



NABHA SPEAKS ***

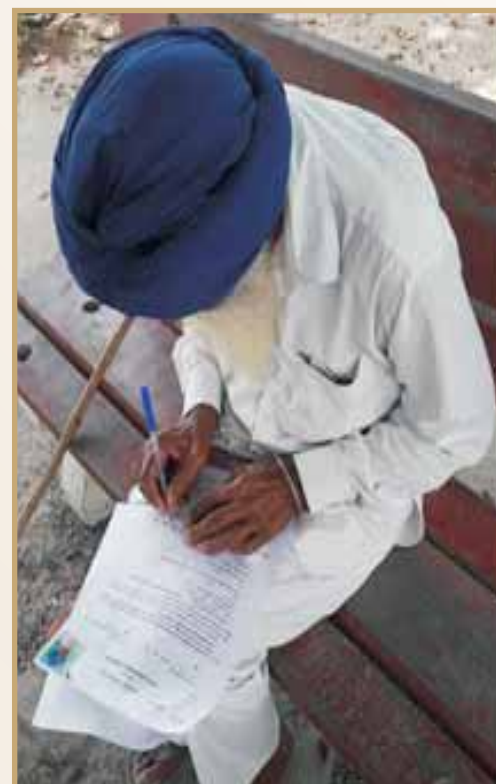
The Nabha Foundation Phulkari

Our Priority: Safe Drinking Water for All

Voluntary Disclosure Scheme by the Water Supply and Sanitation Dept. was aimed at increasing the availability of piped water supply in rural areas through individual tap connections. Under this scheme renewal of existing connections and applications for new connections were invited with no extra charge or payment of pending bills. The Scheme was an initial step towards the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India. It is envisaged under the JJM that the community will

play a lead role in planning, implementation, management operations and maintenance of in-village infrastructure. Nabha block has 65 water supply schemes handed over to Gram Panchayat Water Supply Committees (GPWSCs) which are headed by the Sarpanch.

Our team reached out to Sarpanch, GPWSCs and Pump Operators for the implementation of the scheme in 31 villages in Nabha Block. Team interacted with the GPWSC members and Village Sarpanchs to explain the scheme and its objective to create community level partnerships. As part of scheme promotion activities we put up posters in each of these villages at common places and organised scheme related announcements with the help of the Gurudwaras in these villages. With the help of the



village panchayats and pump operators we went door to door to almost 1500 households in 22 villages promoting the scheme and increasing awareness towards clean drinking water and the benefits of the water supply connections. Through these activities we filled forms for 425 households for new connections or updating records of some existing connections. These filled forms

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were submitted to the DWSS office in Nabha and in most cases confirmations were received within 24-48 hrs of form submission. The team worked directly in coordination with the SDM Nabha and the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation Patiala and in the process informed any operational issues or grievances



to the department for early resolution.

Through these efforts we continue to find synergies with the Department of Water Supply and Sanitation aimed at creating awareness in the community, working with GPWSCs and ensuring availability of clean and adequate drinking water in the rural Nabha.

Form a connect with...

(In this article we connect you to a place or an individual in Nabha)

Kalsana village, Nabha

Among the water supply schemes implemented in the Nabha Block many schemes once handed over to the Gram Panchayat Water Supply Committee faced a steep challenge to maintain financial sustainability. Only a few schemes have been able to turn the tide around to make it favorable for the village and the scheme. Kalsana village is one such shining example of successful leadership and strong commitment at the community level. When Paramjeet Kaur, took over as sarpanch the scheme had an outstanding bill of close 2.5lacs and was struggling to stay afloat. The outstanding bill is due towards the use of

electricity for running the pump and any amount outstanding incurs late payment fee. This when accumulated for long becomes a hurdle for the scheme to pay off monthly expenses and thus threatens overall financial stability. This financial stability is most crucial for its sustainability to support timely repair and maintenance as well as is proof that the scheme is valued by the community.

In order to improve the situation, there were several steps taken such as ensuring timely bill payment, and regular repair and maintenance so as to resolve any supply related issues. For this a group of ex-service men from the community took charge and

have been working relentlessly towards the upkeep and record maintenance of the scheme. They have been collecting bills at regular intervals and over time bill payments are being done by the connection holders without requiring any individual household visits. They have come to see the value in the scheme and are working with the managing committee for its proper functioning. Today the scheme is completely debt free as well as there is a surplus balance in the scheme account to manage any running expenditures. It also has 100% bill payments done on timely basis and more than 90% connections in the village.

A huge round of applause for the Sarpanch Paramjeet Kaur and the ex-service men at Kalsana village for their effort and what they have achieved.

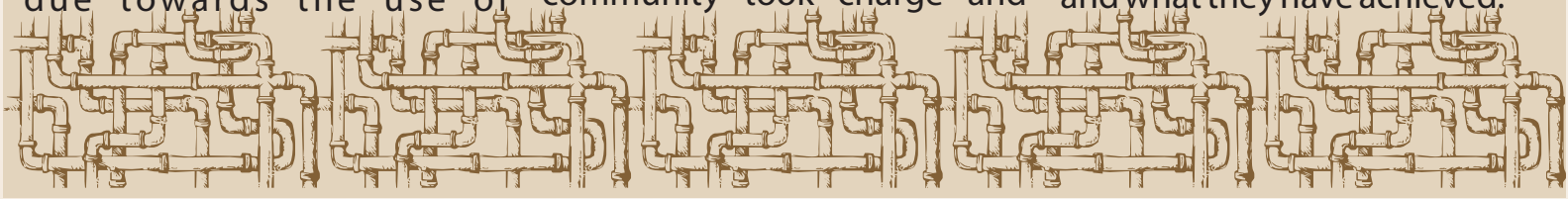


Photo of the month



Mr. Jai Singh Gill with
SDM Mr. Kala Ram Kansal

The Nabha Foundation donated kits including the infrared thermometers, sanitisers and other essentials to support the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Jai Singh Gill, Executive Chairman & Trustee, The Nabha Foundation, handing over the kits to Nabha Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mr. Kala Ram Kansal in his office.

All the best! One of our team members Mansi, who has been with the Foundation for over 3 years is moving on. We wish her very best for all future endeavours, it has been a mutually enriching experience to work together.

“What Makes Me Happy”

We talk to Avtar Singh, Pump Operator, Bishangarh

Under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme by the DWSS dept. the team from The Nabha Foundation approached Avtar Singh who is appointed as the Pump Operator in village Bishangarh. He was explained the scheme as well as the benefit to community. Avtar Singh confirmed that many members wanted to apply for connections and was happy we were there to help him with the documentation. He said “For the forms filled by The Nabha Foundation team, we received confirmation message within one day of submitting the form. The team members were very polite and helpful.” Avtar Singh seeks further help in updating few more forms with the department. Our team members have remained in touch with them to maintain this community partnership.



In our next issue we talk about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our women artisans in Nabha...

Talking Through Pictures.....



The Nabha Foundation team helping people get water connections under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme

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

Moti Bagh, Street No 2, Opposite Defence Colony, Cantt Road, Nabha Punjab-147201
Phone : +91-1765-223168, 223119 • 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

We apologize for any errors or omissions