

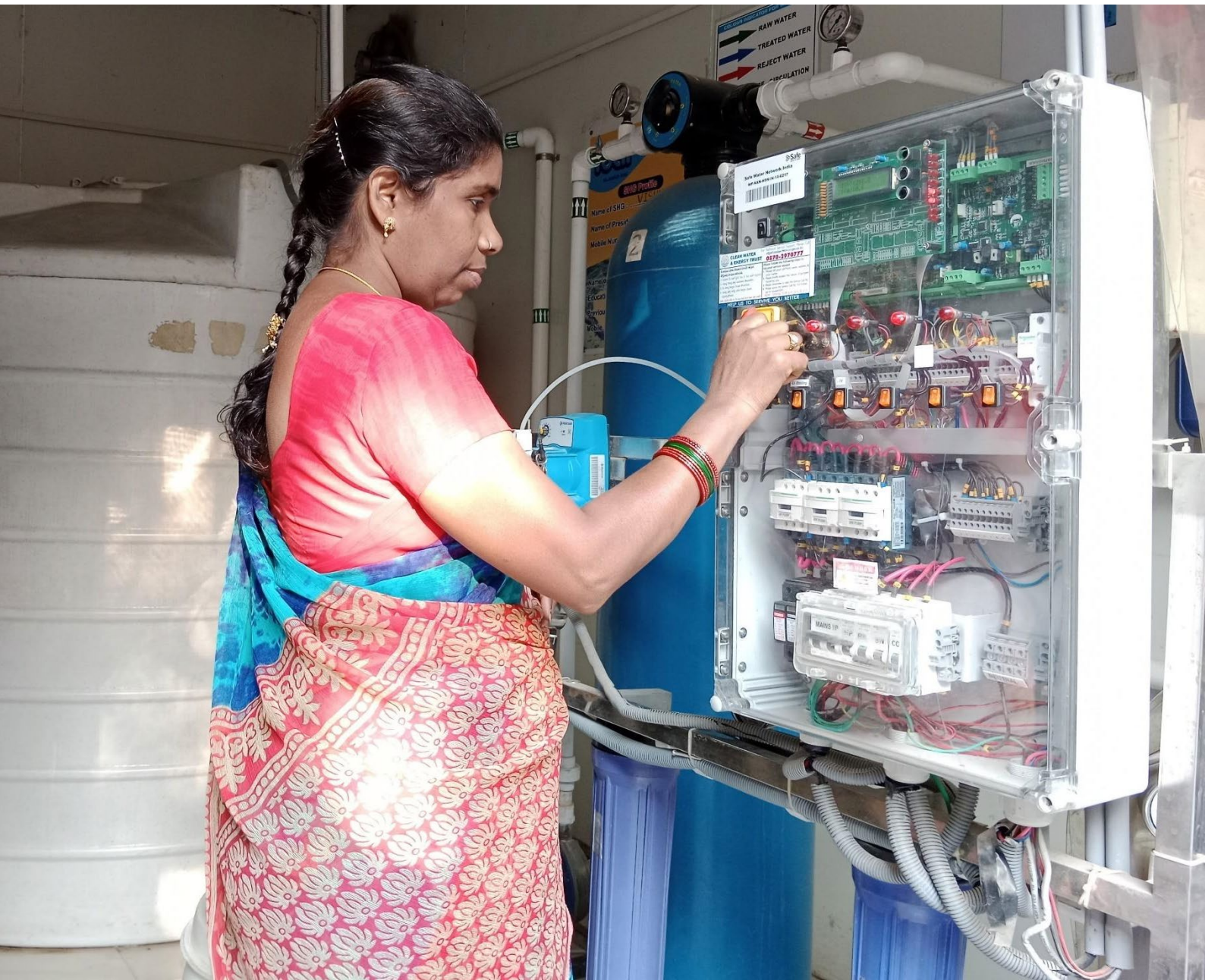


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**GENDER
SERIES – III
MAY 2023**

**SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES FOR WATER AND HEALTH
RETHINKING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE LENS
OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN WATER**



CO-FUNDING PARTNERS



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ALLIANCE**

ABOUT THE REPORT



Surekha G. SWE operator at Hyderabad Water ATM, who rose to the level of the Cluster Coordinator with Safe Water Network

This report shares the success of the unique SEWAH program, where women's traditional roles of carrying water on their heads are supplemented by owning and operating local water stations. Women are becoming the leaders of change in their communities by providing safe water, WASH education, and promoting environmental sustainability.

This report builds upon Safe Water Network's earlier pilots and replication, including the "[Small Water Enterprises: Transforming Women from Water Carriers to Water Entrepreneurs.](#)" Under the SEWAH initiative, this gender equality program has scaled up with seven SWE implementing partners across 30 cities and 12 states in India. The findings highlight women's absence in the water sector as policymakers, implementing partners, and those owning and operating SWEs. Additionally, it identifies research-enabled gaps towards developing solutions and positioning women across the SWE value chain to ensure each person earns income, creating a knowledge platform for resource sharing, standardized learning, and community-led WASH for better economic and health outcomes. This report informs how the program has helped contribute towards UN Sustainable Development Goals 6.1: Safe Water for All, Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being, and Goal 17: Partnerships for Goals.

PROGRAM SEWAH

Program SEWAH: Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health, is a three-year collaboration between Safe Water Network India and USAID. Together, they created the SWE Alliance, an interdisciplinary group of professionals, to spearhead policy, best practices, lessons learnt, and expertise within the water sector at national and international levels. With one goal in mind, SEWAH seeks to bring affordable, safe water to the urban poor.



Safe Water Enterprise at Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad setup under SEWAH by Safe Water Network

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/India) for their funding support and our funding partners, PepsiCo Foundation and Pentair Foundation, which enabled us to prepare this report and present our findings. USAID's support has advanced our initiatives in urban space by training and empowering women to operate and manage SWEs, ultimately enabling women to be changemakers in their communities. Through the SEWAH: Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health program, women can provide safe, affordable water, impart WASH education, and promote sustainable practices.

We would also like to appreciate the following experts and acknowledge their contributions for playing a significant role in this report:

- SEWAH implementing partners: Drinkwell Systems, JanaJal, Maithri Aquatech, Rite Water Solutions, Stellarin Ventures, WaterHealth India and Waterlife India.
- Our knowledge partners, Deloitte and Dialogue Factory, provided expertise in developing digital tools for WASH education and IEC awareness materials for dissemination among the communities, especially women.
- Our research partner, Stratage Consulting, for their invaluable research and analysis and insights.
- Our training & capacity-building partner, Clean Water & Energy Trust (CWET), for their knowledge and expertise in conducting periodic training programs with required tools for women empowerment.
- Our academic partners, Amity University and PGDAV Evening College, for developing robust training courseware and conducting offline (including field-based learnings) and online programs for aspiring WASH professionals.
- Special thanks to our prime funders and knowledge partner, USAID/India: Ms. Karen Klimowski, *Deputy Mission Director*; Ms. Ritika Chopra, *Gender Advisor*; Mr. Mark Tegenfeldt, *Office Director – General Development Office*; Mr. Chigozie Okwu, *SEWAH Agreement Officer Representative (AOR)* and Mr. R K Srinivasan, *WASH Project Management Specialist*.

Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge our Safe Water Network India team members for their hard work and dedicated time towards developing this report.

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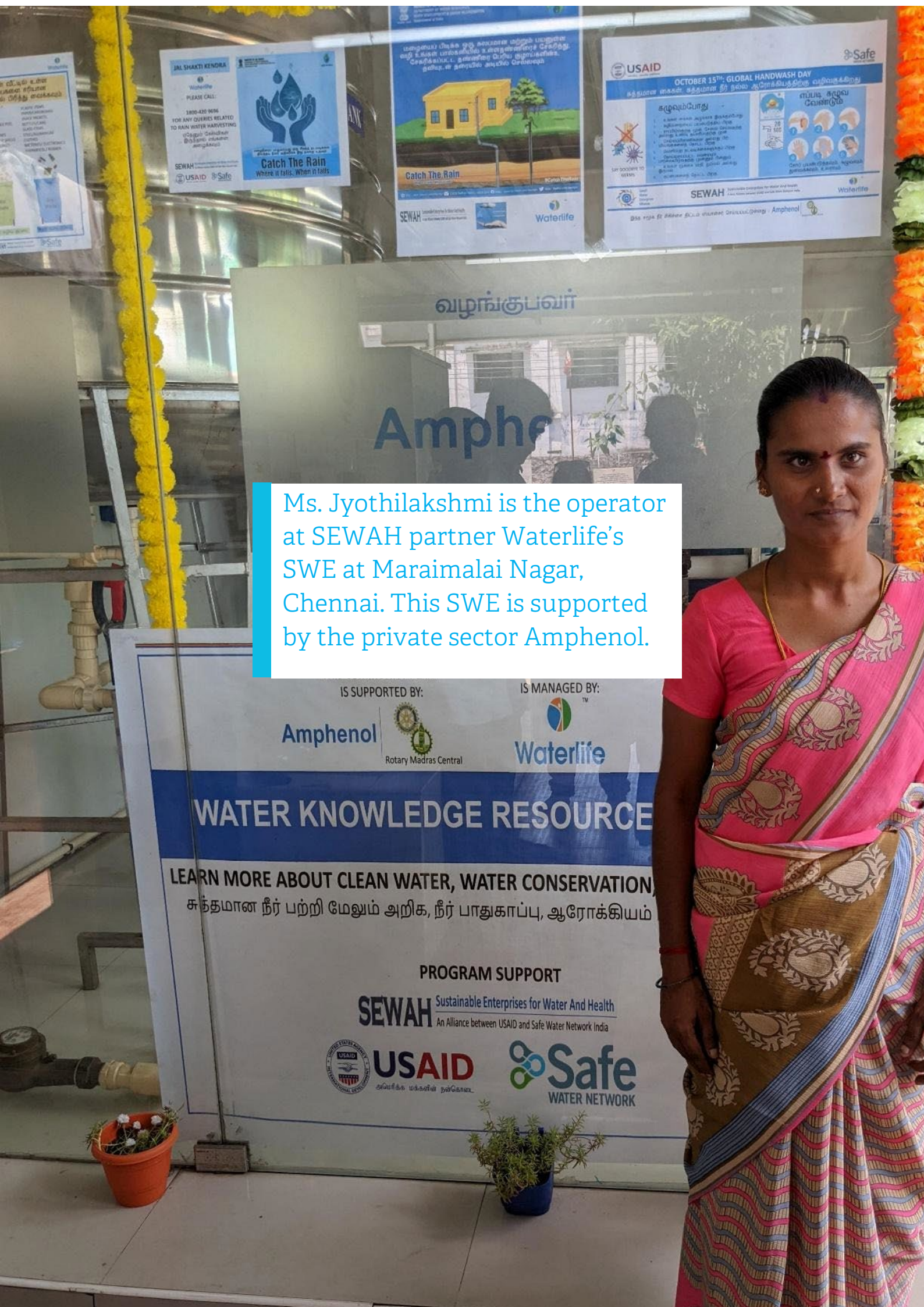
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

COVID-19	COronaVirus Disease
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDO	General Development Office
IAS	Indian Administrative Service
IEC	Information, Education & Communication
iSWEET	Digital Safe Water Enterprise Entrepreneur Toolkit
MoHUA	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
MoJS	Ministry of Jal Shakti
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PGDAV	Pannalal Girdharlal Dayanand Anglo-Vedic
PHC	Primary Health Center
PHED	Public Health Engineering Department
PoU	Point of Use
QUIT	Question Undo Involve Trust (strategy for women in SWEs)
RFID	Radio-Frequency IDentification
RO	Reverse Osmosis
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEWAH	Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health
SHG	Self-Help Group
SWE	Safe Water Enterprise
SWN	Safe Water Network
SWNI	Safe Water Network India
UF	Ultra-Filtration
ULB	Urban Local Body
UNC	University of North Carolina
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
Water ATM	Anytime Water Machine
WKRC	Water Knowledge Resource Center



Ms. Jyothilakshmi is the operator at SEWAH partner Waterlife's SWE at Maraimalai Nagar, Chennai. This SWE is supported by the private sector Amphenol.

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PROGRAM SUPPORT

SEWAH Sustainable Enterprises for Water And Health
An Alliance between USAID and Safe Water Network India

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SEWAH USAID Waterlife

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women and Girls are the Victims of Household Water Collection: Water plays a significant role in women's lives as they are often responsible for water collection and household water management. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), women often walk long distances to fetch water for their households, consuming 200 million productive hours every day.¹ Without safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, women and girls are more vulnerable to Gender Based Violence (such as abuse or physical attacks when collecting water) and ill health, affecting their ability to study, work and live in dignity.²

Women are Lagging in Economic Activity and Wealth Generation: Women comprise nearly half the world's population (49.7%).³ However, these 3.92 billion women account for only 38% of human capital wealth, defined as the value of future earnings of their adult citizens- versus 62% for men.⁴ Globally, \$160 trillion in wealth is lost annually due to the differences in the lifetime earnings between women and men.⁵ The lack of women's work participation is compounded due to patriarchy, lack of skills/education, and access to finance.

Despite being 48% of the population, women in India contribute only 18% of the GDP, and the female labor workforce is less than 30%.⁶ The country's overall Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality scored 48 out of 100 in 2020⁷. The Gender Inequality Index (GII) scored 0.49 out of 1 in 2021⁸, illustrating that India is still less than halfway towards achieving gender equality. By providing equal opportunity, India could add US\$ 770 billion⁹ to its GDP by 2025.

Women are Missing from Leadership Positions: Globally, women's participation in law-making nationally averages at 25.8%,¹⁰ whereas in India, it is significantly lower at 14.45%.^{11,12} According to Indian national ministries that promote water supply, Safe Water Network India's research found that 25% of women held senior administrative positions, compared to the 8% of women in the water board or Public Health Engineering Departments (PHEDs). However, 50% of women in rural India's village water sanitation committee govern and supply safe water.

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-collecting-water-often-colossal-waste-time-women-and-girls>

² <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-and-gender>

³ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.IN>

⁴ Human capital refers to the economic value of a worker's experience and skills. It includes assets like education, training, intelligence, skills, health, etc.- <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/h/humancapital.asp#toc-what-is-human-capital>.

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/30/globally-countries-lose-160-trillion-in-wealth-due-to-earnings-gaps-between-women-and-men>.

⁶ <https://thewire.in/women/women-labour-force-india-growth>

⁷ https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/assets/Files/SDG3.0_Final_04.03.2021_Web_Spreads.pdf

⁸ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>

⁹ Mckinsey Report <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/employment-and-growth/the-power-of-parity-advancing-womens-equality-in-india>

¹⁰ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134117>

¹¹ <https://loksabha.nic.in/Members/women.aspx>

¹² <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/Members/WomenMembers>

Can there be Gender Equality Without Access to Safe Water?

The SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) initiative believes women and girls are disproportionately burdened by inadequate access to safe drinking water, ultimately leading to decreased productivity and increased time spent caring for sick family members due to water-borne diseases.

The SEWAH's gender integration and empowerment pillars focus on gender parity for women, girls, men, and boys as members of a thriving community. We bring about this change through sensitization, awareness, behavior change programs, both for men and women through meetings and campaigns. The community selects key opinion leaders – men or women, whom they trust to lead this change. We believe that safe water procurement and management is the responsibility of all household members. We promote women as decision-makers, water managers, and owners, enabling them to earn a livelihood through water programs.

SEWAH's gender integration framework has a three-pillar strategy to achieve gender parity through safe water access: i) economic empowerment of women through SWE (Safe Water Enterprise) and its value chain; ii) education to create a cadre of water professionals; and iii) knowledge empowerment of the community through sensitization on WASH awareness.

This program operates in 12 States of India in 30 cities with seven SWE implementing partners.

Impact

Women Empowerment: This program has been scaled by seven SWE implementers in India who, through their 60 SWEs provide safe water access and impart knowledge through Water Knowledge Resource Centers (WKRCs) to 200,000 people. Through these SWEs, we have 33% SWE women entrepreneurs / operators. On an average, SWE entrepreneurs earn \$80-100/month, and SWE operators make \$50-70/month.¹³ Findings include:

- 75% of men collect water from the SWEs – increased responsibility for water collection
- 70% of women could pursue alternative economic activities
- 29% reduction in unruly behavior at water points
- 5% reduction in monthly medical expenditures
- 7% reduction in waterborne diseases

Education: SEWAH created a digital knowledge hub as a force multiplier on the virtual Center of Excellence: www.swealliance.org platform for capacity building in the water sector. This knowledge hub consists of various toolkits that provide knowledge on water quality, water supply, city water balance programs, IEC on WASH, gender mainstreaming – iGender, in water resources; SWE Entrepreneur Training Toolkit (iSWEET); and a Youth Water Professional Toolkit. The iSWEET toolkit is a suite of practical tools and guidance to operate and sustain Safe Water Enterprises through social entrepreneurship. It is also available in audio-visual format in local languages.

The Youth Water Entrepreneurship and Professional programs have trained ten master trainers and built a cadre of 147 certified young professionals equipped with SWE technical and entrepreneurship skills.

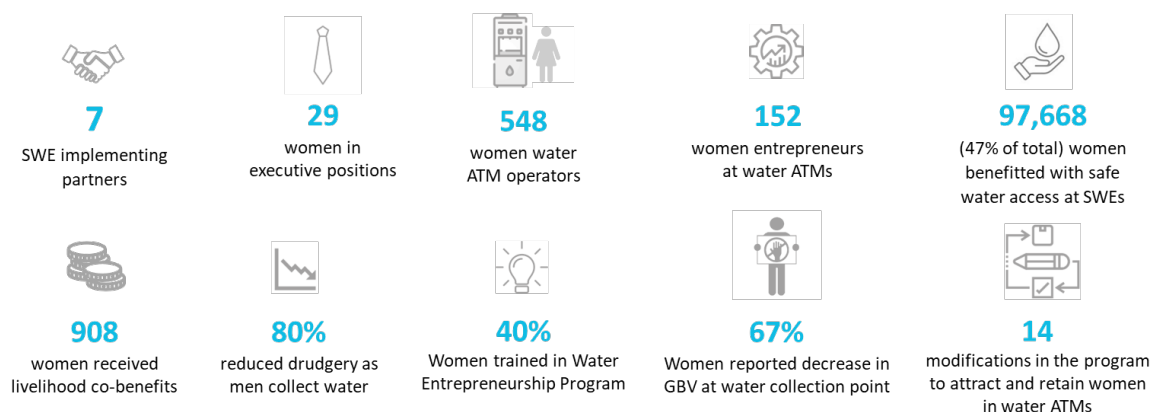
¹³ Source: Self reported data from SWE implementers

Community Knowledge Empowerment on WASH: SWE Alliance partners have conducted innovative Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) programs through training and awareness campaigns for hand washing, water conservation, COVID-19 protocols, and entrepreneurship in water management.

Learning and Way Forward: Recently, the water sector improved the representation of women in Water Resource Management, Village Water Sanitation Committee, and Water Users Association, but women's participation is almost negligible in SWEs. SWE Alliance partners experimented and, in a few cases, successfully found a model that attracts and retains women in the program. The program is called 'Water Aunties model'. It has two components: social engineering and technological solutions. Using the iGender toolkit, we did a social innovation that uses QUIT: Question, Undo, Involve, Trust, to involve women, break patriarchal norms, and define gender roles. We utilized technology at all stages of the program to ease the women's work in SWE operations, reporting, and consumer handling. Technology was deployed for remote monitoring of the SWEs' operational performance and automatic dispensing that promoted 24x7 water delivery giving the women freedom from being at the store. Digital payments for cashless transactions further eased the woman entrepreneur's life as she did not have to manage petty change. Through continued engagement and training, we could build confidence of women to operate machinery, and created a peer social group for sharing best practices

Additionally, partners faced an increased investment (3-5%) to attract and retain women in the program. Moreover, it took 7-10 days to sufficiently train women on the technical and managerial skills required for the SWE water business. For the inclusion of women in the SWE program, it is essential to make small investments to address gender barriers and create a skilled workforce by providing training, mentorship, and networking opportunities. The government can include and fund these through national programs and policies to improve public health by advancing women's inclusion in SWEs.

Exhibit 1: Impact of SEWAH's Gender Program



Men collect water from Safe Water Enterprises
Rushali Tambe works as an SWE operator/community mobilizer of SEWAH partner Rite Water Solutions in Thane, Mumbai.

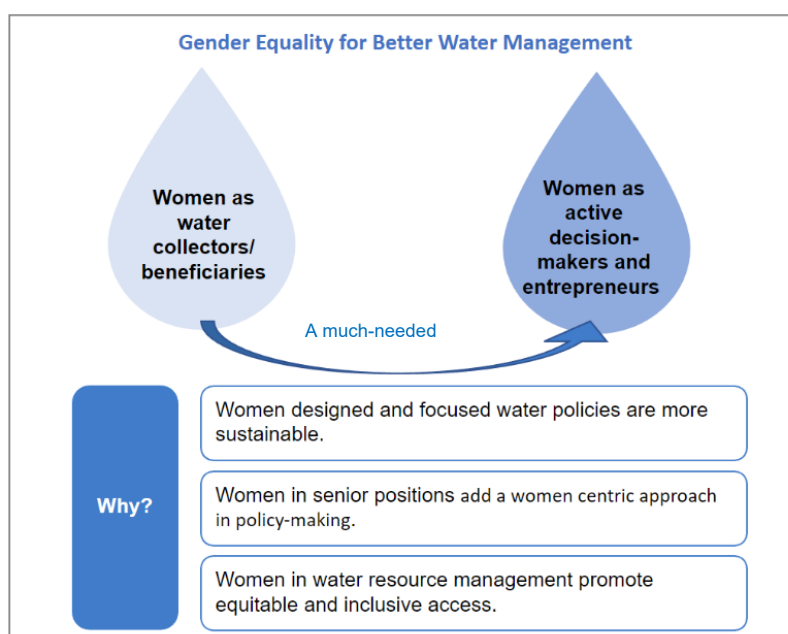


PERSPECTIVE: WOMEN AND WATER

Availability of water is a fundamental and most essential to bring gender equality. Water plays a significant role in women's lives as they are often responsible for water collection and household water management. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), women often walk long distances to fetch water for their households, consuming 200 million productive hours every day.¹⁴ Without safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, women and girls are more vulnerable to abuse, attack, and ill health, affecting their ability to study, work and live in dignity.¹⁵

Exhibit 2: Women in leadership positions in the water sector

Women led programs have proven inclusion, equity, and sustainability in the water supply. Currently, women have a limited presence at senior level in water management, be it in water utilities or policy-making processes. There is an urgent need for women's inclusion in the water sector at the global, national, and community levels.



Gender Equality - An Overview

Women comprise nearly half of the world's population (49.7%).¹⁶ However, these 3.92 billion women account for only 38% of human capital wealth, defined as the value of future earnings of their adult citizens, versus 62% for men.¹⁷ Globally, \$160 trillion in wealth is lost annually due to differences in the lifetime earnings between women and men.¹⁸ The lack of women's work participation is compounded due to patriarchy, lack of skills and education, access to finance, and other reasons.

¹⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-collecting-water-often-colossal-waste-time-women-and-girls>

¹⁵ <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-and-gender>

¹⁶ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL.FE.IN>

¹⁷ Human capital refers to the economic value of a worker's experience and skills. It includes assets like education, training, intelligence, skills, health, etc <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/h/humancapital.asp#toc-what-is-human-capital>

¹⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/05/30/globally-countries-lose-160-trillion-in-wealth-due-to-earnings-gaps-between-women-and-men>

Achieving Gender Equality in India

The Indian Constitution recognizes gender equality¹⁹ and has promulgated many laws and policies on women's justice and social and financial security. Refer to Annex 3. However, in India, there is gender inequality in the health, education, economic and political sectors. Women in India contribute to only 18 percent of the GDP²⁰ while constituting 48% of the population. India's Female Labor workforce is 29.4 %.²¹ The country's overall Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality (SDG 5) score in 2020²² (48 out of 100), as well as the Gender Inequality Index (GII) score in 2021²³ (0.49 out of 1), shows that India is still less than halfway towards achieving gender equality. By providing equal opportunity, India could add US\$ 770 billion²⁴ to its GDP by 2025. Data from World Economic Forum Davos Summit 2023²⁵ offers the steps taken by the Indian government to promote women-led development as a priority.

Exhibit 3: India-Gender Statistics

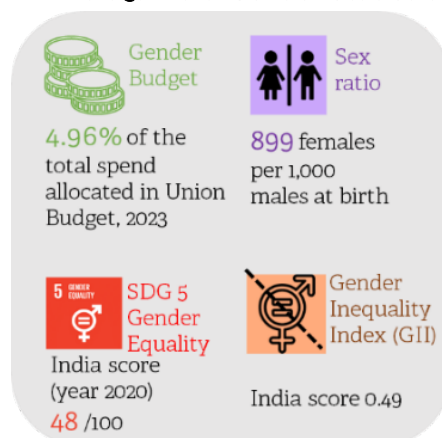
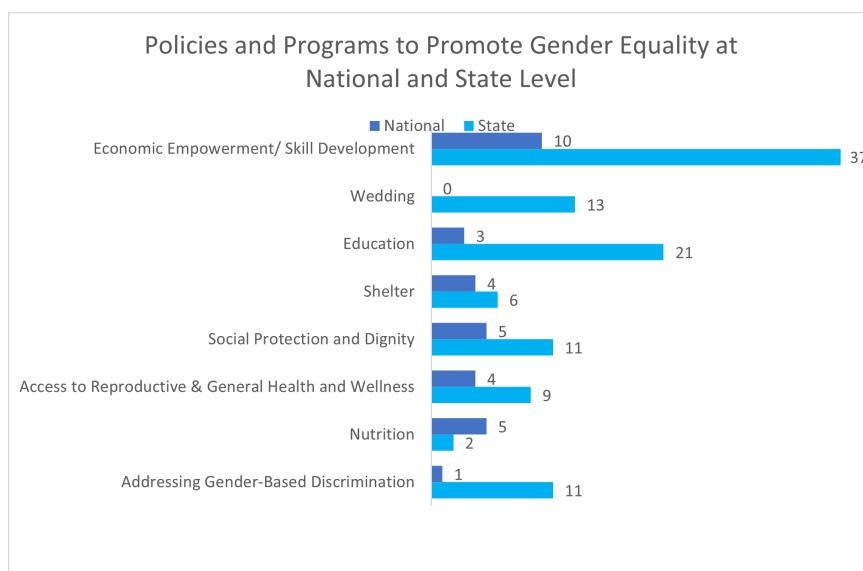


Exhibit 4: Government initiatives to bring gender parity.

~ 89 government initiatives have been introduced in the last five years to promote gender equality.



¹⁹ Constitution of India Article 15.3- https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/15240/1/constitution_of_india.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.ibef.org/blogs/roadmap-for-women-s-economic-empowerment-in-india>

²¹ <https://thewire.in/women/women-labour-force-india-growth>

²² https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/assets/Files/SDG3_0_Final_04.03.2021_Web_Spreads.pdf

²³ <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>

²⁴ <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/employment-and-growth/the-power-of-parity-advancing-womens-equality-in-india>

²⁵ Davos Summit 2023- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfVHyVVjoLs>

Missing Women in the Water Sector

At Political Level

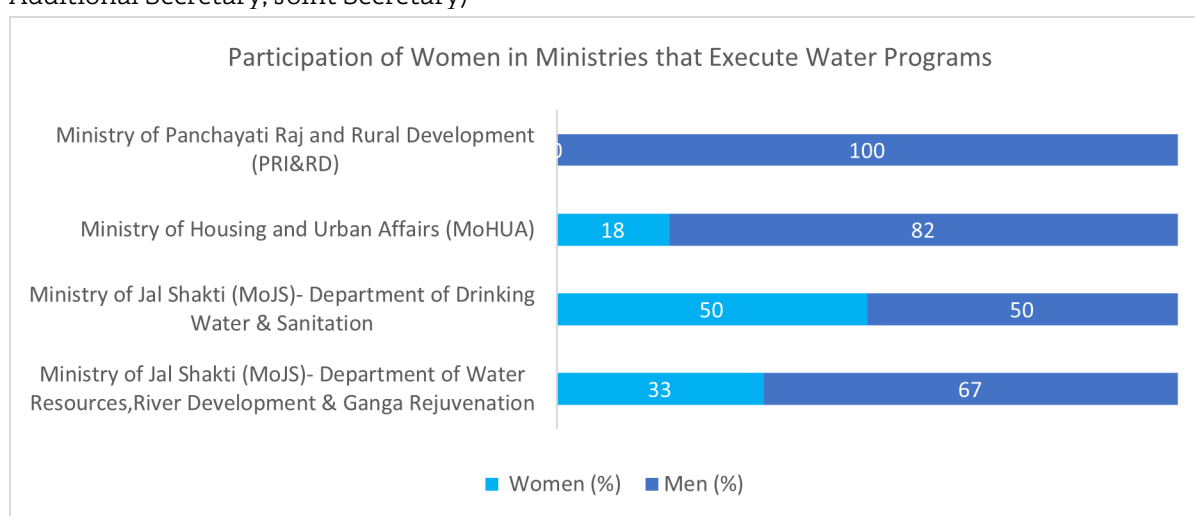
Globally, women's participation in law-making at the national level is at an average of 25.8%,²⁶ whereas in India, it is significantly lower at 14.45%.^{27 28} However, in India, women's involvement at the local level is higher at 44.37%. This increase in participation is due to the Constitutional 73rd and 74th Amendments.

At Administrative Level

At the Center, the Ministries that execute water programs, 25% of women represent senior administrative positions.

Exhibit 5: Women Participation in Ministries that make water laws and policies

This includes women as Ministers and Administrative Officers at three levels (Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary)



At the Utility Level

The water boards, Public Health Engineering Departments (PHEDs), and Water Supply departments of Urban Local Bodies have 8% women board members and water utility engineers.

At the Local Governance Level

At the local level in rural India, 50% of women participate in the village water sanitation governance committees and supply safe water.²⁹

²⁶ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1134117>

²⁷ <https://loksabha.nic.in/Members/women.aspx>

²⁸ <https://rajyasabha.nic.in/Members/WomenMembers>

²⁹ <https://jaljeevanmission.gov.in/institutional-bodies-content>

SEWAH GENDER PROGRAM

Approach

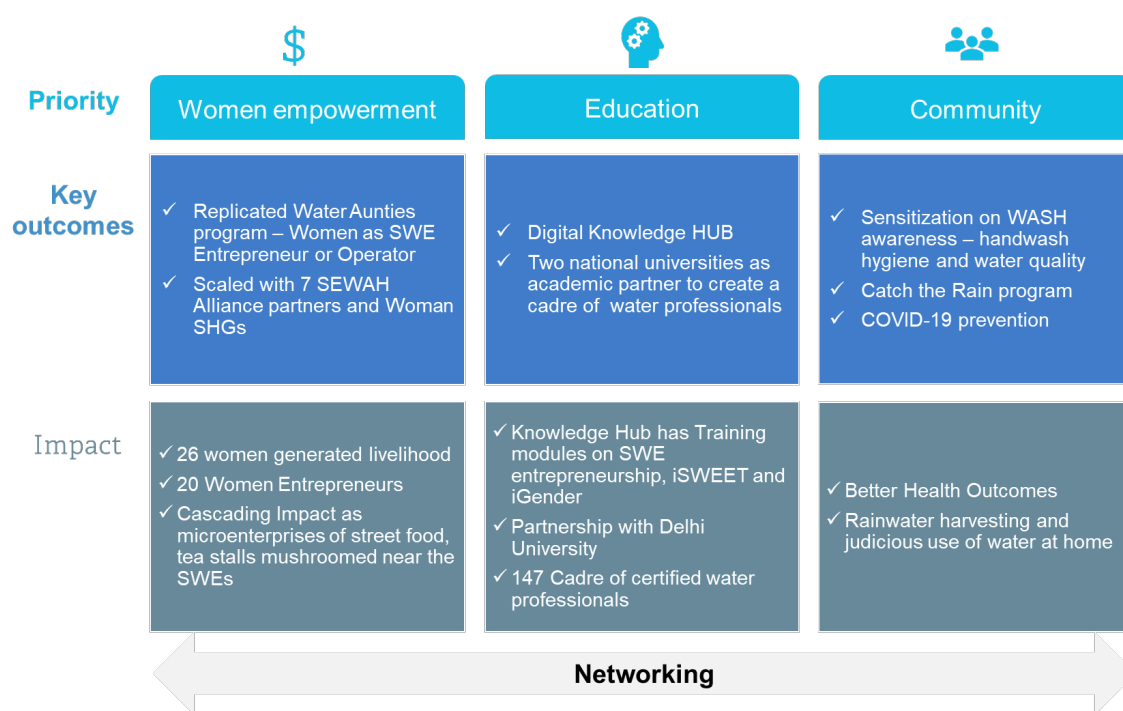
Women and girls are disproportionately burdened with inadequate safe drinking water access. They lose both productive and leisure time because of the struggles related to collecting water. The incidences of waterborne diseases additionally burden women to care for the sick in the family.

We believe that safe water procurement and management is the responsibility of all household members. We promote women as decision-makers, water managers, and owners, enabling them to earn a livelihood through water programs.

SEWAH's gender program has a three-pillar strategy to achieve gender parity through safe water access:

1. Economic Empowerment of Women through SWEs and its value chain
2. Education and Skill Development to create a cadre of water professionals
3. Empowering Communities through Knowledge on WASH

Exhibit 6: SEWAH Gender Approach



SWE Alliance

The SWE Alliance is found by Safe Water Network India, USAID and a private sector partner to converge the fragmented SWE sector, by bringing together SWE practitioners and water sector stakeholders from public and private sectors, academia, civil society organizations, and technology solution providers to develop an ecosystem for its scale-up. The SWE Alliance has a key objective to provide affordable, safe water to bottom-of-pyramid populations for improved public health.

SEWAH scaled the proven Water Aunties program (transforming the lives of women from carrying water on their heads to owning and operating an SWE and earning livelihoods) across the country through its seven SWE Alliance partners, namely, Drinkwell Systems, JanaJal WoW, Maithri Aquatech, Rite Water Solutions, WaterHealth India, Waterlife India, Stellarin Ventures, and Safe Water Network.³⁰

The SWE Alliance has conducted various gender equality programs by identifying key inequality issues in water service delivery and providing opportunities for women's inclusion through engagement, skill-building, and empowerment

The Alliance partners have leveraged their SWEs as WKRCs, providing an information platform for the ULBs to inform communities on state/city programs related to water, safety, and health WKRCs, through their targeted and well-defined programs, promoted citizen education and engagement on hand washing, water quality, and water conservation on health and sanitation issues. They also provided a feedback mechanism to the city municipalities through structured meetings and engagement on WhatsApp groups, promoting better water delivery services and good governance.

The program has been implemented in 30 cities across 12 states of India through its 60 WKRCs. Thus, WKRC contributes to UN SDGs: Goal 6.1: Safe Drinking Water for All; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 13: Climate Action, and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Exhibit 7: SWE Alliance Partners



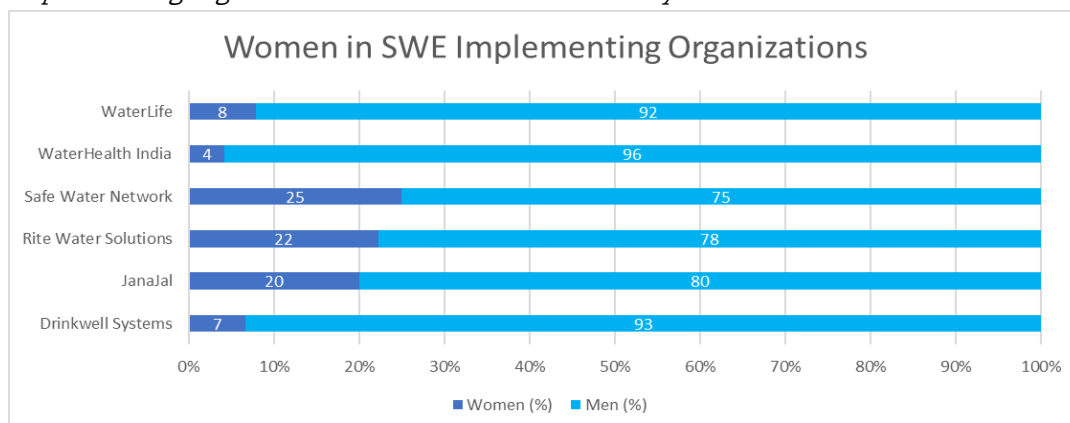
1. Economic Empowerment of Women

Women in SWE Implementing Organizations: Women are significantly underrepresented in the SWE implementing organizations. The significant barriers to women's inclusion are social norms, fieldwork environment, HR policies, etc. The women are mainly employed in business development, monitoring, and reporting and are under-represented in program, technical, and managerial positions.

³⁰ SWE Alliance partners websites- <https://www.ritewater.in/>, <https://www.waterlifeindia.com/>, <https://drinkwellsystems.com/>, <https://www.janajal.com/>, <https://www.waterhealth.com/>, <https://www.maithriaqua.com/>, <https://stellarin.in/>, <https://safewaternetwork.org/>

Exhibit 8: Women in SWE implementing organizations

On an average, women represent only 12% of the total management positions in SWE implementing organizations. Data source: SWNI analysis



Women in the SWE Value Chain: Through a targeted QUIT program to empower women to own and operate the SWEs, the SWE-implementing organizations created a facilitating environment for their participation. As there was a very high attrition rate of ~82%, SEWAH undertook special measures like deploying technology for women’s retention into the program, for e.g. automatic dispensing for 24x7 water availability, digital payment and remote monitoring system, so that their time is freed and they are not required to be present at the SWEs. In some instances, refresher programs like back-to-Water Aunties program drives were undertaken to revive women into SWE program. Special budgets are allocated for gender-focused activities, such as program awareness generation concerning roles, responsibilities and livelihood potential, women enrolment, and capacity-building.

SEWAH adopted the Safe Water Network's proven model of Water Aunties, piloted and replicated in 2019. This model is grounded in the framework that establishes key performance indicators of gender equality and social inclusion to ensure sustainability.³¹

Exhibit 9: Water Aunties Result Framework

SWE Women Empowerment Program Results Framework developed by SWNI to mainstream participation of grassroots women as SWE operator and entrepreneur

In the SWEs, women work as entrepreneurs, operators, distributors, and community mobilizers, earning a livelihood and shifting from water carriers to water entrepreneurs and managers.³²

SUB-INDICES	OUTPUT/OUTCOME
Economic Participation and Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased participation in small business Improved employment opportunities Breaking of gender roles and stereotypes around women's labor Increased level of self-efficacy and work efficiency
Educational Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurial and management skills developed Financial literacy and operational knowledge increased Increased availability of capacity building courseware Training efficiencies created through innovative digital training and tools
Health and Survival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health, especially for pregnant women and lactating mothers Reduced drudgery of water collection for women and girls Reduced incidence of waterborne diseases
Political Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More women in decision-making positions on water committees and boards District- and block-level leadership skills developed Representation and voice in local governance institutions Policy engagement at local and national levels

³¹ <https://safewaternetwork.org/knowledge-hub/small-water-enterprises-transforming-women-from-water-carriers-to-water-entrepreneurs/>

³² Source- [Spotlight on Scale- Small Water Enterprises](#)

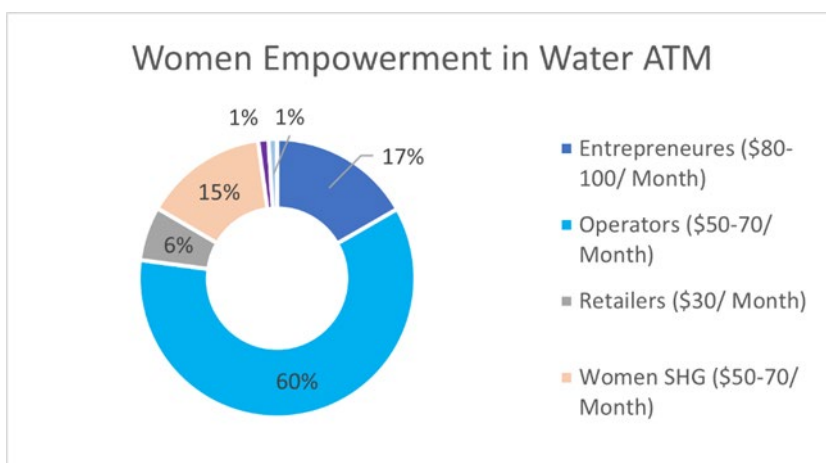
Exhibit 10: SWE Opportunities for Women in SEWAH

<p>Mobilizer</p> <p>Responsible for community engagement and demand generation activities to enrol consumers and encourage them to adopt safe drinking water behaviours.</p>	<p>Retailer</p> <p>Shop owner in the village. Sells water at additional nominal margin to facilitate widespread access.</p>	<p>SHG Manager</p> <p>Selected from within the community. Owns and manages Water ATM.</p>
<p>Cluster Coordinator</p> <p>Oversees small cluster of stations. Leads performance metrics, reporting, and sustainability.</p>	<p>Operator</p> <p>Runs day-to-day operations and business of the station.</p>	<p>Field Executive</p> <p>Trained in operations and management. Supports and monitors the operator.</p>

Despite the challenge of women retention in the SWE program organizations and higher investment costs incurred due to their mobilization and training in the program, compared with the performance of male-led SWEs, the women-led SWEs have many benefits.

Exhibit 11: Women in SWE program and economic benefits

SWE Alliance partner organizations have given economic opportunities to 908 women on water ATMs



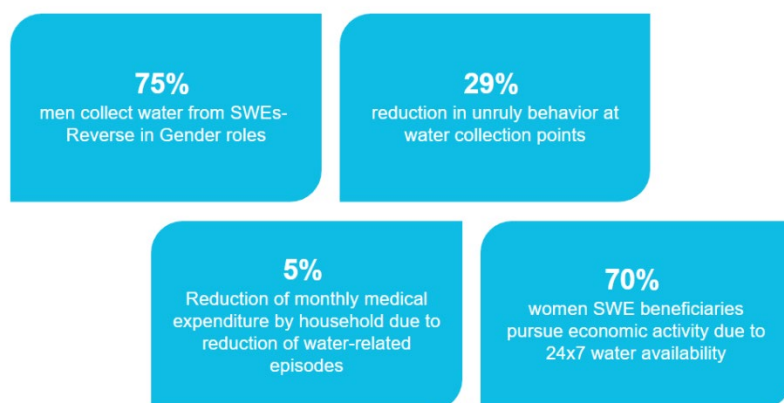
Challenges in Retaining Women in SWEs

- Women took twice as much time as men to build capacities in SWE O&M.
- Women prefer to work in pairs or as part of SHGs.
- Increased investment by the SWE implementer.

Advantages of Women in SWEs

- Stronger financial discipline with higher recoveries towards O&M.
- Better volume growth & consumer registrations.
- Well-maintained ATMs with better plant hygiene.
- Able to engage with local governance to troubleshoot issues.

Exhibit 12: Beneficiary Response to Adoption of Water from SWEs



2. Education and Skill Development to Create a Cadre of Water Professionals

Water is complex and needs social, cultural, and scientific understanding. The [SWE Alliance](#) platform is a virtual Center of Excellence for capacity building in the water sector. This education program has been institutionalized in two national universities with a strategic and long-term focus on supporting the operations and maintenance of SWEs, piped water, and rainwater harvesting. Under this program, there is a positive bias for the selection of women candidates, special classes for gender-sensitive trainings and entrepreneurship. It equips the water professionals with the necessary skills, knowledge, behaviors, and networks to enable them to contribute to the expansion and management of water supply and address the water sector's competency needs and priorities. The knowledge hub has the following toolkits:

Exhibit 13: Toolkits developed under the Knowledge Hub³³

iSWEET Toolkit	SWE Entrepreneur Toolkit 10 modules, 30 tools, 63 sub-tools An A-Z Guide for training women SHGs and SWE implementers, incl. tools on, site selection, feasibility models, installation, operations and maintenance, community mobilization, financial management, water quality protocols, monitoring and sustainability, etc.
iGender Toolkit	Insights to design QUIT strategy- Two tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Gender Barriers to Women's Inclusion • <i>Onboarding Women in Water Entrepreneurship</i> • Assessing the needs of Women Water ATM Operators • <i>Retaining Women in Water Entrepreneurship</i>
SWE Operating Guide	Digital Audio-Visual Training Module in local language 5 modules Step-by-step details on training of daily SWE plant operations
Youth Water Professional Toolkit	Water professional program to train the youth in establishing, managing & operating SWEs 8 Modules on Introduction to Water, Water Quality Management, Water Treatment Technologies, Water ATMs, Piped Water Supply, PoU Filters- Installation and Repair, Water Conservation, Recycling and Rainwater Harvesting and Entrepreneurship and Soft Skills

³³ Links to the Toolkits under Knowledge Hub-
<https://swealliance.org/isweettools/>
<https://safewaternetwork.org/knowledge-hub/gender-toolkit/>
<https://swealliance.org/waterentrepreneurshipcourse/>

Impact

Under the SEWAH program, the Youth Water Entrepreneurship Program has been institutionalized at Amity University, Noida, and Youth Water Professionals Program is institutionalized at PGDAV College (Evening), New Delhi. This 42-hour certificate course program is recognized by the university and offers opportunities to aspiring candidates to become water entrepreneurs or water . Safe Water Network India also partnered with the Amity University to conduct a 6-day vocational training program on operating and managing SWEs, titled “Vocational Training Program of Water Enterprise for Youth & Women”. The classroom laboratory and field training were conducted in two languages, English and Hindi.

The event was covered by the Higher Education Digest.

To date, ten master trainers and 147 youth have been trained. The courses' expected outcomes were:

- Build professionals and entrepreneurs in water.
- Develop skills in SWE and piped water operations and management.
- Develop skills in rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Build competencies in water quality measurement, Point of Use (PoU) filtration systems, plumbing, and minor electrical applications.

Exhibit 14: Water Training Curriculum

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN YOUTH & WATER ENTERPRISE
 BECOME A CERTIFIED WATER ENTREPRENEUR/TECHNICIAN
 Date: 15th July - 22nd July 2022
 Venue: Amity University, Uttar Pradesh

Earn while you learn
 Safe Water Network's - Water Entrepreneurship Training Program
 BECOME A WATER TECHNICIAN OR START YOUR BUSINESS
 "Water Enterprise Management" is a unique course in social water entrepreneurship offered jointly by Safe Water Network India and the Delhi University's PGDAV College (Evening), New Delhi to train youth and women in establishing, managing and operating water enterprises. This course will build professional and entrepreneurial skills in promoting self employment as a technician or owner of water enterprises. You can become a technician, learn to install water home purifiers, water meters, roof top rain water harvesting, open a shop and provide repair and maintenance services to public utilities etc.
 Date: 16 January 2022 - 9 February 2022
 Duration: 2 Hour daily 12:00 - 2:00 pm
 Qualification: 10th pass with Knowledge of English
 Register: <https://amity.com/usaaid>
 Contact: Arvind Dhadmal, 9821169663, adhadmal@safewaternetwork.org
 Venue: PGDAV College (Evening), Ring Road, Nehru Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi

Course Offerings

- Basics of Water Management
- Water Treatment Technologies
- Water Quality Management
- Social Water Entrepreneurship
- Household Point of Use Filters
- Water Conservation
- Metering and Piped Water Supply
- Entrepreneurship Soft Skills

SEWAH - Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health
 AN INITIATIVE OF SAFE WATER NETWORK & PGDAV COLLEGE (EVENING) DU, NEW DELHI
 With support from USAID
 Under SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health) Program Initiative

Exhibit 15: Youth Water Training Programs



3. Empowering Communities through Knowledge on WASH

WASH Sensitization and Awareness: Safe drinking water and hand-wash hygiene are crucial to health and well-being. Access to these services build resilient communities living in healthy environments. The SEWAH program sensitized the communities on how drinking safe water and hand washing hygiene reduces the incidence of waterborne disease. The message for behavioral change was communicated periodically through a targeted IEC campaign and dated-day water-related event celebrations. To achieve the goal of behavior change, WASH committees were formed, and key opinion leaders, teachers, and health workers were mobilized to generate awareness and sustain the program.

Exhibit 16: Handwash Hygiene Campaigns at Schools



COVID-19 Safety Protocol

As the SEWAH program launched amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was quickly reimagined to train and sensitize the SWE operators, field service technicians, and other relevant positions, on SWE disinfection, touchless dispensing, and the community was taught on social distancing, and wearing masks.

IEC Community Campaign

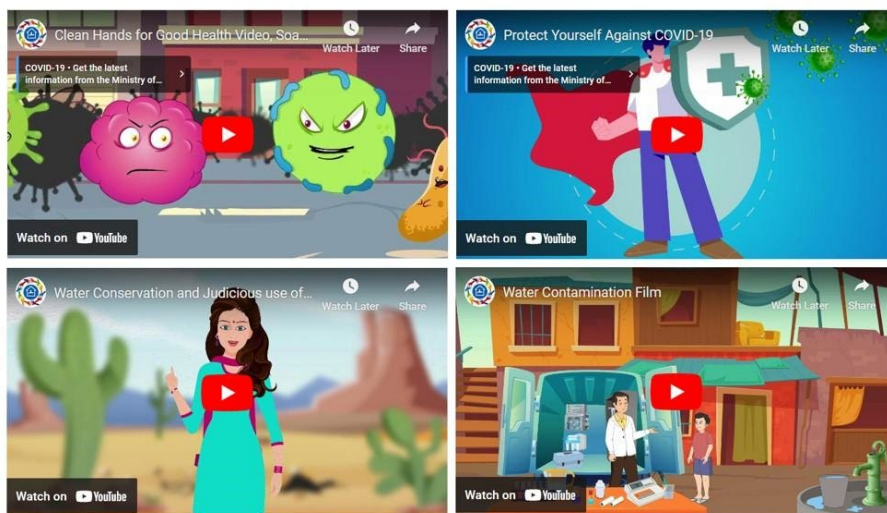
WKRCs disseminated videos on spreading awareness of WASH, water conservation, preventing infectious diseases like COVID-19, and judicious water use to the communities.

1. Clean hands for good health³⁴
2. Protect yourself against COVID-19³⁵
3. Water Conservation and the Judicious Use of Water³⁶
4. Water Contamination³⁷

Exhibit 17: COVID Safety Awareness Generation



Exhibit 18: WASH IEC Videos



³⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST2aG8R7RsY>

³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScQg-s1xt3s>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMKRyazXJQo>

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRg29IopcUo>

Dissemination: Sharing Best Practices

Clean Water Talks

SEWAH hosted a series of 12 **Clean Water Talks (or Paani Pe Charcha)** to inform the sector's best practices.



Exhibit 19: Pani Pe Charcha - Clean Water Talks

#	Paani Pe Charcha Theme	Speaker	Partner Organization
1	Water on Wheels – WOW ³⁸	Dr. Parag Agarwal	JanaJal WoW
2	Consumer Convenience - Distribution of Water ³⁹	Mr. Madhu Krishnamoorthy	Water Health India
3	Strategies for Community Mobilization ⁴⁰	Ms. Samantha Tamma	Naandi Community Water Services
4	Developing Community Ecosystem for Sustainable Water ATMs ⁴¹	Ms. Arti Verma	Waterlife India
5	HIX Nano Water Purification Technology ⁴²	Dr. Arup Sengupta	Drinkwell Systems
6	Water from Air Megdhoot ⁴³	Mr. Navin Mathur	Maithri Aquatech
7	Water Quality Assurance from Water ATMs ⁴⁴	Dr. TNVV Rao	SWN Water Solutions
8	Role of IoT for Improved Service Delivery in Water ATMs ⁴⁵	Mr. Anuj Sharma	Piramal Sarvajal
9	Training the Community in the Operations and Maintenance of Water ATMs ⁴⁶	Mr. Shoury Reddy	Bala Vikasa
10	Financial and Operational Performance of Water ATMs ⁴⁷	Ms. Garvita Chawla	Safe Water Network India
11	Source Sustainability & Environment Protection at Water ATMs ⁴⁸	Ms. Priyanka Singh	WaterAid
12	Accountability in SWEs ⁴⁹	Ms. Pooja Singh	Safe Water Network India

³⁸ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17fbg-TOPFCJdAZPaIoSSoifWmcNOMjnz?usp=share_link

³⁹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DCpEPMtmp2PxNv4mdd13i8h35Os09Xjc?usp=share_link

⁴⁰ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m7m5pcU3iSx9BOcGFMs2ozmUomyAYU7?usp=share_link

⁴¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2RMYG052kor1m67OtwM9zEWTgx8_gh?usp=share_link

⁴² https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BA1HVSxRZxeruxrWfjrgHe3wO2bTYw_J?usp=share_link

⁴³ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qoiX8_YT0pcIdF4ARFfOb4oFHpkfFEw?usp=share_link

⁴⁴ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1r-vrwforAWleE-KxNU2S2NJ1oHFSA15v?usp=share_link

⁴⁵ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1moFxFtCqLkZ8dBWO74JAY6Qy9vidUr5?usp=share_link

⁴⁶ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uJfZd8rpKkI1VDRJDoGq9uBidwem8dc?usp=share_link

⁴⁷ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10rniwWXCgoBiEVvGGfpA4k1qVp-1l9oJ?usp=share_link

⁴⁸ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OgvAOGyOOAt7iPoXktr1De6hIDF_qU3y?usp=share_link

⁴⁹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15kHtFEaFEHw_rKvTUS60RrLn7-uStiyI?usp=share_link

Sector Engagement: National & International Conferences

a) Virtual Roundtable on “Water Knowledge Resource Centers as Lighthouse for Women Empowerment”

A virtual roundtable, 'Water Knowledge Resource Centers (WKRCs) as Lighthouse for Women Empowerment,' was organized on International Women's Day, March 8, 2022. It marked participation from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), USAID, and SWE Alliance partners. The panel discussed how WKRCs could create entrepreneurship opportunities for women to work as SWE operators. The event marked the release of the [Gender Toolkit- Empowering Women in Safe Water Enterprises](#).

Exhibit 20: Roundtable on WKRCs as Lighthouse for Women Empowerment

b) UNC Water & Health Conference 2022: Poster Presentation on "Women Social Entrepreneurs in Water ATMs: Breaking the Gender Roles and the Poverty Cycle"

Exhibit 21: UNC Water & Health Conference 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

The Water Aunties program under SEWAH unequivocally proves that women can own and operate SWEs. Women-led SWEs hold fiscal discipline and the ability to work with the local government to troubleshoot operational problems of raw water availability and electricity and dispense safe water equitably and inclusively to the community. The program showcases how women's engagement increases the efficiency, delivery, and sustainability of safe drinking water and provides guidance for concrete actions in the public and private realms of SWEs to include women in the program increasingly.

Additionally, the women beneficiaries who collected water from the SWEs reported ease of water collection and reduced incidence of gender-based violence at the water points.

As we advance, there is a need to collect gender-disaggregated data while formulating policies that create a positive gender bias and incentives for women's inclusion in the SWEs. There should be a focused call for action to increase the capacity and the means of women so that they can invest in traditionally masculine professions. Create institutions that promote access to finance, entrepreneurship mentoring, and skilling to operate SWE.

JanaJal WOW-Water on Wheels delivers water to consumer homes for convenience, and conducts IEC activities in the community by empowering community leaders. Badarpur, New Delhi.



ANNEXES

Annex 1. Case Studies

1 Empowering SHG women through SWEs *Rite Water Solutions*



Rohini Dupare,
Water ATM Operator, Nagpur

Rohini Dupare is a Water ATM operator at Rite Water Solutions India Pvt. Ltd, in Nagpur. Rohini was a home maker, unfortunately her husband died, and the young widow was left to nurture her children. While exploring the economic opportunities she met the women SHG President Ms. Karuna Gaikwad who mentored her and trained her to be a Water ATM operator. Today Rohini can earn \$50-70 per month from the Water ATM. She supplements her income with other activities as she must be at the Water ATM for 2 hours in the morning and evening.

"Life changes very quickly. Be prepared and work hard for a better future."

Water Aunties – Women Water ATM Operators and Entrepreneurs *Safe Water Network*

G. Surekha is a cluster co-ordinator at Safe Water Network's Water ATM in Hyderabad. She started her journey six years back as a mobilizer and quickly became the Water ATM operator. She found the work very rewarding and thereafter attracted four women in her community to become water ATM operator to earn livelihood. Thus, she got promotion to be a cluster coordinator. Her work responsibilities include supervising and reporting the Water ATM performance, finances, and budgets.

57% women operate Safe Water Network's Water ATMs



G. Surekha, Malakpetganj
Water ATM Operator, Hyderabad

3 Woman Earning Livelihood through Respectful Job as SWE Operator *WaterLife*



Geeta Saroj,
Plant Operator
Turbhe, Navi Mumbai

Geeta lived in the Turbhe slum, Navi Mumbai and worked as a housemaid to supplement their meagre income. She used to collect her daily water from the Water ATM. Geeta was inspired to become the Water ATM operator as she thought that besides getting livelihood, she will get to live a respectful and dignified life. She is proud that today she interacts with professionals like doctors, nurses and teachers and with local government officials.

Beneficiary Transformed into SWE Water Distributor

JanaJal WoW

4

Bimlesh, is a street vendor who earns a living from selling tea and snacks. She used the water from JanaJal ATM for making tea and snacks to gain consumers advocating that she uses safe water. To supplement her daily income, she has become a JanaJal water distributor and sells 15-20 water cans.



**Bimlesh, a beneficiary of the water
ATM JanaJal, Ghaziabad**

Improved Health Through Affordable Safe SWE Water

Waterhealth

5



**Sapna, a beneficiary of DrWater,
Waterhealth, Bengaluru**

Sapna, is a long-time consumer of Water Health India’s Water ATM brand ‘DrWater’ in Bengaluru. Sharing her experience with the community she advocated her neighbours to drink and cook food in DrWater as she found that it prevents the episodes of recurring diarrhoea and vomiting.

DrWater is affordable at \$0.09-0.10 per 20 litre water as compared to the bottled water that the rich drink at \$1. She says that the added benefit is reduction of visit to the doctor and associated medical expense, which was \$2 per month previously.

Happy Beneficiaries of SWE Water

Drinkwell Systems

6



**Mrs. Meersi
Karmakar**

“Our health is improving after we started drinking water from this Water ATM.”

Homemakers and Beneficiaries
Jorhat WKRC, Assam.

“All of our family members are liking the taste of water from this Water ATM.”



Mrs. Sulochana Karmakar

7 Water ATM Operators as COVID-19 Warriors

Safe Water Network



Mrs. Santhoshi, Anganwadi Teacher, Malakpet

Safe Water Network Water ATMs delivered safe drinking water round the clock despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The operators were trained on COVID-19 safety measures, provided with PPE kits and the automated, touchless dispensing delivery at the Water ATMs was enhanced with QR code for cashless delivery. The Water ATM operators became COVID-19 warriors supporting the government program for COVID-19 prevention and care through – mask; social distance and hand wash. Additionally, they created WhatsApp groups for communication and support in the community and promoted importance of COVID-19 vaccination and registration in the Cowin app.

SWNI's 141 Water ATMs were turned into COVID-19 Warrior Centers and reached out to over 65,000 community members.

8 Mushrooming of Micro-enterprises Near Water ATM Sites

Safe Water Network

Water ATMs attract micro enterprises

“Ever since I moved my food stall next to the Water ATM, there are many more customers at my canteen for lunch. People trust that my food is clean and safe, because they all know I use the cooking water from the Water ATMs. I daily buy 2 cans of 20 Liter water to cook rice and sambhar.”



Ms. Madhu, Food Vendor, Malakpet

9 Safe Water Access Promoting Economic Activity

Safe Water Network




Mrs. Padma, Embroidery Worker, Vinayak Nagar

“The availability of affordable safe water from the local Water ATM has released the time of water collection and the frequency of looking after sick at home due to diarrhea and vomiting. Having access to good, low cost, quality water close to my home has really helped me manage housework and stress, too. With all this time saved, I'm able to do embroidery work for 3-4 hours daily and I am now earning an extra \$10-12 a month. Other SHG women from our village are also having time and health benefit to earn extra money.”

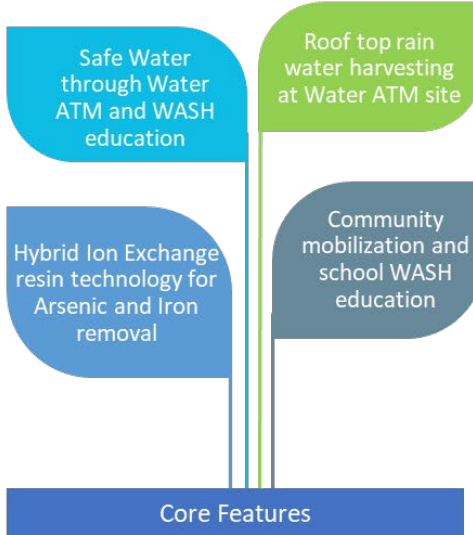
Annex 2. SWE Implementing Partners

This section showcases the SWE Alliance partners' efforts to provide access to safe water. It also highlights their role in directly and indirectly enabling women to elevate their lives from carrying water to using water to earn money.



Drinkwell
<https://drinkwellsystems.com/>

- ✓ Established in **2013**
- ✓ Working in **3 states** across India and Bangladesh
- ✓ **200** community-based water plants with arsenic and iron removal technology
- ✓ **0.8 million** people benefitted (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **400** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program
- ✓ **Woman representation**
 - ✓ 2 Middle management
 - ✓ 23 SWE plant operators and entrepreneurs



Core Features

Drinkwell Uses Patented Hybrid Ion Exchange Resin Technology for Arsenic and Iron Removal from Water



Women collecting safe drinking water from water ATM in Katiahat, West Bengal.

Drinkwell Water Systems focus on providing end to end systems-based solution that is robust and environmentally-friendly. It provides affordable safe drinking water in arsenic and iron contamination geographies using HIX resin technology. It works with women as community mobilizers for demand generation and awareness of safe drinking water for good health.



Leadership at Drinkwell

“The Water Knowledge Resource Center under the SEWAH program were cost effective and a boon to empower the community with safe water access, WASH education and COVID safety protocols.”

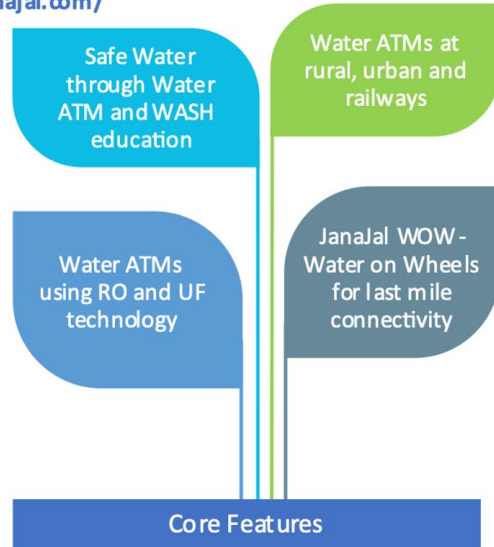
Minhaj Chowdhury, CEO and Co-Founder, Drinkwell



JanaJal Water on Wheels (WoW)

<https://www.janajal.com/>

- ✓ Established in **2013**
- ✓ Working in **3 states** across India
- ✓ **32 WoW** and **5 Water ATMs**
- ✓ **0.26 million** people benefitted (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **62** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program
- ✓ **Woman representation**
 - ✓ 1 Senior management
 - ✓ 4 Middle management



JanaJal Water on Wheels - WoW



JanaJal WoW- Uberisation of water delivery

JanaJal has supports women by delivering safe water at doorstep through its innovation WoW. WoW is a unique custom -built Electric Vehicle (EV) three-wheeler that has zero carbon emission for last-mile delivery of safe water .

Each JJ-WOW is equipped with GPS -monitoring, digital payment and tamper -proof water dispensing system. Thus, JanaJal integrates existing decentralized Water Treatment Plants to drive operating efficiencies



[Women Safety Handbook](#) by JanaJal

JanaJal is implementing a basic women’s safety program for all its JanaJalDoots and various stakeholders associated with safe water delivery. The [Women safety handbook](#) developed by JanaJal provides detailed guidance on the aspects of safety awareness, legal guidelines and self defense techniques.

Leadership at JanaJal

Dr. Parag Agarwal,
Founder and CEO,
JanaJal



“The delivery of affordable and clean water to the household doorstep provides a much needed thrust to women to pursue their economic activity.”



Maithri Aquatech

<https://www.maithriaqua.com/>

- ✓ Established in **2016**
- ✓ Working in **12 states** across India and in Africa, Malaysia, and UAE
- ✓ **198** water ATMs in India
- ✓ **792,000** people benefitted (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **400** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program

Safe Water through Water ATM and WASH education

Water ATMs at urban and railways

Water from Air Meghdoot technology

Core Features

Meghdoot: Water from Air Kiosk



Meghdoot- World's First Water from Air Kiosk at Secunderabad Junction Railway Station.

Maithri Aquatech has developed a unique innovation -Meghdoot that harvests water from the air. The moisture - laden air flows into the machine through a filtration system which passes through a cooling chamber where the air is condensed and converted into water. The filtered water is dosed with essential beneficial minerals dispensing for consumption.



Leadership at Maithri Aquatech

“Water from Air technology has facilitated women and students in remote villages with stress-free water availability. Hence no girl students will have to drop out from school in order to fetch water from distance.”

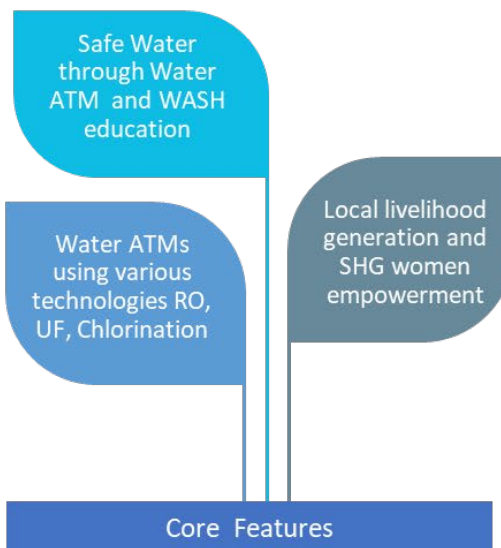
Navin Mathur, CEO, Maithri Aquatech



Rite Water Solutions

<https://www.ritewater.in/>

- ✓ Established in **2004**
- ✓ Working in **11 states** across India
- ✓ **2,327** community water plants installed
- ✓ **1.93 million** people benefitted (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **4,200+** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program
- ✓ **150 SHG** Water ATM enterprises
- ✓ **Woman representation**
 - ✓ 2 Senior management
 - ✓ 6 Middle management
 - ✓ 80 SWE plant operator



Activating Women SHGs to Become Water ATM Operator and Generate Livelihood.

Rite Water Solutions adopted the unique strategy of getting the Municipal corporator, the president of the SHG group and other local leaders to advocate and urge community women to become plant operators and manage their source of safe water. The journey from one water ATM to 26 water ATMs spread within six months across Nagpur, Maharashtra. The women at these water ATMs supplied round the clock water during COVID and took the message of COVID protection through masking, social distancing and hand washing practices. These women earn \$50-70 per month and have expertise in technical and operational aspects of the job.



Women operators maintaining records and doing technical jobs



Woman in Management at Rite Water Solutions

“Water Knowledge Resource Center (WKRC) has been an enriching experience for Rite Water Solutions as we shared IEC material, tools and experiences to adopt best practices.”

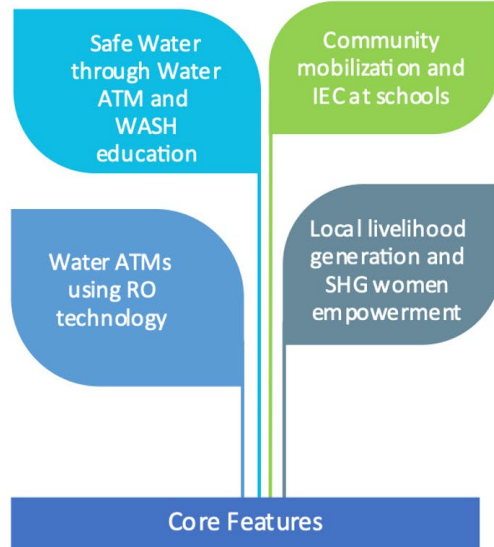
Lakshmi Surshe, Head HR, Rite Water Solutions, Nagpur



Waterlife India

<https://www.waterlifeindia.com/>

- ✓ Established in **2008**
- ✓ Working in **15 states** across India
- ✓ **4,000** outlets across villages, urban centres and corporates
- ✓ **1.2 million** people with safe water access (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **8000** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program
- ✓ **Woman representation**
 - ✓ 1 Senior management
 - ✓ 3 Middle management
 - ✓ 70 SWE plant operators and entrepreneurs

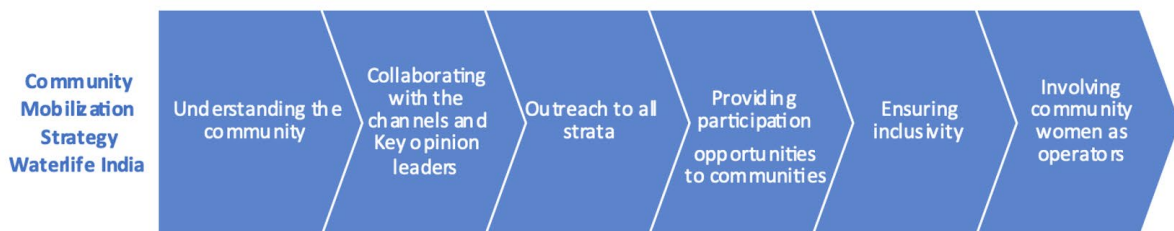


Involving Women in Water ATM Ecosystem



Women fetching water from Navli Mumbai water ATM.

Waterlife India has developed a unique multistage community mobilization program since the inception phase for women in the design and implementation of the program and adopting safe water for daily drinking and cooking. They leverage various touch points in the communities, such as local civic authorities, corporators, local PHC, schools and NGO to resolve challenges and develop community bonds. They conduct specific programs to train women operators both in technical and store management functions.



Woman in Management at Waterlife India

“Water Knowledge Resource Center under the program SEWAH assisted the SWE implementers to converge, exchange knowledge and share their challenges. It is a big step for Water ATM expansion and sustainability.”

Arti Verma, CSR Program Lead, Waterlife India

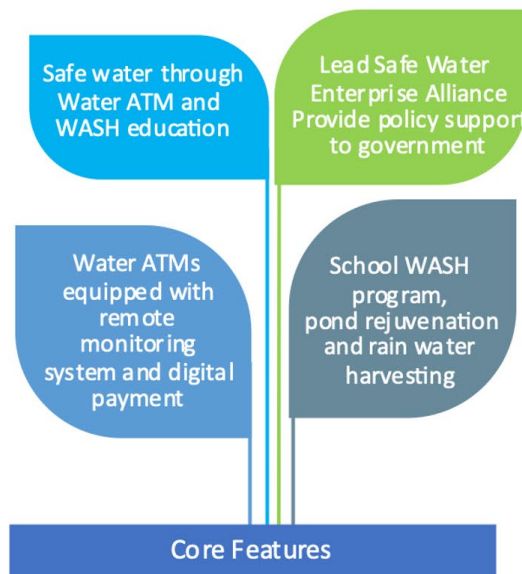




Safe Water Network

<https://safewaternetwork.org/>

- ✓ Established in **2006**
- ✓ Working in Ghana and India. In India working across **5 states**
- ✓ **350** community plants installed
- ✓ **1.3 million** people benefitted (including **48%** women)
- ✓ **924** livelihoods generated
- ✓ **Water Knowledge Resource Center** under USAID SWEAH program
- ✓ **Woman representation**
 - ✓ 2 Senior management
 - ✓ 5 Middle management
 - ✓ 214 SWE plant operators and entrepreneurs



Changemakers in Action - Engendering Women in Water ATM Ownership and Management

Safe Water Network developed the ‘Water Aunties’ program, where local women are trained to become Water ATM operators and entrepreneurs. This women-centric program creates economic empowerment opportunities for women transferring their role from traditional water carriers on the head to water entrepreneurs and operators with money in their hands.

Women are included from the initial design phase, and technology is deployed for automatic dispensing, digital payment, and remote monitoring to create convenience and retain women in the program.



Women Water ATM operator at Safe Water Network’s water ATM in Telangana.

Women in Leadership at Safe Water Network

“Witnessing women facing difficulties in collecting their daily water was heart-breaking. The longer she traveled to get water, the more drudgery and less time she had for education, childcare, or income-earning work, leading to poor health and a worsening economic situation. Safe Water Network created the Water Aunties program to address this issue, which empowered women to become Water ATM operators or managers. Through this program, they gained financial independence, a sense of purpose, and dignity.”

Poonam Sewak, VP- Programs & Partnerships, Safe Water Network



Annex 3. Government of India Policies and Programs for Gender Parity

Women-Oriented National Laws

1. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
2. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
3. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971
4. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
5. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
6. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 and Rules
7. The National Commission for Women Act, 1990
8. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
9. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
10. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021
11. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013
12. Rules under "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013"
13. Draft 'The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care, and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021
14. 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts

Women-Oriented National Initiatives

1. Mahila Shakti Kendra
2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)
3. One-Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme
4. Ujjawala Scheme
5. Women Helpline Scheme
6. SWADHAR Greh (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances)
7. Poshan Abhiyaan
8. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SABLA)
9. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
10. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
11. National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers
12. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)
13. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)
14. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
15. Skill Upgradation and Mahila Coir Yojana
16. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)
17. Stand-Up India
18. Vocational Training Programme for Women
19. Working Women Hostel (WWH)
20. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Mahila Samman Bachat Patra

State-Level Initiatives for Women (in SWE Alliance Intervention States)

(non-exhaustive list)

<p>Andhra Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jagananna Amma Vodi ● YSR Cheyutha Scheme ● YSR Kalyana Kanuka ● YSR Kapu Nestham ● YSR Sunna Vaddi Pathakam 	<p>Telangana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KCR Kit scheme ● Kalyana Lakshmi/ Shaadi Mubarak ● Arogya Lakshmi ● Land distribution to Dalits ● Women Entrepreneurs Hub 	<p>West Bengal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● West Bengal Rupashree Prakalpa ● West Bengal Kanyashree Prakalpa ● Laxmir Bhandar Scheme
<p>Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gargi Puraskar Yojana[47] ● Indira Mahila Shakti Enterprises Promotion Scheme[49] ● Mukhyamantri Rajshree Yojana ● Garima Balika Sanrakshan Evam Samman Yojana, 2016[51] ● Udan scheme 	<p>Assam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swanirbhar Nari ● Atmanirbhar Assam Scheme ● Arundhati Gold Scheme ● Gyan Deepika Scheme ● Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme ● Minority Girls Scholarship Scheme ● Wage Compensation Scheme for Pregnant Women in Tea Gardens ● Women Support Centres and Helpline 	<p>Delhi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delhi Ladli Scheme ● Janani Suraksha Yojana ● Delhi Pension Scheme to Women in Distress (Widow Pension) ● Mahila Mohalla Clinic initiative ● Anganwadi hubs under Saheli Samanvay Kendra Scheme ● Free travel by DTC and cluster buses
<p>Gujarat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fish Entrepreneur Yojana ● Krishi Talim Yojana ● Sakhi Mandal Yojana ● Nari Adalat ● Saat Phera Samuh Yojana ● Kunverbai nu Mameru scheme ● Saraswati Sadhna Yojana ● Vidhva Sahay and Talim Yojana ● Swayamsidh Yojana – Self-Reliance and Empowerment ● Kishori Shakti Yojana – Adolescents, Strength, and Awareness ● Balika Samruddhi Yojana – Girl Child Development ● Beti Bachao (Save Girl Child) – Matru Vandana Yatra 	<p>Maharashtra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manodhairya Scheme for Rape victims, Children who are victims of Sexual Offences, and Acid Attack Victims (Women and Children) ● Manjhi Kanya Bhagyashree Scheme ● SavitribaiPhule Multipurpose Women's Centre for Victims of Atrocities ● Maher scheme- Women State Homes for Destitute Women, Teenage Mothers, and Women who are victims of atrocities (Age Group of 16 to 60 years) ● Welfare Scheme for Devdasis ● Financial Help for Marriage of Girls in Orphanages, Women Reception Centers and Protection Homes ● Shubh Mangal Samuhik Vivah Scheme ● Savitribai Phule Scholarship 	<p>Karnataka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bhagalaxmi scheme ● Santhwana Scheme ● Hostel for Girls ● Scheme for Construction Working Women's Hostel (STATE) ● Kittur Rani Chennamma Award ● Transit Hostels ● Vriddhi scheme ● Udyogini Scheme ● Women Training Programme ● Micro Credit ● Chetana (rehabilitation of Sex workers) ● Rehabilitation of transgender ● Interest Subsidy Scheme to Women Entrepreneurs (KSFC)
<p>Haryana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aapki Beti Hamari Beti[25] ● Kanya Kosh ● Scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of Women Acid Victims ● Mukhya Mantri Vivah Shagun Yojana ● Education Loan Scheme ● Individual Loaning Scheme Through Banks ● Subsidized Scheme for Widows ● Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Yojana ● Drivers Training Programme for BPL Girls/Women 	<p>Uttar Pradesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission Shakti ● Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangla Yojana ● Nirbhaya-Ek Pahal Program ● Grant scheme for the marriage of daughters of poor people ● Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana ● Widow Pension Scheme ● Uttar Pradesh Rani Laxmi Bai Women and Children Samman Kosh ● Scheme for Promoting Widow Remarriage (Under the Age of 35 Yrs) ● Grant aid to the Marriage of Widows' Daughters ● Financial assistance scheme for Women Victims of Dowry 	<p>Tamil Nadu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sivagami Ammaiyar Memorial girl child protection scheme ● Pudhumai Pen Scheme ● Maternity Loans through Self-help groups ● Loan for women entrepreneurs ● Special Incentive Scheme for Girl Students ● Economic Assistance to Women Self-Help Groups



USAID Administrator, Samantha Power, visits SEWAH partner JanaJal's SWE in New Delhi.

ABOUT SAFE WATER NETWORK

We envision a world with healthy, thriving communities that sustainably manage their safe water. Founded in 2006 by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman and a group of civic leaders in New York, Safe Water Network catalyzes to ensure that millions of people in underserved communities around the world have access to safe water by leveraging a three-pronged approach:

1. **Field Implementation:** We collaborate with communities to develop sustainable solutions to improve and expand access to safe water.
2. **Technical Assistance:** We strengthen and build capacity with implementers and other stakeholders to improve performance and facilitate replicating sustainable, safe water solutions.
3. **Sector Engagement:** We drive global collaboration and advocacy across the worldwide water ecosystem to reduce sector fragmentation and enable the scale-up of decentralized, market-based water supply.

Safe Water Network's programs offer culturally, socially, and economically sustainable solutions to the lack of access to safe water, one of the world's most urgent and complex challenges.

Safe Water Network operates in India and Ghana, providing direct access to 1.7 million people and indirectly impacting more than 25 million people.

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