





Azmatun walks several miles to collect water for cleaning purposes from an open water source in Saipur Maafi village in Chitrakoot district of Uttar



The open water source from where the community members of Saipur Maafi village in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh collect water every day.



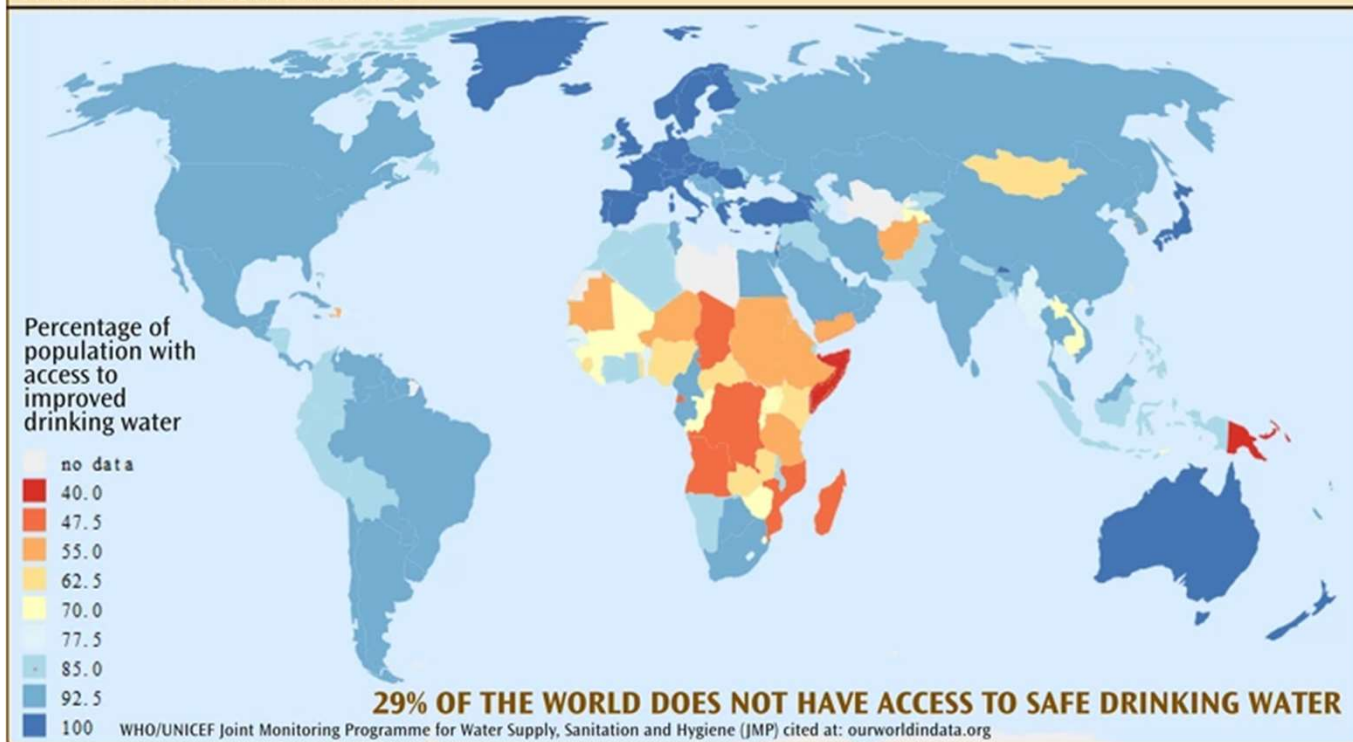
Azmatun also works at a wheat field in Saipur Maafi village in Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh, India.

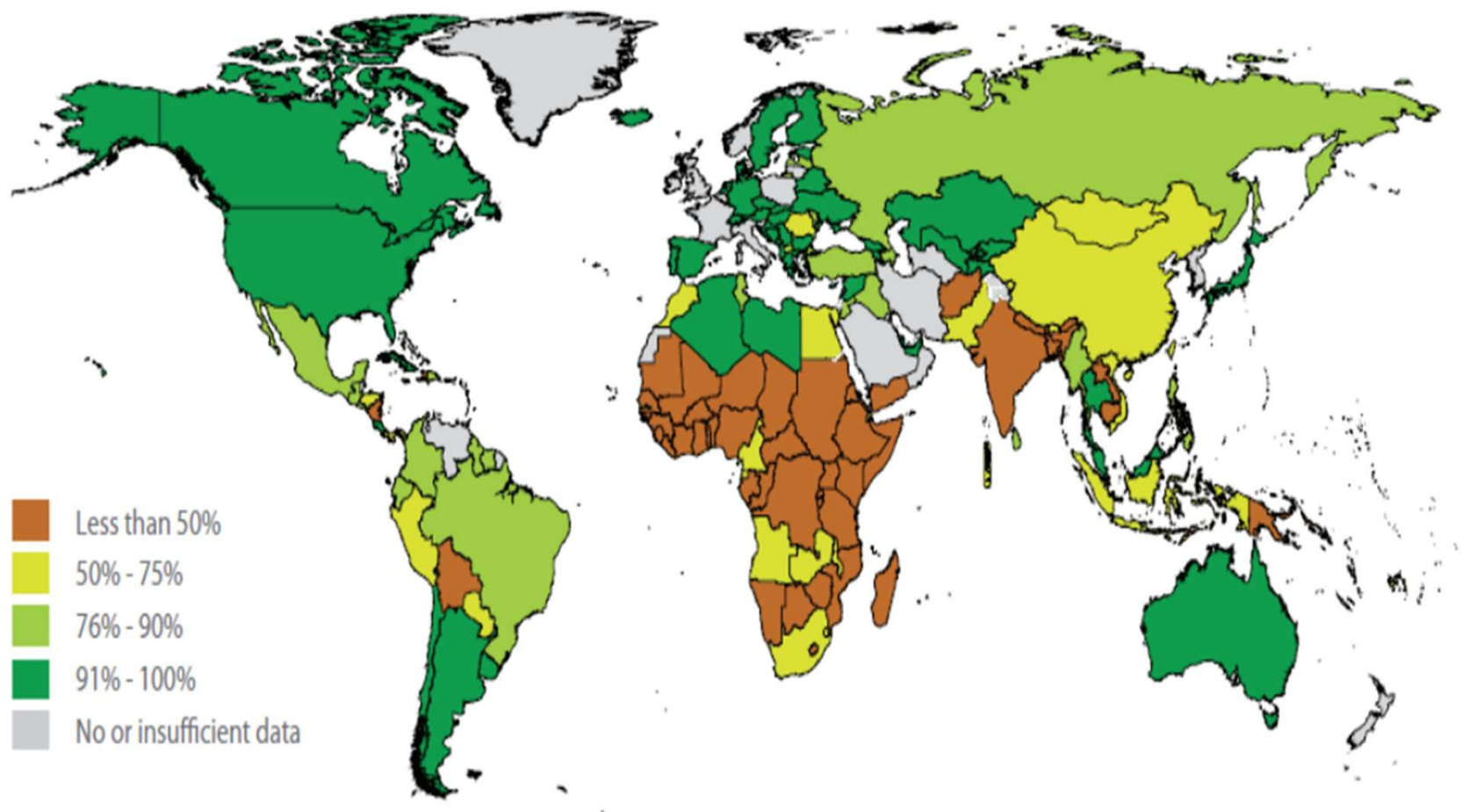


Azmatun collects drinking water from a hand pump in her village.

PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCE

AN IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCE INCLUDES PIPED WATER ON PREMISES (PIPED HOUSEHOLD WATER CONNECTION LOCATED INSIDE THE USER'S DWELLING, PLOT OR YARD), AND OTHER IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCES (PUBLIC TAPS OR STANDPIPES, TUBE WELLS OR BOREHOLES, PROTECTED DUG WELLS, PROTECTED SPRINGS, AND RAINWATER COLLECTION). HAVING ACCESS TO AN IMPROVED WATER SOURCE INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT DRINKING WATER IS CLEAN AND SAFE, BUT IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT IT IS FREE FROM CONTAMINATION.





Percentage of population lacking improved sanitation in 2012

There are 46 countries where less than half the population has access to an improved sanitation facility

Source: UNICEF and WHO 2014

Human Right to Water, 2010 UN Resolution



In **2010**
the UN declared
access to clean water
and sanitation
a Human Right



Millennium Development Goal
7 calls to “Halve, by 2015,
the proportion of the population
without sustainable access
to safe drinking water
and basic sanitation”



2.6
billion people lack
access to basic
sanitation (3)



884
million people
in the world do not have
access to safe
drinking-water (3)

- (1) According to the World Health Organization (WHO)
(2) According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
(3) According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)



Between
50 and 100
liters of water per person
per day are needed
to ensure most basic
needs (1)



The water source
has to be within
1,000
meters from home (1)



Water cost should
not exceed **3** per
cent of household
income (2)



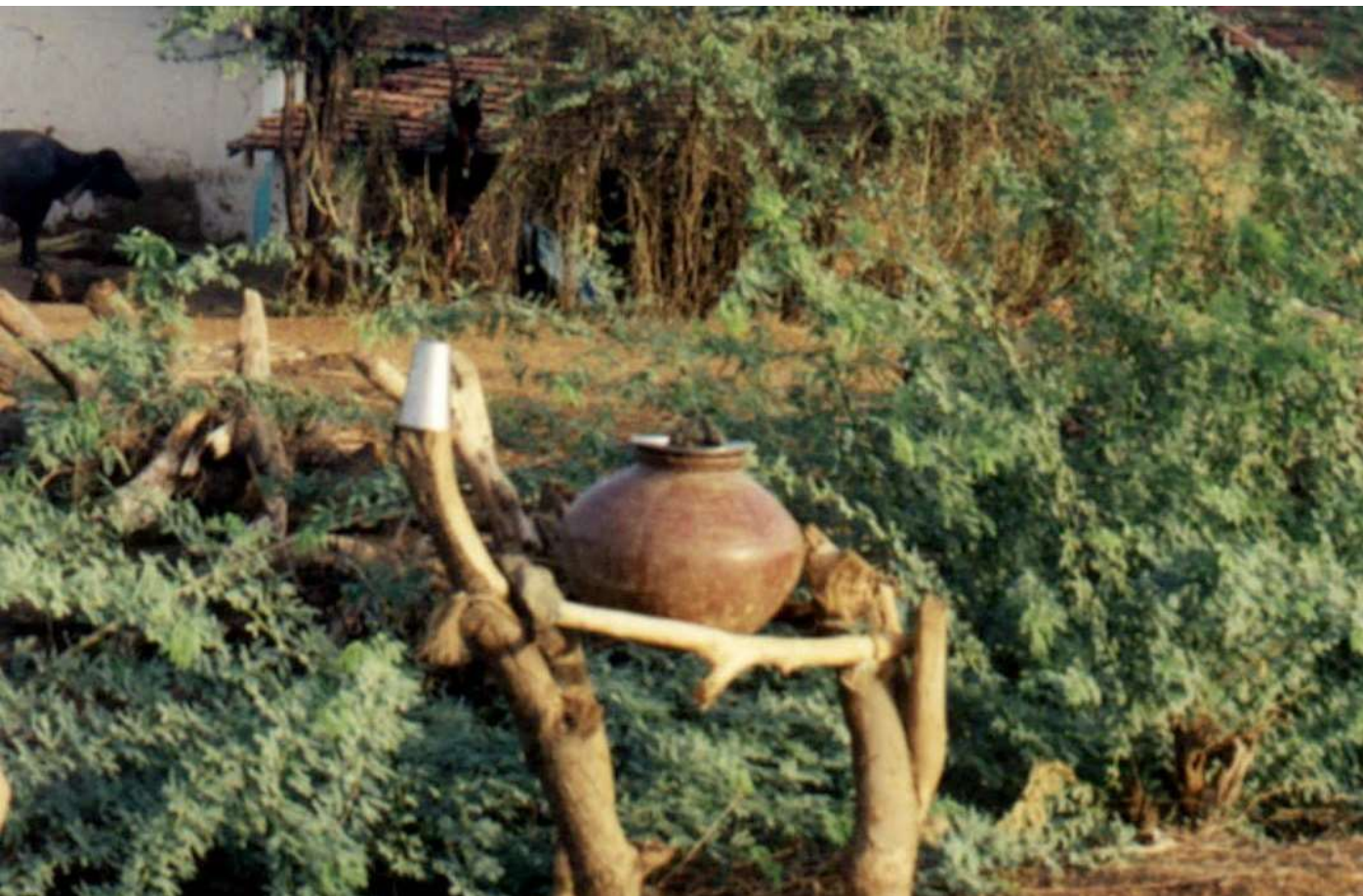
Collection time
should not exceed
30 minutes (1)

UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

Sustainable Development Goals, 2015,
United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA)



Source: <https://www.globalgoals.org/media-centre/>;
<https://www.ngof.org/>



Paanpoi near Solapur Bazaar police station donated by Shri Vivek Yadav.

Access to water for everyone

Caste Politics and Water

- In 1923, a resolution moved by C.K. Bole in the Bombay Legislative Council was passed which clearly stated that no form of caste discrimination should be practised and everyone should be allowed access to water from all public watering places, wells and *dharmshalas*. In spite of such a resolution, the discriminatory practices continued.
- In 1927, thousands of Dalits (lower castes) walked to the Chavdar Lake in Mahad village, Raigadh district to claim their moral and legal right to access a public water body under the leadership of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- This was later known as the Mahad Satyagraha. However, after drinking the water from the tank, the Dalit community was brutally attacked by the upper castes.

The 1927 Mahad Satyagraha



Source: <https://confluence.mumbaiwaternarratives.in/water-equity/exhibit02.php>



The
Grindmill
Songs Project



Songs 222-235

pari

People's Archive of Rural India
ruralindiaonline.org

**‘We were beaten when we asked
for our right to water...’**

– Kusum Sonawane

Over 110,000 songs by rural women

Performed by over 3302 singers

Across 1107 villages in Maharashtra

And 17 in Karnataka



WOMEN , DALITS , VIDEOZONE , AUDIOZONE • APRIL 13, 2018

Fighting for water is fighting inequality

Source: <https://ruralindiaonline.org/en/articles/fighting-for-water-is-fighting-inequality/>

The Fight For Water



Tripti Pathak | Shaheed School, Raipur | Age: 13

Water For All Policy



In November 2016, the Pani Haq Samiti organised ‘Pani Pilao Abhiyan’ for migrants, refugees, slum dwellers and homeless in Mumbai.

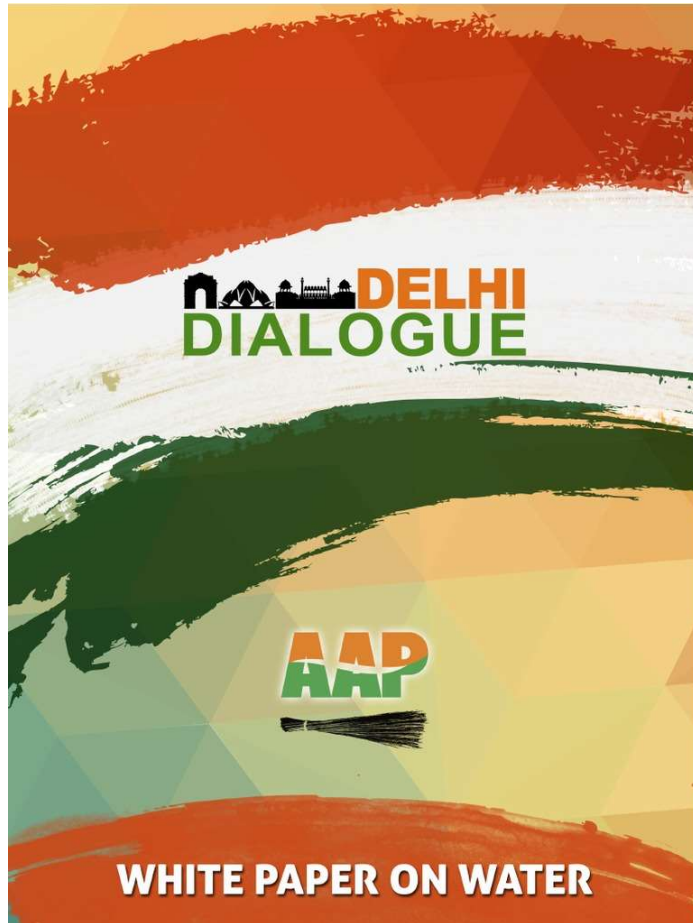
Around 1000 people participated in the Abhiyan.

School dropouts, children, homeless, women and men from 19 communities came to Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) headquarters to submit their application for water along with a water bottle from their home to give to the Municipal Commissioner and Mayor.

In May 2022 this policy was further amended.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/panihaqsamiti/photos/684112561751730>
<https://confluence.mumbaiwaternarratives.in/water-equity/exhibit01.php>

‘Jal Swaraj’



In 2015, the Aam Admi Party (AAP), the ruling political party in Delhi announced that it will provide ‘water as a basic right’ to all residents by bringing about changes in the Delhi Jal (Water) Board Act.

A new system which promised the provision of 20,000 litres/month free water to a family of 4, anything above this amount was to be charged.

A time-bound plan of action to cover all households with piped water and sewage networks irrespective of their legal status – planned or non-planned, authorised or unauthorised, regularised or non-regularised.

Challenges

- limited political power and the huge demand
- supply gap which raises the issue of sustainability