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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION

Community-based water supply schemes – Swajaldhara

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Introduction

Swajaldhara, a Sector Reforms Project for sustainable water supply of the Government of India, adopts the principles of a demand responsive, adaptable approach along with community participation based on empowerment of villagers to ensure their full participation in the project through a decision making role in the choice of drinking water schemes, planning, design, implementation, control of finances and management arrangements.

Institutional setup

The State Government is the coordinating agency of the project. Panchayati Raj Institutions (Institutions of elected body of village community) are the implementing agencies. Policy guidance is provided by the State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM), a registered Society of which the State Chief Secretary is the Chairman.

Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) is a Unit of SWSM to give support to the project in capacity development of the stakeholder and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. CCDU Manipur has developed posters on Swajaldhara for Manipur State.

Objectives

The reforms activities are undertaken to cover all the rural habitate areas of Manipur State with the provision of 40 lpcd safe drinking water.

Learning points

The conditions under which people would be willing to pay capital cost partially and operate and maintain water supply schemes are :

- if they own the assets,
- if they have themselves planned and installed the systems,
- if they have been trained to do simple repairs,
- if they know the Government will not maintain the assets and
- if they have to pay for operation and maintenance of the systems.

References

Swajaldhara – guidelines

Department of Drinking water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

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