Other people in the community work at the fabric mill, which also depends on local water for its operations.

Priya and many of the women and men in her community work in the cotton fields, which require a significant portion of the local water supply to cultivate.

Priya travels 1.5 hours a day to collect water for her family, missing work time and adding to her unpaid work burden.

P.A.C.E. Champions from CARE’s Learning Groups are recruited by WaterAid and trained to test water quality. They educate Priya on potential water-quality issues that may impact her family’s health and well-being.

Their new awareness and communication skills, along with the P.A.C.E. group support, spur conversations with local governing bodies about the community’s WASH needs.

With increased self-efficacy and agency, confidence, and improved communications skills through the impact of the W+W Alliance, Priya and her family see positive change in their daily lives.

In the P.A.C.E. class, Priya and her friends learn about WASH practices like handwashing, menstrual hygiene and using a water filter. They also learn about WASH financing options and have other essential classes on communication and empowerment.

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Priya learns about a new program – the W+W Alliance – which is offering free weekly P.A.C.E. classes taught by CARE trainers.

Together with the local government, they develop a water-security plan that leads to the construction of a sustainable community water system.

WaterAid helps Priya and P.A.C.E. Champions with the gram panchayats to advocate for improved drinking-water systems.

Priya’s husband also attends male engagement sessions where he learns about WASH and gender roles, and how they affect his household. In addition, P.A.C.E. participants and their husbands join interface meetings with local government officials and finance institutions to voice their WASH needs and explore any government schemes that might be available to them.

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Priya and her group of friends come together through Water.org’s solution, which enables them access to affordable financing for water and sanitation improvements for their homes, such as piped-water access, water filters and upgraded toilets.

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