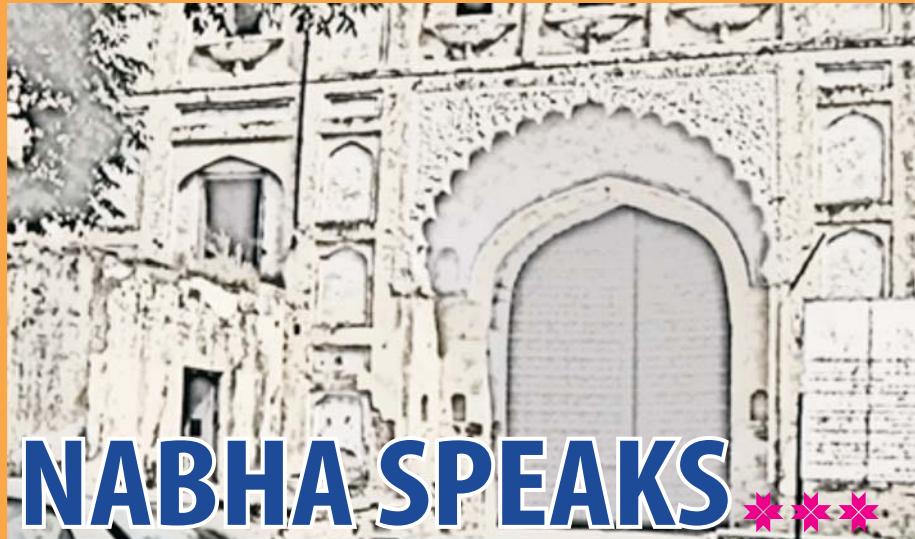




THE NABHA FOUNDATION



NABHA SPEAKS

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Nabha has glorious history and a rich cultural heritage. In this column, we highlight all that matters to Nabha & its people.

Cleanliness matters! Working to improve Nabha Town Sanitation through our Water & Sanitation Program

Nabha Town Sanitation

The Nabha Foundation's most recent initiative is to improve sanitation conditions in Nabha town. Nabha town has been facing severe sanitation issues due to blockages in the town sewerage system, lack of proper waste disposal and sanitation behavioral practices. The Foundation has initiated

work in the areas of behavior change communication by partnering with the community groups and spreading awareness on waste management, reducing plastic waste and adopting better sanitation practices. **Apart from this the Foundation is also engaging experts from Thapar University to technically assess the problem areas in the sewerage system.**

Open Defecation Free Nabha

In today's day and age when sanitation and hygiene seems to be a given, no matter the economic disparity, open defecation in India seems to continue despite the awareness and development.

Alarming State of Groundwater Resources in Punjab

*According to the Central Ground Water Board Report (2016-17), the number of electric tube well pump-sets in Punjab zoomed from around 28,000 to 79,400 between 1980-81 and 2000-01, and further to 11.06 lakh in 2010-11 and 13.5 lakh by 2016-17. Out of 148 blocks of the state, 112 blocks fall under the 'dark zone' with over-exploited, critical or semi-critical groundwater resources. According to the same report, the withdrawal of groundwater across Punjab has increased by 152% and in districts of Patiala Jalandhar, Amritsar and Sangrur the percentage of withdrawal of ground water was 300%.

**The Chief Minister has declared his government's intention to improve surface water availability and productivity in the state not only by fully relining the canals but also by canalizing the rivers. His government would create economic corridors on the state's dhusis bunds, on three rivers namely Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, he said, adding that the feasibility study in this regard would be carried out quickly to ascertain techno-legal and financial implications thereof.

Source: *Times of India, Chandigarh, November 2018
**Government of Punjab, India

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In rural areas as well as urban regions of Nabha, open defecation and the need for public toilets remain a concern. The Nabha Foundation has worked toward closing this gap in the past by facilitating the process of building toilets within Nabha.

The Department of Water Supply and Sanitation in Patiala district identified and earmarked households in need of assistance. The Nabha Foundation joined forces with the teams of motivators working in rural Nabha to reach households across 42 villages.

The team works with individuals and communities to open communication and dialogue and promote positive behaviour and change in their present sanitation habits of open defecation. Awareness camps, community talks and awareness rallies in the villages are organised to address the issue of contamination caused by the common housefly and to improve the health and hygiene practices of their families.

Water Supply

The Foundation partners with the Government of Punjab to implement an initiative of the

“My Say”



Capturing Every Single Drop – Pump operator, Deedar Singh of Village Sadhohari, Nabha, shares his perspective...

The Nabha Foundation (TNF) team got in touch with the village a couple of years back, under the Water Supply Program. TNF team held awareness camps firstly to address the Water Supply Scheme and Management and explain the importance of the current status.

To start with, GPWSC (Gram Panchayat Water Supply Committee) was formed in the village which was further trained on operations & maintenance of the water

scheme being implemented in the village. Training was also extended on how to operate the water tank for supply on a daily basis, keep records of the litres of water consumed every day, bills paid, bills pending, record books and registers.

TNF team assisted in making the scheme functional in the village. As per Deedar Singh, there has been a lot of positive change after the implementation of this scheme as water supply has become more organized across all households. Water wastage has gone down since the scheme was implemented, people have become more responsible in terms of paying their bills and have also become more aware of the importance of water leading to a better standard of living.

Deedar Singh mentioned that they would like to work in collaboration with TNF on implementation & awareness of water supply schemes in future as well.

Government of India and IDA-World Bank to improve the standards of sanitation and access to safe water supply in the villages of Punjab.

The Foundation works with Water Supply Schemes handed over to Gram Panchayat Water and Sanitation Committee in 14 villages to help them achieve Sustainability. Awareness

Camps are organised on issues such as water conservation, benefits of clean drinking water, testing of bore well water and impacts of wastage of water on the overall hygiene.

Our continued effort is to improve and widen the below impact:

- Improved awareness on sanitation issues

- Improved toilet access in the villages of Nabha
- Behavioral change in toilet usage in rural Nabha
- Improved and sustainable water supply model in the chosen villages of Nabha
- Increased community participation in sanitation and water supply management

“What Makes Me Happy”

Timely intervention has brought a ray of hope in my life... 35 years old, HIV affected female sex worker, Nabha

Due to some family issues, I got separated from my husband and returned to my native home with two small daughters. After 5 years my father died and all responsibility to take care of my two daughters came on my shoulders. I was forced by the compulsions of living to look out for work and ended up earning through sex work.

Soon, I found that I was suffering with HIV/AIDS and other serious infections and had to get admitted to a Government Hospital. There I met with a Peer Educator from TNF, who helped me get all my baseline tests done. It was found that I was severely anemic. The Doctor advised that I first take treatment of anemia and after that the Anti-retroviral treatment for AIDS will be given. The Nabha Foundation staff helped me with the treatment and also made me aware regarding the diet suitable for my condition.

I have suffered enough and now want my friends to visit NGO clinic and Integrated Counselling & Testing Centre (ICTC) before it is too late. By interacting with the Nabha Foundation team, other sex workers also can be made aware of the risks involved and preventive, life saving measures that they can take beforehand.

We will discuss in detail the status of anemia in the region in our next issue....

Talking Through Pictures.....



Sanitation Drive in Nabha Town, Villages & Schools under our Water & Sanitation Program

CONTACT US



THE NABHA FOUNDATION
DELHI

Khemka House, 1st Floor, 11 Community Center, Saket, New Delhi-110017, (INDIA)
Phone : +91-11-46034800 • Email: info@thenabhafoundation.org • Website : www.thenabhafoundation.org

NABHA

Akalgarh House, Heeramahal Colony, Block D, House no 44, Street 3, Nabha-147201
Phone : +91-1765-223168 , +91-1765-223268 • Email: info@thenabhafoundation.org

Editorial Team : Shubhra Singh - s.singh@thenabhafoundation.org
Vimmi Lekhi - v.lekhi@khemkafoundation.net • Anuja Tripathi - atripathi@khemkafoundation.net
Mansi - mansi@thenabhafoundation.org • Avee Saroya - aveesaroya05@gmail.com

We apologize for any errors or omissions