In India, more than 1,600 children under five years of age die each day, only due to diarrhea, caused by lack of sanitation and hygiene. Water-related diseases cost the Indian economy 73 million working days each year. These health, environmental, and economic consequences are huge, and improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is essential to India’s long term prosperity and sustainability.

Since its inception 20 years ago, MHT has been enabling access to basic services like water, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management, for the urban and rural poor. MHT mobilizes and empowers the poor communities, particularly women, to demand and enable better WASH services for themselves. Simultaneously MHT works with local governments as well as public and private service providers to make basic service delivery more effective, inclusive, transparent and accountable. Together, we build conducive eco-systems at the local level to enable the human right of access to WASH for everyone.

Our 360° Approach towards Enabling Access to Water & Sanitation

1. Mobilize communities to demand better services
2. Build capacities of CBOs to collect & maintain data on services
3. Demystify government schemes and facilitate legal service connections
4. Provide technical assistance for construction
5. Enable access to finance
6. Organize & train CBOs to maintain & manage infrastructure
7. Influence policy towards pro-poor service delivery

Engage, Empower, & Enable!
Transforming Slums and Rural Habitats

We believe that the most effective way of bringing water and sanitation services at the grassroots level is through community mobilization. MHT organizes and trains women-led Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to act as a link between the government, service providers & communities to enable this transformation. MHT also brings in technical expertise to devise cost effective solutions for urban and rural areas, and provides micro-loans to families for construction of facilities.

RaziaBen Pathan from Baba Lavlavi Nagar, Ahmedabad narrates her tale:

“There was no privacy, dignity and respect for women in the neighborhood. We had to go to the river bed to defecate, with men and women sitting opposite each other. Women were constantly ridiculed and harassed. I almost lost my second child when some men attempted to molest me. I was five months pregnant and having contracted diarrhea, had gone to the river bed alone, when I was attacked. I was able to escape but I could not risk the future of my daughter in this area. I sent her to live with the family in our village.

Thanks to Parivartan, my daughter has now joined us. Parivartan made it possible for us to get a toilet in the house, the road outside is paved and there are street lights. The Corporation also regularly collects waste! ”

Outreach and Impact

- Mobilized communities, and facilitated formation of more than 700 CBOs
- Enabled over 1 lakh poor families to access basic services.
- Leveraged 200 million through Govt. supported programs to finance infrastructure improvements in slums. Raised 420 million in community contribution
- Enabled micro loans worth 47.5 million for water and sanitation improvements
- Households with improved services reported improved health and 56% decrease in medical expenses
- Improved sanitation results in a time saving of 1-1.5 hours per day (especially for women) and contributes to increased productivity.