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WOMEN AND DRINKING WATER



REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE INDO-DUTCH DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME

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New Delhi - 110 021

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WOMEN AND DRINKING WATER

(Summary of findings)

Introduction

Recent studies, field experiences, reviews and evaluations of water supply schemes indicate that inspite of the International decade on drinking water and sanitation drawing to a close, no significant impact has been created in the quality of life of rural poor women, by way of providing clean drinking water in adequate quantity.

The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi, in close cooperation with UNICEF and bilateral donors organised an inter-agency meeting on women, water and sanitation on 14 May 1989.. It was agreed that the group should meet on a regular basis, exchange experiences and draw up guidelines to support the National Drinking Water Mission in formulating an action plan on women, water and sanitation.

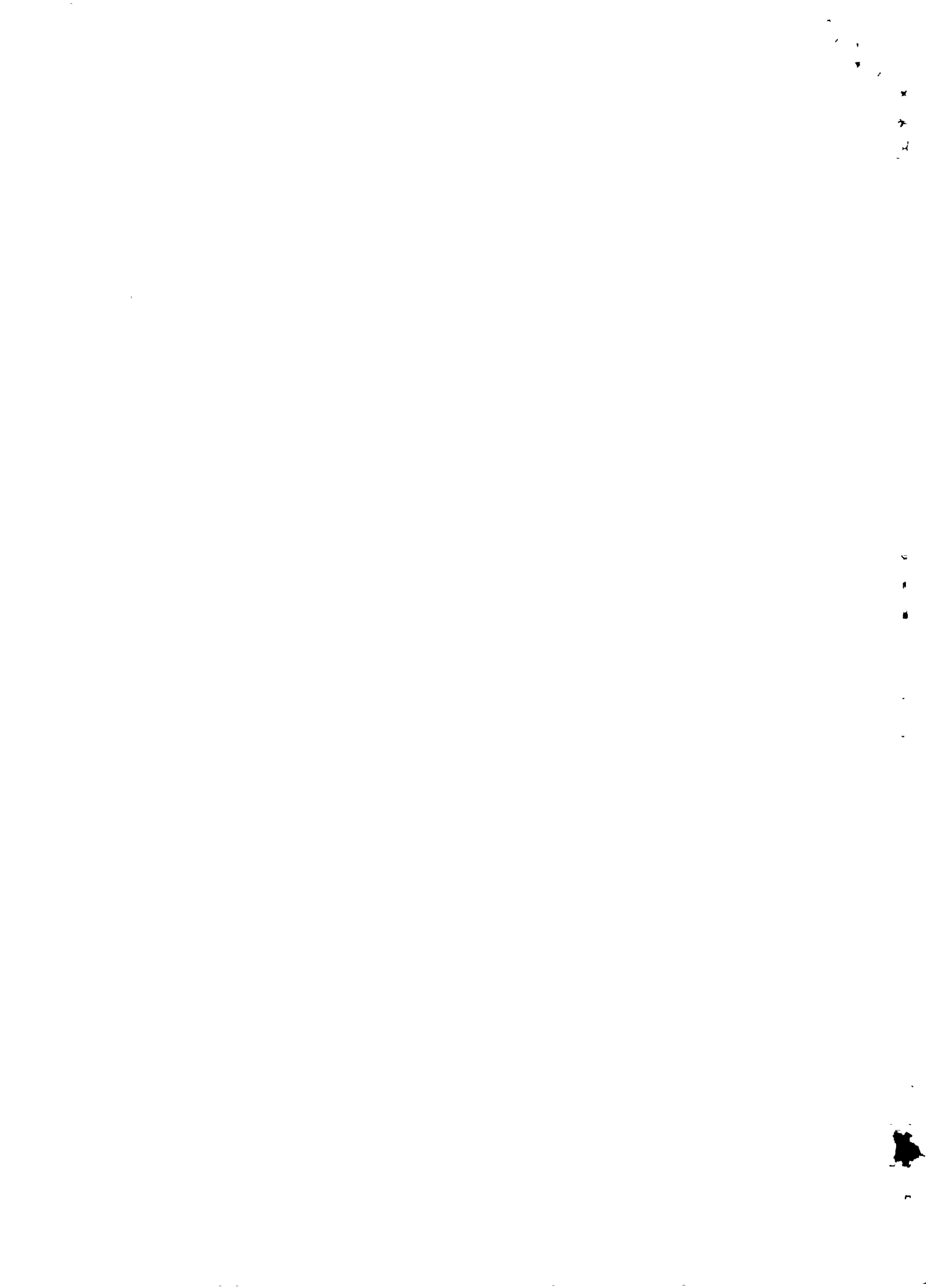
To make available the experiences of Dutch-assisted water projects in the next Inter-agency meeting, a questionnaire was sent to the following offices dealing with Dutch-assisted water projects.

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| 1. Self-employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad, | (SEWA) |
| 2. Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board | (GWSSB). |
| 3. Netherlands Assisted Projects Office, Hyderabad, AP | (NAP - Office). |
| 4. Socio-economic Unit, Central, Trichur, Kerala | (SEU). |
| 5. Socio-economic Unit, North, Kerala | (SEU). |
| 6. Socio-economic Unit, South, Quilon, Kerala | (SEU). |
| 7. Socio-economic Unit; Trivandrum, Kerala | (SEU) |
| 8. Programme Support Unit, U.P. | (PSU) |

Objectives :

- To understand the extent of community participation specially of women, in project formulation, implementation, maintenance of the water supply and sanitation schemes.
- To understand the strategy and the method of communication followed in these projects, to improve the participation of women.
- To evolve specific action plans, and to strengthen areas of weakness to enable more effective participation of women, (e.g. training, research and development of communication skill).
- To strengthen liaison with other governmental and non governmental agencies by learning from each other's experiences.

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Questionnaire :

With the above objectives in view, the following questionnaire was sent :

1. *Describe what have been your experiences so far in community participation with a special focus on women's involvement (include success and possible constraints.).*
2. *Have you organised any pilot projects/activity focused on women's participation in the drinking water and sanitation programme ? Please give details. Supporting material will be appreciated. (e.g. reports, handouts, training materials, posters).*
3. *Could you describe your experiences of possible efforts to change or influence the technical orientation within the organisations such as Jal Nigam, Kerala Water Authority, and PHEDS towards a more people (women) oriented approach ?*
4. *Have you worked together with other Government Institutions (which) and NGO's (i.e. women's organisations) ? What have been your experiences in coordinating government and non-government organisations ?*
5. *Are there any specific areas with regard to women's participation in the Drinking Water Programme which need to be further looked into ? (e.g. developing communication skills in dealing with communities - women, training, research topics).*
6. *Any other comment/observation/experience which you feel should be shared with other organisations and agencies.*

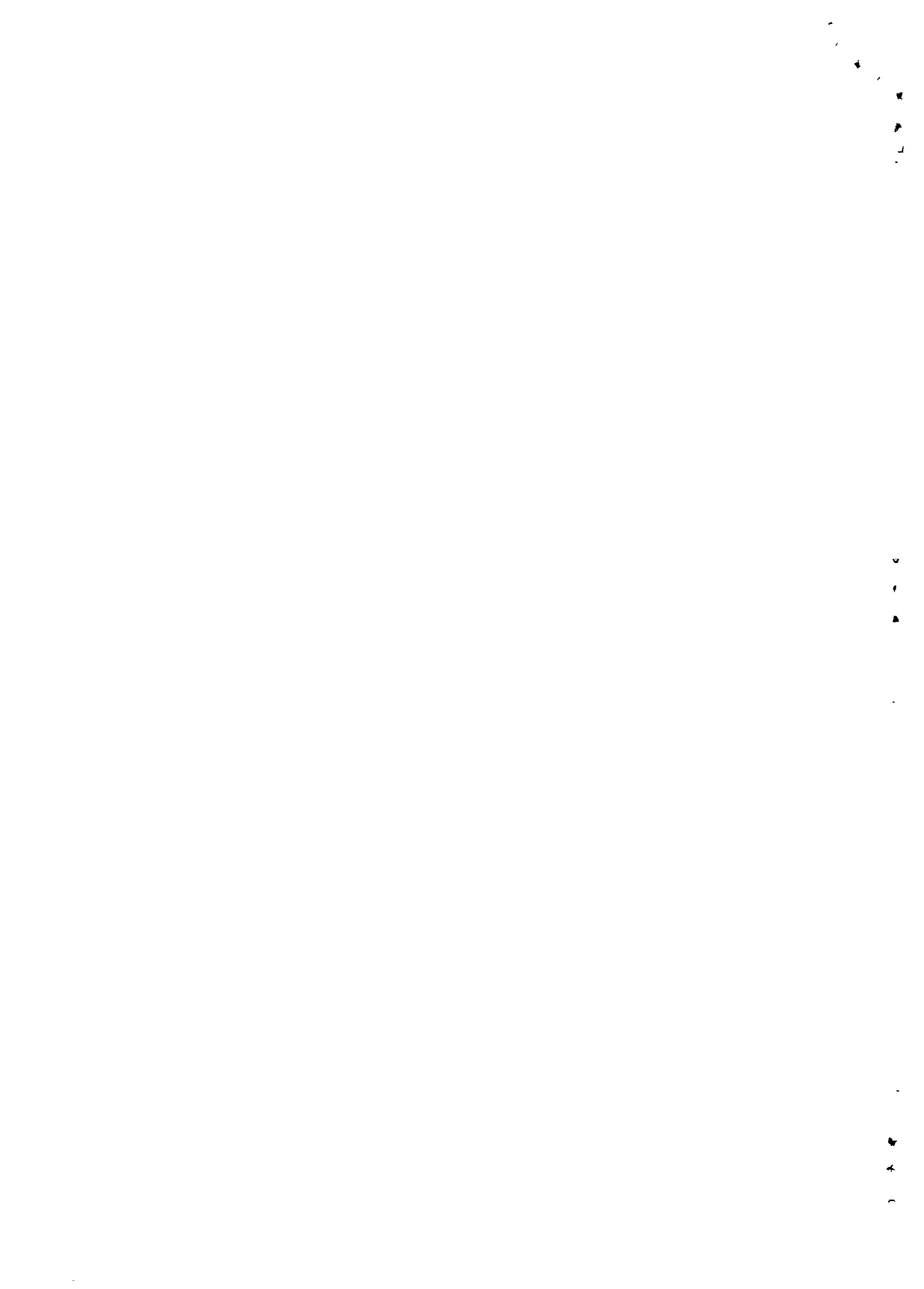
To help the respondents to understand the questions better, the following supporting documents were sent along with the questionnaire :

- A short note drafted by the Department of Rural Development explaining the reasons why it is important to change the focus of the National Mission on drinking water to become more women oriented.
- The Role of Women in water supply and sanitation (objectives, present status, strategy, methodology, action plan).
- Policy paper - The Indo-Dutch Drinking Water Programme - as an instrument in rural development with special reference to women.

The responses to the questions were compiled at the Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi.

The salient features of the responses are :

- There is increased awareness regarding the need and importance of involving women in water and sanitation projects at all levels and accepting water as the entry point for integrated development activities.
- Currently the participation of women is limited, e.g. being members of pani panchayats or equivalent bodies, working as field assistants or staff, or part of target group in health, sanitation and water projects.



- To ensure effective participation of women, an attempt should be made to remove some of the constraints faced by them. Lack of transport facilities to attend meetings, lack of security, social custom preventing women from having free communication with the male members, not allowing them to attend meetings in the evenings, attitude of men towards these women, gossip and teasing by men etc. are some of the common constraints mentioned.
- There is need for an attitudinal change among the men in general to accept women as the prime medium for carrying the message of health and sanitation and to make special efforts to involve them in management of drinking water projects at all levels.
- Whenever women have been given a chance, they have proved their capability in implementing the task effectively as in the case of ward committee members in site selection (SEU Kerala) and showed enthusiasm to learn and understand water management and other related issues as in the case of Radhanpur and Santalpur women, Gujarat, and getting trained as handpump mechanics in U.P.
- An equivalent of the the 'Pani Panchayats' of Gujarat, where women are involved in water management activities as members, is present in other states also. They are 'Village Action Committee' (VAC) in A.P., Ward Water Committees (WWC) in Kerala and Village Water Committees (VWC) in U.P. The composition of these bodies includes at least two women as nominated members.
- It is felt that the most effective form of communication is posters, street plays, folk theatre, audio visuals and video films. Some of the units felt that there is shortage of good materials of the above mentioned kind to be used for effective communication and training.
- There is little interaction between government departments, donor agencies and NGOs which are involved in similar activities. Regular exchange of experiences through meetings, seminars and conferences could help to avoid wasteful duplication of efforts and save time and energy, apart from giving a wider perspective.
- It is generally felt that merely providing improved water facilities is not an end in itself. Training of women in water management and utilising the spare time thereby created to start income-generating activities, to strengthen their economic position is advocated by SEWA, NAP-AP, SEU Central and PSU - UP. SEWA has taken effective steps to create such facilities, by getting the cooperation and support of various government departments like Khadhi and Village Industries Corporation (KVIC), Wasteland Development Board, Dairy Development Corporation, Department of Forest, Department of Non-conventional Energy etc. The NAP-AP is trying the same through All Women's dairy cooperatives. SEUs in Kerala are yet to take some steps in this direction.
- NAP and SEU units feel that their own staff need orientation and training to understand the magnitude of the task ahead of them.



RESPONSES TO THE MAJOR ISSUES RAISED

Q1. Describe what have been your experiences so far in community participation with special focus on women's involvement (include success and possible constraints).

SEWA

- (a) SEWA, which is working in close cooperation with the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board (GWSSB) in the drought prone areas of Santalpur and Banaskantha in Gujarat shared the view that, despite the fact that women require water for various purposes and have to manage the meagre supply for cooking, drinking, washing, care of cattle, cleaning, craftwork and irrigation, they are not part of the team, in most of the projects, which decides the site, budget, maintenance of water supply schemes and in formulation of sanitation schemes. This was identified through various surveys conducted by SEWA.

A participatory survey of 300 women in 30 villages in the hill areas of UP and desert area of Gujarat was undertaken with the following objectives :

- To find out, how water affects a woman's life in her multifarious roles as mother, wife, artisan, cattle breeder etc. and creates problems for her health, employment, family life, milk production, leisure, crafts and overall quality of life.
- To motivate, organise and strengthen rural women around water issues, reforestation and wastelands development.
- To consult women on future plans for water resource development and equip them with necessary skills to participate effectively.
- To integrate rural women into the policy making bodies.

The survey was conducted in the mountainous and flood prone areas of UP and drought prone area of Gujarat to obtain opinions of women from different geographic locations.

The major findings of the survey are :

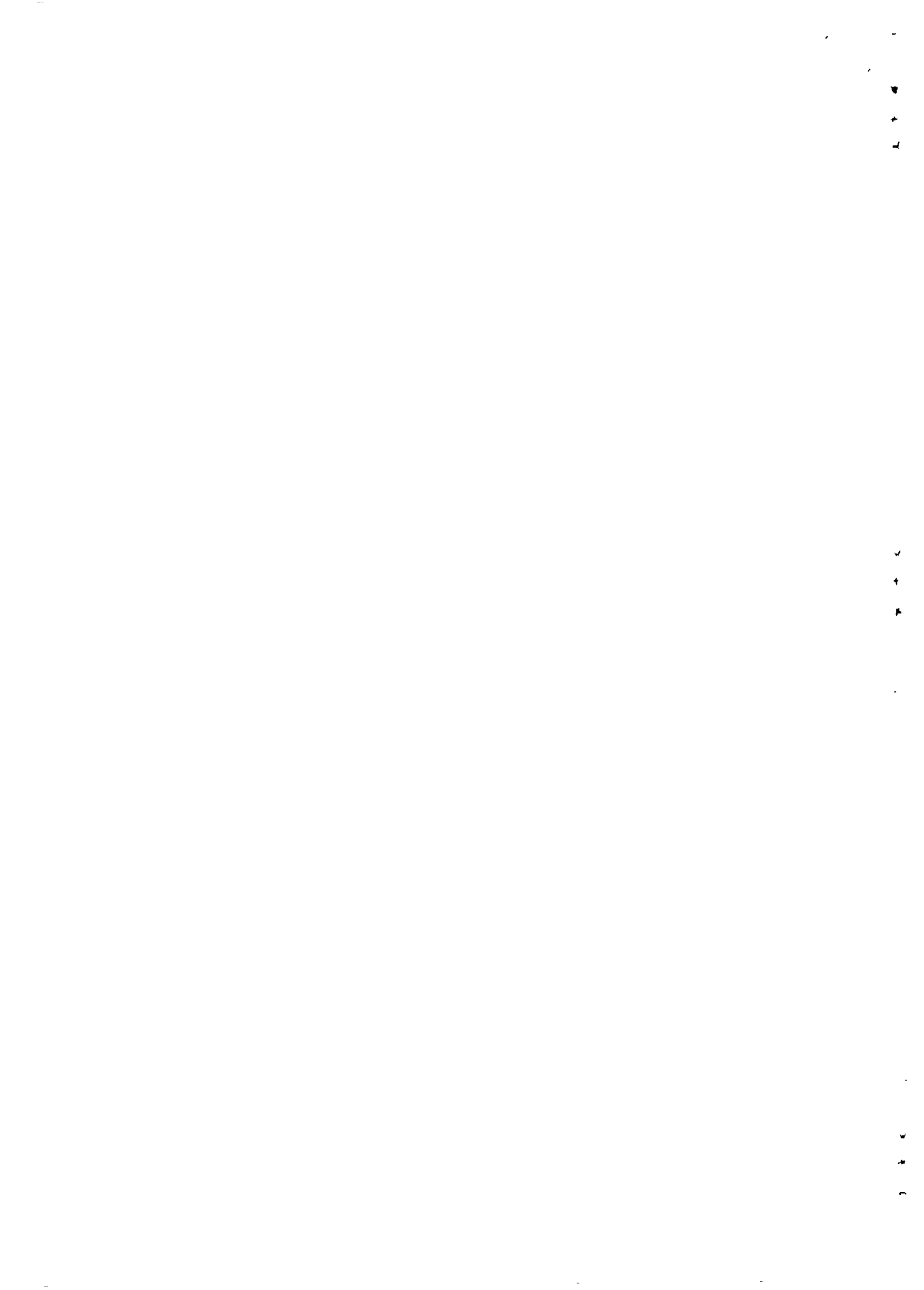
- 78% of women spend 4 hours daily to fetch water.
- Women walk a minimum of 6 kilometres to transport water.
- 53% of women in drought prone areas complained that they could not bring enough water for even personal hygiene, during menstruation and post natal periods.
- 42% of women replied that they were never consulted about the site of the borewell or the stand post for water supply.
- 63% of women showed their readiness to learn skills of water harvesting, bunding, drip irrigation techniques, de-salination and afforestation.
- 86% of women said that they did not enjoy seeing their children and family members getting sick from water related disease due to use of dirty and contaminated water from the ponds and wells.



- The women of Nainital, Ghadwal and Almota villages in the Himachal mountains revealed that due to the migration of men to the cities in search of jobs, women have to take the help of children to fetch water with the result that the children miss school.
- They often suffer from back pains trying to climb the slopes with the water load and miscarriages occur due to slipping of foot while climbing the mountain with the water load.
- In the flood prone areas of Chamoli Valley in the Himalayas, women often lost their cattle and household items in the frequent floods, which occurred due to deforestation. This was often followed by drought which made their life difficult to manage.
- Women living in the desert area of Kutch district, are mainly weavers and cattle breeders. In summer, they travel as far as 300 kms, camping whenever possible, in an attempt to save their cattle from the heat. They return to Kutch during the monsoon. Yet they lose large number of cattle
- Due to lack of potable and adequate water and toilet facilities, children of Kutch region die of diarrhoea and dehydration.
- Farmers of Mehasana district in North Gujarat have installed hand pumps for irrigation purposes. Women find it too strenuous to operate. They do not know the operation of motorised pumps/diesel engines which are installed in the farms nor do they know how to repair the equipment.
- Some women farmers who cannot afford to install hand pumps, hire water from the neighbouring farmers at the rate of Rs.60/- per hour (US \$4).
- Women have to manage water during marriages, deaths or feasts for purposes other than the daily requirements. Lack of availability of adequate water on a continued and fixed schedule has forced women to use contaminated water from the traditional sources. This has resulted in sickness, disease and death specially of children.
- In spite of the availability of new sources of water in many villages, due to social practice of untouchability, the Banghi women do not have access to them and depend upon traditional sources.
- The surveys confirm that, women's lives revolve round water or the lack of it. Project designers, funding agencies and the implementing agencies of water related projects must make efforts to involve women as prime users of water at every stage of planning the programme. Women should be involved in managing the water resources, training in repair and maintenance, in impact evaluation and creating linkages with other rural development programmes. A social change movement needs to be spearheaded by the women to avoid women being deprived of the facilities due to social stigmas based on caste system.

The Gujarat Survey

In order to identify rural women's problems associated with water scarcity and existing water supply SEWA undertook two surveys in '88; one in Banaskantha and another in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat state.



The survey conducted in six villages focussed its attention on the benefits to women of piped water supply by the water supply department to women. The major findings of the survey are :

- In all the six villages, Abhiyana, Unadi, Limb, Santalpur Par and Jinhada there is no high school; no maternity/limited maternity facilities; no electricity and no tar roads. A pond or well is the traditional water source. Though water standpost is fixed at the outskirts of the villages, frequent breakdowns of upto 3 months are quite common. On the supply days, water is given from 1/2 hour to 1 hour at any time of the day and on two days of the week. This forced the women to turn to traditional sources of water, the pond which is commonly used for washing, bathing and by the cattle. This had led to many health problems.
- The scarcity of water adds to the problems of women for personal cleanliness during pregnancy and post-natal period.
- Complaints by the women to the district authorities to get the borewell pumps repaired, which was in use before the standpost was sanctioned, goes unheeded. According to the authorities the villagers have a standpost and hence there is no need to repair the borewell pumps.
- The numerous quarrels among villagers at the stand post while collecting water due to the shortage of water , spoils the village atmosphere.
- Despite all these problems women were not involved in the selection of site, supply timings or given training to repair or maintain the standposts.

GWSSB

The report by the GWSSB supports the findings made by SEWA. The linesman who is in charge of maintenance is employed by the GWSSB. Often the maintenance of the ground level storage tanks, community's standpost, spillage water drainage, cattle trough etc. is substandard. Drains are not cleaned, taps are leaking or missing, aprons and surroundings of aprons are not cleared regularly.

Pani Panchayats came into existence in response to the need to have a community based social organisation to look into watersupply and sanitation at the village level.

Pani Panchayats consist of two female members, two male members, the linesman/woman and the sarpanch or deputy sarpanch of the village. The members are selected from different socio-economic groups. The pani panchayat works as a watchdog to ensure the smooth functioning of the water supply system; to oversee that no water is wasted; drains are kept clean; major repairs reported and minor repairs taken care of; cattles drink from the trough only; spillage water is used for gardening etc. It is felt that the task of educating village women and interacting with them on various issues becomes easier with the involvement of women in the Pani Panchayats. However, even the female members of Pani Panchayats like other women do not talk to men members. This leads to retarded communication and slow progress of work. Being illiterate, it takes time for women to understand and the problems. Both male and female members expect monetary rewards for being members of Pani Panchayat though the water supplied is highly subsidised and the cost of water is very nominal. (Rs.5/- fee, while the actual cost per year is Rs.30/- per person).

Pani Panchayats work under the guidelines provided by the GWSSB as informal bodies of the Gram Panchayat. This is a nominated body and is not synchronised by the election of Gram Panchayat . Formation of Pani Panchayat is a post-project exercise. Effectiveness of Pani Panchayats depends a lot on the relationship between the various



communities with various socio-economic backgrounds, which form the Pani Pan-chayats. The relationship depends on the number of standposts, location of local facilities, interruption in regular supply, frequency of breakdowns, time taken to restore supply, tampering and damage to pipelines, political and group rivalries at village level given expression through water related issues.



The field staff of the Board attend to all technical breakdowns and disruptions and dislocations in the project and the Pani Panchayats have only a social role to play to ensure the smooth functioning of the project which is informal. Under such circumstances it becomes essential to

- Redefine the roles and responsibilities of the pani panchayats specially where they are set up as post project activity.
- If the pani panchayats are formed at the time of the project formulation, it is more meaningful and the members (women) can play a useful role right from the inception of the project.

NAP - AP

- (c) The NAP-RWS-AP, Hyderabad was set up in Jan 1989. All the collaborating agencies are working together only since Jan '89 and it is too early to assess any experience. The team is fully aware of the importance of educating women in health, hygiene and sanitation. All future plans which are in the planning stage are drawn with a view to have more involvement of women

The equivalent of the Pani Panchayat of Gujarat is The Village Action Committee (VAC) in Andhra Pradesh which will be set up in NAP project districts in a phased manner within the next one year.

SEU - North Kerala

- (d) The Socio-economic Unit (SEU) North Kerala, has had encouraging experience, as far as participation of women in their projects is concerned, mainly due to the efforts of two senior women staff and women field assistants in the SEU. The village women are given a chance to express their problem and to find a solution to their problems with the guidance of SEU. Since the success of the projects depend on the cooperation of the men folk, they are also involved in the programmes. Rural women are willing learners if one has patience and time to listen to their fears and clear their doubts. Women do have difficulty in moving from their village and going out to another village on account of work and due to prevailing social customs. To help the women and children, to understand their requirements, local problems, diseases etc. and to keep up the liaison with the community, it is essential to have field workers with adequate knowledge of local conditions.

SEU - Central Kerala

- (e) SEU - Central- Trichur- Kerala, is of recent origin. Two new projects, - Mala water supply scheme and a pilot sanitation project in two panchayats have been implemented. According to SEU due to time bound nature of the operation and being in an experimental stage, women were not actively involved.

However, qualified women are now being selected as field assistants. They are committed and efficient in contacting the ward committees of the Panchayats and in mobilising and motivating women. Some of the field assistants have emerged as good leaders, during site selection by the ward committees.

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The constraints faced by the women, such as being teased or molested by drunken men, gossip about them, social customs preventing them from going out to attend meetings in the late evening etc. are hampering the progress and involvement of women. However, field staff living in Panchayat building do not have so much problems since they are living at the project site.

Motivating men to get involved in the project is also tried to ensure their cooperation. It is suggested by SEU -Central, that constraints can be removed to a large extent by bringing an attitudinal change among men, strengthening the ward committees by increasing the number of women and by providing transport to women to attend meeting.

Ward Committees ensure that at least 2 members out of 8 are women. But in many ward committees, it was not easy to find women to participate since the parents or in-laws were against such an involvement.

Women have proved that when necessity arises, they will not hesitate to take a stand, though they have no formal authority. When a ward committee meeting for finalisation of the site for standposts was in progress, village women flocked to the place and expressed their needs and in regard to suitable location for the standposts.

SEU - South Kerala

- (f) SEU - South- Quilon - Kerala has the experience of participation by women at two levels, women animators of ICDS and women from Mahila Samajams. Special sessions are conducted for women beneficiaries for sanitation projects. The local cultural troupe (all women) are from a local fishing community (Anjenjo).

A 'Neighbourhood Committee' has been formed exclusively of women to act as local extension assistants for the activities of SEU. This committee came into being after the experience with the local Anjenjo fisherwomen, who have a lot of time together with the other women when their menfolk go fishing. They are suspicious of formal and outside animators. Hence the need to develop extension workers among themselves. This forum will also be used in future to discuss issues and problems specially related to women in water and sanitation programmes.

Their experience in water supply, though limited, will include an opinion survey to find out preferences of women for taps (the type, shape, material, location etc).

SEU - Trivandrum - Kerala

- (g) Socio Economic Unit - Trivandrum - Kerala did not mention any special experience but traced the growth of SEU. The report emphasised the need and importance of involving women at every stage in water supply projects. Women can act as change agents in bringing considerable improvement in the management of water and sanitation projects, if trained properly. The potential of this resource must be fully utilised. Bringing a change in the methodology of data collection is also emphasised for more effective planning.



PSU - UP

- (h) The PSU - UP has had positive experience so far in community participation, specially of involvement of women in the current project of UP-V. Except a bit of initial hesitation, there are not many constraints in mobilising the support and participation of the local community in the current project. This was done through the efforts of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) in a house to house contact drive, puppet shows, base line survey etc.
- Unlike the earlier pilot project of the PSU - UP at Allahabad, which emphasised only the hardware aspects, the current project SP-VI will emphasise community participation in site selection. To ensure effective community participation, a series of steps mentioned below were recommended in April 1989.
 - Formation of Village Water Committees (VWC) is a major step, which apart from consulting the Village Pradhan (president) and Gram Panchayat members and women members will organise group meetings with the local womenfolk to get suggestions for possible sites which are socially acceptable.
 - The VWC will also play a role in maintaining and upkeep of the Handpumps and their surroundings.
 - PSU suggests that apart from the formal representatives of various social and economic groups on the VWC, it should be made possible to invite representative women to participate in meetings where decisions will affect them. Such participation can be invited during group discussions, with the consent of the elected representatives. The number of informal participants will depend on the size of the village and the number of women.

Q2. Have you organised any pilot project/activity focussed on women's participation in the drinking water and sanitation programme ? Please give details. Supporting materials will be appreciated (e.g. posters, reports, handouts, training materials etc.).

SEWA

- (a) As a follow up to the survey mentioned earlier, SEWA started training programmes in water management, health, agriculture, social forestry, dairying, wasteland development and environment.
- Organised workshops with environmentalists to plan forestry and water harvesting programmes.
 - Involved 30 women in participatory action research on women and water and made their findings and recommendations available to the planners through seminars, documentation and video films.
 - SEWA emphasises mobilising, participating, initiating, supporting, building, training and researching on women and water related issues as guidelines for other organisations for encouraging women's participation.

The Banaskantha women's project with Dutch assistance and the cooperation of the GWSSB was organised after a series of meetings with the women of the villages and members of Pani Panchayats. The meetings were useful in finding out the socio-cultural background of the villagers, their caste system, availability of water, existing employable skills, training needs and other requirements of women.

The meetings also revealed that they have a single crop because of scarcity of rain. The men migrate to cities in search of jobs during off season;

- The water in the traditional source like ponds and wells turn saline during the hot season.
- While providing water is an important issue, it cannot by itself improve the quality of life of women. They need to have continued economic independence to reap continuous benefit out of the programme.
- Based on the need to augment their employable skills and employment potential, contacts were made with Khadi and Village Industries officials to extend support to women's craft cooperatives and to register them.
- Requested Banas dairy to see the possibilities of reviving defunct milk cooperatives
- Other land based, cattle based and craft based activities such as dry land farming, pottery spinning, weaving, dairying etc. which fetched an income of Rs.400-500/- a month for women in 15 villages.



- Provision of solar power, bio-gas plants and wind mills etc. are planned with the help of the department of non-conventional energy.

SEWA has used water as the entry point to bring in integrated development for the women of Banaskantha.

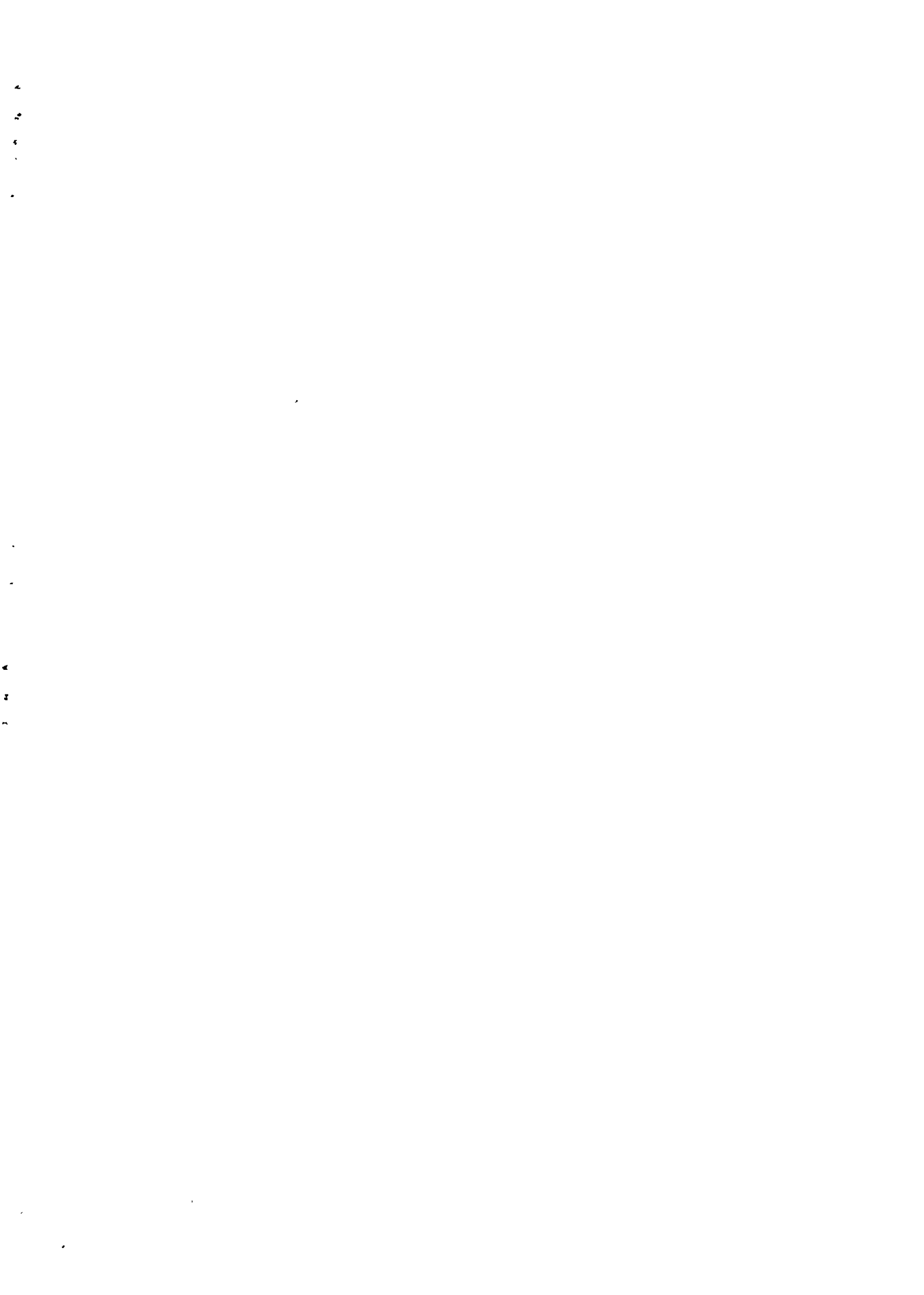
- During the severe drought years of 1987-88, SEWA interviewed the women of Radhanpur and Santalpur and understood their requirement for appropriate relief measures.
- Based on the interviews it was recognised that the women of Santalpur and Radhanpur require income generating activities to enable them to strengthen their economic position on a sustained basis. Various income generating activities like dairying, handicrafts, social forestry were planned.
- Accordingly SEWA provided the following short term, medium term and long term relief measures.
- As short term measure, water supply was provided to 10 villages by constructing 15 wells and providing 10 cattle troughs.
- Bringing massive employment programme by the Government to the villages provided medium term relief.
- As a long term measure, SEWA organised programmes of awareness on the use of plastic in rain water harvesting and irrigation in dry saline area for 1200 women. They were taken to IPCL, Baroda, where they were shown the use of plastic in lining ponds to prevent seepage.
- Pani Panchayats were activated.

GWSSB

- (b) The GWSSB has prepared and used posters for the women and community with messages such as "Don't waste water", "Keep cattle away from stand posts", "Don't allow water to flow", "Keep the surroundings clean". These messages are given along with appropriate illustrations.
- A pilot sanitation project was introduced by GWSSB since they felt that water gets contaminated due to use of unclean collecting vessel and not due to the tap water. The project focussed on generating awareness among women on keeping the pots clean of faecal matter.

NAP - RWS - AP

- (c) The NAP - RWS - AP has proposed to educate women members of the All women dairy cooperatives who are expected to be 4000 in number in 80 cooperatives, within 4 years, on water management, water harvesting and various other related issues such as fodder, fuel and other supportive services like insurance, credit etc. This is expected to be achieved with the help of 10 women extension supervisors who have been extremely successful in mobilising and motivating women to join All Women's Dairy Cooperatives (AWDCS). The members of AWDCS will be the largest group for sanitation projects.



SEU - North Kerala

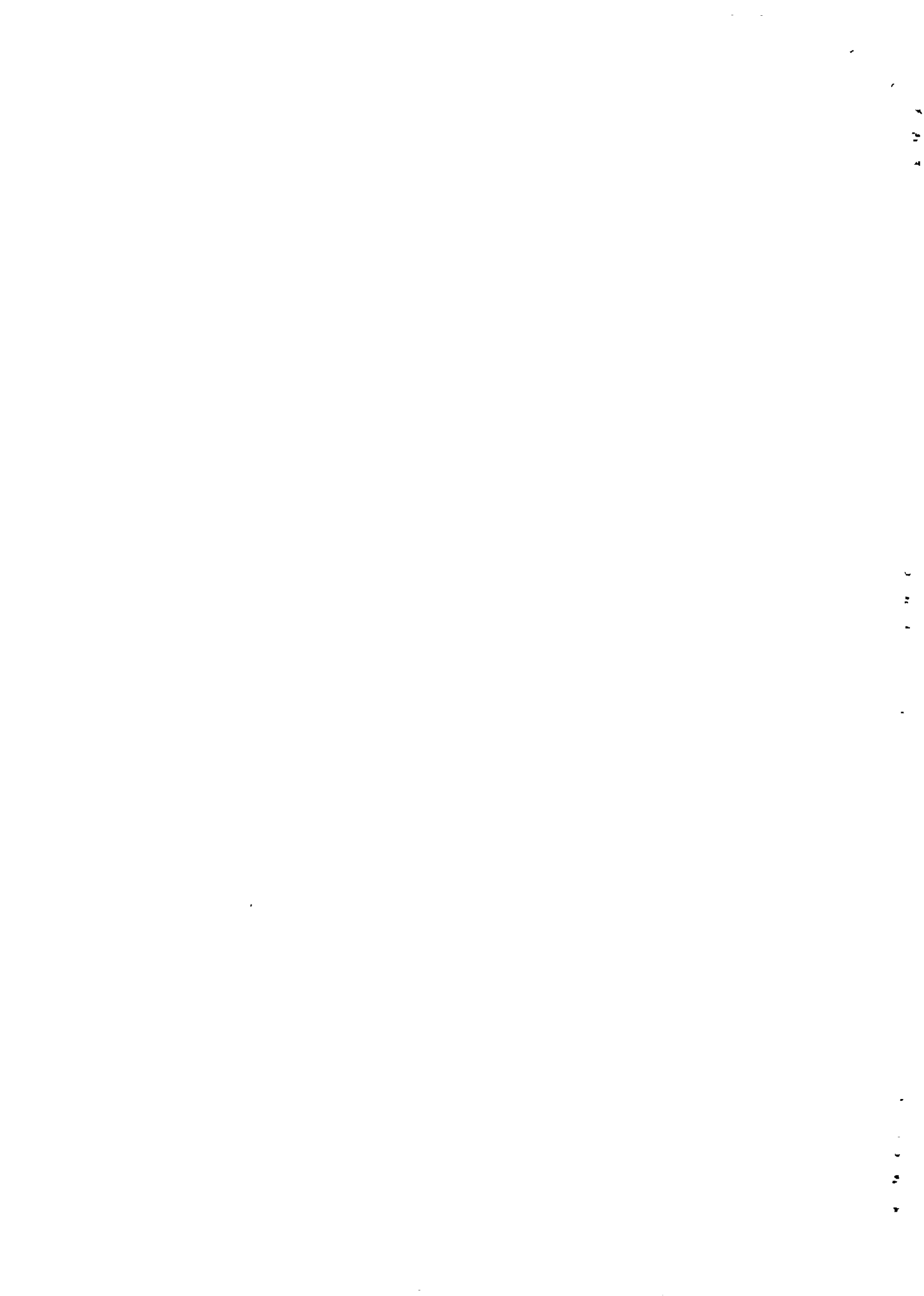
- (d) The SEU - North - Kerala's pilot project on sanitation has women as key persons for all related activities too. According to them there has not been a single case of gastro-enteritis in this area since the launching of the sanitation project. Posters, pamphlets and flip charts of UNICEF are used for communication. Apart from slides provided by the World Bank and UNICEF, SEU's own slides are used for communication.
- (e) No pilot project has been undertaken by SEU central and SEU south, Kerala on water and sanitation projects.

PSU - UP

- (f) PSU-UP gives the positive experience of UP Jal Nigam who under TRYSEM has organised a training programme exclusively for Tharu Tribal women in district Lakhimpur in installation/operation, maintenance of India Mark II handpumps (photocopy of the group of women enclosed).
 - A pilot project in Allahabad has been implemented while a new one is expected to be commissioned in Rae Bareilly soon.

Q3. Could you describe your experiences of possible efforts of change or influence the technical orientation within organisations such as Jal Nigam, Kerala Water Authority (KWA) and PHED's towards a more people (women) oriented approach ?

- Many of the respondents would like to have more details regarding the activities of Jal Nigam, KWA or PHED regarding community participation, with special focus on women oriented activities.
- SEWA has been assisting CAPART and GWSSB in involving women in policy and management in projects. SEWA is also keen to undertake and participate in women oriented drinking water projects in UP or Gujarat.
- The GWSSB has requested for more details on the activities of the above-mentioned organisations.
- The NAP - AP prepared a strategy paper for introducing the participatory approach in water supply projects (copy enclosed) which was discussed with the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department and was accepted. It will take a while to implement the same.
- Though the KWA was initially reluctant to take on socio-economic activities, on the initiatives of SEU (North) Kerala, has provided active support.
- SEU Central, Kerala, mentions the example of the training offered by the technology mission to equip women as caretakers of handpumps at Palghat. SEU's own projects, which are in the process of being implemented, have plans to train women in operation and maintenance.
- SEU South, Kerala has not answered this question.



Q4. Have you worked together with other government institutions (which) and NGOs (i.e. women's organisation) ? What have been your experiences in coordinating government and non government organisations ?

- SEWA has worked with women's voluntary organisations like Chetna and Mahiti and is closely working with GWSSB.
- GWSSB has been working with a number of NGOs other than SEWA, such as the Foundation of Public Interest (FPI) and Operations Research Group (ORG) etc.
- The NAP office in Hyderabad is functioning with the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department (PRED) and Institute of Preventive Medicine (both Govt.). Catholic Hospitals Association of India (CHAI) an NGO and Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Corporation - a quasi govt. body. NAP - RWS - AP has an institutional arrangement to coordinate efforts of all the above mentioned agencies at the level of state, district and village.
- SEU - North Kerala works in cooperation with the Health department and social welfare department of the state government, but they have difficulty in pursuing the activities according to specifications since they do not have adequate staff. Panchayats are their main allies along with youth clubs, Mahila Samajams, National Social Service Corps of local colleges and Nehru Yuvak Kendras. The Panchayats, KWA and SEU provide the hardware component through local Beneficiary Committees while the local clubs through Nehru Yuvak Kendras ensure smooth progress of work. The monthly Panchayat meetings with personnel from these agencies review the progress and plan future activities.
- The experience of SEU - Central Kerala reveals that most of the Mahila Samajams are defunct barring a few, which have been taken over for RCDS programme. The 'Mukhya Sevikas' of these Samajams are trained women and their expertise could be utilised to strengthen the involvement of women in the projects of water and sanitation. The Mahila Samajams are in dire need of financial assistance. The ICDS staff have been motivated and have been given orientation in water and health schemes along with environmental regeneration. They have been given posters, charts, booklets, pamphlets etc. and have been involved in base line survey. The Junior Public Health nurses could reach the villages and sensitise them on sanitary schemes successfully with the support of SEU.
- For SEU - South Kerala, Social Welfare board and Women Welfare board officers are the main links and also the Mahila Samajams. Collaboration with PCO (NGO) has been fruitful in pilot sanitation programme with Angengo fisherwomen.
- The PSU - UP liaises with UP Jal Nigam, Panchayat Raj officials and DWCRA officials which are government agencies. Besides these, Banaras Hindu University and a number of NGOs, such as Chetna and Chitrabani are involved. They are involved in the process of training, social mobilisation, preparation of health education, communication support and promotional material.

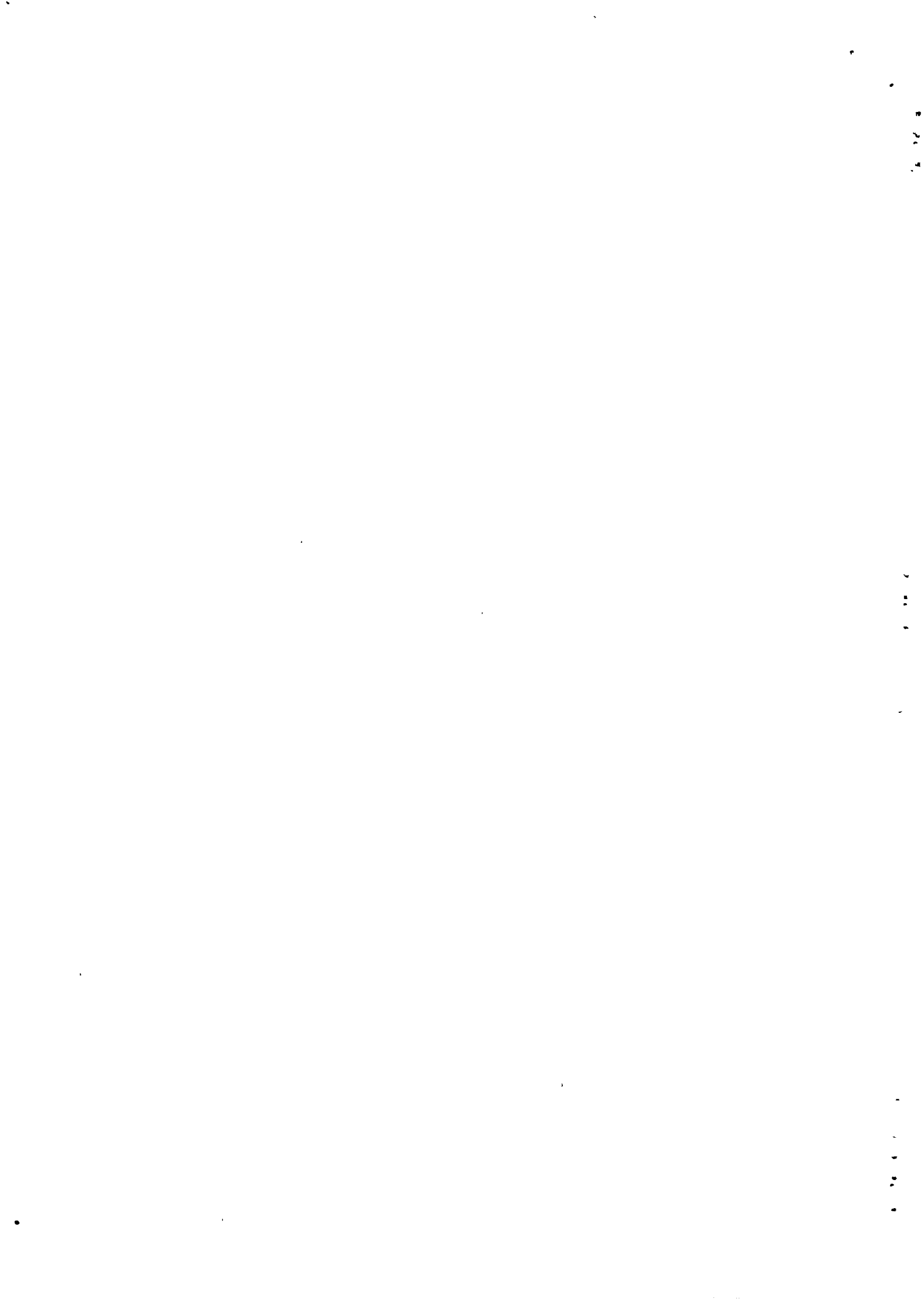


Q5. Are there any specific areas with regard to women's participation in the drinking water programme which need to be further looked into ? (i.e. developing communication skills in dealing with communities, e.g. women, training, research topics).

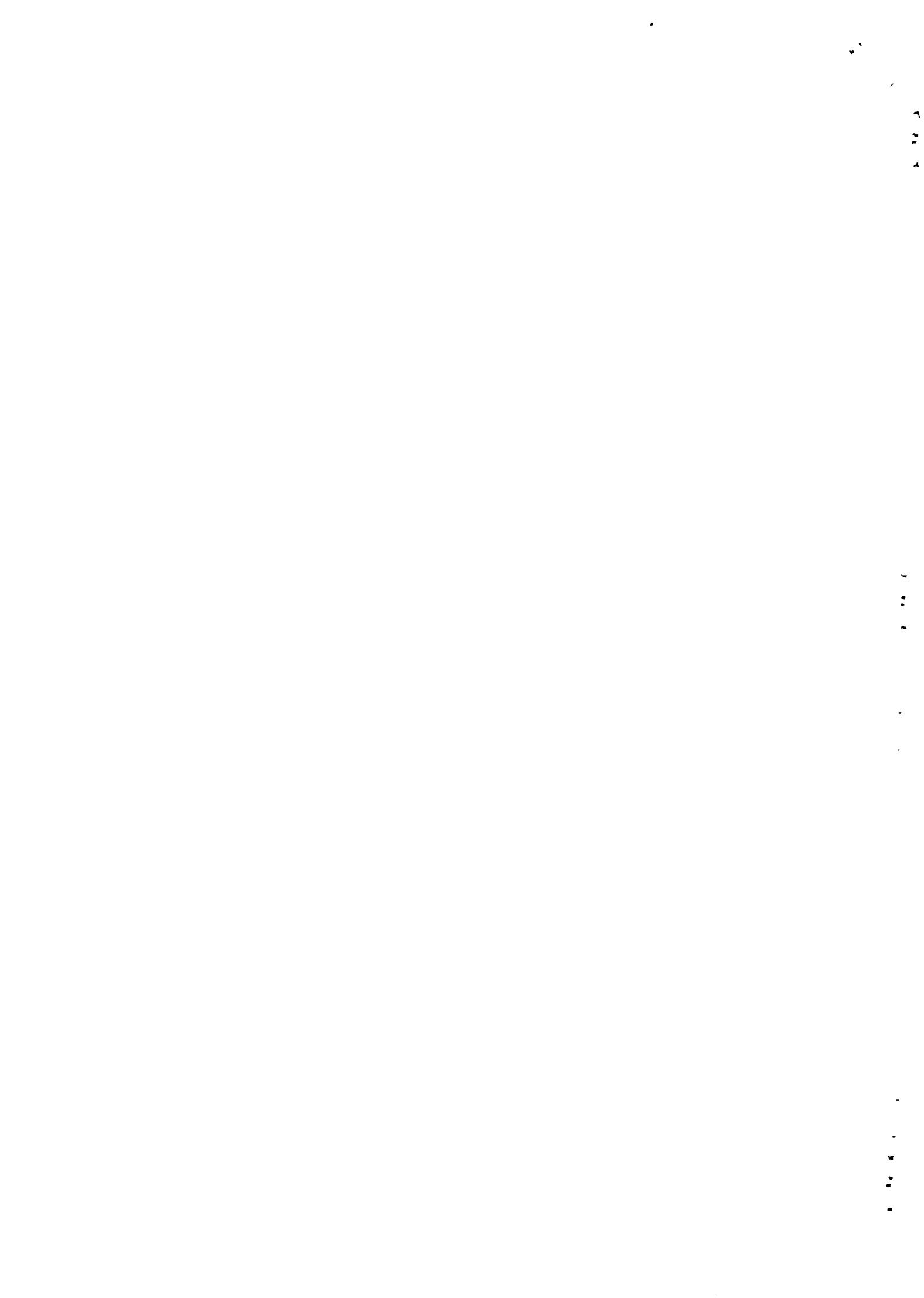
- (a) SEWA recommends folk and performing art, mobile exhibitions on drinking water will be very effective medium of communication and efforts should be made to develop expertise in these areas.
- On the academic side, at least 50% of the University research should on women and water.
 - Planners must ensure that a sizable percentage (at least 60%) of the total budget on rural development must be allocated for development of women.
 - Women must have 50% seats in Pani Panchayats.
 - Donor agencies should support grass-root level organisation's micro-projects for water management.
- (b) GWSSB suggests that preparation of video films on personal hygiene, literacy and other areas which will improve communication skills and quality of life of women.
- (c) NAP - AP has a health educationist and socio-economist. They need to develop skills in training and research, monitoring and evaluation and project management. Personnel of CHAI would require training in communication skills. Efforts are being made to identify suitable training institutions to impart suitable training.

NAP office is keen to develop links with other state NAP and to meet at least once a year to share experiences. It is felt that it is important to have similar approaches, criteria, methodology, technology adopted for similar programmes in water supply and sanitation. Sanitation schemes (Vimukti) of AP government and UNICEF and water supply schemes under bilateral aid GOI and Technology missions are going on simultaneously in AP. If efforts are coordinated, duplication may be avoided. Community participation aspect of all these projects need to be strengthened. Human resources may be utilised optimally.

- (d) SEU - North Kerala points out the paucity of training material like posters, booklets, audio and video cassettes etc. They feel that pictorial depictions have more impact on rural women. The village women like to take away the posters to their houses after the training. Providing such take home gifts need finance and this needs to be looked into.
- Apart from developing relevant training material in adequate quantities, it is essential to train the staff of SEU in planning, management and participation involving women.
- (e) SEU, Central Kerala also recommends orientation of staff towards need and importance of involving women in the projects and training in organisational and managerial skills.
- More emphasis may be placed by the donors on involving women in the water projects.



- Groups like the Mahila Samajam which have the experience and expertise in mobilising and communicating with women but which are now defunct due to lack of funds, may be provided with financial and organisational support.
 - Care should be exercised to avoid sex stereotyping in posters and pamphlets.
 - Periodic meetings (state, national and international level to share experiences) may be organised.
- (f) **SEU - South Kerala** suggests the formation of some All Women Ward committees to compare their performance with mixed committees.
- At least 50% seats should be for women in the mixedward committees instead of the current practice of including 'at least' 2 women in a team of 8 members.
 - Participatory research programmes must be undertaken to generate more awareness of the rights and responsibilities of women in water and sanitation projects.
 - To enable women to attend meetings possibilities of changing the meeting timing should be explored.
- (g) **PSU-UP** suggests periodic recording of data (technical, socio-economic, behavioural and cultural) and to undertake periodic publication of some successful experiments.
- Creating a data bank/inventory of materials available or published by various agencies on health, education, communication and promotional aspects of water supply and sanitation.
 - Coordination and close interaction and regular exchange of notes/ideas/experiences of agencies involved in similar activities.
 - Small research projects for getting comparative data on the methodological aspects of implementation of community participation.



SUGGESTED ACTION PLAN

- Development of training materials, audio visuals, slides on water and sanitation and communication materials like posters, booklets, placards and pamphlets by each project office suitable to the needs of the area.
- Organising training workshops for SEU and NAP officials to give intensive orientation.
- Regional Seminar on women, water and sanitation to be organised, culminating in a national seminar.
- Collection of successful experiences in the form of cases for training sessions.
- Exchange of experiences between Technology Missions and donor agencies to understand each other's activities through regular meetings
- Periodic publication of newsletter on women and drinking water.

(Compiled by Ms. Lalitha Iyer)



ABBREVIATIONS

SEWA	-	Self Employed Women's Association
GWSSB	-	Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage board
NAP-RWS	-	Netherlands Assisted Projects - Rural Water Supply
SEU	-	Socio Economic Units
PSU	-	Programme Support Unit
PHED	-	Public Health Engineering Departments
VAC	-	Village Action Committee
WWC	-	Ward Water Committee
VWC	-	Village Water Committee
IPCL	-	Indian Petro Chemicals Ltd.
AWDCS	-	All Women's Dairy Cooperatives
TRYSEM	-	Training for Rural Youth for Self-Employment
KWA	-	Kerala Water Authority
CAPART	-	Council for Agricultural Promotion and Rural Technology
ICDS	-	Integrated Child Development Scheme
DWCRA	-	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
CHAI	-	Catholic Hospitals Association of India
GOI	-	Government of India

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