

Case Story of 2009-10 of Nabhoi Village

Reviving a Village's Lifeline Through Unity and Effort



Nabhoi village is a small village in Barwala Taluka of Botad District, Gujarat. Due to its remote location and limited population—predominantly from the Koli community—the village had long been overlooked in terms of development. Lacking access to reliable transportation such as state transport service buses, the village remained isolated, and awareness about government welfare schemes was extremely low. As Nabhoi falls under a group panchayat led by the larger neighbouring village of Pipariya, it was often left out of important development initiatives. For years, essential

government services and benefits failed to reach Nabhoi. One of the most pressing challenges was the severe shortage of drinking water.

A Longstanding Water Crisis

There was no piped water supply in Nabhoi, and efforts to bring water from Navda village via the Shahpur–Chokdi–Pipariya–Nabhoi line were unsuccessful, mainly due to the village's remote location. Although there were three wells in the village, they had fallen into disrepair over time. These wells had collapsed and filled with waste as well silt making it unusable. During the summer months, when water scarcity was at its peak, villagers resorted to cleaning the nearby pond to collect water—an unsustainable and unsafe solution.

A Community Rises

With the support of **Mahiti Trust**, villagers—particularly members of the local youth group—was decided to take action. After multiple appeals and representations to both taluka- and district-level authorities, especially the Water Supply Department, the village was finally allotted a drinking water distribution pipeline. However, recognizing that immediate relief was still needed, the villagers chose to restore their traditional water sources e.g. wells located in village pond.

The two old wells located in the pond area were identified for revival. The youth group, with the support of the community had organized a *shramdaan* (voluntary labor initiative). Together, they had cleaned the wells, removed accumulated waste, silt and debris, and repaired their damaged structures.

A Revived Lifeline



Thanks to these efforts, both wells were brought back to life. Today, they provide drinking water to the entire village. This initiative stands as a powerful example of how even the most marginalized communities can bring about meaningful change when they come together with shared purpose. The story of Nabhoi is a testament to resilience, self-reliance, and the power of collective action.