

## NEERJAAL IS NOT

- A collection of secondary data
- A centralised data collection system
- A top-down information system
- A pilot but an idea for mass participation



## THE ROAD AHEAD

Upcoming efforts include expanding the bottom-up information system across the country for village-based local data. For this, we have to make the Neerjaal web application even more flexible and easily modifiable to accommodate local requirements of different areas. Eventually, the long-term vision of Neerjaal is to allow each and every villager and village/inhabitation to put their water data on the public domain.



### Digital Empowerment Foundation

3rd Floor, House No.44, KaluSaria New Delhi-110016, India  
Ph: +91-11-26532786/87 | Email: [neerjaal@definai.net](mailto:neerjaal@definai.net)  
Web: [www.neerjaal.org](http://www.neerjaal.org)



**Drinking Water &  
Sanitation Information System**

## WHAT IS NEERJAAL?

Neerjal is India's first attempt at bringing forth hard facts about drinking water and sanitation issues through community participation. It is a unique project because it's a first-of-its-kind village-level water data and information system.

- Neerjal is a web-based, transparent, simple and interactive system.
- It is a repository of bottom-up information on drinking water, its source, availability, quality, quantity, ways of preservation and optimum usage.
- Neerjal system helps collect, collate and analyse data for all types of water sources available in rural areas including — and pumps, wells and tanka (rain water harvesting reservoirs).
- The system helps find out if the quality of water resources of potable or not.
- It informs whether water levels meet the domestic and livestock demands.
- It is an anytime, anywhere data entry and data access system.
- The system exclusively caters to the needs of village-level communities.
- The information system is managed by the communities and for the communities.
- The system facilitates sharing of information by the people, irrespective of their caste, religion or sex.
- It is available in all major Indian languages.
- Neerjal is a critical mechanism to raise alarm about water scarcity and issues of drinking water and sanitation.



## WHY NEERJAAL?

- Among the many gifts of nature for survival, water is one of the critical components, and the world is facing a severe shortage of the same today.
- Most of the issues and concerns surrounding water are due to information, communication and knowledge gap.
- There is no comparative interactive village-based water management and information system in India.
- Neerjal enables the fusion of modern water technology with information communication technology (ICT), thereby benefitting communities at the grassroots level.



## WATER TESTING PROCESS

- Samples collection from various water sources in a region
- Physical Test by checking Taste, Color, Odor, Transparency / Turbidity and Temperature
- Chemical Tests with a standard Water Testing Kit – pH Test, Total Dissolved Solids Test, Chloride Test, Total Hardness Test, Flouride Test, Nitrate Test, Iron Test, Bacterial or Coliform Test
- Record Keeping - Data-form filling in physical format
- Digital Record – Update of all records on Neerjal Portal



## NEERJAAL PARTNERS

- Neerjal concept originated in Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, where they have been collecting information on drinking water for over two decades. Barefoot College and Global Rainwater Harvesting Collective (GRWHC) have also worked on rainwater harvesting, and gathered extensive knowledge on the subject.
- Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) partnered with GRWHC & Barefoot College to develop Neerjal, a comprehensive drinking water and sanitation information system, to accumulate and aggregate hard data at the grassroots level through community participation.
- Neerjal is, thus, a result of the joint initiative of DEF, GRWHC and Barefoot College.

