

Success Case

Right to Water Realized in village–Ganeshpur, Bachharawa, Raebareli,U.P. India

At least we got safe drinking water and my grand children will not suffer. Thanks to FIAN and all who accompanied us in our long struggle.

Mr.Hemraj, a 70 years old and agriculture labour and leader of the community.



Photo of Mr. Hemraj and his grandson

Process adopted by FIAN

FIAN started the case work in 2008 for 300 people of Ganeshpur. In 2009 community meeting, training of trainers, press conference and Fact Finding Mission has been organized. In October 2010 the water department of Uttar Pradesh appointed two permanent staffs to start continuous water supply to said village.

Background

Case: Violation of the right to water of the people in Ganeshpur Tadipur village, block Bachharawa, district of Rai Bareli, UP

“Even animals and birds are not drinking the water”.(teacher of the government primary school)

Village: Ganeshpur Tadipur

District: Rai Bareli, UP

Block: Bachharawa

Community: Majority of Dalits

Households: 90 (300 people)

Government’s obligation under International and National Law

In 1979 the Indian government ratified the UN International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and has obligation under international and national law to take measures to ensure adequate, safe, accessible and affordable water for all its citizens. Article 21 of Indian Constitution also ensures Right to Life and without Right to Water this is not possible.

In the village of Ganeshpur there are 90 families; 300 people. Most of the villagers are Dalits, and are agricultural wage labourers without much land on their own.

Violation of right to water

The villagers informed that the water they get from the hand pump has a yellowish colour and that it is so salty that it is impossible to drink it. The inhabitants of the village, including children and women, reported that drinking water from the hand pump give them diseases like; skin allergy, diarrhoea, stones, tape worms, jaundice etc.

They also said that salty water has bad affect on the production of the crops in the area. Their life stock have to drink water from the canal nearby which also takes up time that should be used for other types of work.

Since the water from the hand pump is not drinkable in the village the villagers, mostly women and children, have to collect water which from the nearby village Trdipur. The whole process takes about 3 hours including the queuing in the waterline. This process has to be repeated several times during the day. The women also reports that during the times of water shortage they will be the last in line or they might not get water at all, especially those that belongs to the Dalit caste. Sometimes they also experience clashes.

According to the villagers one family of 4-5 people needs five buckets of 10 liters of water daily for drinking and cooking only. One of the women claims that; “life is disturbed – they have to go 1-3 hours to take drinking water for cooking purposes. The water is so salty that not even the animals drink it. Before they were not aware of the situation, but now they are. When people by accident or emergency drink the water they get skin disease, liver problems, bone disease, jaundice etc. People above 55 years of age in the village suffer from back bone disease etc”. During rainy season they are unable to get water at all and are obliged to collect rain water in utensils. Often this is not sufficient and they are therefore forced to drink the village hand pump water.

The villagers of Ganeshpur complained about the lack of safe drinking water and that the collection of pure water is so time consuming that it steals so much time from other chores they have to do that it affects their labour time and food intake.

The teachers of the village said that the children in school all seemed to be of bad health; weak, small for their age, with bad teeth, diarrhoea and worms. As explained by the teachers, due to the water the children are not fully benefiting from the mid-day meal scheme. The teachers themselves do not drink from the water in the village, but bring from home and give the children time to go home and fetch pure water that have been collected from the nearby village. The water for cooking the mid-day meal is also collected from the neighbour village.

Demands

Since many years the people of Ganeshpur have not had access to clean and safe drinking water as the water extracted from the two village hand pumps is saline. According to the people of Ganeshpur, the water is highly unsuitable for both drinking, cooking, bathing and as drinking source for the livestock. In this regard, the demands made by the villagers to the Indian authorities are;

- Respect for their right to water by ensuring access to safe drinking water to the inhabitants of Ganeshpur village
- Tests of the water quality

FIAN recommends:

- While ensuring access to safe drinking water, environmental sustainability of the ground water level source should be taken into consideration.
- Technical examinations should be carried out in order to reveal the actual situation and the best sustainable solution for providing safe and clean drinking water for the village.

Meeting with the authorities

After the visit in Ganeshpur village in 2009 FIAN international team comprising Norway, Nepal and U.P. members met Mr. A. K. Srivastava, Managing Director the U.P. Jal Nigam (Water corporation). He confirmed that he already had realised that the water in the area is so salty that is destroying crops. He showed great concern for the case and promised to take action to ensure clean drinking water for the village. The FIAN members brought Mr. Srivastava a sample of the water of the hand pump of the village and he immediately ordered a test of the water sample to be conducted. On behalf of the concerned citizens of Norway the FIAN team handed over a petition demanding the fulfilment of the right to clean drinking water for the citizens of Ganeshpur village.

Concluding remarks

The FIAN team through its investigation has confirmed that the right to water is being violated for the people of Ganeshpur village. The team is pleased with the concern and promises made by the Director of U.P. Jal Nigam, Mr. Srivastava and hopes that the situation will be solved as soon as possible.



Photo of the women of Ganeshpur, bringing water from neighbouring village Tadipur



Photo of the Children of Ganeshpur, bringing water from neighbouring village Tadipur



Handpump of Ganeshpur villages (in year 2008-09)



Well in the Ganeshpur, only source of water for livestock



FIAN community training programme, Mr. Prabhulal, FIAN U.P. speaking as facilitator



FIAN FFM team from Norway, Nepal and U.P. visited Ganeshpur in 2009



FIAN FFM team from Norway, Nepal and U.P. visited Ganeshpur in 2009 and meeting with victims in leadership of Mr. Hemraj, community leader



Ms. Nisha Sharma, FIAN Nepal addressing the Media at U.P. Press Club, Lucknow



FIAN team members handing over the water sample from Ganeshpur and solidarity postcards signed by people of Norway to Mr. A.K.Srivastava, Managing Director, Water Department, Govt.of U.P. in Lucknow on Nov.25, 2009



Thanks and success celebration meeting by community people of Ganeshpur in leadership of Mr. Hemraj on Oct.26, 2010 after the success of the case



U.P. Govt. installed new water pump and appointed two staff for regular supply of water

Solidarity letters and communication

Dr. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)



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15th September, 2010

To,

Mr. A. K. Srivastava
Managing Director
Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam
Rana Pratap Marg
Lucknow-226001

Sub. Grievances of 1500 people of Ganesh Pur, Tadipur, Bachharawa, Dist. Rae Bareli regarding the problem of drinking water

Dear Mr. Srivastava,

I came to know about suffering of 1500 people of said village by report sent by FIAN to me. The villagers complained that the water they get from the hand pump has a yellowish colour and too salty to drink. The inhabitants of the village, including children and women, reported that drinking water from the hand pump cause them diseases like; skin allergy, diarrhoea, stones, tape worms, jaundice etc.

Since the water from the hand pump is not drinkable in the village the villagers, mostly women and children, have to collect water which from the nearby village Tadipur. The whole process takes about 3 hours including the queuing at the hand pump. It has to be repeated several times during the day. The women also reported that during the times of water shortage they will be the last in line or they might not get water at all, especially those that belongs to the Dalit. Sometimes they also experience clashes.

According to the villagers one family of 4-5 people needs five buckets of 10 litres of water daily for drinking and cooking. One of the women claims that; "life is disturbed – they have to go 1-3 hours to take drinking water for cooking purposes. The water is so salty that not even the animals drink it. Before they were not aware of the situation, but now they are. When people by accident or emergency drink the water they get skin disease, liver problems, bone disease, jaundice etc. People above 50 years of age in the village suffer from back bone disease etc". During rainy season they are unable to get water at all and are obliged to collect

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The villagers of Ganeshpur complained about the lack of safe drinking water and that the collection of pure water is so time consuming that it steals so much time from other chores they have to do that it affects their labour time and food intake.

The teachers of government primary school of the village told reported that the children in school all seemed to be of bad health; weak, small for their age, with bad teeth, diarrhoea and worms. As explained by the teachers, due to the water the children are not fully benefiting from the mid-day meal scheme. The teachers themselves do not drink from the water in the village, but bring from home and give the children time to go home and fetch pure water that have been collected from the nearby village. The water for cooking the mid-day meal is also collected from the neighbour village and it used to adversely affect regular distribution of Mid Day Meal to the school children.

As you must have aware about that under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Drinking Water Mission, to provide drinking water is priority of the government.

So I ask you to take this issue as an urgent matter and ensure the implementation of the high priority programme.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

(E.M. Sudarsana Nachiappan)
Member of Parliament



UTTAR PRADESH
उत्तर प्रदेश
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION
FOR THE RIGHT TO FEED ONESELF

U.P. (INDIA) SECTION
A-8, Sarvodaya Nagar, Indira Nagar,
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Tel. : 0091-522-2349556, Fax-2355534
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08.07.2010

सेवा में

प्रबन्ध निदेशक

जल निगम, उ० प्र०

विषय— गणेशपुर, वच्छरावा, रायबरेली के दलित बस्ती एवं प्राथमिक विद्यालय में पानी की पाइप लाइन बिछाने के सम्बन्ध में

महोदय,

निवेदन के साथ अवगत करना है कि पिछले दिनों आपके प्रयास से जनपद रायबरेली के ब्लॉक बछरावां के ग्रामसभा कसरावां के मजरे गणेशपुर तदीपुर में स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध हुआ है। किन्तु गणेशपुर दलित बस्ती व प्राथमिक विद्यालय गणेशपुर स्वच्छ पेयजल हेतु पानी की पाइप लाइन नहीं बिछायी गयी है।

अतः आप श्रीमान जी से निवेदन है कि प्राथमिक विद्यालय गणेशपुर व दलित बस्ती गणेशपुर में स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध पानी की पाइप लाइन बिछवाने का कष्ट करें।

प्रति—

1. अधिशासी अभियंता—द्वितीय

रायबरेली

हम हैं

भवदीय
प्रमोद कुमार
प्रमोद कुमार

प्रमोद कुमार
रायबरेली

हम हैं
रायबरेली
Raghuvendra



उत्तर-जल निगम

फोन नं०:- 220172 220272

फैक्स नं०:- 0522 220173

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम

प्रधान कार्यालय- 6-राण प्रताप मार्ग, लखनऊ

पत्र संख्या:- 111 /जन सूचना इकाई/ 173

दिनांक:- 3-8-2010

सेवा में,

वरिष्ठ सहायक अभियन्ता
प्रथम निर्माण खण्ड
उ०प्र० जल निगम
रायबरेली

173/1-1

विषय:- जन सूचना अधिकार अधिनियम-2005 के अन्तर्गत सूचना का प्रेषण आवेदक-श्री अजय शर्मा।

महोदय,

जन सूचना अधिकार अधिनियम-2005 के अन्तर्गत सूचना प्राप्त करने हेतु जन सूचना अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, लखनऊ को संबोधित श्री अजय शर्मा, के प्राप्त पत्र संख्या शून्य, दिनांक 22.07.10, आपके अनुभाग/कार्यालय से संबंधित होने के कारण उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 6(3) के अन्तर्गत उक्त पत्र की (छाया प्रति संलग्न) आपको प्रेषित है। आपसे अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वांछित सूचना प्रार्थी को तत्काल उपलब्ध कराने का कष्ट करें। यह अनुरोध आपसे प्रबन्धक निदेशक के कार्यालय ज्ञाप सं०-2120/प्र-1/2005-0348/08(तृतीय) दिनांक 29/11/08 के अन्तर्गत किया जा रहा है। अतः उक्त कार्यालय ज्ञाप के अन्तर्गत आप उपरोक्त प्रकरण में जन सूचना अधिकारी नामित है।

सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम की धारा 7(1) के अन्तर्गत 30 दिनों के अन्दर आवेदक को सूचना उपलब्ध कराये जाने की अनिवार्यता के कारण शीर्षतम प्राथमिकता आपेक्षित है। सूचना का तात्पर्य अधिनियम की धारा-2 में परिभाषित 'सूचना' से है।

इस संबंध में प्रार्थी द्वारा वांछित शुल्क रू० 10/- जमा कर दिया गया है। प्रार्थी को सूचना उपलब्ध कराये जाने हेतु यदि किसी और प्रकार के शुल्क की आवश्यकता हो तो उसके संबंध में 30 दिनों के अन्तर्गत आवेदक को संसूचित कर दिया जाये एवं वांछित शुल्क जमा होने पर आवेदक को सूचना उपलब्ध करा दें।

अधिनियम की धारा 8 एवं 9 में अन्तर्विष्ट किसी बात के होते हुये आवेदक को सूचना देने की बाध्यता नहीं होगी किन्तु उस संबंध में आवेदक को समय से संसूचित किया जाना आवश्यक है। कृपया आवेदक को दी जाने वाली सूचनाओं की एक प्रति इस कार्यालय को भी उपलब्ध करायें।

संलग्नक उपरोक्तानुसार-

भवदीय,

(एन०सी० गुप्ता)
जन सूचना अधिकारी (सं०)

पू०सं० एवं दिनांक यथोपरोक्त।

1. प्रतिलिपि श्री अजय शर्मा, फियान उ०प्र०, ए-8 सर्वोदय नगर, इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ, (उ०प्र०) को सूचनार्थ एवं इस आशय से प्रेषित कि भविष्य में सीधे नामित अधिकारी से पत्राचार करने का कष्ट करें।
2. प्रतिलिपि लेखाकार(बैंकिंग) के पो०आ०सं०-60ई 111893 को अग्रिम कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित।
3. अतिरिक्त अभियन्ता अभियन्ता निगम 143 225-जल निगम रायबरेली

अधिसूची अभियन्ता(ज०सू०ई०)