



The Yakkundi

Yield

Breaking The Vintage Vow Of Scarcity

The Shadows of the Past: The Siege of the Sahukar Well

In the Babaleshwar Taluk of Vijayapura, the residents of Yakkundi once lived in a state of constant domestic siege. For the 580 households in this habitation, the search for water was a grueling daily marathon. Before the intervention of the Jal Jeevan Mission, the village was tethered to a single cooperative well—the Kullolli Sahukar well—located over a kilometer away.

The logistics were heartbreaking: the Gram Panchayat could only supply water to communal cisterns twice a week. This extreme scarcity created a “time-poverty” that struck at the very heart of the village’s future. Children, particularly young girls, were frequently pulled from school to stand in guard at cisterns and borewells. For the women of Yakkundi, the lack of a reliable tap meant choosing between water and their livelihood; many were forced to abandon daily wage work because the morning hunt for water consumed their working hours. This cycle of dependency kept families economically stagnant and physically exhausted, with the constant use of unmonitored sources leading to recurring bouts of typhoid and weakness.

The Engineering Breakthrough: Architecting a 24/7 Lifeline

The cycle of deprivation was broken on October 28, 2025, with the formal inauguration of the Single Village Scheme (SVS) under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The project moved beyond the “twice-a-week” model to create a high-performance grid designed for total resilience.

The technical intervention was precise and robust. To meet the village’s requirement of approximately 147,070 liters, the department installed two Overhead Tanks (OHTs), each with a capacity of 50,000 liters. Following strategic consultations with the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD), the pumping duration was more than doubled—increasing from 6 hours to 13 hours daily. This operational shift ensured that the “Ganga” finally reached 580 individual household taps, transforming a kilometer-long trek into a 24/7 reality at the turn of a faucet.

The Wellness Catalyst: Fortifying Community Vitality

In Yakkundi, the new water system functions as a primary shield for public health. A rigorous protocol has been established where water supplied to the 580 households is compulsorily tested using Field Test Kits (FTK) at the Gram Panchayat level. By eliminating the need to fetch water from exposed communal wells and cisterns, the possibility of contamination has plummeted. The result is a physically stronger community, where the burden of medical expenses for water-borne diseases like diarrhea and typhoid has diminished, allowing family savings to be redirected toward nutrition and growth.

The Socio-Economic Dividend: Reclaiming the Future

The introduction of individual tap connections has triggered a massive redistribution of “time-wealth” across the village.

- **Fueling Academic Ambition:** The relief from water duties has revolutionized school attendance. Rural girls are now attending classes regularly and punctually, creating a level playing field where they can compete with and even surpass urban students.
- **Empowering the Workforce:** Women have reclaimed their mornings. They can now reach their daily wage work without interruption, securing their full earnings and contributing to the financial upliftment of their households.
- **Economic Stability:** The elimination of “water-waiting hours” has allowed families that were falling behind economically to stabilize and thrive, fostering a more self-reliant village economy.

Operational Mastery: Fostering Enduring Local Ownership

The long-term success of Yakkundi is rooted in its robust governance and focus on sustainability.

- **Groundwater Stewardship:** Under the MGNREGA scheme, the village has constructed ponds and check dams to conserve rainwater, ensuring that the groundwater levels supporting the SVS remain resilient.
- **Financial Autonomy:** Villagers have been sensitized to the importance of timely water tax payments. The upcoming implementation of volumetric meter billing will further refine management, ensuring that the system is self-sustaining and waste is minimized.
- **Democratic Oversight:** The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) meets quarterly to address technical issues and O&M management in detail, ensuring that the infrastructure remains a “People’s Project.”



A Mother's Perspective: Mrs. Danamma N. Medegar's Story

For 39-year-old Mrs. Danamma N. Medegar, the arrival of the home tap has been a restoration of her family's health and dignity.

"In the past, our lives were consumed by the queue at the cistern. We spent so much money at hospitals treating typhoid and vomiting caused by contaminated water," Danamma recalls. "Today, the water is tested through FTK Kits before it reaches our home. I no longer need to worry about contamination. My daughters can go to school every day without fail, and I can manage my home as a self-reliant individual. Having water available whenever we turn the tap has changed everything for us."

The Vision Realized: A Blueprint for Rural Excellence

The transformation of Yakkundi stands as a definitive testament to the power of the Jal Jeevan Mission. By reaching 100% household tap coverage and achieving 24/7 supply status, the village has moved from a state of physical struggle to a model of modern rural efficiency. This milestone is not just an engineering achievement; it is the securing of a prosperous, health-conscious future for 580 families. Yakkundi now shines as a beacon of progress in the Vijayapura district, proving that when pure water flows with precision, a community rises.

