



Community Participation in *Jal Jeevan Mission*

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Context

Jal Jeevan Mission aims to involve communities throughout the process of universal Functional Household Tap Connection provision across India, but questions remain about the extent of community participation

Approach

Drawing upon secondary literature, Jal Jeevan Mission dashboard and guidelines, studies, publications, and field observations we examined the extent of community participation and shared recommendations.

Context: Progress on key components

According to JJM Integrated MIS:

- **57% Households have Functional Tap Connections**
- **80 million additional connections given till Jan 2023**

However, in financial year 2022–23

Spending on **capacity-building** is nil in 1/3rd of states/UTs

1/3rd of states/union territories have not shown desired progress in different **BCC/ IEC** components

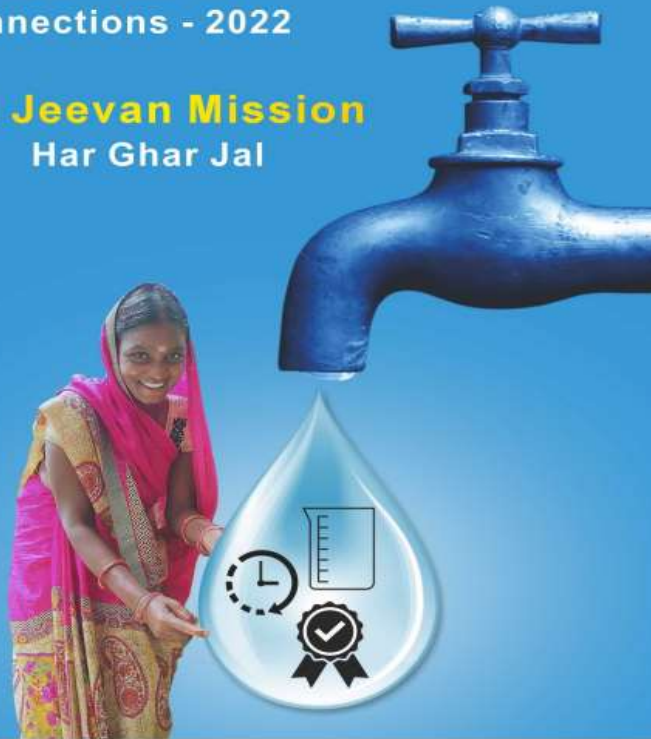
Half the states/union territories have not spent anything on **skill-building of community members**

10 states/union territories have not spent anything on engaging **Implementation Support Agencies**

Context: Internal Functionality Assessment by JJM

Functionality Assessment
of Household Tap
Connections - 2022

Jal Jeevan Mission
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62% of FHTCs have **functionality** (in terms of quality, quantity, and regularity of supply)

38% of villages have Village Water & Sanitation Committees

14% of VWSCs are given responsibility for the operations and maintenance

31% of villages have skilled manpower for operations and maintenance

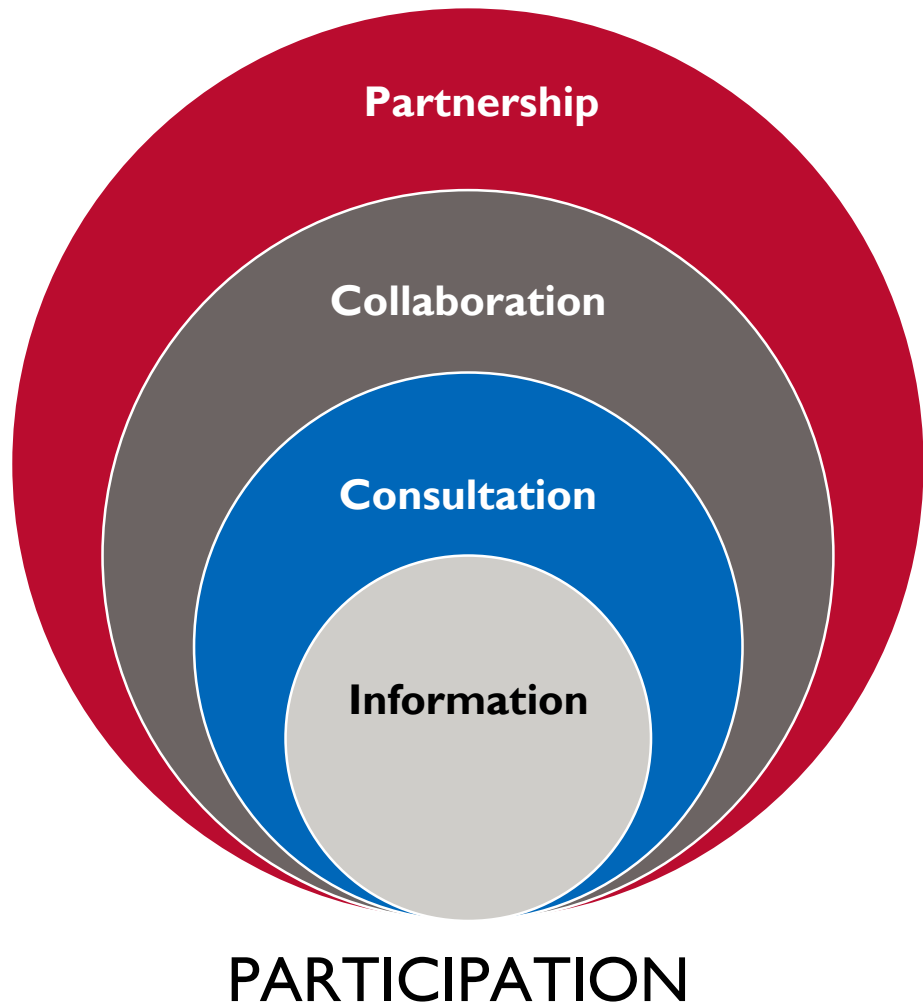
30% of villages reported availability of **Field-testing Kits**

31% of villages had a person **trained** to use Field-testing Kits



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Findings: Insights from field visits in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu



- Information to community and users about the scheme are token or minimal in most instances—through the mandatory Gram Sabhas
- User consultation in the processes of Village Action Planning and design is nil to minimal
- A large chunk of villages/ GPs receive (planned) water through multi-village schemes
- Handing over rural water supply infrastructure to communities at a later stage may hinder collaboration of people in sharing of costs and in operations/ maintenance
- Top-down or district-driven approach in many instances are not enabling community partnership and participation

Without the right set of people and capacities, the sustainability of Jal Jeevan Mission is at risk (Nayyar 2023)

Key Lessons Learned

Community-centric approach will be essential for the success and sustainability of Jal Jeevan Mission

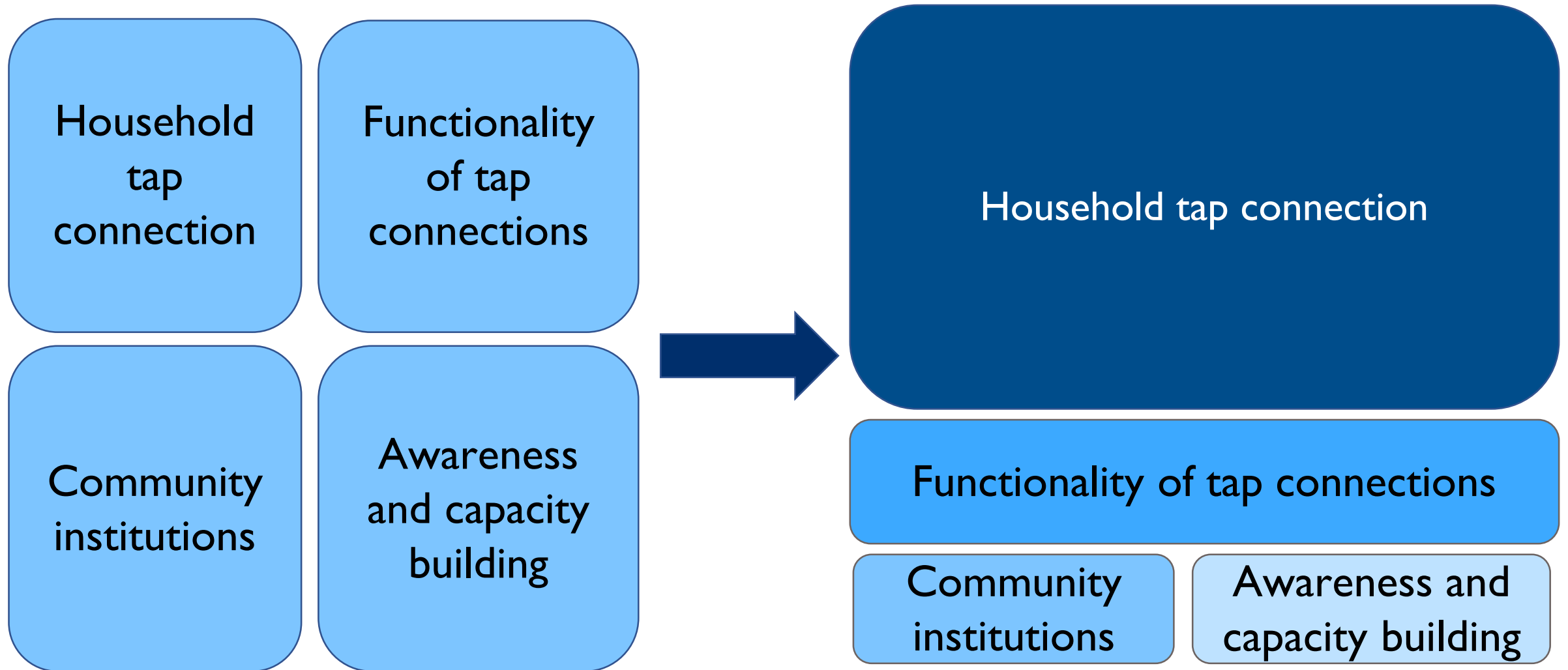
- Operations and maintenance as well as scheme sustainability depends on the strengths community institutions
- Demand-side approach would ensure sustainable water resource management
- Water quality is a priority; community participation is critical to ensure it

Lack of skill/capacity-building and awareness generation is hampering effective community participation

Top-down or district-driven focus limited to infrastructure creation within the stipulated timeframe is creating a lack of ownership at the Gram Panchayat level

Systems and processes are required to boost community participation and ensure adherence to JJM guidelines

Key Lessons: Jal Jeevan Mission Concept and Reality



Way Forward

- Changing the sequence of activities
 - Components related to community participation and capacity building should be aligned with the planning and infrastructure progress
 - This needs to be clearly laid out in the guidelines
- Build a Framework with Village, Block and District level interfaces and provide all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions with an additional layer of monetary incentives for achieving functionality through community participation
- Reemphasize central roles of Implementation Support Agencies for community mobilization, education, skill/ capacity building and behavior change measures
- Monitor adherence to guidelines
 - Relatively the Jal Jeevan Mission guidelines had incorporated all concerns in one or other way but there is no sound mechanism for compliance.
 - Example: Inclusion of social heterogeneities, localised solutions, Implementation Support Agencies
- Better late than never!

Thank You



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