

MELAKARTHIGAIPATTI, INDIA

Rural community needs water supply, sanitation

Current Situation in Melakarthigaipatti: In the rural community of Melakarthigaipatti, 2,434 people struggle to meet their daily water needs. There are five government-installed hand-pumps, but only three are working. The other two were abandoned because a maintenance system was not initiated when the pump was installed. The three functioning hand-pumps do not supply nearly enough water. The village has an overhead tank, which protects the water supply, but the water supply is undependable and insufficient.

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

In addition, adequate drainage was not provided for the hand-pump causing

gray water to stagnate on the streets and creating a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. The villagers are forced to use the polluted Cauvery river water for bathing and washing clothes. There are no latrine facilities at the school or at the individual households. Open defecation is routinely practiced. Waterborne diseases like cholera, dysentery, and polio are common during seasonal periods.

The Solution: The people of Melakarthigaipatti are prepared to pay a portion of the capital costs and 100% of the maintenance costs for a new water system, but they lack the financial resources to get started. With financial



Community members of Thottiyapatti with their new handpump.

support from WaterPartners International, our Indian partner organization will work with the people of Melakarthigaipatti to develop and implement a sustainable community water supply and sanitation system.

Proposed New Water System: Renovation of existing hand pumps and drainage system.

Proposed Sanitation Facilities: Household latrines and school latrines.

Project Implementation Schedule: Project will take approximately 1 ½ years to complete.

Budget: \$11,900

Goals of the Melakarthigaipatti 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



Melakarthigaipatti is located 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% of the rural population has access to a latrine. Poor access to safe water and latrines contributes to India's high infant mortality rate.

