

The committee,executed the entire project under the technical guidance of the RWSS engineers. They collected a sum of Rs 2,35,780/-, which was contributed by the community. The DWSSM made available the remaining part of the project cost. The wells were dug, tanks constructed and pipes laid. One pump operator was appointed.

A sum of Rs 40 was collected every month from every family getting household water connection. About 140 families have availed themselves of this

facility. The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) thus collects about Rs 5,600/-, out of which the pump driver receives his salary, electricity bills are

paid and maintenance cost is met. No longer do the villagers suffer water scarcity in summer; they are now the proud owners of a water supply system. The nightmarish experience of fetching water from a distant place in hot summer no longer frightens women; it is now a thing of the past.



*Water collected from a stand post*

### **AFTERWORD**

Total Sanitation Campaign has made great strides in Orissa this year. It has now spread to the whole of the State. All stakeholders -- government agencies, non-governmental as well as community based organisations and panchayati raj institutions -- are actively engaged in the task of generating awareness among people living in rural areas. They explain to people that healthy habits and sanitation practices not only help them reduce their vulnerability to health hazards; these also save them from a lot of inconvenience and embarrassment. And the campaign has started yielding results. More and more families are constructing toilets, and demands are pouring in from institutions as well as from people living below the poverty line to help them construct toilets.

With a view to motivating people to set up and use toilets, it has been decided to give encouragement and incentive to the villages, where open defecation has stopped. Conceived in the model of Nirmal Gram Puraskar, which is given away to clean and open defecation-free gram panchayats by the Government of India, the Government of Orissa has instituted Pioneer Sanitation Village Award for the villages achieving full sanitation coverage. The prize money will be utilized for improving the environment of these villages. I hope this would create a healthy competition among our villages for achieving greater success in curbing environmental pollution.

*Aurobindo Behera.*  
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*"Any great movement for liberation today must necessarily be a mass movement."*

Mahatma Gandhi

