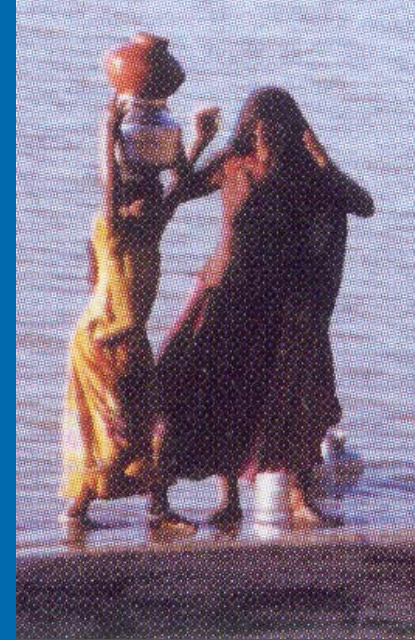


Negotiation Processes in Institutionalising Grassroots Level Water Governance: Case of Self Employed Women's Association, Gujarat, India

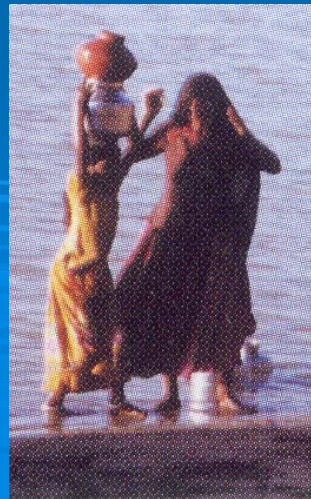


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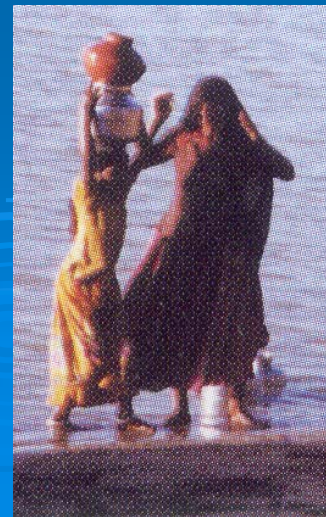
Plan of Presentation

- Introduction
- SEWA and its water Campaign
- Negotiation Processes by women's groups – Two Cases
- Lessons



Introduction

- **People-centered water governance**
- **Initiatives by civil society organisation**
- **Grassroots institution and negotiation processes**
- **Gender as an organising principle**



Self Employed Women's Association

- Member-based Organisation of poor women workers in informal sector
- It is in existence since 1972
- SEWA's rural initiative started in 1989 and since then 2/3rd of its membership is from rural areas
- Membership
 - 7,70,000 across India
 - 5,35,000 in Gujarat



SEWA's GOAL



➤ Full Employment

- Security of Work, Income and Food
- Social Security : Healthcare, Childcare, Insurance and Shelter

• Self Reliance

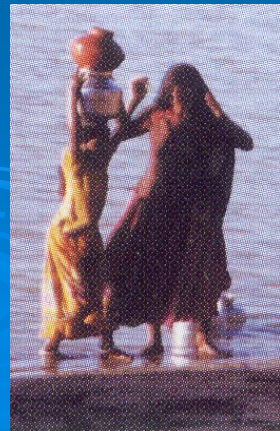
- Independent
- Economically Self-reliant
- Decision-making Ability



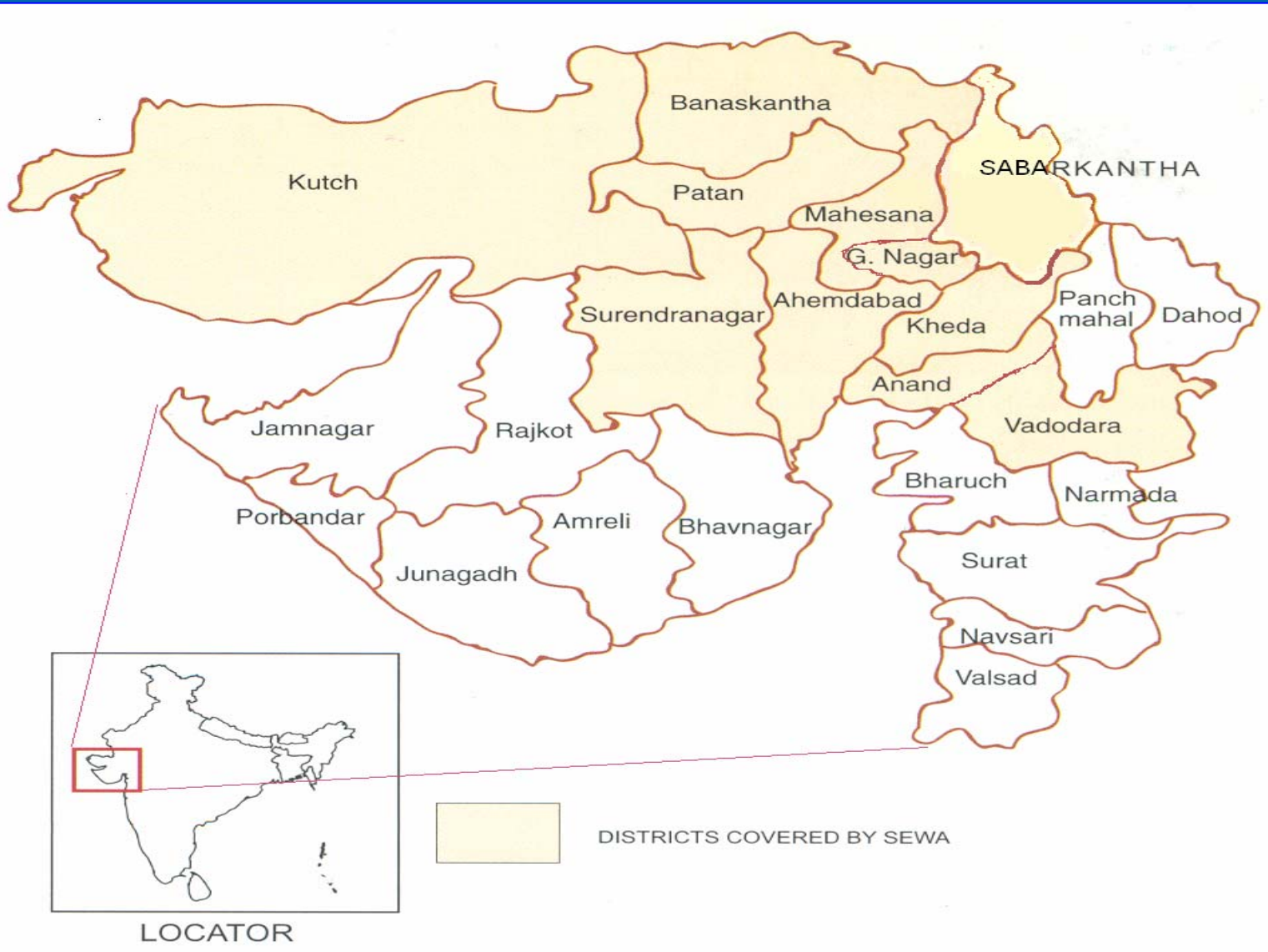
For achieving its goal SEWA follows an integrated approach

SEWA's Strategies

1. Organising women – collective voice
2. Capacity building – owners and managers
3. Capital formation – group & community
4. Social security – enhance women's well being and productivity

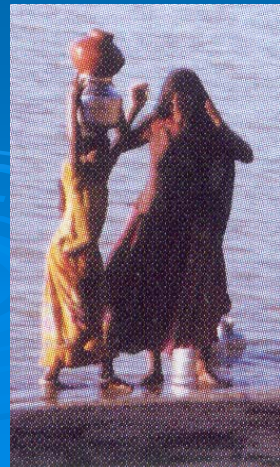


SEWA's Outreach



SEWA's Water Campaign

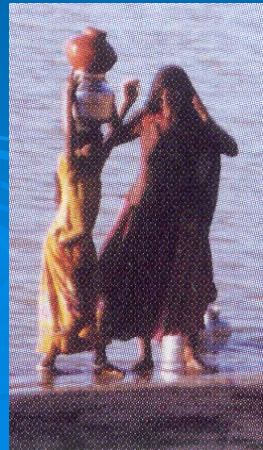
- Women, water and work campaign or Millenium water campaign – started in 1995
- Spread across 500 villages across 11 districts involving 200,000 women
- Well coordinated, decentralised approach to water management, involving various stakeholders at state, district and village levels



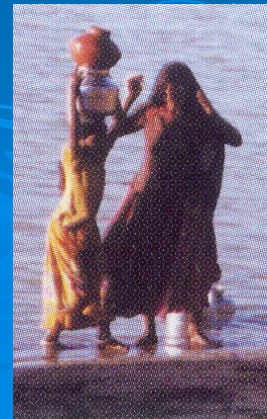
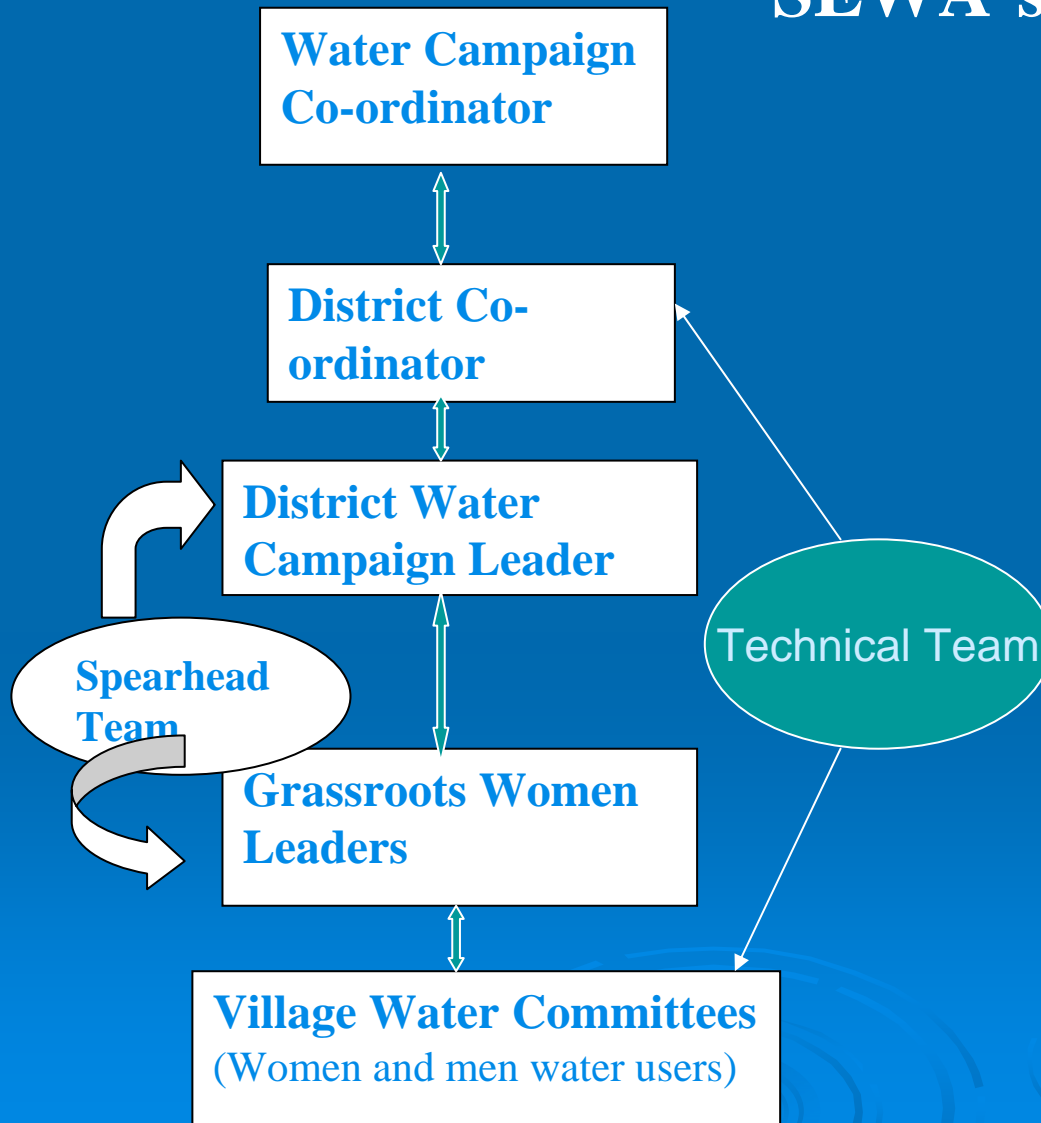
SEWA's Water Campaign

Objectives

- Water user groups or pani samitis at the grassroots level
- Capacity building – leadership and technical
- Facilitate women's ownership of water resources – registration of structures
- Forge links with other organisations – nationally and internationally to promote gender-responsive water policies

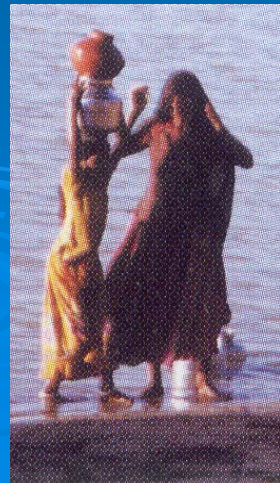


Organisation Structure of SEWA's Water Campaign



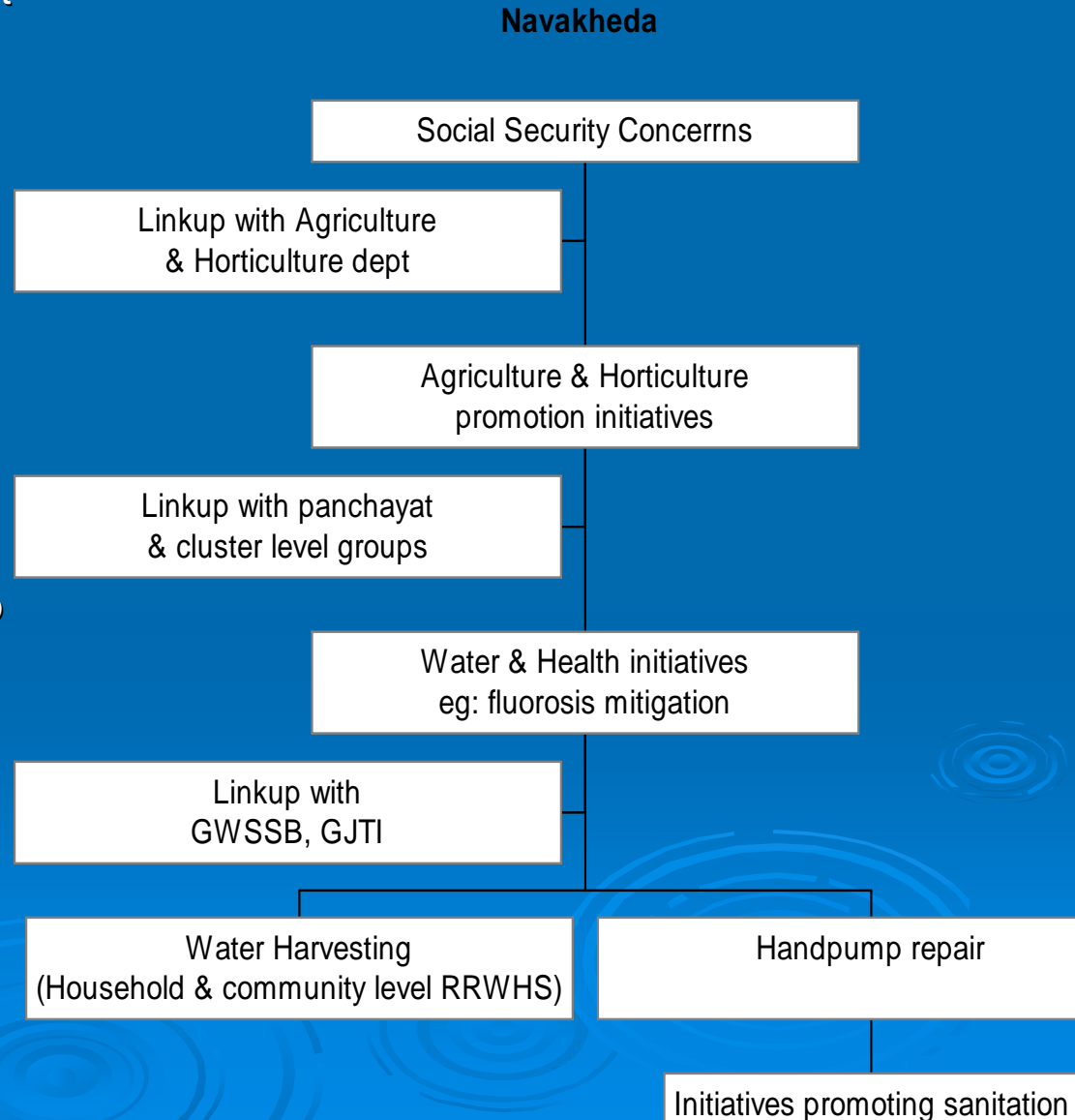
Achievements of the Water Campaign

1. Construction of roof rainwater harvesting structures
2. Construction of plastic-lined ponds
3. Operation and maintenance of rural piped water supply scheme
4. Repair and maintenance of handpumps
5. Revival of traditional sources of water
6. Installation of pulley systems in surface wells



Navakheda

- Sub-village cluster, without any access to drinking water; neglected by the majority and ignored by Government
- Motivated and guided them for self-reliance in water by RRWHS, water recharging for wells, install handpumps, reduce wastage in agriculture and reuse wastewater.
- In the same region (2 talukas) SEWA trained illiterate women groups to become technically proficient for handpump maintenance & repair.
- Awareness and motivation for community sanitation for access to clean water at the handpumps
(Need to explore different strategies at different levels)



Rainwater harvesting



SEWA 2003

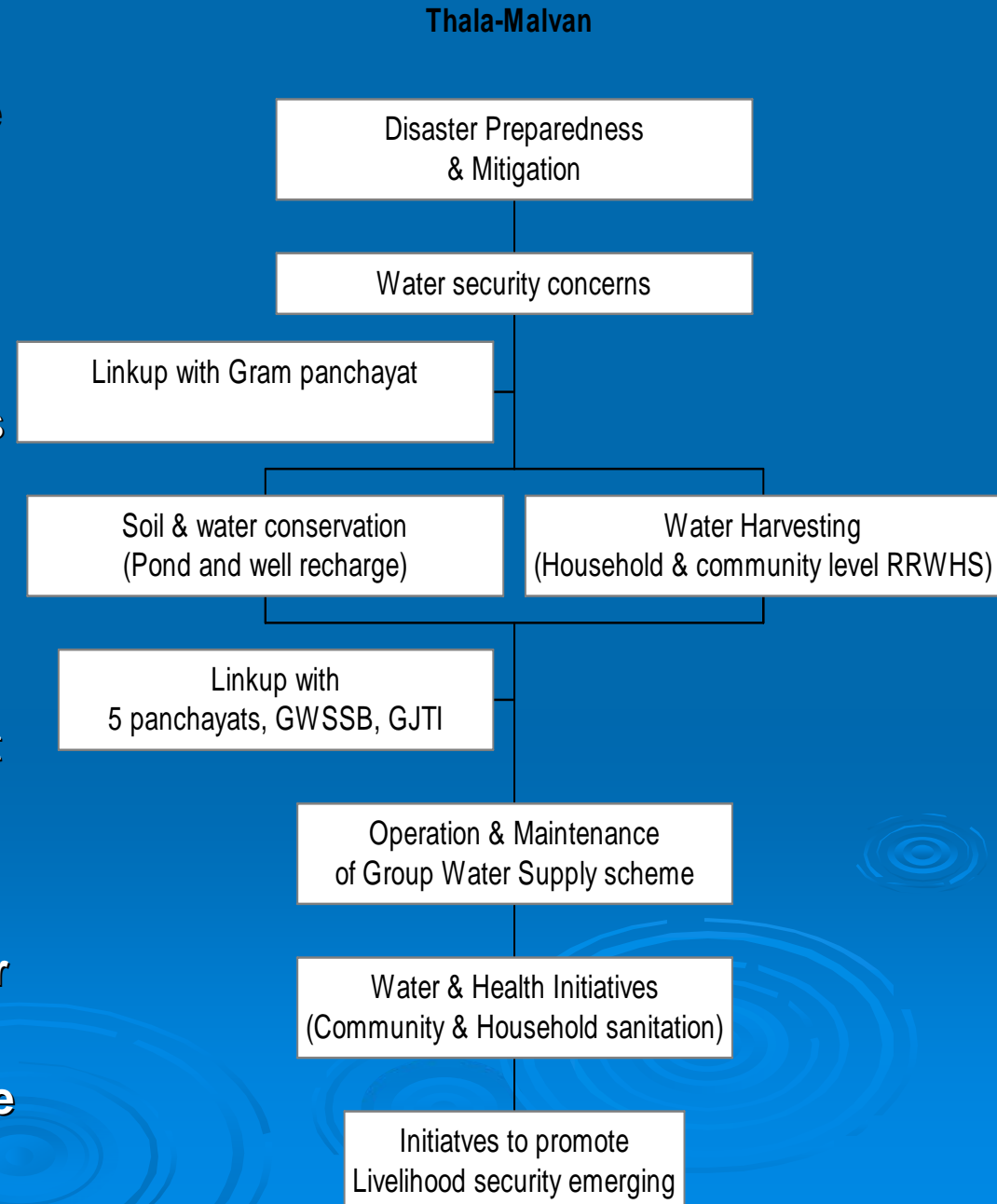
Handpump repair by SEWA women



SEWA 2003

Thala-Malvan

- Operation and maintenance of piped water supply scheme by technically trained community based women's unit in 5 villages
- Simultaneously promoted RRWHS, revival of traditional sources like wells & ponds
- Initiated awareness and dialogue for community monitoring and ownership-though not fully successful
- Collection of user charges-also initiated , going against the populist political forces at village level.
(Multi-pronged strategy-negotiating with Govt to improve accountability for basic service and asking communities to take responsibility for resource use)





SEWA 2003 – pipeline maintenance by women

Lessons

- *Negotiation processes* contribute to the development strategy – improved water availability, better livelihoods, health and sanitation and overall well-being of the communities
- Formation of strong grassroots *women's institutions*
- Formation of a *technical cadre* – barefoot managers
- Transcend *social barriers* (caste, class and ethnicity to come together)
- *Collective action* and political voice – to dialogue with the state

THANK YOU

