


Research Article

A Study on Benefits of Jal Jeevan Mission for India Rural Development

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Abstract

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, launched in 2019, is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at providing functional household tap water connections to all rural households. The mission has achieved remarkable progress, with coverage increasing from 16.8 per cent in 2019 to 77.98 per cent, covering approximately 15.07 crore rural households by August 2024. JJM has significantly improved the quality of life in rural areas by reducing the drudgery of water collection and saving nearly 5.5 crore hours daily, particularly benefiting women and children. Access to safe drinking water has contributed to improved public health outcomes, preventing an estimated 4 lakh diarrheal deaths annually and reducing child mortality by nearly 30 per cent. In addition to health benefits, the mission has generated millions of employment opportunities through infrastructure creation, operation, and maintenance activities. To ensure sustainability and transparency, JJM incorporates advanced technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT)-based monitoring, Aadhaar-linked service delivery, and geo-tagging of assets. Community participation is strengthened through the formation of 5.32 lakh Pani Samitis and the involvement of over 14,000 non-governmental organisations. As of August 2024, 188 districts, 1,838 blocks, and 2.33 lakh villages have achieved Har Ghar Jal status, with 11 States and Union Territories attaining 100 per cent rural tap water coverage. Overall, the Jal Jeevan Mission stands as a transformative intervention, promoting sustainable rural development through improved health, social equity, and economic growth.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Access to safe and adequate drinking water is a fundamental requirement for human well-being and sustainable development. In rural India, the lack of a reliable water supply has historically posed serious challenges, including health risks, time poverty, gender inequality, and constrained economic productivity. A significant proportion of rural households have depended on unsafe water sources such as open wells, ponds, and hand pumps, exposing communities to water-borne diseases and poor sanitation outcomes. Recognising the central role of drinking water in improving the quality of life and achieving inclusive growth, the Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal in 2019. The mission aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), delivering safe and adequate water to every rural household regularly. Beyond infrastructure creation, JJM adopts a holistic approach by emphasising water quality monitoring, source sustainability, community participation, and local capacity building. The programme places special focus on empowering women through village-level institutions such as Pani Samitis, thereby strengthening decentralised governance. By integrating technology, transparency, and community ownership, JJM seeks to ensure the long-term sustainability of rural water supply systems. In this context, the Jal Jeevan Mission represents a transformative intervention in rural development, with far-reaching implications for public health, social equity, and economic growth in India. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, launched by the Government of India in August 2019 in partnership with States, aims to provide every rural household with a functional tap water connection. The mission ensures a supply of potable water at a service level of 55 litres per capita per day, adhering to BIS:10500 quality standards, on a regular and long-term basis. At the time of its launch, only 3.23 crore (16.8%) rural households had access to tap water. However, as of August 5, 2024, an additional 11.81 crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections, bringing the total to over 15.04 crore (77.87%) out of 19.32 crore rural households across the country.

BENEFITS OF JJM

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is transforming the lives of rural communities by ensuring access to potable tap water in their homes. With the mission's widespread implementation, its positive impact is being recognised by reputed national and international institutions. Some key benefits include:

Time Savings: According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), achieving full coverage under JJM will save over 5.5 crore hours daily, which would otherwise be spent collecting water—primarily benefiting women.

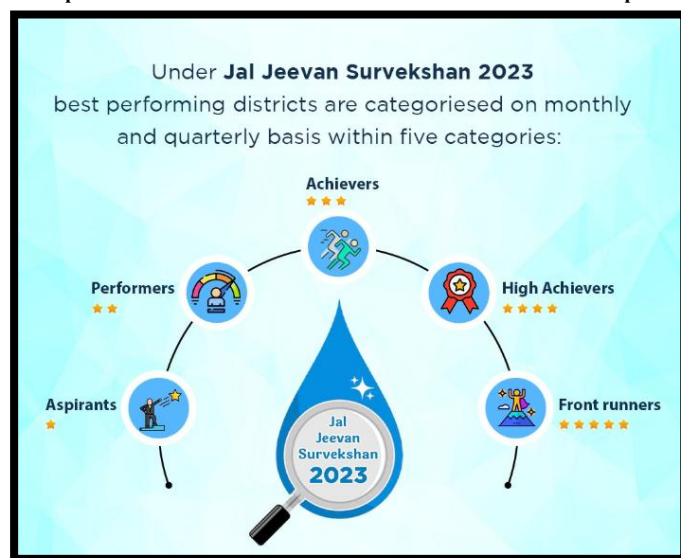
Health Benefits: WHO also estimates that ensuring safely managed drinking water for all households could prevent nearly 400,000 deaths from diarrheal diseases, leading to savings of approximately 14 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

Reduction in Child Mortality: Nobel laureate Prof. Michael Kremer's research indicates that universal access to safe water

could reduce child mortality (under five years) by nearly 30%, potentially saving 1,36,000 lives annually.

Employment Generation: A study by the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), projects that JJM will generate significant employment opportunities. During its capital expenditure phase, the mission is expected to create 59.9 lakh person-years of direct employment and 2.2 crore person-years of indirect employment. Additionally, its operation and maintenance phase could generate 13.3 lakh person-years of direct employment.

Conceptual Framework of the Jal Jeevan Mission and Rural Development



INITIATIVES UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure created under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), stringent quality control measures have been implemented. Payments are made only after third-party inspections confirm the use of quality materials and proper construction standards. Additionally, several technological interventions, such as sensor-based IoT solutions for water supply monitoring, Aadhaar-linked targeted delivery (subject to statutory provisions), and geo-tagging of assets, have been integrated into the mission. For greater transparency and effective monitoring, an online JJM Dashboard and a mobile app have been developed. These platforms provide real-time updates on the progress and status of tap water supply across States, Union Territories, districts, and villages. To foster community ownership, the mission emphasises village-level planning and active participation of rural communities and Panchayats in decision-making regarding water supply systems. Some key initiatives promoting community involvement include:



Formation of Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)/Pani Samitis: Around 5.32 lakh sub-committees /user groups under Gram Panchayats have been established, ensuring at least 50% women representation and inclusion of marginalised communities. These committees are responsible for planning, implementing, managing, operating, and maintaining in-village water supply systems.

Women-Led Water Testing: Five women from each village are identified and trained in testing water quality using Field Test Kits (FTKs). In 2024-25, 24.64 lakh women have been trained, leading to the testing of over 54.20 lakh water samples.

Engagement of NGOs and Community-Based Organizations: More than 14,000 NGOs, voluntary organisations (VOs), self-help groups (SHGs), community-based organizations (CBOs), trusts, and foundations, collectively known as Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs)—are actively involved in facilitating community participation at every stage of planning, execution, management, and maintenance of in-village water supply systems.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Shubham Sharma, Deepak Kumar Prajapat & Saurabh Singh (2023) conducted a study on “The Jal Jeevan Mission: Transforming Rural Communities through Access to Clean Water.” They analysed that rural tap water coverage has significantly increased from 17% at the inception of the Mission to over 45% (8.75 crore households). Despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, more than 4.07 crore new rural households have been provided with tap connections, with about 7.30 crore (38%) households currently receiving potable water. Goa emerged as the first state to achieve 100% rural household tap water coverage, followed by Telangana and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Mr. Ashwin Bhat, Dr. Shyamali Banerjee (2024) conducted a study on “Impact of Jal Jeevan Mission on Rural Households of

Maharashtra: A Comparative Study between NRDWP AND JJM” They found out from the studies were the implementation model of Jal Jeevan Mission has been effective in providing access to clean and potable water to rural households in Maharashtra. The community-driven approach, along with the implementation of source sustainability measures and behavioural change communication activities, has ensured the sustainability and equity of the water supply systems. The study recommends the continuation and expansion of the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure that every household in rural India has access to clean and potable water. In Ozarde village, the JJM has significantly reduced the dependence of households on groundwater sources, which were often contaminated with high levels of fluoride and other harmful chemicals. The new water supply infrastructure has not only provided clean drinking water to the villagers but has also helped to increase agricultural productivity by allowing for the irrigation of crops.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the performance of JJM for rural development in India.
2. To study the progress of JJM for rural development in India.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JAL JEEVAN MISSION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Over 15.04 crore rural households, accounting for 77.87%, now have access to tap water supply.
- Around 5.32 lakh Pani Samitis have been formed at the Gram Panchayat level to oversee the planning, implementation, management, operation, and maintenance of in-village water supply systems.
- 24.64 lakh women have been trained to test water quality using Field Test Kits (FTKs), with more than 54.20 lakh samples tested in 2024-25.

Total rural households 19,36,93,328



Tap Water Supply in households.



**Rural household Tap connection
15,43,03,712
79.66 %**

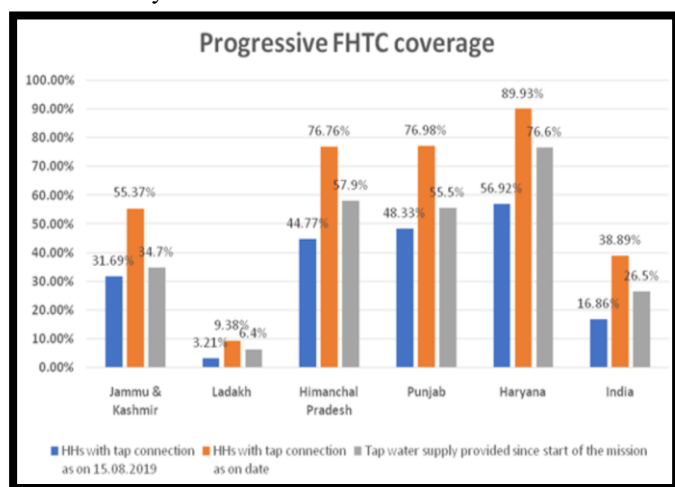
PROGRESS UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION

- A total of 188 districts, 1,838 blocks, 1,09,996 Gram Panchayats, and 2,33,209 villages have achieved the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ status.

The Government of India prioritises Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)-affected districts, ensuring access to potable tap water for all households.

Currently, over 2.35 crore households (79.21%) in these water-quality-affected regions receive clean tap water.

- 11 States/UTs, namely Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Haryana, Telangana, Puducherry, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, have achieved 100% tap water coverage in rural households as of August 14, 2024.
- As of August 14, 2024, tap water supply has been provided to 9,27,421 schools and 9,63,955 Anganwadi centres across the country.



The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has emerged as a transformative initiative, significantly improving rural water access, health outcomes, and community empowerment across India. Since its launch in August 2019, the mission has made remarkable progress, with over 15.07 crore rural households (77.98%) now having access to tap water. Additionally, more than 2.35 crore households in JE-AES-affected regions are receiving clean drinking water, addressing critical health concerns. Community participation remains a cornerstone of JJM, with the establishment of 5.32 lakh Pani Samitis, the training of 24.64 lakh women in water quality testing, and the involvement of 14,000 NGOs, self-help groups, and voluntary organisations. These efforts not only ensure sustainability but also foster a sense of ownership among rural communities. The mission has also contributed to employment generation, infrastructure development, and the enhancement of public health and education by providing tap water connections to 9,27,421 schools and 9,63,955 Anganwadi centres. With 11 States/UTs achieving 100% tap water coverage, JJM is steadily advancing towards its vision of 'Har Ghar Jal'—safe and adequate drinking water for every rural household, ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for millions across the country.

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