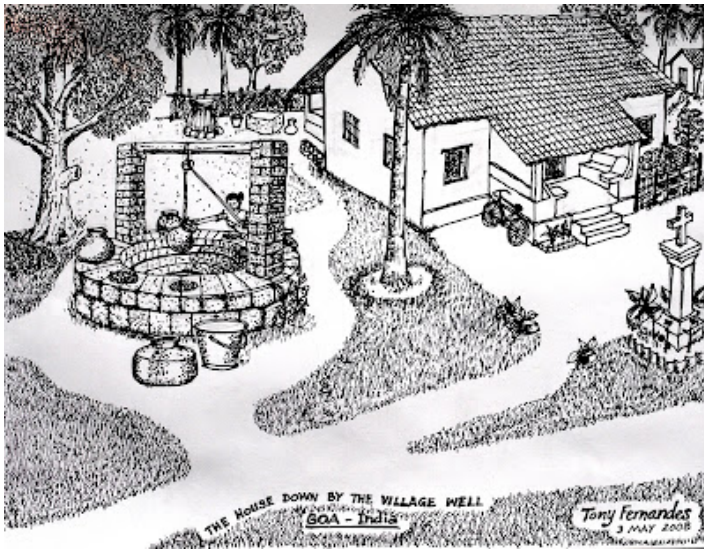


The Village Wells of Goa

Written by



Down by the Village Well

GOA - India

(Pen and Ink drawing by Tony Felix Fernandes)

In the old days every village in Goa had at least 4 or 5 communal wells. My house was located near one of such wells. These wells provided us with crystal clear natural water for drinking, cooking, bathing, watering plants in our garden and trees around the house. Winding narrow paths from neighbours' houses lead to the well. Long before dawn I would be awakened by the noise of copper pots clashing against each other or as they were placed on the ledge of the well. When I was very young this well did not have a pulley. It was installed in recent times and makes drawing water considerable easy.

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The common greeting in Konkani: 'Deu Boro Dis Dhium' (May God give you a good day) were the first words of the morning to one's neighbour who we met when we went to draw water from the village well.

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