

Workshop on Ensuring access to adequate safe water

by sustainable partnership with Jal Jeevan Mission

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The workshop commenced with Mr. Rafi, Team Leader, DHAN Foundation extending a warm welcome to the participants. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the mission of Jal Jeevan Mission which aims for universal safe drinking water by 2024 to 19.31 crore households through participatory planning, infrastructure development, promotion of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), and community empowerment. By mid-2020, only 2% of households had received tap connections, equivalent to 3.86 crore households in rural India. Presently, 75% or 14.48 crore households in rural India have access to tap connections, with the goal of achieving 100% coverage by December 2024.

The objectives of the workshop encompass various critical areas aimed at advancing the goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Firstly, the workshop aims to facilitate the sharing of best practices implemented by the DHAN Foundation under the Jal Jeevan Mission. This sharing of experiences and successful strategies can serve as valuable insights for other stakeholders involved. Secondly, the workshop endeavours to formulate effective strategies to ensure that all eligible households have access to safe water connections, aligning with the mission's objective of universal rural clean water access. Thirdly, the workshop seeks to enhance participants' understanding of technical issues related to water quality, treatment, operation, and maintenance, essential for maintaining sustainable water infrastructure. Lastly, the workshop aims to address coordination gaps among various departments and agencies involved in water provision through strategic measures, fostering cohesive efforts towards achieving the mission's objectives.



Mr. Rajapandian, CEO of SUHAM Trust, in his keynote address provided insights into Jal Jeevan Mission's endeavours and the various activities undertaken within the scheme. Mr. Bharanitharan, Training Head, Panchayat, Collectorate, Madurai district, offered valuable insights into field-level issues, intervention strategies, daily operations, water conservation techniques, government funding mechanisms, and implementation strategies.

Mr. Malaisamy, President of Kondayampatty Panchayat, Alanganallur Block, shared practical experiences and challenges faced during the installation of tap water connections, along with innovative ideas for smoother implementation.

Mr. Prahalathan, representing DHAN Panchayat Development Foundation (DPDF), shared his experiences with tap water connections, insights into available government funding schemes, and approaches for CSR fund utilization.

In his lead presentation, Mr. Arikumar provided a comprehensive overview of Jal Jeevan Mission programs, detailing mechanisms, achievements, and stakeholder involvement. He shared the strategies for rural communities to ensure tap connections include surveys, village identification, gram sabha participation, and collaboration with health departments and panchayats. To achieve 100% watertap connections by 2024, initiatives such as community literacy, technology adoption, and climate resilience were emphasized.

In his valedictory remarks, Mr. Rajapandian, emphasized the importance of Jal Jeevan Mission's initiatives and proposed collecting funds of Rs 1000/=per household through Panchayat mechanisms for tap water connections. The workshop concluded on a promising note, with participants committed to implementing a range of strategies for ensuring access to adequate safe water in rural areas.

Based on the outcomes and discussions, the following declarations are proposed:

- Ensuring Lasting Access: Commitment to ensuring lasting access to safe water through sustainable partnerships with the Jal Jeevan Mission, aiming to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household by 2024.

- **Sharing Best Practices:** Pledge to actively share and implement best practices demonstrated by the DHAN Foundation under the Jal Jeevan Mission, fostering collaboration, and learning among stakeholders along with educational materials featuring case studies.
- **Strategic Formulation:** Resolution to formulate and implement effective strategies to extend safe water connections to all eligible households, ensuring alignment with the mission's objective of universal rural clean water access to Schools, Anganwadi centers, Gram Panchyat buildings, Health centers, wellness centers, and community buildings.
- **Technical Understanding:** Acknowledgment of the importance of enhancing understanding regarding technical aspects of water quality, treatment, operation, and maintenance among stakeholders, to ensure the sustainability of water infrastructure.
- **Coordination and Collaboration:** Recognizing the necessity to address coordination gaps among various departments and agencies involved in water provision, through strategic measures aimed at fostering cohesive efforts.
- **Community Engagement:** Emphasis on active community engagement in decision-making processes related to water management and conservation, promoting awareness at multiple levels, including educational institutions.