

KEELAKARTHIGAIPATTI, INDIA

Rural community needs water supply, sanitation

Current Situation in Keelakarthisgaipatti:

In the rural community of Keelakarthisgaipatti, nearly 900 people struggle to meet their daily water needs. The solitary one hand pump in the village

Ninety-six of every 1,000 Indian children die before the age of 5.



doesn't supply enough water. The overhead tank supplied by the hand pump is not cleaned and chlorinated properly. In addition, drainage for the hand

pump is inadequate, causing gray water to stagnate on the streets and creating a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. The villagers are forced to use irrigation canal water for bathing and washing clothes. Open defecation is routinely practiced. Waterborne diseases like cholera, dysentery, and typhoid are common during seasonal periods.

The Solution: The people of Keelakarthisgaipatti are prepared to pay the capital costs and all of the maintenance costs for a new water system, but they lack the financial resources to get started. With a grant from WaterPartners International, our



Children of Tiruchirapalli, India, gather in front of their child-friendly toilet.

Indian partner organization will make a loan to Keelakarthisgaipatti and work with the residents to develop a sustainable community water supply and sanitation system. Funds repaid will be made available as loans to other communities undertaking water projects.

Proposed new water system: Deep tubewells with hand pumps and drainage system.

Proposed sanitation facilities: Some household latrines and a community sanitation block.

Project implementation schedule: Project will take approximately 1-1/2 years to complete.

Goals of the Keelakarthisgaipatti water project:

- Eliminate hours of labor by women and children who collect water every day
- Ensure that residents use improved hygiene practices
- Provide enough safe water to meet every resident's personal needs for drinking, cooking and washing
- Ensure that every household has access to a latrine
- Protect the new water sources
- Recover the capital costs of the project



Keelakarthisgaipatti is a small village in the Northwestern part of the Tiruchirappalli District.

The water crisis in India

India's huge and growing population is putting a severe strain on all of the country's natural resources. Most water sources are contaminated by sewage and agricultural runoff. India has made progress in the supply of safe water to its people, but gross disparity in coverage exists across the country. Latrine usage is extremely poor in rural areas of the country; only 14 percent of the rural population has access to a latrine. Poor access to safe water and latrines contributes to India's high infant mortality rate.

