

Water & Sanitation

Considering the importance that clean water and sanitation have on a person's life BIPF does its bit to help mitigate the suffering of the rural masses in the areas of our operations.

The fact is that access to clean water and sanitation is fundamental to a Community's Health.

It not only provides dignity but also improves health and ensures economic benefits.

The majority of people residing in Odisha's rural and tribal areas still depend on open water bodies like rivers, streams, ponds and "chuas" or shallow wells for their potable water needs and follow poor sanitation practices thus enhancing the vulnerability to diseases.

~~BIPF invests in water and sanitation facilities and interventions, so that villagers can have a better quality of life.~~

~~If one were to go by figures it is a well-documented fact that every 20 seconds a child dies somewhere on the planet because of lack of potable water or poor sanitation habits... so serious is the situation!~~

~~It is often said that "thousands have lived without love but not one has lived without water".~~

~~Considering the seriousness we give to our project the fact is it has been bearing good positive results to help overcome water and sanitation problems.~~

Project Su-Swasthya

BIPF's Project Su-Swasthya focuses on availability and accessibility of potable drinking water to the village community. Project Su-swasthya basically addresses the problem of shortage or even a total lack of potable drinking water and lack of good hygienic and sanitation practices; it is a wholly community-based participatory model.

Whether it is to involve people for getting potable drinking water or it is for improving hygiene it takes a two pronged program approach. On the one hand it has a hardware program and on the other hand it has a software program built into it. The hardware program comprises of installation of overhead tanks and piped water supply systems, repair, renovation and maintenance of water sources as well as construction of toilets and bathrooms; on the other hand the software program consists of institution strengthening and capacity building of community as well as of spreading awareness through Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

~~both of these together form the project.~~

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To achieve the national goal of “Swachh Bharat” our holistic approach is not just building toilets or water facilities but also carrying out Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) through community based interventions.

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To ensure availability of sustainable potable water in peripheral areas, BIPF in consultation with the community and Department of Rural Water Supply & Sanitation, Government of Odisha, has initiated activities to encourage and undertake a “one time investment for lifetime solution”.

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Sanitation

Poor sanitation not only affects individual health, but also societal development. Diseases like diarrhoea, dengue, malaria and intestinal worms are caused by open defecation and low personal hygiene. These translate into high infant mortality and malnutrition. BIPF takes remedial measures like building of toilets connected to water supply on the one hand, and promoting ideal sanitation practices of WASH ~~through CLTS approach on the other.~~

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Shifting Focus From Hardware To Software

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Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

It is a fact that people want change but ~~it is also a fact that people don't want to get changed!~~ Hence to bring about a change in their lives which is acceptable to them is a rather difficult task. ~~It~~ requires ~~effort, in fact, it requires a~~ lot of effort to introduce changes in their lifestyle that they could accept and adopt. Studies have shown that merely providing toilets does not guarantee their use nor results in improved sanitation and hygiene practices. Despite the construction of toilets, it is found that people in rural areas continue to defecate in the open. Open defecation and the cycle of faecal-oral communication is the leading cause of stunted growth among children under the age

of five and water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and intestinal worms as well as infection among adults and adolescents.

To augment the Government's approach to "Swachh Bharat", BIPF ~~emphasises~~emphasizes ~~behavioural~~behavioral change and invests in ~~mobilising~~mobilizing communities for WASH and for ODF (Open Defecation Free) villages through CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation). The CLTS approach was piloted at Dhanurjaypur Gram Panchayat under the Hatadih block of Keonjhar district covering villages like Dhanurjaypur, Kuishatikiri, Siadimalia and Nuarugudi.

BIPF promotes socially conscious and self-sustaining model WASH solutions to help people gain access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation.

~~BIPF works not just at the mental and physical levels but also at the emotional and psychological levels and as a result achieves its goals in a timely and effective manner.~~

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