

Progress and Impact of the Jal Jeevan Mission: A Comprehensive Study

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Abstract: *A basic prerequisite for both human health and sustainable development is access to clean drinking water. In order to provide Functional family Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural family by 2024, the Indian government established the mission called Jal Jeevan (JJM) in 2019. This study assesses the mission's execution in rural India in terms of its impact, progress, and difficulties. The study makes use of secondary data including government evaluations, government papers, and development studies. Results show that more over 15 crore rural homes were connected to piped for drinking systems, with rural tap water coverage rising sharply from 17% in 2019 to roughly 78–80% by 2024. The mission has raised living standards in rural areas, decreased the load on women who collect water, and improved public health results. But problems including groundwater depletion, infrastructural sustainability, financial shortages in supplies, and the quality of water continue to be major obstacles. The analysis comes to the conclusion that, even though the mission is one of the biggest rural water delivery initiatives in the world, long-term success depends on ongoing governmental changes and community involvement.*

Keywords: *Jal Jeevan Mission, Rural Development, Drinking Water Supply, Sustainable Development, Public Health, India*

1. Introduction

Human survival, economic growth, and environmental sustainability all depend on water. A key component of Sustainable Development Goal 6, which seeks to guarantee that everyone has access to safe water and sanitation, is access to clean drinking water, which is acknowledged as a fundamental human right. Access to clean drinking water has historically been a serious difficulty in rural India, despite tremendous progress in many industries. Only 3.23 crore rural households (about 17%) had tap water connections prior to the Jal Jeevan Mission's 2019 beginning, requiring many families to rely on wells, rivers, ponds, and hand pumps. In order to close this gap and guarantee that every rural household has access to piped water, the Jal Jeevan Mission was started on August 15, 2019.

The initiative has made great strides, according to recent data. Nearly 16 crore rural homes (roughly 78.6%) had tap water connections as of October 2024, indicating a significant advancement in rural infrastructure. The investigation focuses at the Jal Jeevan Mission's successes, socioeconomic implications, and challenges.

2. Objectives of the Study

The primary objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the policy framework and goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission.
2. To evaluate the progress made in providing rural tap water connections.
3. To examine the socio-economic and public health impacts of the program.
4. To identify key challenges in implementation.
5. To provide policy recommendations for improving sustainability and efficiency.



3. Literature Review

Scholarly research and government reports highlight the transformative potential of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Government reports and academic studies emphasize the Jal Jeevan Mission's revolutionary potential. According to government data, the mission has greatly increased access to tap water, from 17% of rural households in 2019 to over 78% in 2024. Additionally, the initiative has improved mechanisms for monitoring water quality. As a result of increasing community involvement, more than 24 lakh women have received training on how to use field testing kits to assess the quality of drinking water.

Furthermore, the availability of clean drinking water in almost 9 lakh schools and Anganwadi centers has improved sanitation and health.

However, a number of studies and audits have found problems such as contamination in some areas, groundwater depletion, and erroneous reporting.

Overall, the literature suggests that the Jal Jeevan Mission has achieved remarkable progress but still faces sustainability and governance challenges.

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Research Design

The study adopts a **descriptive and analytical research design** using secondary data sources.

4.2 Data Sources

Data was collected from:

- Government reports from the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Policy research publications
- Development studies and academic journals
- News and statistical databases

4.3 Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed through:

- Trend analysis
- Comparative analysis
- Case study evaluation

5. Progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission

5.1 Growth in Tap Water Coverage

Table 1: Growth of Rural Tap Water Connections in India

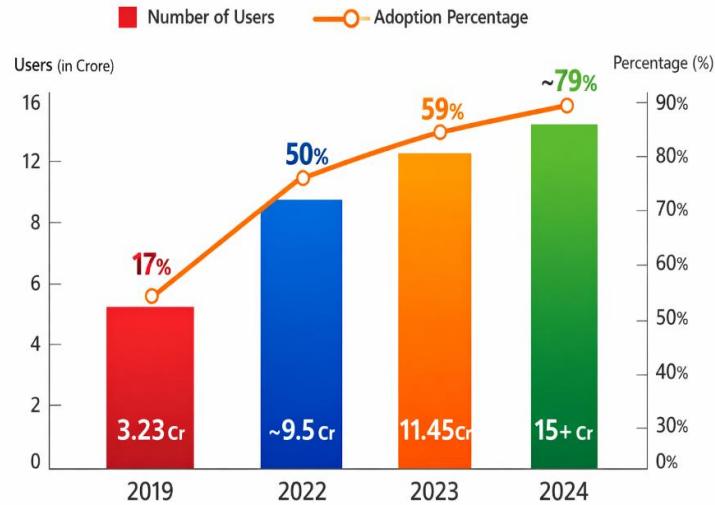
Year	Rural Household with Tap water	Percentage coverage
2019	3.23 crore	17%
2022	9.5 crore	50%
2023	11.45 crore	59%
2024	15+ crore	78-80%

Source: Ministry of Jal Shakti reports.

The rapid increase in coverage demonstrates the scale and effectiveness of the mission.



5.2 Graph: Growth of Tap Water Coverage



Tap Water Coverage (%)

5.3 Institutional Framework The Jal Jeevan Mission operates through a **cooperative federal structure**:



This decentralized model promotes local participation and accountability.

6. Socio-Economic Impact of the Mission

6.1 Public Health Improvements

Waterborne illnesses like these are less common when people have access to clean drinking water.

- Diarrhea
- Cholera



- Typhoid Sanitation and hygiene standards are also improved by an improved water supply.

6.2 Empowerment of Women

Traditionally, rural women collected water from far-off sources for several hours every day. This load is lessened when tap water is available at home, enabling women to: Engage in activities that generate revenue.

- Continue your schooling
- Take on leadership roles in the community.

6.3 Educational Impact

Improved water facilities in schools have enhanced hygiene conditions and attendance among students.

More than **9.29 lakh schools and Anganwadi centers now have access to clean drinking water**, improving child health and sanitation.

6.4 Rural Economic Development

Reliable water supply contributes to improved productivity, better sanitation, and enhanced quality of life in rural communities.

7. Case Studies

Case Study 1: Obtaining Broad Coverage in Goa

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Goa was among the first states to get 100% tap water coverage for rural households. The following factors were credited with the success:

- Robust local government
- Efficient management of water resources • Investment in early infrastructure

Case Study 2: Rapid Infrastructure Development in Telangana

Large-scale water infrastructure projects were successfully carried out in Telangana to give rural households access to tap water. Effective cooperation between local and state governments was crucial.

Case Study 3: Implementation Difficulties in Punjab

In certain areas of Punjab, audits found differences between stated coverage and real water access. There have also been reports of problems including water contamination and groundwater depletion.

This emphasizes the necessity of more sustainable water management and better monitoring.

8. Obstacles and Restrictions

Despite tremendous advancements, a number of obstacles still exist.

8.1 Sustainability of Water Sources

The long-term availability of water is threatened in many areas by excessive groundwater exploitation.

8.2 Issues with Water Quality

In some districts, nitrate, fluoride, and arsenic contamination is still a serious problem.

8.3 Upkeep of Infrastructure

Continuous investment is needed to maintain treatment facilities, pumps, and pipes.

8.4 Financial and Administrative Concerns

There have been reports of financing and project execution delays in a few states.



9. Policy Recommendations

1. Make rainfall collecting and groundwater management systems stronger.
2. Use cutting-edge testing methods to enhance water quality monitoring.
3. Boost community involvement in water governance.
4. Improve accountability and openness in project execution.
5. Make investments in climate-resilient systems and sustainable water infrastructure.

10. Conclusion

One of the world's most ambitious rural water supply initiatives is the **Jal Jeevan Mission. The program's coverage of tap water has increased from 17% to almost 80% of rural homes since it began in 2019. In rural India, the mission has raised living standards, empowered rural women, and improved public health. However, resolving issues with groundwater depletion, water quality, and infrastructure upkeep are necessary for long-term sustainability.

The Jal Jeevan Mission has the ability to guarantee that everyone has access to clean drinking water and make a substantial contribution to sustained rural development with ongoing policy support, technological advancement, and community involvement

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