A Unique Partnership Brings Safe Water to One Million Drought-stricken Poor in India

A Case Study of Sri Satya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India
(LA 0892RAFFT3)

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UNIQUENESS OF THE PROJECT

- **Scale of Intervention and Timeline**
  - Transformed the lives of One million people within 18 months

- **Financed by the Civil Society when the Government Failed to Deliver**
  - Entire cost ($69 million) raised by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust through voluntary contributions

- **Unique Partnership**
  - Unique partnership with the State Government, local communities and the executing agency

- **Sustained Over 10 years**
  - Sense of ownership by communities, cross subsidies and focus on O&M. Evaluated jointly by the Asian Development Bank and UNHABITAT, as a best practice.

- The project has established a new benchmark of efficiency
Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) India

- Excessive fluoride and bacteriological contamination
- Low rainfall, frequent droughts, widespread poverty
- Lack of political will to implement water supply schemes
### The Power of Compassion

The Impossible Began To Happen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Covered</td>
<td>19,125 Sq.Km.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Villages</td>
<td>731</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>0.9 Million (1995)</td>
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<td>Design Population</td>
<td>1.25 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Demand</td>
<td>60 Million litres per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Cost</td>
<td>US $ 69 Million</td>
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</table>
ONE PROJECT: FOUR SCHEMES

CPWS
(Comprehensive Protected Water Supply)

- Infiltration Wells
- Summer Storage Tanks
- Balancing Reservoir

PWS
(Protected Water Supply)

262 Villages
97 Villages
93 Villages
279 Villages
ALL THESE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS!

- 2,500 Km Pipeline
- 25 Large Summer Storage Reservoirs
- 145 Balancing Reservoirs
- 275 Overhead Reservoirs
- 135 Pump Houses
- 1,000 Concrete Water Cisterns
- Power Back-up - Diesel Gensets
- Slow-sand Filters for Treatment
- Water Treatment with Clarifloculators
WATER AT LAST!

Providing Drinking Water To One Million People Who Had Lived All Their Lives On The Edge Of Drought And Despair

Pre-cast Concrete Cistern with taps for collection
• Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust mobilized the entire fund of US$ 69 million (approx.) received through voluntary contributions from people all over the world in the true spirit of a global partnership for a worthy cause.

• Partnership with Government in Planning and Post-construction Operation & Maintenance

• Partnership with Communities and Building Local Capacity for Operation and Management.
Project Management

- Sri Satya Sai Central Trust - A public charitable Trust
- State Government - Complete responsibility for Project planning and design
- Central Govt - exempted the project from Excise Duty (15-25%).
- Larsen & Toubro - charge of Project Management, Construction, Commissioning and O & M.
- Community – Access to private property, workmen operating round the clock.
Water cost works out at an average of Rs 15 (35 ¢ ) per kilo litre of water

Supply cost shared between state and local government with community contributing 30 %.
The Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted “Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project Board” in September 1997 to take up O &M as the first of its kind in the rural water supply sector in India.

Board is an autonomous body having full powers to take decisions on O&M, carry out improvements, and pricing of water.

The water quality is monitored at village level by the community on daily basis.
“The Sri Sathya Sai Trust has set an unparalleled example of private initiative in implementing, on their own, a massive water supply water supply project”

Govt. of India Plan Document
FINDINGS OF INDEPENDENT EVALUATION by ADB/UN-HABITAT

- Water is supplied regularly throughout the year without any fluctuation.
- Improvement in community health, especially due to removal of pathogens and chemical contaminants.
- The farthest household from the public stand post is located below 50 meters distance.
How the Project Affected People

“Earlier I had to walk 3 to 4 Kilometers to fetch water. Now it is available right outside. We can now go to school instead.”

“I now have more time to do other work where I can earn some more money”
“Earlier my mother used to travel 3 to 4 kilometres in the morning and evening to fetch two vessels of water. I had to drop out of school to help in household activities. Now water is available outside my house” – Raj Lakshmi
Raj Lakshmi has been readmitted to the school after a gap of two years. Her mother Subba Lakshmi, is a 38 year old widow and an earning mother of three school going children in Nagireddy village in Ananthapur district. Subba Lakshmi is now planning to revive the weaving business of her late husband.

From a report of an independent evaluation by ADB
Sustainability

- A Strong sense of ownership persists in the beneficiary community
- The partnership and commitment continues
- Statutory board created by the state government manages water supply
- The project has created a sustainable model which continues to be replicated elsewhere
REPLICABILITY

- Similar efforts were carried out by the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust for Medak and Mahabubnagar districts in Telengana region and later in East and West Godavari districts of Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh.

- With direct benefit of 0.6 million population out of $1.2 million at two districts.

- Currently similar project for 450 villages costing 25 million dollars is under way in poor tribal areas of east and West Godavari Districts and near in completion.
## The Anantapur Model Continues to be Replicated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Anantapur</th>
<th>Mehaboobnagar</th>
<th>Chennai</th>
<th>Godavari</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Start</strong> Date</td>
<td>Nov 1994</td>
<td>March 1999</td>
<td>April 2002</td>
<td>Dec 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>End</strong> Date</td>
<td>June 1996</td>
<td>Nov 2000</td>
<td>Nov 2004</td>
<td>May 2006</td>
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Other Inspired Examples

- Chittoor
- Kolar
- Kanchipuram
- El Salvador
- Uganda
Points to Ponder

Why did people work round the clock for this project?

Why did the farmers come forward willingly?

How did the beneficiary community develop a sense of ownership?

Why no litigation?
Large Innovative Project.

Alternate Financing.

Unique.

Sustainable

Replicable

Meeting MDG
Summary and Conclusions

- Effective combination of management and partnership
- Transformational forces providing Mission/Strategy
- Inspired leadership producing the right mission, strategy and commitment
Food for thought...

“Hands that help are holier than the lips that pray”
Satya Sai Baba

“To be doing a good deed is man’s glorious task”
Sophocles