

## **A Long awaited Dream come true for the villagers of Phatakasing**

What was the dream of Phatakasing Villagers?

They were not dreaming a luxurious life or any unexpected opportunity or any miracle, they were just dreaming for clean water at their doorstep because the conditions due to scarcity of clean drinking was a nightmare for them. Their health condition, their expenditure, their workload, their harassment and their reputation was related with water scarcity in many ways. It was hurt the women always and affected the children and older persons mostly.

Phatakasing is a small village of Tumba GP consisting 26 households of Saora tribe, situated in a distance of 7 kilometres from Tumba, on the bank of Mahendra Tanaya stream near the border of Andhra Pradesh. The village is connected by an earthen road through forest and remained untouched for six month during rainy season for its bad road condition. The villagers have been living with bunch of problems and far away from mainstream development because of inaccessibility and inattention. Till today they are not provided supports to fulfill their basic needs and amenities. They have been facing drinking water problem since long and the women walk 1-2 km just to bring drinking water, a task that took them almost an hour. Before two years TDA, Tumba in collaboration with RWSS had installed a solar operated water project in the village but it got defunct within some months and the departments did not take care of it. Due to water scarcity toilets were remained unused and villagers practiced open defecation. Similarly their family level water use was restricted and it led them to castigation problem and restriction in bathing and washing created hygienic problems.

So when ISARA discussed with the villagers about the OPELIP project implementation they suggested to solve the water problem in priority basis. ISARA planned to establish a drinking water project through Entry Point Activity but the limited budgetary allocation was not sufficient for a new project. After discussion with the people they planned to repair the defunct.

Now the villagers are getting all time clean water service at the doorstep and it has resolved many of their problems. Due to the improved access and availability of water at household level they are starting to use toilets and taking hygienic care. The changes are reflected on their living style as they take good bath, wear clean dresses and maintain cleanness. They have also developed kitchen gardens by using the waste waters and producing green vegetables for use.

The major success of this initiative is the reduction of drudgery of women and health improvement of vulnerable category like children and older persons. This water service has given them more relaxation and one can count the smiles on their faces. This work has also strengthen the relationship among ISARA – TDA – Villagers and created a trustworthy environment for future development of the village.

