



# Rural Water Supply

## Water Pumps: 'from dependence to independence'

### A KAMLA FOUNDATION PROJECT

#### Sustainable Water Management in India

The needs of India are unique. Nowhere else in the world does population growth and poverty play such a large role in affecting water resources. This reflects the importance of providing for basic human needs to ensure that the livelihoods of all can be improved. In the case of rural India, poverty and reduced access to safe water resources has limited the ability of the poor to improve their situation, which has only served to perpetuate the poverty cycle especially among rural populations and women.

The statistics show an alarming trend for India: rapid population growth, urbanisation and industrialisation has lead to a greater demand for an increasingly smaller supply of water resources in the region

#### Competition for Water

It has been said that the next wars will be fought over water. Increasing competition for dwindling water resources will continue to pose a greater threat to national and international security.

#### The Need

Providing clean drinking water by installation of hand pumps is seen as essential for survival in rural areas of India, where Kamla Foundation operates. This project aligns well with our goals of assisting to reduce rural poverty and improve the health of the rural population.

Kamla Foundation, as part of one of its key objectives is supporting a programme in sourcing clean water supplies, in line with its commitment to fighting rural poverty. The project is sourcing and delivering the provision of safe water to the poorest segments of rural society namely the scheduled castes and tribes, which make up about 20 percent of Tamil Nadu's population. We are installing simple bore wells operated by hand pumps across 35 rural hamlets which are in desperate need of access to safe clean drinking water. Tamil Nadu's poor often have to rely on contaminated rivers or open wells for meagre water supplies. In cases of extreme scarcity, the state is currently supplying water by tank trucks to poorer villages at an extortionate cost.

#### Outcomes

*The project is helping beneficiaries by;*

- Enabling locals to get safe, dependable water close to their doorsteps, thereby reducing the drudgery of hauling water from open wells and rivers.
- Halving the time it takes village women from getting daily water supplies for their households, providing more time for more productive activities such as day labour or childcare.
- A dramatic reduction in water-related diseases once the pumps go into operation.
- Providing simple technology which means that the pumps can be easily operated and maintained by local villagers.
- locally elected governing bodies taking ownership of and maintaining the completed hand pumps.

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