

# Jal Jeevan Mission And Women Empowerment

DR. AMRITA CHAUDHARY

Assistant Professor

**ABSTRACT :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the Jal Jeevan Mission as a movement to empower women and rural India with Jan Bhagidari and active participation from everyone. Interacting with Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis across the country on Jal Jeevan Mission through video conferencing, he said, Gram Panchayats have been provided over two lakh 25 thousand crore rupees to facilitate water and cleanliness.

## INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi aptly stated that “Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacity,”

But this fact has been ignored and clouded by gender bias and societal pressures for long.

Taking forward Bapu’s dream of Gramin Vikas and self-reliant villages, it was foreseen long ago that the future of India lies not in its metros but in its villages. The story of Indian villages will not truly change unless gender equality is acknowledged, accepted and followed.

The theme for this year’s International women’s day, ‘Gender equality for a sustainable tomorrow’, reiterated the same.

Women are given a pivotal role under the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ as they are the primary stakeholders and are involved in the programme from the very beginning. They are part of planning, monitoring and also receive training to undertake water quality testing from time to time. It is a move to empower women and reduce their drudgery.



**Shri Narendra Modiji**  
**(Prime Minister of India)**

“...I declare from the Red Fort today that in the days to come, we will take forward the **Jal Jeevan Mission**. The central and the state governments will jointly work on this Jal Jeevan Mission. We have promised to spend more than **Rs. 3.50 Lakh Crores** on this occasion in the coming years...in the next five years, we have to do more than four times the work that has been done in the last 70 years...”

## **WHAT IS JAL JEEVAN MISSION?**

- Launched in 2019, it envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.

- JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
- It comes under Jal Shakti Ministry.

**Aims:**

- The mission ensures functionality of existing water supply systems and water connections, water quality monitoring and testing as well as sustainable agriculture.
- It also ensures conjunctive use of conserved water; drinking water source augmentation, drinking water supplies system, grey water treatment and its reuse.

**Features:**

- JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.
- Creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability measures as mandatory elements, like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse, is undertaken in convergence with other government programmes/schemes.
- The Mission is based on a community approach to water and includes extensive Information, Education and Communication as a key component of the mission.

**Implementation:**

- Paani Samitis plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain village water supply systems.
- These consist of 10-15 members, with at least 50% women members and other members from Self-Help Groups, Accredited Social and Health Workers, Anganwadi teachers, etc.
- The committees prepare a one-time village action plan, merging all available village resources. The plan is approved in a Gram-Sabha before implementation.

**Funding Pattern:**

- The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and states is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 50:50 for other states, and 100% for Union Territories.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described the Jal Jeevan Mission as a movement to empower women and rural India with Jan Bhagidari and active participation from everyone. Interacting with Gram Panchayats and Pani Samitis across the country on Jal Jeevan Mission through video conferencing, he said, Gram Panchayats have been provided over two lakh 25 thousand crore rupees to facilitate water and cleanliness.

From independence till 2019, only three crore households in the country had access to tap water. Five crore households have been connected with water connections, since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019. Today, nearly every household in one lakh 25 thousand villages in 80 districts across the country is receiving clean water in their homes.

Water Samitis' made under the Jal Jeevan Mission in villages has the representation of 50 per cent women. It reflects the government's efforts for women empowerment with their active participation and the success of this mission.

**CASE STUDIES**

There are a lot of case studies done on this mission which provides us the insight of the success of **JAL JEEVAN MISSION**.

**Success story of Juvvalapalem of West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh** of handling lack of drinking water facility and poor hygiene due to open defecation.

**Mala Grama Panchayath of Thrissur district in Kerala** is working since 15 years towards attaining "Open Defecation" free status.

**Kozhuvanal Gram Panchayat** improved the health and living standard of the people in Kottayam by reducing the incidence of waterborne and communicable diseases which in turn eliminate to a reasonable extent the morbidity rate and raise the life expectancy.

**Vembankudi West Panchayat:** The village panchayat president and public are very much keeping village atmosphere cleans. They have also planted 200 saplings. The villagers have taken resolution to protect the water bodies like Oarani, Cattle ponds without any encroachments.

If water is life, sanitation is surely a 'way of life' and access' to such facilities definitely has an impact on the quality of human life and health as well as the incidence and the spread of diseases; needless to mention, the broader human development programme. The programme of water and sanitation has definitely evolved and moved beyond from top down to bottom approach focusing on community participation both in planning and implementation.

During the first term of this government, the Swachh Bharat Mission was launched to stop the scourge of open defecation. More than 10 crore toilets, a record, were built, but this accomplishment could have been difficult had the government not had the foresight to build the toilets on a twin-pit design that has in-situ treatment of faecal sludge. Now, providing tap water connections through the Jal Jeevan Mission is among the government's top priorities.

Access to safe water gives hope, health and opportunity.

For millions, safe water can turn problems into potential – unlocking education, economic opportunity and improved health.

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