Completion Report

2024 Rural Community Well Restoration Program

Kadapa District, India

Sponsored by: BridgIT Water Foundation USA

Duration: 3rd April 2024 to 20th May 2024

Managing Partner: **BridgIT Water Foundation, Australia**
Implementing Regional Partner: **Sri K. Pitchi Reddy Educational & Welfare Society (SPREAWS), India**

Implementing Partner Organisation:	**Sri K. Pitchi Reddy Educational & Welfare Society (SPREAWS)**		
Partner Contact:	Mr. C. S. Sajid Hussain	**Report Date:**	20th May, 2024
Partner Contact Title:	President		
Country:	India		
Program Name:	Rural Community Well Restoration Program		
Email:	pitchireddyorg@yahoo.co.in	**Website:**	www.spreaws.org
Donor:	**BridgIT Water Foundation USA**	**Project Status:**	Completed

This project is now successfully completed. This report shows how project funds were spent and the impact project funds have made to the beneficiary communities.

Brief Implementing Partner Introduction & Approach:

SPREAWS is a registered non-government organisation in India whose mission is "**to help marginalised communities meet their basic human needs of food, water, shelter and clothing to improve their quality of life".**

SPREAWS strives for the welfare of the socially and economically disadvantaged people in their region without discrimination of caste, creed, colour or religion. Since its inception, SPREAWS has implemented various developmental activities for poverty alleviation among poor communities including education to the illiterate; skills training such as tailoring and computer; drinking water borewells; health and hygiene awareness programs; malaria prevention; and various disaster relief programs.

BridgIT has partnered with SPREAWS since 2016 and in that time has successfully implemented the construction and/or repair of 130+ borewells.

In January 2024, SPREAWS received a grant from BridgIT Water Foundation Australia (BWF) under the sponsorship of BWF USA for the refurbishment of 1 community water well in Kadapa District.

Project Rationale & Context

In Andhra Pradesh state, 86% of the population live in rural areas and 40% live below the poverty line. Less than 20% of the rural population has access to protected water and the situation is most stark in the predominantly 'Dalit' tribal communities where almost 85% are landless and reside on farm holdings and tiny, denuded forests. Resources are limited and at least 4 months of the year both food and water are scarce. There is great need for safe drinking water and the health systems are overwhelmed with preventable illnesses such as diarrhea, cholera and malaria. Poor rural households spend hours daily looking for household water form sources which are often remote.

Project Background

In the target village, the people had in the past relied on a groundwater borewell for their daily water needs, however, the existing borewell had broken down almost one year ago. Mainly due to broken hand pumps and GI pipes.
In the past, the government has come in with a drill team, drilled a well, and left and community members were not given any ownership or guidance on water management strategies or how to maintain the borewell. Therefore, when the pump needed repairs, the communities were unable to do so because they had no ownership, knowledge or resources on how to maintain it.

The Indian Government welcomes NGO intervention in these remote rural Dalit communities with newly drilled wells or restoring broken down wells as they don't have the resources to carry out the many requests. In most cases, the repair only requires an overhaul of the hand pump system, but this cost is way too high for the communities to fund if they have not been pooling together a maintenance fund over a period of time.

Beneficiaries & Stakeholders

The project primarily serves the rural Dalit people consisting of daily labourers engaged in agricultural, construction, and domestic work. The stakeholders encompass 159 households and 855 individuals residing in 1 village.

No.	Community Name	Description	Households	Population Impacted
1	Ramanjaneyanagar S.T Colony	The existing borewell was installed by the local government 8 years ago and has not been working for approx. 6months. GPS Location: N14.680600, E78.991683	117	645
		Total	117	**645**

Description of Funded Activities - Action & Methodology

This initiative allocated project funds to breathe new life into the 1 non-operational bore well situated within 1 remote rural community in Kadapa District. Additionally, it aimed to empower the Water User Committees with knowledge and strategies for ensuring sustainable water resources management.

Bore Well Restoration: A proficient bore well technician was engaged to conduct the intricate process of restoring the non-functional bore well to full working condition. This involved restoration of the borewell to ensure a reliable and consistent water supply.

By reviving this bore well and promoting water sustainability strategies, this program aimed to catalyse positive change in the lives of rural poor people in Kadapa District, fostering improved access to clean and reliable water sources for years to come.

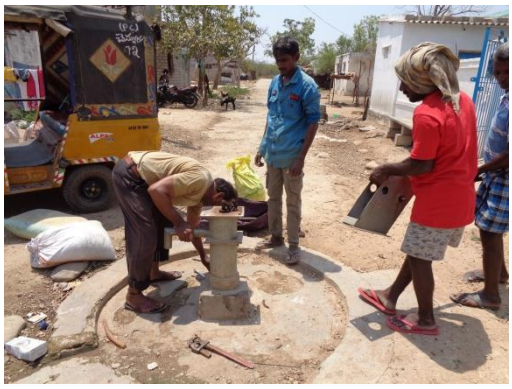
The following activities were implemented by the SPREAWS team:

(i) Removal of the old and damaged bore materials.
(ii) Procurement of required New borewell materials.
(iii) Removal of damaged platforms (apron).
(iv) Construction of sturdy platforms and efficient water run-off channels.
(v) Replace the hand pump parts including: cylinder; head assembly; broken GI pipes; broken water tank; worn handle, in the target village.
(vi) Health and hygiene awareness training.
(vii) Implementing a water sustainability strategy by training a Water User Committee.

(i) Removal of the old and damaged Bore materials in 1 village:

The meticulous process of removing old and damaged bore materials was undertaken with precision and community involvement. Here's a breakdown of the steps involved:

Collaborative Effort: To kick-start the restoration process, the borewell technician collaborated with local village volunteers. This collaborative effort exemplified the spirit of community engagement and empowerment.



The technician removed the old head assembly, hand assembly & GI pipes for replacement.

Material Replacement: Under the technician's expert guidance, the project initiated the removal of old and worn components. This included the dismantling of the old head assembly, hand assembly, and the extraction of all GI pipes. These aging and deteriorated materials were subsequently replaced with brand-new components, ensuring the bore well's optimal functionality and longevity.

By involving local volunteers, conducting thorough assessments, and utilizing good-quality replacement materials, the project ensured that the bore well not only restored but enhanced for sustained performance, delivering clean and reliable water access to the communities in need.

(ii) Procurement of required borewell materials:

To ensure the successful restoration of the bore well, the SPREAWS Team diligently procured all the necessary new materials. The following items were procured in the quantities required to revitalize the bore well in the target village.

Pedestal: A durable pedestal was sourced to provide stability and support to the bore well setup.

MKII Cylinder Assembly: The project secured the MKII cylinder assembly, a critical component essential for the bore well's operation and water extraction.
GI Pipes (Galvanized Iron): A supply of good quality GI pipes, complete with connecting rods and couplings, was obtained to replace the aging pipe infrastructure within the bore well. These pipes are crucial for efficient water transportation.

Handle Assembly: The purchase included the handle assembly, a key element in facilitating the manual operation of the bore well.

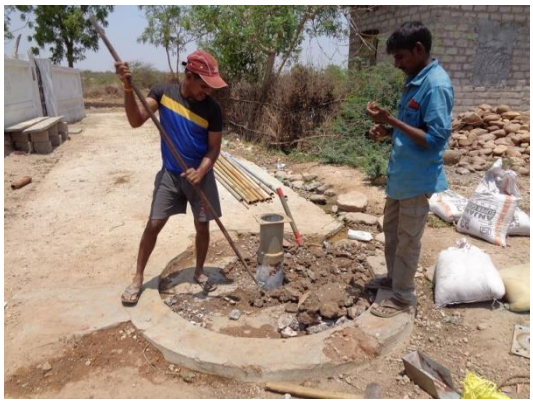
Water Tank Assembly: A water tank assembly was procured to install to the Hand pump Borewell.

Head Assembly: The project also acquired a new head assembly, which plays a pivotal role in controlling and managing the water flow from the bore well.

Nuts and Bolts: Various nuts and bolts, essential for assembling and securing the bore well components, were obtained in the required quantities.

By meticulously procuring these vital borewell materials, the project ensured that the bore well would not only be restored but also upgraded with good-quality components. This investment aimed to guarantee the longevity and efficiency of the bore well, ultimately providing sustainable access to clean water for the beneficiary communities.

(iii) Removal of damaged platform (apron)

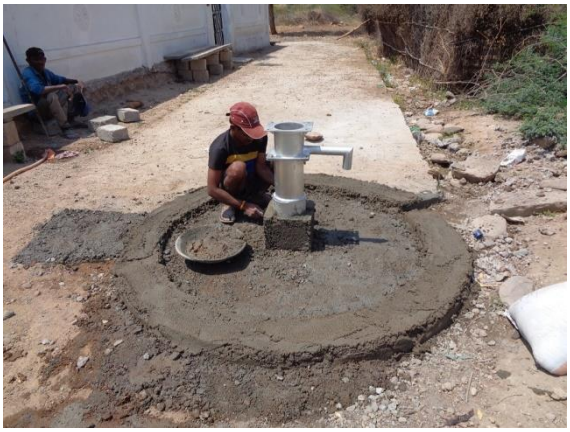


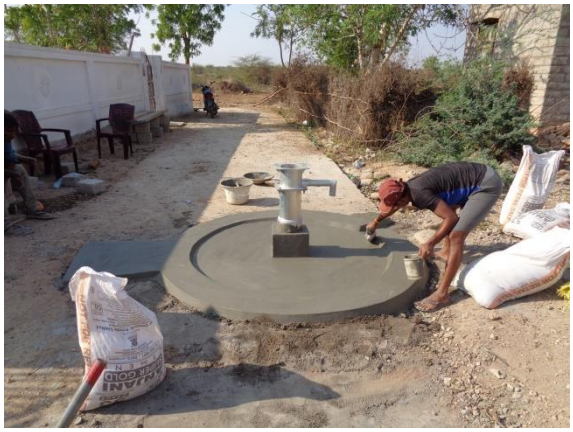
Skilled Masons: Competent masons were entrusted with the responsibility of executing this crucial task. Their expertise and craftsmanship were invaluable in ensuring a safe and efficient platform removal process.

Comprehensive Removal: The masons systematically and thoroughly removed the old and damaged platform & pedestal that had served their purpose but were no longer safe or functional. This meticulous approach was essential to guarantee the safety of the communities.

By entrusting this task to skilled masons and prioritizing safety and thoroughness, the project ensured that the old, deteriorated platforms were safely and effectively removed, setting the stage for the installation of new platform that would better serve the villages and their borewell.

(iv) Construction of a sturdy platform and efficient water run-off channel



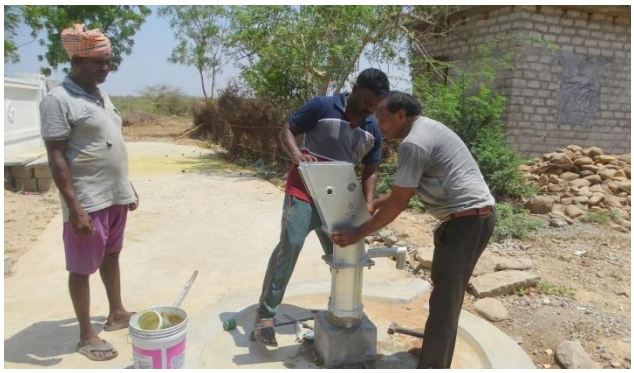


Construction and completion of new platform

Following the borewell's restoration, the mason initiated a comprehensive construction phase, involving the installation of a new pedestal and the creation of an efficient water run-off channel. First, skilled technician securely fitted a new pedestal, also known as an apron, over the borehole, ensuring structural support and safeguarding the borewell's integrity. The construction team then meticulously built robust platform around the borewell, using a combination of bricks, gravel, sand, and cement for longevity and stability. Strategically placed reinforcements around the casing and pedestal further enhanced stability. These activities not only restored the borewell but also established resilient and well-designed infrastructure, enhancing functionality and safety for the benefit of the communities served.

(v) Restoration of borewell to working condition in the target Village:

Technician & village volunteers are inserting the G.I.pipes.



Technician and the volunteers are fixing the bore head.

The borewell restoration efforts, led by the skilled technician in collaboration with dedicated village youth volunteers, encompassed a comprehensive set of actions in the target village. These activities included the meticulous replacement of the old, broken cylinders with brand-new ones, ensuring the borewell operated at peak efficiency. Additionally, they replaced the worn-out Head assembly with a new one, enhancing control and water flow management. The team also tackled the replacement of all damaged G.I. (Galvanized Iron) pipelines with fresh counterparts, guaranteeing the integrity of the water transportation system. Furthermore, the old and deteriorated water tank is swapped out with a new one, Lastly, the worn-out handle is also replaced with a new, sturdy handle, enabling smooth and safe operation of the borewell in the village. These comprehensive restoration actions not only revitalized the borewell but also fortified its long-term functionality, serving as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the community and project team in ensuring sustainable access to clean water.

(vi) Completion of Borewell's restoration and utilization by the community:

Following the meticulous restoration efforts, the borewell in the target village has been fully restored to working condition and is now actively serving the needs of the community. These comprehensive restoration actions have revitalized the bore-well, ensuring its optimal functionality. As a result, the community now enjoys reliable access to clean and potable water, addressing a fundamental need for the residents of the village. This marks a significant milestone in the project's mission to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the local population by providing a sustainable and dependable source of clean water.

(vii) Installation of Signage Name Plaque

On restoration completion, the name plaque is installed on the wellhead, so that beneficiaries know the name of the sponsor, donor, and contacts for the implementing partner.

Video of the complete restoration process for Ramanjaneyanagar S.T.Colony village

Sustainability & Community Ownership

It is crucial that community ownership is established for the sustainability of the restored well.
The sustainability of the well largely depends on the beneficiary community. BridgIT and its implementing partners have observed that it is important that the community feels responsible for, and develops the capacity to manage the maintenance and operation of its own water access points.

The beneficiary community has been empowered to take complete ownership of the Well and plan for their future maintenance and repairs. It is important that, after construction, physical conditions of infrastructure, water yield, and the status of operation, water quality, sanitary hazards, and financial viability are regularly monitored; initially by the implementing agency jointly with concerned Water User Committees, so that timely corrective measures can be taken without disruptions to the Well's function ability.

Community Capacity Building & Training

- Health and Hygiene Awareness Training

Mrs.Vimala, SPREAWS Health Worker visits people's houses and conducts health and hygiene awareness and soap hand-washing training.

The SPREAWS health worker went door-to-door, met with household members and created awareness about the prevention of viral, fatal, infectious and acrimonious diseases. Villagers are educated on how the different diseases occur and spread due to poor hygiene and sanitation. The 7-step hand washing technique endorsed by the CDC and World Health Organisation (WHO) was followed.

Mrs.Vimala, the Health worker educates village ladies on hygiene

- Establish & Train Water User Committee (WUC)

A Water User Committee (WUC) is essential to ensure the sustainability of any community water system. Establishing and training WUCs is an integral part of every water project we implement; in every community we work with.

During project implementation, SPREAWS educate community members about the importance of sustainability of their borewell. On completion of the restoration, the borewell is handed over to the community and they are guided on the establishment of a Water User Committee. The WUC members are rendering their services and are responsible for monitoring, maintaining and sustaining their borewell to ensure the sustainability of the project so that they are not dependent on others in the future.

The Water User Committee consists of 5 local persons with a mix of women and men, and the post of Treasurer is specifically reserved for a woman.

Project Impacts

Impact is expected in four areas:

(i) Access (ii) Health (iii) Education (iv) Labour force participation and hours worked.

(i) Access to clean and safe water has been restored to 117 households, consisting of 645 people, including school children, in the project village.
(ii) On average, village members will walk 300mtrs to access the water, as opposed to the 3-4km treks before the well was repaired.
(iii) 4 to 5 hours of valuable time is saved daily previously spent on water collection. This time can now be used for productive work on family farms or businesses, thus contributing to poverty reduction.

(iv) Reduced absenteeism for about 115 school children of all ages. They are now able to attend school regularly and punctually.
(v) Improved incomes for about 127 men and women in the village, who can participate in income generating work improving household earnings.
(vi) Reduced incidence of water-borne diseases will improve the health and wellbeing of the village residents because they can now access clean and safe water.
(vii) The beneficiaries can wash their hands as a practice of good hygiene.

Cross Cutting Themes and Social Inclusion on BWF programs - Gender Equality, People With Disabilities (PWD's) Inclusion & Environmental Management

The impact of stereotypes and prejudice against women and girls, disability and PWDs and other social issues on the effective implementation of program gender equality, disability inclusion strategies and pro-vulnerable strategies can't be understated. BridgIT Water Foundation and its partners are committed to avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating adverse environmental impacts as well as adopting a gender-sensitive and gender-equitable approach for all its projects.
Gender equality approaches were employed: Water in India, has been used as an instrument for social suppression and establishing power. Women, particularly from the economically weaker Tribal Dalits, suffer the most due to discriminatory access to drinking water. Women's voices may not be heard as men are historically the community leaders.

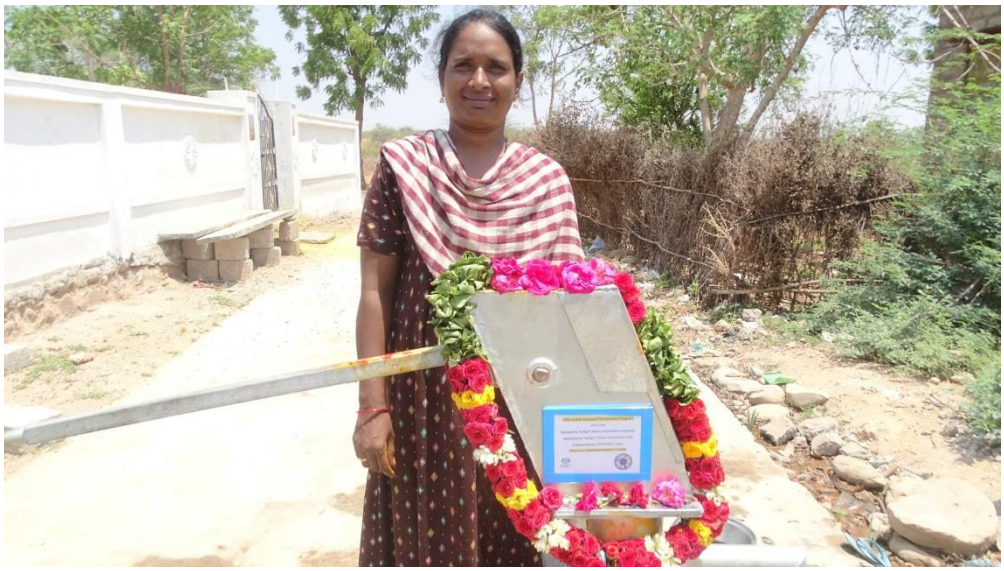
We challenge this cultural dynamic when we restore a water well. Before the implementation of the project, women and girl children were forced to collect water many kilometres away from the village. Following the borewell restoration, they can now collect water at their door steps and save 3 to 4 hours per day. Therefore, providing water closer to the household has a very positive effect on women and children's lives. Gender equity has been automatically established through these water projects and the attitude that water collection is not only the work of women has changed. The project provides safe drinking water to all and men are made aware that both male and female jointly should take part in water collection.

We are aware that the success and effective use of water facilities depends on the involvement of male and female in selecting the location and technology of such facilities, and taking responsibility for management, operation and maintenance.

The role of women, men, boys and girls in maintaining the borehole was not underestimated; it varies from preventive maintenance and repairs, to paying of user fees. Women, men and youth all hold equal representation on the Water User Committee, with the post of the Treasurer being reserved for a woman.
PWD Inclusion approaches were employed: PWDs were equally consulted during site location, and they are empowered to participate in the access and operation of the water resource.

Environmentally friendly practices were employed: BridgIT's environmental goal is to protect, conserve and sustain the environment in our target communities. Therefore, BridgIT emphasizes that the target population, partners and other stakeholders are sensitized and, where possible, trained on environmentally friendly practices to get suitable water solutions.

Testimonial & Stakeholder Feedback:



Mrs. Sreelakshmi, 37 years, Ramanjaneyanagar S.T.Colony village

Mrs. Sreelakshmi, a resilient 38-year-old mother of 3 children in Ramanjaneyanagar S.T.Colony, once faced the arduous task of fetching water daily from a distant well. The water was often murky and unreliable, posing health risks to her family and hindering her children's education due to frequent illnesses. The long hours spent on this chore drained her energy, impacting her ability to manage household tasks and care for her children.

However, a transformative change occurred with the intervention of the **BridgIT Water Foundation Australia** and the local NGO SPREAWS, supported by the **BridgIT Water Foundation USA**. The restoration of the village's old bore well marked a significant turning point for Mrs.Sreelakshmi and her family.

Now, clean water is easily accessible through a hand-pump, eliminating the need for long walks and ensuring a reliable water supply. This newfound convenience has drastically reduced the risk of waterborne illnesses, leading to improved health for Mrs.Sreelakshmi's children, who now attend school regularly and are thriving academically. With more time on her hands, Mrs.Sreelakshmi can engage in income-generating activities, empowering her to contribute financially to her household and envision a brighter future for her family.

Mrs. Sreelakshmi extends her heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors who made the bore well restoration possible:

"I am deeply thankful to the BridgIT Water Foundation Australia, SPREAWS, and the BridgIT Water Foundation USA for transforming our lives with clean water access. Your support has not only improved our health and education but also empowered me to contribute to my family's financial stability. Your kindness has made a lasting impact on our community, and we are forever grateful for your generosity. Thank you for changing our lives for the better."

Project Challenges

While the project was largely successful, SPREAWS did encounter a minor hurdle. During initial restoration, our technician found the unforeseen damage on the bore-well machinery necessitated acquiring replacement parts. Our team promptly identified the issue and sourced the necessary components, ensuring a swift repair and project completion.

Lessons Learned

A healthy engagement with partners, the local government and the project beneficiaries is helpful in finding the solutions for any challenges encountered.

Acknowledgements

Our gratitude goes to **BridgIT Water Foundation USA** for the support and generosity towards this program. Also, we thank **BridgIT Water Foundation Australia** for managing and coordinating the project.

We appreciate SPREAWS India implementation team for managing, supervising and monitoring the program.

Locally, we appreciate the members of the WUC, program implementation team, local leadership and the beloved beneficiary population for their cooperation during the implementation of the project. The project succeeded with the efforts of all.

Compiled by: C.S Sajid Hussain
President, SPREAWS India
Edited by: BridgIT Water Foundation Australia