 15 days theater workshop at Jagriti Bhawan in Khadi to sensitize and animate school children and youth groups on water, land and forest issues through songs, and street theater. Several skits and plays were together made by the children to sensitize the community on water and forest issues and live performances were made during this period. This has helped us in successfully implementing our targets.



UJJS is in the process of documenting community initiatives and their folk songs to spread the message of water harvesting and conservation. This theater workshop is the part of Jal Jagar campaign. Pragay Arts, a theater group from New Delhi, showed their interest to prepare theater with children on the water



issues apart from other concerns of mountain communities. In the workshop they prepared plays on river pollution and other relevant issues of the society.



Folk Dance Performance by Participants

5. Training of women and youth groups

Twenty (20) campaign meetings were organized by UJJS activists involving village women activists, journalists and academic people to sensitize the communities on water and forest issues while also focusing on the springs and rivers of



Campaign Meeting at Raithal Barsu



Meeting at kathiya

Himalayan region. UJJS is in the process of documenting community initiatives and their folk songs to spread the message of water harvesting and conservation. These meetings are the platform of the sharing of experiences,

interaction and learning from each other. Discussing the methods of water conservation and purification in these meetings, new techniques are placed before and explained to the participants.



Training Meeting at kathiya Village

Construction of Roof/ Rain Water Harvesting Ferro Cement Tank

This is the process of constructing a Rain Water Harvesting Tank taken from various sites of the projects.



Molding Iron Rod for Tank Frame



Tanks Filters Frame



Tank Frame covering with Net



Plastering on Tank frame



Tank Filter Making



Tank Lid Preparation



Tank and Filter Lid



Filter Lid preparation



Inside material in Filter



Tank Structure



Tank Finishing and Filter fitting



Complete Roof / Rain Water Harvesting Ferro Cement Tank

Roof / Rain Water Harvesting Ferro Cement Tank Beneficiaries



Urmila Devi, Chidiyali, Village



Kamla Devi, Village Chidiyali



Mamta Devi, Village Ranichauri



Rama Devi, village Sabali



Satye Singh, Village Pali

Small Pond Construction



Small Pond 1 Construction at Chidiyali



Small Pond 2 Construction at Chidiyali



Small Pond 3 Construction at Bhandar Gaun



Small Pond 4 Construction at Bhandargau



Small Pond 5 Construction at Chidiyali



Small Pond 6 Construction at Pipeleth



District Magistrate visiting Small Pond 7 at Pipleth



Small Pond 8 Construction at Pipleth



Small Pond 9 Construction at Kathiya



Small pond 10 Construction at Kathiya

Plantation Details

Village name	Oak	Bhimal	Guriyal	Sinsyaru	Bedu	Kujju	Total
Chidiyali	200	100	200	700	200	200	1600
Pipleth	200	100	200	-	-	-	500
Tipali	200	150	200	300	250	300	1400
Total	600	350	600	1000	450	500	3500