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Safe Drinking Water and National Rural Drinking Water Programme (Nrdwp): a Critical Analysis

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Abstract

Safe Drinking Water is one of the major problems in India which is one of the basic requirements for human survival. The problem of safe drinking water in rural area has created a serious challenge to the Government of India and States Government's since independence.After Independence, Government of India has started a variety of programmes to supply safe drinking water to the rural population and the implementation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is a great step in this direction.This programme was launched by the Government of India in the year 2009 with an objective to provide safe and adequate water for drinking, cooking, and other domestic wants to every rural person. The present study focused on analysis the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). The research question discussed in this paper is whether there is a proper implementation of this programme in the country or not and, whether NRDWP programme have contributed towards safe drinking water shortage problem and social development as expected by the policy makers. The study found that after the implementation of the scheme the number of beneficiaries and the number of water connection sanctioned under the scheme increased year after year.Finally, the study suggests that NRDWP can play an essential role to solve the safe drinking water shortage problem in rural area if there is a proper implementation of this programme at grass roots level.

Keywords: NRDWP, Safe Drinking Water, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Implementation, Analysis

Introduction

India is a developing country, facing a number of problems like safe drinking water, food, unemployment, safe environment, education, health and shelter etc. Safe Drinking Water is one of the major problems in India which is one of the basic requirements for human survival. The problem of safe drinking water in rural area has created a serious challenge to the Government of India and States Government's since independence.

Provisionof safe drinking water is a basic necessity. In India water is a State Subject andState Government/its agencies are responsible for managing safe drinking water to all habitations in rural areas.In 1993with the 73rdAmendment of the Constitution, rural drinking water has been placed in the XIth Schedule of the Constitution to be devolved to Panchayati Raj Institutions. In view of the level of the problem, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Government's through the centrally sponsored drinking water scheme named Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) since 1972-73. Improving the access and usage of safe drinking water on a sustainable basis is a difficult procedure particularly in rural areas.

After Independence, Government of India has started a variety of programmes to supply safe drinking water to the rural population and the implementation of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is a great step in this direction.This programme was launched by the Government of India in the year 2009 with an objective to provide safe and adequate water for drinking, cooking, and other domestic wants to every rural person. NRDWP was structured with the idea of providing safe and adequate drinking water in rural areas for all on a sustainable basis, and this Programme also aimed to offer all rural households, government

school and *Anganwadis*to safe drinking water. Further, this programme has so many objectives like 1. Allow all the households to have access to and use of safe and adequate drinking water within rational distance. 2. Supply of drinking water capability, especially Piped Water Supply, to Gram Panchayats that have achieved open defecation free status on priority basis. 3. Guarantee that portability, consistency, sustainability, convenience, equity, and consumers' preference are the guiding principles while planning for a community based water supply system. 4. Enable communities to check their drinking water sources. 5. To make sure that all the government schools and *Anganwadis* have access to safe drinking water. 6. Provide access to information through online reporting mechanism within the sequence placed in the public domain to ensure transparency and informed decision making. 7. Provide enabling support and environment for Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities to manage their drinking water sources and systems in their villages.

In the financial year 2017-18, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was extended and now known as the National Rural Drinking Water Mission (NRDWM). It is Government of India's flagship rural drinking water mission to provide safe and adequate water for drinking, cooking, and other domestic needs on a sustainable basis. But in the present study, the term NRDWP has been used instead of NRDWM. Apart from the NRDWP objectives, the NRSWM has also included so many new objectives like 1. To make sure that at least 50 per cent of rural households are provided with Piped Water Supply (PWS) by 2017, and 90 per cent by 2022. 2. At least 35 per cent of the rural households have access to PWS connection by 2017, and 80 percent households by 2022. 3. Reducing the use of public taps to less than 20 per cent by 2017 and less than 10 percent by 2022. 4. Reducing the use of hand pumps and other private water resources gradually to less than 45 percent in 2017, and further to less than 10 percent by 2022. 5. Enabling rural drinking water sources to be fully managed by Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) and local communities.

The present study deals with the research problem whether there is a proper implementation of this programme and whether this programme helps the government tosolve the shortage of safe drinking water of their rural poor people and improve their socio economic status. An attempt has been made to examine the implementation of NRDWP programme at national level. After the enactment of NRDWP programme in the year 2009, there has been a continuous increase in the number of houses to get the water connection (pipe water) under this programme in India.

In the light of these expectations it is important to analysis the performance of NRDWP. This paper is dived into four sections. Section I, deals with the review of literature and section II, describe the data base and methodology of the study. In section III, an attempt has been made to examine the implementation of NRDWP at national level. Finally the conclusions of the analysis are presented in section IV.

Section- I

Review of Literature

In this section the existing literature on the research problem has been reviewed thoroughly. An overview of various aspects and issues of this study has been presented through the review of studies already conducted on the subject.

S.K. Pant in his study "How relevant are rural water supply programmes? (1996), evaluates the current status of safe water in eight sample districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The study focuses on the pattern of not covered habitations under water supply programmes, the level of water supplies and types of system being used, water quality and environmental problems; community participation, women's involvement, communities perception of the programme agenda. The study also highlights the overwhelming priority the 'main' habitations got over the 'other' habitations. The study shows that the participation of communities and women in the region is not encouraging; and the rate of participation by non-government agencies has been minimal. In last the author suggests that if the safe water programme is to be effectively implemented, greater participation from local people, especially women, is needed.

Krishnan in her article "Swajaldhara: more empty promises?" (2003) observes that a plethora of policies and programme has sought to accelerate the pace of coverage of drinking water supply in India's villages. The study entails micro studies in 20 villages in four districts- Solan (H.P.), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Raichur (Karnataka) and Bikaner (Rajasthan). The main focused of this study is to on the collection and analysis of information on demographic and socio-economic variables; requirement availability and consumption of water; effort in water collection; coping with water shortage; water quality, health problems perceived linkages with water quality. In further, the findings of the village surveys, several important issues must be addressed for ensuring that the Swajaldhara initiative improves the quality of life of poor household's women and children. This requires either an enhancement of the scope of Swajaldhara or the simultaneous implementation of other programmes as complementary activities. To conclude her article the author suggestes that awareness creation about the value of the resource and the need for conservation should lie at the core of water initiatives like Swajaldhara.

Dev and Jos Mooij in their research paper entitled "Patterns in Social Sector Expenditure: Pre and Post-Reform Periods" (2004) discuss the trends in social sector expenditure at three levels of government: (a) Centre (b) States and (c) Combined-Centre and States. The analysis for the combined expenditure by the Centre and States expose that the share of health expenditure in the Gross Domestic Product and total expenditures have shown a mixed response and have even increased after the mid-nineties. The per capita social sector expenditure has increased during the reform years showing a 75 per

cent increase in eleven years (between the periods 1990-91 to 2000-01). However, the share of the States' spending on social sector has declined to 80.7 per cent in 2000-01 from 85.2 per cent in 1990-91. In further the study shows that the share of the states in medical and public health, water supply and sanitation and also family welfare from their total spending has declined. In terms of the intra-sectoral allocation of expenditure (1992-93 to 2002-03) on health and family welfare by the states, the share of expenditure on public health in the total health expenditure has declined drastically from the late nineties, while the share of Maternal and Child Health services has increased to about 15 per cent in the late nineties from about 5.0 per cent in 1992-93. In last, the study examine the greater allocations have to be made in the social sector expenditure, more importantly, the available resources being spent in an efficient manner, curb the misallocation of funds and also enhance the quality of these expenditures.

Preeti Sampat in his study "Swajaldhara or 'Pay-Jaldhara: Right to drinking water in Rajasthan (2008) explains the government of India's ambitious Swajaldhara scheme promises access to drinking water across India's rural areas. The scheme moves away from supply driven programmes and emphasizes a demand- driven approach with programmes conceived, implemented and maintained by local users committees after initial state support. The author observes that in a country where many poor, unemployed and underemployed people enjoy little access to resources and information, it is important to acknowledge that demand driven and cost sharing features will not really secure the right to water for all. In fact, it can be argued that with so many people dependent on daily wage labour imposition of costs for drinking water provision amounts to a violation of the right to water. In India there were 33 percent of BPL people that indicators show a worsening of employment trends and depletion of natural resources. It seems doubtful that people are willing or able to take the burden of cost sharing and maintenance of infrastructure for basic services like drinking water. The author shows that on the one hand the Indian state has recognized the need for employment guarantee in rural areas to secure livelihoods and on the other hand it seeks to impose a greater burden on rural folk to meet necessities like drinking water. This reveals a fundamental contradiction in macro policy formation in the country. The results of the study shows that how Swajaldhara ignores existing socio-political realities that prevails across India's village, where income inequalities, caste hierarchies and local power dynamic continue to deny this vital resource to the marginalized and the poor.

Philippe Cullet in his article on "New Policy Framework for Rural Drinking Water Supply: Swajaldhara Guidelines" (2009) discusses the Central Government policy for drinking water supply in rural areas at the union level. The author examines its evolution from the 1970s onward and focuses in particular on the reforms of the past decade, looking more specifically at the *Swajaldhara* Guidelines. These reforms are of capital importance because they seek to completely change the rural drinking water supply policy frame work. In last the author suggests that the "Old" policy framework has been a need of changes to ensure better delivery of what the Government seeks to achieve, ongoing reforms do not appear to be the answer that will effectively address the needs of the poorest and most marginalized.

Government of India in "Handbook for Gram Panchayats" (2010) which is prepared by the Water and Sanitation Program for the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development. The handbook look for to serve as a quick reference for Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) on how to plan, implement, operate, maintain and manage water supplies and to ensure their sustainability. This handbook is based on the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) guidelines. The main focus of this handbook is to ensure 'Drinking Water Security' in rural India which means providing every person in rural India with enough water for drinking, cooking and other domestic needs at all times and in all situations. This hand book mentions first about preparatory phase which included initial stage to panchayat get started and after that, the planning phase which mention how do panchayat prepare a Village Water Security plan and also the implementation phase which is clearly instructed about how panchayat implements the plan. The hand book information also detailed operation and maintenance phase which relieve to learn to panchayat about operate and maintain. In last phase were monitoring, audit and reporting which accesses the information to panchayat about monitor own progress and performance.

Fahimuddin in his study "Drinking Water Collection and Cost-Benefit Analysis of a Rural Water Supply Scheme in Uttarakhand State" (2012) explains the availability of safe drinking water is one of the major problems in most of the rural areas of Uttarakhand. To make available the safe water to the people, State Government has initiated many water supply schemes. Most of these could not be successful because of lack of community participation in their operation and maintenance. The author analysis in the paper focused on two issues. Firstly, the situational analysis of various dimensions of drinking water collection in the State and secondly, the cost-benefit analysis of rural water supply scheme. The findings of the study revealed that drinking water collection was arduous and a time-consuming activity for the rural households in the State. The economic benefits which resulted due to time savings from rural water supply scheme were higher than the investment made and rural water supply schemes of the Uttarakhand State provided a model of reliability in other hilly areas of the country.

Brij Pal in his paper entitled "Five year plans and rural water supply in India: A critical analysis" (2012) evaluates policies and programmes of rural water supply and sanitation, it is evident that sincere efforts have been made by the Government of India to

overcome both the problems. Enhanced funds were earmarked under the Five Year Plans but, on the whole, limited success could be obtained at the operational level. The author examines that no doubt, a variety of programmes were launched to cope with the problems but their implementation could not yield commendable results as the goal of providing a safe drinking water for all still away and the sanitation problem has not reduced notably. Further, he suggests that much more efforts are required on the part of the Union and State Governments, PRIs, NGOs and other community organizations. Special attention on the part of the State Government with strong political will is required to get the programmes implemented effectively by devolution of requisite powers to the PRIs.

James Wescoatet al. introduced a study on, "National rural drinking water monitoring: progress and challenges with India's IMIS database" (2016) and explores that National drinking Water Programs seek to address monitoring challenges which includes self-reporting, data sampling, data consistency and quality, and sufficient frequency to assess the sustainability of water systems. India stands out for its inclusive rural water database known as Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), which conducts annual monitoring of drinking water coverage, water quality, and related program components from the habitation level to the district, state, and national levels. The main objective of this study is to evaluate IMIS as a national rural water supply monitoring platform. It is important because IMIS is the official government database for rural water in India, and it is used to allocate resources and track the results of government policies. The paper also explains the IMIS's details structure and content. The authors concluded that India's investment in an online national rural drinking water database is an important model for other countries; it is designed to amass consistent, systematic, transparent, and secure rural water data for policy support; the IMIS database assists monitor advances in national and state water coverage, related to water source, scheme, and sustainability variables. Further, the analysis of the work shows that state level data in the IMIS database, by itself, cannot explain national patterns of full water coverage and further, socio-economic variables from other databases could help address this issue. The conclusion of the paper also indicates the habitation size is positively correlated with water coverage. In last, the study suggests that the policy analysis will require district, block, and habitation level observations and the current IMIS database could have a better functionality by providing ready access to district and block level data nationwide.

The review of literature brings out that there are very few studies which critically examined the implementation the NRDWP and assessed the role of NRDWP in solving the shortage of safe drinking water at country level. These studies are also narrowed in scope. So there is a need of comprehensive research into this field as yet. The present study is a modest attempt to fill the gap in NRDWP literature.

Section- II

Database and Methodology

The focus of the present study was to assess the National Rural Drinking Water programme (NRDWP) in India. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the study is based on the secondary data and the data used for the present study was obtained from various sources like government offices/department, research journals, magazines, books, websites etc. The findings of the study are based on the data obtained from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, New Delhi. Apart from this, working paper and reports on NRDWP by many institutions has been used for the study.Of various statistical tools and techniques available, the technique of simple tabular analysis has been followed as it is considered to be quite appropriate and accurate in its result for the study. The conclusions are drowning by working out the percentages.

Section- III

Implementation of NRDWP: National Scenario

The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is a centrally funded programme, under this programme Government of India set off the efforts of the states by providing them with technical and financial help to ensure safe and adequate drinking water supply in the rural areas of the country. The mode of implementation of NRDWP is through State Government, Departments/Boards in charge of rural drinking water supply. The NRDWP is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which focused on the formation of rural infrastructure. This has resulted in the condition of important additional resources to the sector and for making an environment for the development of infrastructure and capacities for the successful operation of drinking water supply schemes in rural areas. Funds provided under the NRDWP are counted towards the Bharat Nirman also and no additional funds are provided under Bharat Nirman. The NRDWP guidelines were further updated in 2013 focusing on piped water supply, increasing household tap connections and raising drinking water supply norms.

The Strategic Plan (2011-2022) emphasized on access to 70 liters of safe drinking water to every rural person in the country within their household premises in the radius of 50 meters from their households without the barriers of social and financial discrimination by 2022. It is recognized that States would adopt their strategies and phased timeframes to achieve this goal. The Strategic Plan sets out the following timelines for achieving the set goals:

By the year 2017

1. At least 50 per centof the rural households are provided with piped water supply.
2. At least 35 per centof the rural households have PWS connection, less than 20 per centuse public taps and less than 45 per centuse hand pumps or other safe and adequate private water sources.
3. All the services meet set standards in terms of quality and number of hours of supply every day.

4. Ensure that all the households, schools, and *Anganwadis*in rural India have access to and use of adequate quantity of safe drinking water.
5. Enabling support and environment for Panchayati RajInstitutions and local communities to manage at least 60 per centof the rural drinking water sources and systems.

By the year 2022

1. Ensure that at least 90 per centof the rural households will be provided with piped water supply.
2. At least 80 per centof rural households will have PWS connection; less than 10 per centuse public taps and less than 10 per centuse hand pumps or other safe and adequate water sources.
3. Provide enabling support and environment for all Panchayati RajInstitutions and local communities to manage 100 per centof rural drinking water sources and systems.

Since independence, India has been facing a chronic problem of drinking water shortage in rural areas as well as in urban area. To tackle with the problem of safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country, the first water supply and sanitation programme was introduced in 1954. Thereafter, a major intervention of the Government of India witnessed in 1972-73 through the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to go faster the coverage of drinking water. Later on, ARWSP was modified and renamed as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme in the year 2009. After the implementation of this programme alarge numbers of households in the country were sanctioned with the Pipe Water Supply (PWS). Table 1 shows the year-wise and state-wise distribution of PWS connection in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19.

Table 1: Year-wise and State-wise Distribution of PWS Connections under NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19

S. No	State Name	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total (2013-14 to 2018-19)
1	Andaman &Nicobar	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2	Andhra Pradesh	0 (0.0)	18552 (1.08)	6330 (0.49)	13699 (1.15)	520 (0.08)	1825 (0.19)	40926 (0.47)
3	Arunachal Pradesh	412 (0.01)	3609 (0.22)	1594 (0.13)	1303 (0.10)	891 (0.15)	1048 (0.10)	8857 (0.10)
4	Assam	737 (0.02)	13531 (0.79)	9260 (0.72)	1193 (0.10)	978 (0.16)	2736 (0.29)	28435 (0.33)
5	Bihar	13439 (0.44)	18479 (1.08)	10775 (0.84)	59812 (5.01)	14248 (2.26)	99458 (10.30)	216211 (2.45)
6	Chhattisgarh	218216 (7.16)	97955 (5.73)	11459 (0.89)	15891 (1.34)	61349 (9.69)	13881 (1.44)	418751 (4.74)
7	Goa	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
8	Gujarat	657965 (21.60)	85244 (4.99)	43295 (3.35)	234977 (19.70)	23855 (3.78)	250 (0.02)	1045586 (11.83)
9	Haryana	89602 (2.95)	55232 (3.23)	8899 (0.69)	20014 (1.68)	7749 (1.23)	7651 (0.79)	189147 (2.14)
10	Himachal Pradesh	23378 (0.77)	8769 (0.52)	36632 (2.83)	13188 (1.10)	4269 (0.68)	1177 (0.13)	87413 (0.99)
11	Jammu & Kashmir	57185 (1.88)	14446 (0.85)	3976 (0.30)	4687 (0.39)	13744 (2.18)	9117 (0.95)	103155 (1.17)
12	Jharkhand	63423 (2.08)	33163 (1.94)	529 (0.04)	39198 (3.29)	36443 (5.77)	2314 (0.24)	175070 (1.99)
13	Karnataka	1049267 (34.45)	486313 (28.44)	628203 (48.55)	426213 (35.74)	155723 (24.62)	96940 (10.03)	2842659 (32.16)
14	Kerala	0 (0.0)	536 (0.03)	77 (0.005)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	613 (0.006)
15	Madhya Pradesh	77850 (2.56)	188609 (11.02)	239957 (18.55)	186060 (15.60)	131401 (20.78)	133553 (13.84)	957430 (10.83)
16	Maharashtra	257624 (8.46)	209913 (12.28)	97790 (7.56)	80550 (6.76)	66277 (10.48)	159056 (16.48)	871210 (9.86)
17	Manipur	2570 (0.08)	1794 (0.10)	1632 (0.13)	1825 (0.15)	1090 (0.18)	2023 (0.20)	10934 (0.13)
18	Meghalaya	1203 (0.03)	189 (0.01)	6 (0.0004)	0 (0.0)	9 (0.001)	4 (0.0004)	1411 (0.01)
19	Mizoram	0 (0.0)	37 (0.002)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	703 (0.07)	740 (0.008)
20	Nagaland	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	108 (0.0008)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	108 (0.001)

21	Odisha	31820 (1.04)	107878 (6.30)	5838 (0.46)	50775 (4.26)	4789 (0.76)	11115 (1.16)	212215 (2.40)
22	Puducherry	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
23	Punjab	136086 (4.47)	112884 (6.60)	60508 (4.68)	18256 (1.54)	54990 (8.69)	100902 (10.45)	483626 (5.48)
24	Rajasthan	26214 (0.87)	46155 (2.69)	24264 (1.88)	1358 (0.12)	8900 (1.40)	8460 (0.88)	115351 (1.30)
25	Sikkim	2120 (0.06)	1441 (0.08)	615 (0.04)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4176 (0.04)
26	Tamil Nadu	127704 (4.20)	37350 (2.19)	12462 (0.97)	7040 (0.59)	847 (0.14)	50 (0.005)	185453 (2.09)
27	Telangana	0 (0.0)	19144 (1.12)	4109 (0.32)	5507 (0.47)	21528 (3.40)	27473 (2.85)	77761 (0.88)
28	Tripura	4495 (0.15)	6455 (0.37)	5036 (0.39)	1421 (0.12)	1 (0.0001)	5022 (0.52)	22430 (0.26)
29	Uttar Pradesh	2196 (0.07)	7809 (0.45)	76221 (5.89)	6768 (0.57)	20442 (3.24)	229300 (23.75)	342736 (3.88)
30	Uttarakhand	5964 (0.19)	36319 (2.13)	2603 (0.20)	2870 (0.25)	2544 (0.40)	3932 (0.40)	54232 (0.62)
31	West Bengal	196516 (6.46)	98332 (5.74)	1867 (0.15)	1 (0.00008)	27 (0.004)	47597 (4.93)	344340 (3.89)
	Total	**3045986 (100.0)**	**1710138 (100.0)**	**1294045 (100.0)**	**1192606 (100.0)**	**632614 (100.0)**	**965587 (100.0)**	**8840976 (100.0)**

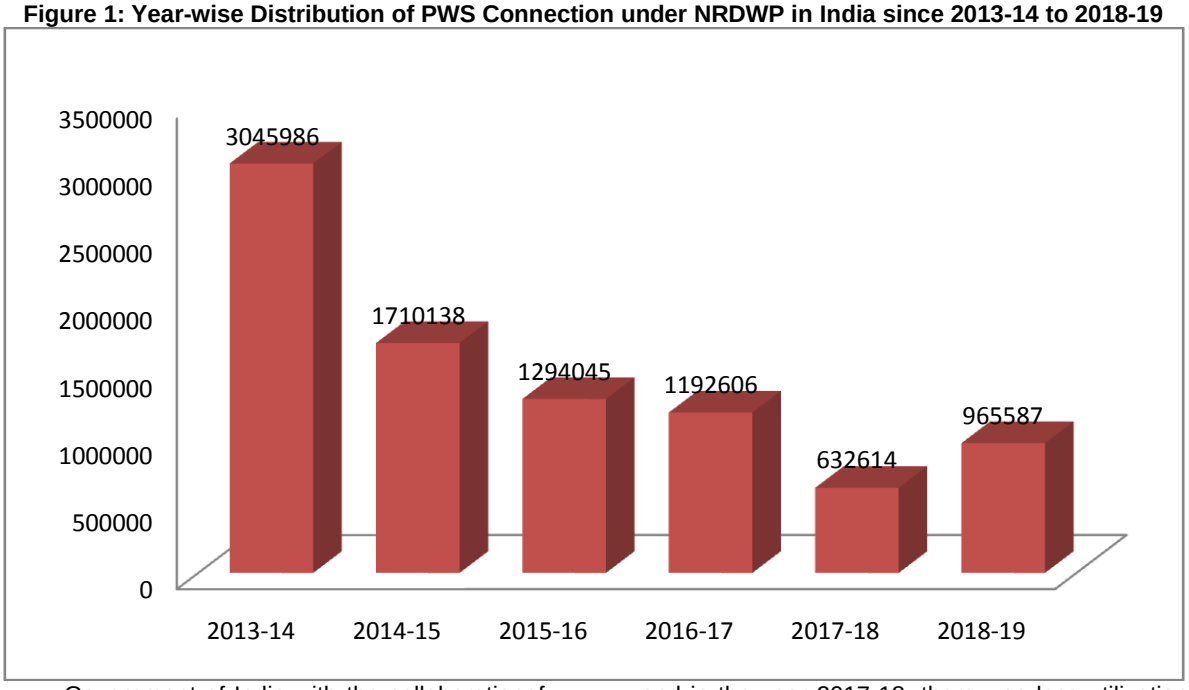
Source: Calculations are based on the data obtained from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India.

Website:https://ejalshakti.gov.in/IMISReports

Note: The figures given in parentheses show column-wise percentages.

It is observed from the table 1, that a total of 88, 40,976 PWS connections were distributed in the country under this programme between the year 2013-14 to 2018-19. In the year 2013-14, 30,45,986 PWS connections were issued in the country while in the year 2014-15 this number is 17,10,138 connections. In the year 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 a total of 12,94,045, 11,92,606, 6,32,614 and 9,65,587 PWS connections were distributed respectively throughout the country. The number of households which got the PWS connections is varies from state to state.State-wise distribution of PWS connections showed that Karnataka was distributed with the maximum number of PWS connections 28,42,659 (32.16 per cent) between the year 2013-14 to 2018-19, followed by Gujarat 10,45,586 (11.83 per cent) connections, Madhya Pradesh 9,57,430 (10.83 per cent), Maharashtra 8,71,210 (9.86 per cent) connections respectively. The Punjab state is at the fifth place as a total of 4, 83,626 (5.48 per cent) PWS connections were distributed during 2013-14 to 2018-19. There are also some other states and UTs which have distributed not a single PWS connection or a very few PWS connections during the period from 2013-14 to 2018-19. These states and UTs include Andaman & Nicobar, Goa, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, and Sikkim. In fact, from the year 2013-14 to 2017-18, the number of PWS connection distributed throughout the country is continuously decreasing and in the year 2018-19, there is a slight increase in the number of PWS connections distributed as reflected in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Year-wise Distribution of PWS Connection under NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19



Government of India with the collaborationof the State Governments spent a large amount of money to fulfill the objectives of the NRDWP. Table 2 shows the year-wise financial performance of the NRDWP from 2013-14 to 2018-19. During this period, a total of Rs. 94,592.51 crore was available for the implementation of this programme. Out of this, the Ministry has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 80,269.30 crore, which constitute 84.86 per cent of the total availability of funds during the same period. The maximum utilization of the available funds was observed during the year 2015-16, i.e., 87.28 per cent and in the year 2017-18, there was less utilization of the available funds, i.e., 82.28 per cent. Overall percentages for the utilization of the available funds were 82 per cent to 87 per cent during the period 2013-14 to 2018-19 (Figure 3). Amongst these years, in the year 2013-14, the government has the highest funds to implement this programme and in the year 2015-16, the government has the lowest funds to implement this programme. Overall, the government has failed to utilize all the available funds for NRDWP (Figure 2).

Table 2: Year-wise Financial Performance of NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19(Value Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Total Available Funds	Utilized Fund	Per-cents of Utilized Funds
2013-14	19038.15	15996.38	84.02
2014-15	18508.45	16135.82	87.18
2015-16	11511.41	10047.50	87.28
2016-17	14485.68	12441.83	85.89
2017-18	16720.96	13757.64	82.28
2018-19	14327.86	11890.13	82.99
Total	94592.51	80269.30	84.86

Source: Calculations are based on the data obtained from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India.
Website:https://ejalshakti.gov.in/IMISReports
Note: Total Available Funds (Including the Opening Balance and Centre Fund)

Table 3: Physical Performance of NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19

Financial Year	Total No. of Households					No. of Water Quality Affected Households		No. of Partially Covered Households		No. of Fully Covered Households	
	Number	Target (As per Ministry		Achievement	Percent	Ach.	Percent	Ach.	Percent	Ach.	Percent
		No.	Percent								
2013-14	1692133	141838	8.38	153422	9.07	16649	10.85	91496	59.64	45277	29.51

2014-15	1696546	142098	8.38	136106	8.02	15579	11.45	94020	69.08	26507	19.48
2015-16	1713185	56191	3.28	85888	5.01	8125	9.46	64487	75.08	13276	15.46
2016-17	1714438	56835	3.31	61042	3.56	5127	8.40	43813	71.78	12102	19.83
2017-18	1726031	68770	3.98	53411	3.09	5466	10.23	36402	68.15	11543	21.61
2018-19	1725808	22388	1.29	67802	3.93	4378	6.46	48449	71.46	14975	22.09

Source: Calculations are based on the data obtained from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India.
Website:https://ejalshakti.gov.in/IMISReports
Note: I. Fully Covered Household

Households getting at least 55 LPCD of safe drinking water throughout the year available within 100m (horizontal/vertical) from their Households.

II. Quality Affected Household: At least one of the drinking water sources not meets the parameters of chemical contamination (Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity, Nitrate and Heavy Metals) as stipulated in IS: 10500 and with remaining safe source, service delivery level of 55 LPCD is not ensured.

III. Partially Covered Household: Households other than fully covered and quality affected categories.

Figure 2: Comparison between Total Available Fund and Total Utilized Fund under NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19

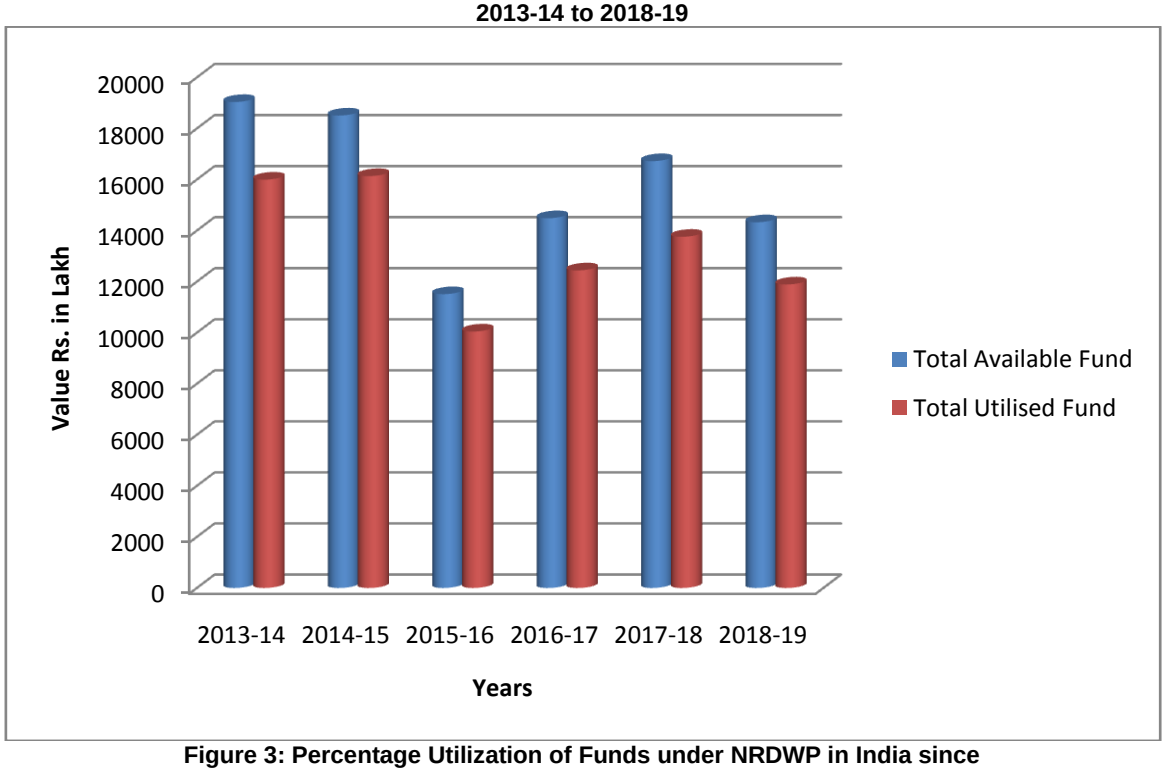
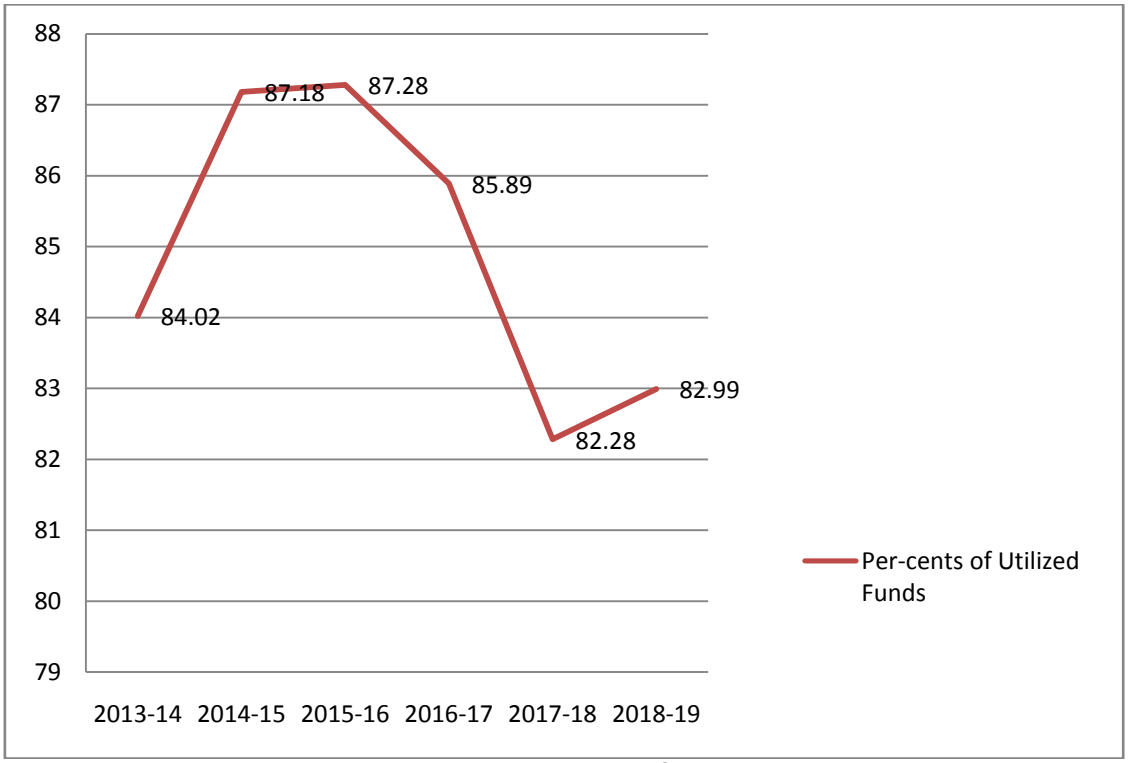


Figure 3: Percentage Utilization of Funds under NRDWP in India since 2013-14 to 2018-19



The physical performance of NRDWP in India from 2013-14 to 2018-19 has been revealed in Table 3. It has been observed from the table that the targeted households to be covered under NRDWPhave declined from 8.38 per cent to 1.29 per cent in the year 2013-14 to 2018-19. The overall percentage for the achievements of the NRDWP has also been declined from 9.07 per cent to 3.03 per cent during the same period. In this period, the quality affected households have been decreased from 10.85 per cent to 6.46 per cent. In the case of partially covered households, there has been an increase in the percentage of number of households from 59.64 per cent to 71.46 per cent under this programme from 2013-14 to 2018-19. The figure for the fully covered households under this scheme also decreased from 29.51 per cent to 22.09 per cent during the same period. In the year 2013-14, out of the total rural households in the country, i.e., 16,92,133 only 1,53,422 (9.07 per cent) households were taking the benefits of NRDWP whereas in the year 2014-15, out of a total of 16,96,546 households in the country, only 1,36,106 (8.02 per cent) households were covered under NRDWP. In the same way during 2017-18, only 3.09 per cent of the total households were covered under this scheme. Thus, it is clear from the table that the percentage of households covered under this programme has continuously been decreasing and the percentage number of households fully covered under this programme is also very less.

Aim of the Study

The main aim of the research paper is to analyse and explore the present national scenario of safe drinking water status and National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

Section- IV

Conclusion

The previous discussion observed that National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has become one of the largest drinking water supply programme in rural India. After the implementation of NRDWP in 2009, a large number of PWS connections under NRDWP have been distributed throughout the country. But since 2012-13 to 2018-19, the number of PWS connections distributed throughout the country has continuously been decreasing. While analyzing the financial performance of NRDWP, it is observed that fund utilization is very low as a comparison to funding available for this programme. Physical performance of NRDWP shows that the percentage of households covered under this programme is very low and is continuously decreasing. While analysing the financial performance of NRDWP, it is found that Government of India with the help of State Governments spent a large amount of money to fulfill the objectives of the NRDWP. But this amount is not sufficient to achieve the target of NRDWP. Therefore both canter and state governments should release more funds under NRDWP, so that the number of households covered under this programme can be enhanced. On the other hand, there is a gap between the utilization of the fund and the availability of the fund. It means government fails to use all the available funds for NRDWP. So, for the proper implementation of the programme government should use all the funds for NRDWP. To conclude, it can be said that National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has an affirmative impact on solving the shortage of safe drinking water and improve the socio economic status of poor people in rural India.

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