

A case study on “Provision of safe drinking water through water ATMs by self reliant community institutions of women self help groups and their federation” in the municipal area of the city of Solan (H.P.)



After a disastrous and dreadful out-break of Jaundice in and around the municipal areas of the city of Solan during last week of December 2015, which caused death of hundreds and affected by over thousands.

The district administration, municipal council, health, irrigation & public health, women & child and other related line departments launched a massive campaign in and around the city of Solan to fight Jaundice as an immediate measure at one hand and on the other decided to install water ATMs at different locations of the city to address the issue. Then with the financial assistance District Administration, Solan and Municipal Council Solan (H.P.) in the association of M/s Piramal Sarvajal, Ahmedabad installed 5 water ATMs in different locations of the city i.e. near Thodo ground, near Childrens park, near Regional Hospital, near Sunny side parking and near Tehsil office, Kotla nala in the phased manner during the period starting from June 2016 to June 2017. As the important task of maintenance and management of these water ATMs were lie with the Municipal Council Solan, so it had delegated the power to the members of area level federations of women self-help groups i.e. **M/S MAHILA SHAKTI AREA LEVEL FEDERATION** and **M/S NARI SHAKTI AREA LEVEL FEDERATIONS**, formed under the program “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission”, as one of the measure for their economic empowerment by providing them chance of earning money by selling safe drinking water to citizens with

an aim of achieving win to win situation i.e. fighting the outbreak of Jaundice at one hand and earning income on the other. The members of these federations then launched word of mouth awareness campaign under the guidance of City Livelihoods Centre of Municipal Council, Solan for popularizing the use of these water ATMs on trial basis during the initial days, when the team members of the M/s Piramal Sarvajal also helped a lot in paving a way for sales & marketing of safe drinking water dispensed through these water ATMs in very affordable prices i.e. INR 0.50/- per litre to the citizens. The story was published on:

The joint efforts by women of area level federations involved, self-help groups members, registered vendors of the City Livelihoods Centre under the guidance and supervision of Municipal Council Solan etc, gradually yielding positive results in coming months, the members started earning, they deposited these earning to the bank accounts of their area level federations, which were then used for extending micro-credit to the members of women self-help groups for consumption and meeting their basic needs of education, health and hygiene etc. Now, there are 5 fully functional water ATMs working on the specified locations. On completion of one year of maintenance and management of water ATMs by these area level federations and on the basis of the feedback regarding the various difficulties encountered by them, the Municipal Council Solan (H.P.) through its City Livelihoods Centre intervened in the matter and put its sincere efforts to support the good initiative by mobilizing public support in the way of financial assistance from big donors and initiating time bound sales & marketing plan through its registered vendors in the city.

As per the reports till June 2017, the area level federations have secured earning something over INR 50,000/- during the period of over one year since the installation of water ATMs. Now, hoping smiles in the faces of women of area level federations formed under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission through enhanced incomes through water ATMs, which will in turn helpful in supporting more to women self-help groups associated with them in the longer run.
