

THE ONGOING STORY OF THE MOKHADA PANI HAKK SANGARSH SAMITI

Mokhada taluka is a predominantly hilly region, and the Vatvad hill ridge is the source of 5 major rivers, the Godavari flowing to the east, the Pinjal to the south, the Wagh flowing to the west, the Tansa flowing to the south and the Vaitarna flowing to the south. These rivers are the water providers for the growing urban-industrial centers from Vapi to Mumbai. Ironically the villagers of Mokhada are water starved and water supply is tanker driven for a good part of the year.

The drinking water problem in Mokhada taluka is man-made. Nature has blessed the taluka with 2,700 mm of rainfall annually. However, as forests have been cut down, rainwater fails to percolate slowly down into the soil. The gullies created due to soil erosion have not been plugged; water rushes down into the rivers leaving the villages parched. On the other hand schemes like the Jal Swarajya Yojana, Shivkaleen yojna and the like have been an abysmal failures. Leaking dams, collapsed budkis, dry wells, stolen pipelines, cracked tanks, broken pumps, incomplete schemes tell the sorry tale. Crores of public funds have been spent in the name of providing water to the parched adivasi villages, the contractors and their political patrons have enriched themselves many times over, but the villages continue to remain dry.

The Kashtakari Sanghatana(KS), a mass organization active in Mokhada for the last 25 years, successfully addressed the issues related to Forest, work and wages, employment guarantee, ration, administrative abuse and the like but despite their best efforts met with little success when it came to water. The primary reason was that the people believed there was actually no way water could be harvested, therefore except for the demand for tankers, and other temporary measures little headway was made on the water issue.

Then in 2014, the KS chanced upon a study by a student of IIT Mumbai, showing how water sourced from the Upper Vaitarna Dam and transported by gravity could permanently and sustainably solve the water problems of the villages of the Khodala pocket at a very reasonable cost. The KS immediately contacted IIT to understand the viability of the study and when the experienced faculty vouched for the workability of the idea, the KS decided to

socialize this knowledge and raise a political demand for the water from the upper Vaitarna dam servicing the megapolis of Mumbai. They organized the Pani Parishad on May 31, 2014 and invited IIT to present their work to the people of Mokhada.

The Parishad was very well attended, chaired by the sitting M.P., Shri Chintaman Vanga. There was a large mobilization from the villages, representation from all the political parties and NGOs, elected representatives and local officials. The faculty of IIT also managed to invite the Executive Engineers of Brihanmumbai Maha Nagarpalika and Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran (MJP), who also made their studied comments on the IIT presentation, the Zilla Parishad member, Chairperson of the Panchayat Samiti, a few Sarpanches, local officials like the Tehsildar, BDO, and P.O., ITDP lauded the scheme in their speeches and promised to extend their support in whatever way needed. The general consensus at the parishad was that the plan is both desirable and feasible. There was an additional demand from the public that since the taluka would be reserving water, the plan should be modified to cover all the villages of Mokhada. It was unanimously resolved that:

1. All the Gram Sabhas would pass a resolution demanding drinking water from the Upper Vaitarna dam which would be submitted to the MJP for further action.
2. That the IIT would prepare a modified plan to cover the entire taluka and present it to both the Collector and the MJP.

After the Parishad the Mokhada Pani Hakk Samiti was constituted to follow up on realising the demand for water from the Upper Vaitarna dam for Mokhada taluka. The samiti was constituted by men and included a few Sarpanches. Once the initial enthusiasm wore out the demand seemed like a pie in the sky and the samiti members lost interest. One year down the line a few gram sabha resolutions were passed and obtained by IIT Mumbai. They submitted a revised proposal with 15 more villages/padas added to the original 15 villages in the Khodala pocket. Many villages, some of them tanker affected remained excluded from the revised scheme.

Once again the flickering hope for a permanent and sustainable solution to the water problem of Mokhada would have died a natural death, but three women activists FROM Mumbai came together to pick up the threads as it were to give Mokhada a second chance. After analysing the situation they came to three conclusions:

- a. They would build a people's organization to struggle for water from the Upper Vaitarna Dam.
- b. They would work essentially with women, with a socialist feminist perspective and the leadership of the organization will be only with women.
- c. They would not be aligned to any political party or organization and would strive to create a consensus among all political parties and local leaders to unite and work for a permanent and sustainable solution for water for Mokhada.

Thus the Mokhada Pani Hakk Sangharsh Samiti was formed.

Our first task was to build an activist group. Word of mouth, head hunting and the usual methods did not work given the general social resistance to women participating in political activities. However, it is acceptable for women to work in NGO's or do jobs, so we decided to reach out through that route. We identified educated women from the employment exchange list with the ITDP. We conducted interviews and invited all the women for a three day orientation camp. During the interview we made our mandate and work ethics amply clear. Of the 14 women invited for the orientation, only four turned up. One dropped out after the three day orientation programme. Of the three that remained one worked for one day another dropped out within the first week. That left us with only activist Savita, a junior college drop out whom we had rejected during the interview as she seemed quite disoriented, but we suspected that she could be a victim of abuse so we included her simply to be able to reach out to her.

Savita was transformed in the orientation shibir. She regained her self confidence and joined work. During the next month she actively sourced women activists from the villages. Many came and went, in the first couple of months. Finally the activist group stabilized at four and we began work in the villages in right earnest.

Simultaneously we took on the task of mobilizing all the 28 group gram Panchayats of Mokhada taluka to pass a resolution demanding reservation of water from the upper Vaitarna for the taluka to be submitted it to the Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran and the Collector, Palghar. We realized this could not be done by our newly inducted activists nor by us senior activists alone so we chalked out a strategy to make it an all party demand. We approached the leaders of all the

political parties in the taluka and sought their cooperation. The next step was to lobby with the ZP and Panchayat Samiti elected representatives. With the help of the ZP and Panchayat Samiti representatives we were able to reach out to the sarpanchas. And last but not the least we followed up with the gram sevaks to get the resolutions through. We also moved extensively in the villages motivating women who came into contact with us to attend the gram sabha and push for the resolution to be passed. After six months of gruelling efforts all the resolutions were passed and duly submitted to the Collector by the ZP member and officials of the Panchayat Samiti. Unfortunately, for over a year, these resolutions are stuck in the bureaucratic pipeline, and still pending with the Collector Palghar.

Strategy for working in the villages:

Since it was difficult for the women to move alone the activists worked in pairs. We divided the block into three broad areas, Asa, Moronda and Khodala. Their task was to mobilize women's groups in different villages, create awareness for the long term demand of water from the Upper Vaitarna dam, make an assessment of the water situation in the village, and explore possibilities to collectively address their water issues. Since November 2015, hundreds of women from adivasi hamlets have started approaching the administration with their water problems, extending their cooperation in resolving the problems and suggesting simple solutions.

Unfortunately, from the very beginning the BDO was hostile and inaccessible as he was threatened by the proactive participation of the local women in their development, a constituency that was hitherto suppressed and invisible. But the women relentlessly persevered, sitting outside the offices of the BDO and water supply department sometimes for hours together, until they were heard. Their efforts bore fruit when they found a friend in the newly appointed Tehsildar, a young idealistic officer on probation, who went out of his way to help them. He realised that the women were actually planning for water at the hamlet level and some of the suggestions made in the applications were concrete steps towards making their village tanker free.

For example in Village Sirusgaon, a Panchayat well, constructed during the drought of 1972-73 collapsed about a decade ago. The well was replenished by a perennial spring and there

was sufficient water all year round. However, since the well stood on private land it was never repaired. Five other wells were dug in different parts of the hamlet under various government schemes including Jal Swaraj, however, all these wells run dry in summer and the village has become tanker dependent.

Two years ago an NGO sourced CSR funds to repair the well, but a dispute arose with the land owner and the project was abandoned. The Samiti managed to bring the landowner on board. After a couple of village meetings all the issues have been sorted out and the land owner has agreed to donate the land for the well.

Similarly, over 30 applications, collectively signed by the women of the respective villages were submitted to the administration between November 2015 and June 2016. The demands ranged from repairing tube wells and hand pumps, providing tankers in summer, to completing incomplete dams, repairing water structures, plugging leaks, de silting wells, restarting piped water supply schemes etc. Some applications were more ambitious, suggesting designs for new water supply schemes like digging storage wells in the river bed at a distance from the village and bringing piped water to the village, filtering water impounded by the three big dams in the taluka viz Palaspada dam, Khoch dam and Tulya chapada dam and developing a piped water supply system in villages where the water could be transported by gravity. (A summary of the applications can be found in annexure 1.)

The applications do not capture the angst of the women, subjected to extreme hardship as they go about a supposedly routine task of fetching water for the family. In some villages there is no protected source of water and both humans and animals are forced to share the same water hole leading to disease and debilitation.

In a couple of hamlets in the Asa region women reported that during the summer months the entire hamlet is abandoned as there is no source of water nearby and government tankers are unreliable. Most families in these hamlets migrate to Nasik or Thane in search of work along with the young and aged. They are the most vulnerable among the seasonal migrant workforce and are severely exploited given their vulnerability. Often they return without being paid their earned wages as unscrupulous labour contractors and agents make a quick buck.

In many villages the women stay awake most of the night keeping vigil over a trickle of water where they patiently fill their pots literally drop by drop. In most cases they have to climb steep slopes on difficult terrain with multiple pots of water on their head and waist. The women have often complained of accidents while carrying water in the dark on difficult terrain, resulting in serious injuries like fractures, deep cuts requiring stitches and even snake bites.

Despite regular follow up, the water supply department and BDO were bent on frustrating the efforts of the women each department claiming they had not received the application, or they had forwarded it to another office, or it was misplaced etc. The Samiti has a record of having submitted the same application to the same authority multiple times without any action. They approached the CEO and Collector a couple of times, but even a reprimand from a higher authority resulted in some perfunctory motions after which we were back to square one. There was little change in the attitude of the local administration, in fact things deteriorated after approaching their superiors. The worst blow was when the BDO and his minions began pressurizing the Tehsildar not to cooperate with the Samiti.

The Prayer Meeting

The women realized that they could not succumb to the strong arm tactics of the local administration, however, they realized that any aggression from their side would be counter productive. Therefore, on June 13, 2016, the Mokhada Pani Hakk Sangharsh Samiti organized a prayer meeting in the premises of the Panchayat Samiti Mokhada, to prevail upon the Gods to grant the BDO and his staff good health and good sense to undertake the most essential and urgent task of providing water to the villages, a responsibility the BDO had completely abdicated for the previous one year.

The BDO decided to brazen it out and deserted his office on the pretext of going for a field visit. Over three hundred women had gathered for the prayer meeting and they refused to be demoralized by the insensitivity of the officials. So they entered the premises of the Panchayat Samiti as planned, garlanded the locked door of the BDO's office, broke a coconut, lit a few agar battis (incense sticks), thanked the Gods for the tasks they had accomplished during the last year with the help of the Tehsildar, DFO and Additional CEO, and began singing bhajans, cleverly modified to put across their message.

Mokhada had never witnessed a protest of this sort. Soon a large crowd gathered, the prayers became louder, entreaties more fervent asking the Gods to come down and save them or grant the BDO the good sense to solve their water problems. The women announced that the prayers would continue till they were answered.

Soon social network sites were a buzz, the media followed, the President and Vice President of the Panchayat Samiti came to meeting to intervene on behalf of the BDO but the women tactfully included them in the ceremony assigning them an important position in the ongoing “rituals” and seeking their support and solidarity. Pressure was mounting on the BDO from all quarters. He finally arrived after about three hours. He promised to look into all the problems and assured the women that what needed to be done urgently and was possible to do would be done. The women thanked the Gods and distributed Prasad while representatives from different villages went to the BDO’s office to discuss the nitty gritty of the promises made.

Officials and functionaries from the concerned departments were summoned. Immediate orders were given to send tankers where there was acute shortage, orders were also given for desilting of some of the wells under MNREGA with work to begin the very next day, and a written undertaking was given with regard to other issues.

Our Achievements

Many applications combined a request for a tanker along with a long term solution. With the relentless efforts of the Tehsildar and inputs of the Samiti, the provision of water by tanker this year has been commendable.

The Samiti, with the help of the Tehsildar managed to negotiate the construction of a concrete pathway going to the well, in village Shendya chi met, Gram Panchayat Saturli under MNREGA. Besides dealing with the bureaucracy in getting the work sanctioned, the women had to put up a tough fight with the powerful Shendya family, the largest land owner in the hamlet, through whose lands the pathway passed. The work of widening and deepening the well is also underway and hopefully, the village should become tanker free this year onwards. This was the first application to the Tehsildar from the Samiti. The most important outcome of this application however was to enlighten the Tehsildar about the state of the paths to water sources in the village and the dangers

that women are exposed to. Being a sensitive officer he proactively looked into this issue in other villages as well and many of the MREGA works on the shelf include pathways to the well.

The construction of a dam in Pendkechi vadi which was abandoned for over a year was completed with the intervention of the DFO, Tehsildar and Additional CEO. Not only was the work completed in record time, officials went all the way to support villagers in ensuring quality work. This dam is certainly amongst the best constructed dams in the taluka, and to think only a month ago the fate of this dam was to number amongst one of the many incomplete works in the block.

With funds coming directly to the Pachayat account under PESA, we mobilized the villagers, and motivated the gram sevaks to include our demands in the five year plan formulated in the gram sabha of August 15. Hopefully some of the aspirations of the women will be reflected in the proposed plan for the village.

Shibirs (Training Workshops)

Since two of the three women activists who formed the Pani Hakk Sangharsh Samiti had their roots in the women's movement since the 70's, our work could not simply begin and end with water. The ultimate and equally important agenda was social and political empowerment of women, to build them up to challenge inequalities in their own community, the sexual division of labour that subjected them to such severe drudgery in the home as well as the farms, to prepare them to take on the powers that be in the gram sabha, to articulate their concerns to reflect them in the perspective plan of the village, etc.

The orientation shibir began with perspective building, and we soon realized that a lot of work needed to be done. We decided to hold two to three days shibirs for the activists every two months in which we discussed the basics of patriarchy, political economy, as well as imparted skills of organization building, public speaking, group work, and so on. As far as possible the methodology was participatory and as the activist group was limited to four to five women, we were able to do a lot of individual counselling.

We decided to hold activist shibirs outside the area, preferably in one of our homes, so that the women could have a break from the routine and remain optimally inaccessible to their families, given

the past experience of women being recalled by their families for flimsy reasons. Initially there was a lot of resistance from the women to travelling away from home, spending two nights out etc., but after the second or third shibir it was very heartening to see that the women actually looked forward to the shibirs and went back recharged and refreshed. The biggest gain in the last year has been the transformation in the local women activists, the growth of self confidence and their growing ability to negotiate their space within their own families.

We tried to hold shibirs for women leaders from different hamlets, but the women were not willing to stay overnight, so we decided to begin with a full day shibir area wise. The Khodala shibir was very well attended but since it was the first shibir and there was little time for process work, the content remained confined to water. The Moronda shibir was poorly attended, once again we shared our perspective on water and the reason for working with women. The Asa shibir never took place. We feel this is a step in the right direction but we need to put in a lot more thought into organizing shibirs for village women leaders.

Right to Information Act (RTI)

Using the RTI act was an important part of our strategy. One was of course to get information for information's sake, but we also found that wherever there were irregularities there would be attempts to rectify them before providing the information. The general impression in the administration is that Mokhada being so remote anything does as there is very little chances of supervision from above. With a slew of RTI applications from the Samiti, there was a feeling "we are being watched" and though the impact was not phenomenal, we managed to score a few brownie points. Our overall experience of filing RTI's can be summarized as "too little too late". But we also realised that spending our energies in appeals would also not yield much in terms of results. Instead we negotiated that we would not go in appeal if x or y is rectified so instead of running from pillar to post filing appeals and creating bad blood we tried to concentrate on creating good will and squeezing out information drop by drop wherever possible, much like the situation with water. Of course we are aware that this tactic will not last too long but at this point of time it is very much a "play by ear" situation.

Even the sketchy data obtained through RTI, tells a sorry tale of mismanagement of resources, wasteful expenditure and corruption in the form of gross violation of rules and regulations to favour the contractor-politician combine at the expense of the misery of the people of Mokhada. Between 1981 and 2002 a total of 30 piped water supply schemes were commissioned of which only five are functional. Data for subsequent years was not available but the facts on the ground suggest that the water supply department continued to build piped water schemes which are basically non functional. For example, in Maruti chi wadi, in the Khodala pocket, a piped water scheme has been constructed, the tank is built, the pipes are laid but it is non functional for nearly two years as the pump has not been fitted. If this situation continues, the pipes will be stolen, the tank will be in a state of disrepair due to disuse and the scheme will fail before it has started. Similarly in Pawar Pada in the Moronda pocket, pipes have been laid in a well that runs dry. The scheme was inaugurated by filling water from a tanker in the well and the scheme was operational for a total of One Day...such stories abound in Mokhada.

In the year 2015, the block administration provided a list of 21 works under progress and the total sanctioned amount was Rs 768.65 lakhs. Nine of these 21 works were either never undertaken or left incomplete causing severe water problems and even distress in some of the villages. Women from nine of these villages have approached the Samiti and made applications/complaints to the BDO, unfortunately these applications have been ignored for months together.

One more water-loo that came to light through an RTI application was the state of affairs in the Mokhada Rural Hospital.

In village after village women complained of acute shortage of water in government hospitals and PHCs, helpless that they were forced to opt for institutional delivery and then subjected to inhuman treatment. They said, after delivery they were wiped with their own parkars (petticoats) and the babies were wiped with cotton wool. Neither the mother nor the child could wash themselves for three days the mandatory period for staying in the hospital in case of an institutional delivery. Many of the women reported that they fought with the hospital staff and returned home soon after delivery. Of course, such impertinence meant a cut in the matrutva anudan, and sometimes serious consequences for the young mother back home.

One woman reported that she had given birth to a low weight baby in Asa PHC. She was shunted from Asa to Mokhada to Jawahar to Nasik. In all, she spent 21 days in different government hospitals, without a bath. According to adivasi custom the woman must be bathed and cleansed with warm water after delivery, leaving her unwashed for days together is extremely disgusting to adivasi sensibilities.

In spite of lakhs of rupees spent every year on tankers to procure water for the Mokhada Rural hospital patients complain there is no water to flush the toilet or wash themselves. Sometimes there would also be a shortage of drinking water. When we met the doctor he too helplessly exclaimed that sometimes after examining patients he too did not get water to wash his hands...We decided to find out where water bought at the cost of lakhs of rupees was actually flowing.

Information gathered through RTI revealed that in the year 2013, a total of Rs. 43, 25, 680 was spent on tankers during summer and in the year 2014 Rs. 67, 47, 880.50 was spent. In the year 2013, the Mokhada Cottage Hospital spent an additional Rs. 1,17,400 from public funds and in 2014 had pending bills amounting to Rs. 72,600.

The present source of water for drinking and general use for Mokhada town and the Rural hospital is from the Mogri vahir in Mokhada town which is also the main source of water for the town. At great expense a pipeline was laid going up to the hospital (approx 1 KM) and a pump and pump house were constructed near the well. However, the hospital continues to spend on water tankers every year because the hospital administration claims that the people of Mokhada do not permit them to draw water from the well once the water level falls.

We also found that the PH level of the water of Mogri vahir is dangerously high, the reason being out percolation of sewage water from more than a hundred private toilets around the well. The doctor has simply suggested that the quantum of TCL added to the well be increased and both the hospital and town continue drinking that water. Private players have installed an RO and water business in the town is brisk, while the poor continue to drink contaminated water.

The Pani Hakk Sangharsh Samiti identified an alternate well with perennial water about half a km. from the hospital viz Vare chi vahir. At a minimal cost the water could be pumped to the hospital. The ITDP office has a plan for installing pipelines and solar pumps. A back up water supply scheme for the hospital could easily be created by using existing tanks in the hospital from a previous

water supply scheme that have fallen into disuse. The total cost would have been less than the taker cost for 3 years. But since there was not much money to be made by what we were suggesting our ideas were rubbished and a well connected contractor clinched one more new water supply scheme for the hospital.

(See annexure for details)

Mobilizing youth

As more and more women in the villages were drawn to the Samiti, there was also a feeling of isolation, now the women felt an added burden of resolving their water problems in addition to fetching water. The women needed energetic allies, so we decided to work with students in the two senior colleges and 10 Junior colleges of Mokhada. We held one day workshops in most of the colleges where we discussed topics like climate change, sustainable agriculture and water management, the Mokhada water situation and the possibilities for conserving and reviving water resources and so on. The response from the students was positive to the extent that the discussions remained confined to the class room, a lot of work needs to be done to convert the discussion to positive action.

We felt it was important to understand the perspective of the youth with regard to water and were considering an essay competition when a golden opportunity presented itself in the form of a jointly organized essay completion in Jawhar and Mokhada talukas along with Panchayat Bharati, a bi monthly magazine and the Palghar Marathi Patrakar Sangh.

Conclusions

Considering that water and sanitation are the flagship programmes of the Honourable Prime Minister, the women of Mokhada were very hopeful that their very simple and practical demands would be enthusiastically implemented by the administration and their villages would become tanker free, but this was not to be. Except in two to three villages, the applications of all the other villages appear to be consigned to the black hole.

Mokhada is certainly the most backward taluka of Palghar district and hits the headlines with unflinching regularity for all the wrong reasons...starvation deaths, epidemics, corruption. More recently, the Mumbai Municipality inaugurated the middle Vaitarna dam situated in Mokhada which will be supplying water to Mumbai. The Hon'ble Chief Minister graced the occasion, but his

visit can best be described as a visit to a Mumbai site in Mokhada, as he did not spare any time for the taluka that sacrificed its land, forest and wells for the dam.

There are over a hundred hamlets in the 28 group gram Panchayats, close to 60% of these hamlets are water starved and tanker affected. The taluka administration admits that they do not have any consolidated information on water sources, schemes, etc. The easy way out in every crisis has been to provide tankers, a business controlled by the politically powerful in the taluka. There is a total absence of governance when it comes to water supply in Mokhada. There is no planning and schemes are undertaken on an ad hoc basis either by NGO's or the neta-contractor combine, who make the proposals, manage the gram sabha resolutions and undertake projects with little or no accountability. Little wonder most water structures like wells and dams are of such poor quality that they are either non functional or in a state of disrepair soon after construction. There are a third set of works which can be described as perverse schemes, like digging of multiple wells where there is no hope of getting water, abandoning projects after siphoning off a large sum of money and adding them to the list of incomplete works, pipelines in dry wells, dams which are silted but not a drop of the impounded water used.

Every year, as the monsoon approaches, the women are insecure that their genuine water issues will be once again be buried in the files until the next crisis in the following summer. In the interim contractors with the support of the corrupt powers that be will be at work, implementing useless schemes, siphoning off lakhs of rupees in the name of providing water to the water starved villages.

ANNEXURES

The following is a brief summary of the applications submitted so far.

1. Group Gram Panchayat, Adoshi, Village Sirusgaon. Application submitted In Nov. 2015.

This is a tanker affected village. Five to six wells have been dug under various schemes but all the wells go dry in summer. There is an old Panchayat well in a state of disrepair (collapsed) which has a perennial source of water. However, this well has not been repaired as it is on private land the owner was not cooperating. After the Pani Hakk Samiti was formed in the village, the women managed to get the owner's consent, and in a joint meeting was held with the Tehsildar, Gramsevak and villagers. The BDO was informed but he did not attend the meeting. It was agreed that the work would commence on the well once the formalities of transferring the land are completed. However, once again the matter has ended in a black hole. Reconstruction of the said well (located in the land of Parshuram Patil) will make the village tanker free.

2. **Gram Panchayat Sakhri, Village Toranshet.** Application submitted on 23/12/2015.

Repair of tube well.

3. **Gram Panchayat Sakhri, Village Borichi vadi.** Application submitted on 26/12/2015.

Severe water shortage due to collapsed well (budki). Request for repair of wells under MNREGA. During the recent storm on May 10, 2016, the drinking water situation worsened further as the collapsed budki was contaminated by dirt flowing down hill. Repeated reminders to the BDO fell on deaf ears. On May 23, 2016, women from the village sat in a dharna before the BDO from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. The BDO promised to send a tanker and repair the budki but refused to give anything in writing. The women report that their children are falling ill on account of drinking contaminated water. If the repair work is not undertaken immediately, the monsoon could spell disaster for the families in Bori chi vadi. **We hope you will take the necessary steps immediately.**

4. **Gram Panchayat Mokhada, Village Morkhadak.** Application submitted on 28/1/2016.

Approximately 35 families forced to drink water from an unprotected source (Khadda). Request for the construction for a well or budki.

5. **Grampanchayat Dolara, Village Sakharvadi and Mohupada.** Application submitted on 29/2/2016.

Completion of repair work of the drinking water well undertaken in the previous year and abandoned. People forced to drink muddy water from the half dug well. This appears to be a classic case of incomplete work where the work is either shown on paper as completed or the funds are exhausted and the work abandoned.

6. **Grampanchayat Koshimshet/Dhamanshet, Village Sonarvadi.** Application submitted on 22/2/2016.

Village has no perennial well. No access road for tanker. Women walk miles to fetch water in summer. Water available in the private land of Namdev Navsu Pardhi who is willing to grant permission to construct a public well. Request that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

7. **Grampanchayat Koshimshet/Dhamanshet, Village Payrichivadi.** Application submitted on 22/2/2016.

Cleaning and disinfection of the only drinking water well abandoned by the villagers as a person died in that well.

Piped Water Supply Schemes

Mokhada has a history of failed water supply schemes. The following applications seek restarting of the defunct schemes or inclusion in existing schemes.

8. **Grampanchayat Koshimshet/Dhamanshet, Village Pendke chi Vadi.** Application submitted on 21/12/2015.

The village suffers severe water shortage. The villagers submitted an application for constructing a storage well near the Pinjal river from which water can be pumped to the village well. Mr. Khadri of the water supply department informed the villagers in February that a water supply scheme had been sanctioned for them under the Thakkar Bappa yojna of the ITDP. He mentioned that a solar pump would be fitted near the storage well and that he had designed a fence of Rs. 1 lakh for the protection of the solar panels. On 29/2/2016 the villagers submitted another application to the P.O. and Tehsildar suggesting that the solar panels be fixed in the hamlet as people from other villages come to the Pendka for fishing and often use dynamite which can damage the solar panel. The villagers would be able to take better care of the panels if they are installed in the village and the cost of fencing could also be saved.

Upon inquiring with the P.O. Jawhar recently regarding the status of the proposed scheme, the villagers were shocked to find out that the scheme has now been diverted to Dhamanshet and the solar pump is to be installed in a well that runs dry in summer. Can this be rectified?

9. Gram Panchayat Poshera, Pardhya chi Met. Application submitted on 14/1/2016.

The villagers seek restoration of pipeline and piped water supply. Need for consultation regarding payment of pending bills if any.

10. Grampanchayat Sakhri, Village Gonde Khurd Application submitted on 28/1/2016.

The village faces severe water shortage. Piped water supply scheme functioned for a total of one day after inauguration. The reason being insufficient water in the storage well. Water from the Palaspada dam can be drained into the well by gravity. A canal already exists. What is lacking is the will to make the scheme functional.

11. Grampanchayat Poshera, Village Pawar Pada Application submitted on 28/1/2016.

Water shortage begins in November. Repair of village well, recharge well with water from the Palaspada dam which can flow by gravity.

12. Grampanchayat Jogal wadi Application submitted on 28/1/2016.

Tanker affected village. Storage well in the river and water pumped to the village as the distance is over one Km. which the women are forced to trudge today carrying multiple pots of water.

13. Grampanchayat Sayda, Village Maruti chi Vadi Application submitted on 5/2/2016.

The distance between the village and sources of drinking water is long and women have to climb a steep slope with multiple pots of water. A piped water supply scheme has been in place for over a year but the motor has not been fitted. Request to fit a motor or solar pump as soon as possible.

14. Grampanchayat Khoch, Village Pimpalgaon Application submitted on 5/2/2016.

Village is water starved despite the close proximity to the Palaspada and Khoch dams. A piped water supply scheme was in existence 12 to 13 years ago. Villagers pray that the wells in the village be recharged by draining water into the well from either of the dams. If possible, the piped water supply scheme should be restored.

15. Grampanchayat Udhla Hatti Pada Application submitted on 11/3/2016

Severe water shortage December onwards. Construction of storage well in the river from where water can be pumped into the well.

16. Grampanchayat Botoshi, Village Pathardi Patil Pada Application submitted on 17/3/2016. The village has no source of water after the month of March and women have to walk long distances. A river flows at a distance of one Km. from the village. Request to construct a storage well and pump the water to the village.

17. Grampanchayat Berista, Village Navi vadi Application submitted on 17/3/2016.

Storage well in the river and water pumped into the well.

18. Grampanchayat Gomghar, Banachi vadi Application submitted on 17/3/2016.

Cleaning and disinfection of Vangnachi vihir.

19. Grampanchayat Karegaon-Kochale, Village Karegaon. Application submitted on 17/3/2016.
Expedite the work of the pipeline and provide tanker in the interim.

20. Grampanchayat Chaas, Village Chikan Pada. Application submitted on 17/3/2016.
Storage well in the river and water pumped into the well.

21. Grampanchayat Koshimshet/Dhamanshet, Village Beduk Pada. Application submitted on 6/5/2016.

There is an existing water supply scheme from the Sadak vadi well for sadak vadi. Beduk pada, the adjoining hamlet equidistant from the well is excluded from the scheme. Ironically the well is in the land of a resident of Beduk pada. The villagers seek inclusion in the scheme

Hospital Tanker data for 2014-15

Contractor: Sarvesh Water Supply, Vashale, Taluka Mokhada.

No	Check No.	Date	Category	Amount	Remarks
	7283	/3/14	st. fund	14 600	
	7190	1/2015	S	14 00	
	0923	/1/2015	prapanji	14 400	3/14 to 16/3/14
	3295	/2/2015	MG	15 00	
	1307	3/2015	S	14 000	
	1971	3/2015	prapanji	14 400	13/3/2014 to 12/4/2014
	1319	11/1015	MG	15 000	13/3/2015 to 7/6/2015
		5/2014 to 4/7/2014	NDING		600
		6/2015 to 21/7/2015	NDING		cluded in the 72600 above

13/4/14 to 4/5/2014 – Bill missing

5/5/2014 to 22/5/2014 – Bill of Rs. 30,000 pending.

23/5/2014 to 16/6/2014 Bill missing

16/6/2014 to 4/7/2014 Bill of Rs. 33,600 pending.

The data in the table is a partial response to an RTI, the data regarding the missing bills and pending bills was not provided despite asking for it under RTI. What is given above was forcibly copied from the diary of the admin officer in the hospital because he denied us the information under RTI. He also refused to give the period of the bill.