

## ***People's participation in community development***

*After a Water Supply Scheme in the village, worth 25 lakhs was adopted resulting in a regular supply of water being provided to the village. 17 feet of silt was also removed for the village lake, which increased the both the lake water levels and help the crops. 250 villages were also provided employment through the Employment Guarantee Scheme and 22 Self Help Groups for women were formed.*

**Pardi is a small village in Loha, Nanded.** Pardi was the first village within the Nanded district to implement the water supply scheme successfully and now regularly supplied water to the village. The project was implemented in 2001 with a total cost of Rs 25 lakhs.

The earnest participation of the hardworking villagers was instrumental in the success of the water supply scheme in Pardi. After the completion of the water supply scheme villagers took initiative and decided to de-silt the village lake. They together collected funds from the village to cover the costs, which were Rs 65, 000/ and around 17 feet deep silt and dirt was removed from the lake. Because of the villagers hard work and effort the water level of the lake increased and the removed silt (which was placed in the fields) helped the crops as well. From this the village adopted a SWANIRMAN project for community development, whereby the village would undertake the Employment Guarantee Scheme from which around 250 people received employment and a water conservation program was implemented.

Together with community development, the villagers also worked towards economically empowering women. The 22 Self Help Groups in the village were instrumental in not only solving the financial problems of women, but also in freeing the village from the clutches of local moneylenders. The village now has 37 women entrepreneurs who are running dairy and tailoring businesses, tuitions and ration shops. Within the village a seed centre has also been set up so that the village farmers are updated with new varieties of seeds and organic farming regularly.

The village furthermore participated actively in village a developmental project which was supported by Sarpanch (the 'village head'). In turn, because of the support given by the Sarpanch for community development, he was reelected as 'village head' twice. Swayam Sikshan Prayog continues to guide the villagers on such issues and have now opened an office in the village, and the SHIKWA group continues to lead people and villages in the district of such matters.