

# “It was a shock to see peoples’ drinking water set alight...”

In the spring of 2009 Wherever the Need visited a successful eco-sanitation project we had coordinated in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal, India. The Sunderbans is prone to extreme weather conditions and cyclones are frequent. Therefore the challenge was to ensure the units would remain intact during the worst storms and flooding.



However, during the visit we witnessed the extraordinary sight of water being set on fire after it was drawn through a hand pump.

The water fed to this pump from an underground aquifer is naturally full of sulphur, so the people who collect their daily water have no alternative but to drink this almost yellow, foul tasting liquid. Apart from the look and taste, at this level of consumption sulphur is positively harmful to the long-term health of those that have to drink the water.

To make this water potable could involve many complicated and expensive technologies, yet our solution is simple and will withstand the ravages of cyclones and flooding.

Ironically, water is plentiful in this region, but it is often dirty and polluted. A simple filter system, where water is passed through successively smaller filter material, can remove many impurities and make water safe to drink. As you pump water in, so the equivalent amount of water can be collected.

The filter is built with solid concrete foundations, so if it is flooded it only needs to have the filter material cleaned or replaced, and clean water is quickly available once more. The only other requirement is for a large reservoir to be dug next to the unit to enable a constant supply of water.



This is a self-sustainable, environmentally friendly and long-term beneficial investment for a community that has been beaten by the elements and stricken with illness for many years.

Please inquire about the cost of a water filter. At least 200 people are able to collect water daily, and this equates to approximately 1,000 family beneficiaries – for life.



## WHICH WOULD YOU WANT TO DRINK?

Wherever the Need India Services is incorporated under Section 25 of the 1956 Companies Act (India) and is committed to using donations wisely and effectively. We believe that there are simple solutions readily available to most problems and we endeavour to manage projects that are non-harmful to the planet and its people.

Our major goal is helping people out of poverty: creating independence, not dependence. To assist people in achieving this we believe you must build from a solid foundation. That is why we focus on good health (sanitation and water) and an opportunity for people to generate an income (work/microfinance). With these two core elements in place people can work their own way out of poverty rather than continually receiving handouts.

We are always available to discuss our work with interested parties and you can telephone us on 0944 301 8327, email to: [paramasivan@wherevertheneed.org.in](mailto:paramasivan@wherevertheneed.org.in), or write to Wherever the Need, 27, 4th Cross, Kurunji Nagar, Lawspet, Puducherry, TN 605 008

Further information can be found on our web site [www.wherevertheneed.org.in](http://www.wherevertheneed.org.in).