

An unending tryst with Climate Change to secure life and livelihood

“When will tapped water connection reach my home?”, Rajaram Valmiki R/o Jalaun district, Bundelkhand region, Uttar Pradesh



I have been living in my village for 42 years, and the only reliable water source for me and other families was a borewell hand pump. Unfortunately, it is not functioning anymore, and despite my pleas to get it fixed, the authorities are not responding. The *Har Ghar Nal Har Ghar Jal* scheme promised to provide drinking water to households, but it has failed to deliver to people like me, who are struggling to survive. As a manual scavenger, I cannot go to other water sources due to untouchability practices and the nature of my work. I don't even have a house to live in, and my dilapidated structure collapsed in last year's flash flood, but no assistance was provided to rebuild it. We need a functional water connection and a house to survive, and it's not just me, but many villagers like me who are living in dire conditions.

Are you aware that there are people in our country who don't have access to clean drinking water and are facing a near-death situation? Rajaram is one of them. The Har Ghar Nal Har Ghar Jal under the Jal Jeevan Mission national scheme of the Government has not ensured functional water connection to Rajaram and many like him. This is one of the largest climate change adaptation schemes of the Government promising drinking water supply to the households. I do not even have a house and live in this dilapidated structure. My house collapsed in the previous year's flash flood but no assistance was provided to rebuild it despite the official survey. It's time for the authorities to take responsibility and ensure that people like me have access to clean drinking water and a decent place to live.