

## Case studies/Human interest stories:

Lakshmibai lives in Porgaon village of Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, with her husband 2 daughters and 1 son for the past twenty years. Since her marriage she has been fetching water from a well situated about 1.5 Kms from her village. This had become her daily chore. She used to carry two steel pots one on her head and another on her waist. It took about 5-6 hours a day to fetch water for her household of seven members. She is now 42 years old and with increasing age she could not fetch water due to severe back and neck aches. This also affected her income source as she was not in a position to support her husband in agriculture work.

Lakshmibai got water wheel support from Habitat for Humanity India to fetch water from the water source 1.5km from her village. This initiative saved her 5-6 hours of fetching water to an hour; children also help her to fetch water through water wheel. The role of fetching water has transferred from women to men in her village.

The water wheel support has saved Lakshmibai's time to mobilize communities for their common welfare activities. With the support of partners organization she organize meetings of the farmers, promotes savings groups, helps establish small and micro-enterprises, and organizes workshops related to organic farming and water conservation/ management. Due to her continued role in fetching water for the household through conventional steel pots, she was unable to attend any of the meetings. Now, she has more valuable time in hand to work for the development of the village. She believes that due to this initiative social transformation is taking place. Water wheel has therefore become a vehicle for development