

GWP India celebrates World Water Day 2011

1. Workshop on Status of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and its Effective Implementation in Rajasthan (India) on World Water Day - 22nd March, 2011:

A one day Seminar-cum-Workshop on Status of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the State of Rajasthan for effective implementation of New State Water Policy was organized on World Water Day i.e. 22nd March, 2011. This one day workshop was the continuation of India Water Partnership (IWP) efforts during year 2010 for promoting IWRM in the State of Rajasthan. In the second phase during 2011, IWP supported Jheel Sanrakshan Samiti, Udaipur to further work on strengthening the Water User Groups (WUGs), NGOs, PRI members, Engineers and Administrative officers in Rajasthan by building their capacities for proper and effective implementation of new State Water Policy and promoting IWRM.



Participants at the

Towards this endeavour, the JSS organized the above Workshop-cum-Seminar on World Water Day (22nd March, 2011) along with its other strategic partner organizations; Dr M S Mehta Memorial Trust and Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic College. Former Foreign Secretary, Govt of India, Mr. Jagat S Mehta, Padam Bhushan Award Winner inaugurated the workshop.

The workshop was attended by State government representatives and other stakeholders. Dr R C Purohit, Dean, College of Technology and Engineering, MPUAT, Mr R Khaturia, Water Resources Deptt, Govt of Rajasthan, Mr G P Soni, Former Supdt Engineer, Water Resources, Deptt, Govt. of Rajasthan, Mr O P Mathur, Former Director, Central Ground Water Board, Govt of India, Mr A S Jodha, KVK Udaipur were the eminent officials present in the workshop. Mr. Jagat S Mehta emphasized the need of synergic and continued efforts of government, civil society and PRIs for effective implementation of Rajasthan New Water Policy. The proposed water regulatory authority shall have representation of the civil society, he appealed to the Government. Mr. Anil Mehta explained the concept of IWRM tree. He said that in order to grow and establish the IWRM, four essential nutrients/inputs are required viz. (1) Stakeholder Participation, (2) Enabling Environment, (3) Eco-technology and 4) Good Governance. Mr Mehta also conveyed the message of Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP and Dr Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP who has taken initiative to take up first review of State Water Policy of Rajasthan, status of IWRM in Rajasthan and effective implementation of the new water policy as a part of India Water Partnership Strategic Plan to focus on how IWRM can be translated effectively by empowering and capacity building of all stakeholders.



During seminar, the participants in different groups reviewed various provisions of the new State Water Policy and expressed gratitude towards the Rajasthan State government for including the IWRM as guiding approach for the water resource development in the state. The seminar concluded with the recommendation that to get the policy implemented at grass root level, and get reflected in all development plans, the capacity building of all stakeholders is a pre-requisite. The participants unanimously recommended that JSS with the support of IWP should organize capacity development workshops for stakeholder groups in the coming three months.

2. Sensitization Workshop on Water Conservation and Affordable Water Technologies and Best Practices on World Water Day from 22nd to 26th March, 2011 at Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

The water availability in the World is diminishing with faster rate due to growth of the population and industrialization. The water availability is further hampered due to the ongoing contamination of the water bodies, some caused by the callous anthropogenic activities while the others due to natural reasons. The limited freshwater resources are gradually diminishing. The groundwater levels in many places throughout the world have exhausted and the ones which remain are taken for granted and are being dirtied every passing day.

The increasing water contamination in Western Uttar Pradesh, especially Meerut has always been the concern for NEER Foundation. In this line, **the NEER Foundation with the support of India Water Partnership (IWP) organized Sensitization workshop on water conservation and affordable water technologies and best practices on the occasion of World Water Day from 22nd to 26th March, 2011 at Meerut, Uttar Pradesh through different activities spanning over a period of five days.** The main focus of the events was to draw everybody's attention on water conservation and water quality protection and its impact on human health.

All the activities chosen were planned in an innovative matter so that it involves a greater and active participation of the community and more importantly creates a larger impact. In the coming days, the efforts will certainly bear fruits in terms of action to protect the water of Meerut from further contamination. The details of various activities organized on this occasion are as under:

A) Water Audit in Ten Schools of Meerut:

Ten schools of Meerut were provided with an audit form to document the current water use and management practices of their school. Vidya Global Public School, Meerut was recognized as the best school, making best of every drop of the falling rain through a rainwater harvesting structure and a waste water treatment plant installed in their school campus. The harvested rainwater is used for various purposes and is sent down to aquifers, contributing to the increase in water level of the area. The treated waste water is used in the gardens. Second was Godwin Public School and Army Public School came third. All these schools were provided with a certificate, poster and an appreciation letter for their noble cause.



B) Awareness Meeting with the Good Morning Club of Meerut:
Good Morning Club of Meerut is a group of around eighteen people who meet every morning to discuss about the nature and environment. A meeting was organized by NEER Foundation with the club members on the issue of 'Water Quality of Meerut and its implications on the residents of Meerut'. It is a fact that the water quality of Meerut is decreasing rapidly and that studies conducted by NEER Foundation have confirmed presence of heavy metals and pesticides in the drinking water sources. These findings were discussed in the meeting and strategy was planned to discuss the increasing water contamination in Meerut, with the district administration.

C) Drawing Competition and Sensitization of Students at BDS Institute:
A drawing competition was organised at BDS Institute, Jagriti Vihar, Meerut where about 50 schools of Meerut participated. The topic for the competition was 'Status of Water Quality of Meerut in your eyes'. Students came up with impressive drawings and showed realistic pictures of Meerut's water quality in their illustrations.

The best drawings were awarded with a certificate and appreciation letter. Best 20 drawings will be compiled in the form of a report entitled 'Water Quality Status of Meerut through Children's Eyes' which will be disseminated to all IWP partners. The drawing competition was followed by a presentation and documentary screening to educate and sensitize 200 students of the institute on 'Clean Water for a Healthy World'.



D) PGM International School Students to Decide if Kali is a River Once Worshipped or Just a Drain:

Students of the school were taken to the Kali River in a group accompanied by their teachers. They were educated on the historical importance, present pollution existing in the river, reasons behind the pollution and NEER Foundation’s future strategy to revive this dead river through community participation. ‘Seeing is more than believing’, such is the saying. So, the students were also made to test water through water testing kits provided by the organisation. They tested a few parameters and found the harmful levels of the pollution.

E) Who’s Better at the Cost of Water?! Awareness Generation through Hair Saloons and the Vehicle Service Centres:

Three prominent hair saloons namely Hair Apeel at Samrat Shopping Mall, Meerut; The Head Master and Sunrise Hair Saloon at Shastri Nagar, Meerut were visited and educated on water education. The organisation then discussed their water usage in their daily activities. It was shocking to learn that these saloons waste a large quantity of water. They were motivated to change their habits to use water and become ‘water savers’. The details are as follows;

Hair Apeel Saloon	The Head Master	Sunrise Hair Saloon
Present Water Usage		
On Per Shampoo – 4 to 5 litres 8-10 shampoos done everyday. On Shampoo per day – 40 to 50 litres On hair cutting and shaving – 9 to 10 litres everyday.	On Per Shampoo – 4 to 5 litres 25 to 30 shampoos done everyday. On Shampoo per day – 125 litres On hair cutting and shaving – 5 to 7 litres everyday.	Hair Cutting – 7 to 8 litres

On the other hand, an ordinary barber shop was visited and discussed about their water usage in daily activities. Similar exercise was done with three prominent vehicle service centres namely Vikrant Service Centre, Rajsneh Automobile Service Centre and Fairdeal Service Centre located at Meerut. During discussion, it was learn that the water usage per day of Vikrant is about 605 litres of water per day and that of Rajsneh and Fairdeal is about 1130 litres.

The heads of these centres and the workers were educated about the depleting water levels and the need to conserve fresh water as and where possible. They were urged to

- Avoid cleaning their centres with running water through pipes.
- Install water treatment plant and recycle water as much possible, using it for some purpose.
- Use pressure pump while washing the cars which saves about 30 percent of water to what is being used presently.
- Adopt rainwater harvesting.

F) 'Water Walk' by Students of CCS University, Meerut:

A 'Water Walk' was organised with the participation of the students of CCS University, Meerut.

Informative quotes and messages were delivered through placards. During the walk, local residents were motivated to conserve water through filling of Water saving pledge forms and they were informed about the simple ways of keeping water quality healthy which they can practice at home like boiling of water, proper storage source etc.

G) Meeting with the Residents of Jalalpur Village:

Jalalpur village is located on the banks of highly polluted Kali River in Meerut district. This village is in the clutches of pollution and is witnessing continuously increase in diseases and deaths.

On the occasion of World Water Day, a meeting was organised at the village to plan out some plan of action to be followed by NEER Foundation towards restoring Jalalpur.