

Emerging leaders

- ◆ In Mohnakanchali, a remote and tribal village located in the hills in Kaparada taluka of Valsad district, Jaldhara, a youth group, voluntarily took over the responsibility of collecting community contribution in cash or kind.
- ◆ In Vasna Iyava village of Ahmedabad district, a self motivated Sarpanch, keeps all records and accounts updated. Whenever he is called by the DWSC, he comes with a bag containing all vouchers and documents. He shares all the information with the Pani Samiti members regularly to maintain transparency.
- ◆ In the primary school of village, a three-member school children Safai Committee (Cleanliness Committee) is responsible for the weekly cleaning of the water tank.
- ◆ In Jahirpur-Molipur village of Mehsana district, Pani Samiti member Mahmudbhai does not let his physical disability get in the way of his personal involvement in implementation of the scheme. He supervises and monitors all construction work, keeping a close vigil on the contractor to ensure quality work.
- ◆ Mansinghbhai Chaudhary, president of the Navi Umari village in Mehsana district has the following to say in a letter to WASMO: “Water used to be a scarce commodity in our village. Normally we get water from the Dharoi dam but when the supply is not there, we have to fetch the water from nearby farms. Villagers discussed the issue several times within the Panchayat, but funds were never available to solve the crisis. Finally, we found a ray of hope in Sector Reform (state) Scheme. We have formed a Pani Samiti in the village and planned our own water supply system. The construction is almost complete. We maintain transparency in all our financial dealings. We are aiming for the excellence in our work. To achieve that, we require constant guidance and monitoring by officials.”
- ◆ In Vadinar village of Jamkhambalia taluka, Jamnagar, even after the formation of the Pani Smiti, not all the members were keen to start with work. Later on women of the village got together and decided to have a meeting with Sarpanch. In the meeting, Sarpanch did not take any decision regarding contribution for RRWHS at the village school. So the women decided to collect contributions on their own, which they have done in three days and collected Rs.10,000/-. But this act encouraged Sarpanch and started collecting contributions.
- ◆ Jamnaben of Nagdhaniba village of Bhavnagar district is no ordinary home maker but works as the village pump operator. Majority of the villagers belong to the Darbar community, which is known for its patriarchal customs. In a normal situation Jamnaben would have never got a chance to venture out of her courtyard. Thanks to her enthusiasm; today the village gets water twice a day. Even though she is not a Pani Samiti member, Jamnaben has been active in all the

work from monitoring the construction to attending trainings and meetings. She is a diligent pump operator who reports for duty, night or day and switches on motor for the villagers.