

## Operation and Maintenance of the System

### *Manguben, Thana village – Banaskantha*

Manguben of Thana village, Danta-Banaskantha, got the job of pump operator after the death of her husband who served as an operator. The job of operator was a blessing for Manguben, and it helped her to overcome the difficulties of raising a family. The responsibilities of a pump operator were not an easy task to accomplish, but Manguben used to accompany her husband at times and was therefore aware of the basics. Due to erratic supply of electricity in the village, pumping and distribution of water are carried out at night, so that water is available in the morning and the community does not suffer. She takes care of operation of the system and minor maintenance works by herself. She has also contacted the health centre and gathered information regarding purification of water. Earlier she used to chlorinate water only once in a week but after realising the importance of purifying water, now chlorination is being done everyday and she cleans the water tank once every month.

Village Sarpanch, Jyotiram says, "Manguben is exceptional in her work and she does everything with so much dedication. She keeps the water tank clean and does chlorination regularly." Ask anyone in the village, and all have their own story of Manguben's dedication for the work. In the beginning when people were reluctant to have chlorinated water, Manguben took help of the Sarpanch and other Pani Samiti members and helped people to understand the importance of having chlorinated water. Manguben says, "I will always be there for the people of my village, who have helped me in my difficult time. I will never put them in difficulty."

### *Jamnaben, Nagdhaniba village – Bhavnagar*

Jamnaben, of Nagdhaniba village, Bhavnagar is not only an efficient 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 even at midnight, (which is when electricity is supplied), unfailingly switches on the motor in order to ensure water supply to the village. She has encouraged other women to work.