ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at http://www.recentscientific.com

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 3, Issue, 7, pp. 607 - 610, July, 2012

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE

DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT IN KOLAR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE IN INDIA

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 11th June, 2012
Received in revised form 20th, June, 2012
Accepted 10th July, 2012
Published online 30th July, 2012

Key words:

Gram Panchayat, Drinking Water Management Practices, Borewells, Water Projects

ABSTRACT

The Paper analysis drinking water management and specialty through gram panchayat in district and mainly the district depending on borewells at the village level, in this situation 80 percentage village have the borewells system. The paper focuse on borewells management, performance of Gram Panchayats (GP) in drinking water management effectively and how to GP leaders role for realize the drinking water management practices in the district. The discussion in this paper uses primary data as well as primary data was collected from 15 villages. A combination of semi-structure interviews, questionnaire and open-ended discussions and direct observation were used.

Water is today perceived by the public as a social right, to be provided free by the Government, rather than as a scarce resource which must be managed locally as a socio-economic good…. Demand preferences of the people are generally no taken into account while planning and executing the schemes. In other words, rural water supply programme has been adopting a supply driven approach. Experience has shown that the present approach has led to the failure of a number of water supply system/schemes due to poor operation and maintenance (GOI 2oo2a).

Socio-Economic Profile

A landlocked district, Kolar is the Eastern gateway to Karnataka. It is famous for its erstwhile Kolar gold mines, cool hill stations, with fortresses and lofty temples. The area offers excellent opportunities for adventure sports like trekking, rock climbing and parasailing.

Kolar district is located in the southern region of the State and happens to be the eastern-most district of the Karnataka State. The district is bounded by the districts of Bangalore and Tumkur on the west and on all other sides by the districts of the adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. On the north, it is bounded by Anantapur district; on the east by Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh and on the south by the districts of North Arcot and Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu. The district headquarters, Kolar town is located 65 Kms, north east of Bangalore.

The town's eminence drew from the nearby Kolar Gold Mines which recently actively produced a major part of the country's gold. Kolar is now well known for its silk farming and wool spinning. Kolar is popularly known as city of Gold, Silk, Mangos and Milk.

Table 1 District Profile

Area	**3969 Sq. Kms**
Location	Situated between 2^0 46' & 13^0 58' North Latitude and 77^0 21' and 78^0 35' East Longitude
Population	13,87,062
Male	7,01,677
Female	6,85,385
Total rural population	9,82,561
Total urban population	4,04,501
Child Population (age 0- 6)	1,85,954
Literates	7,90,771
Male	4,61,304
Female	3,29,467
Nearest Airport	Bangalore International Airport
Nearest Railway Station	Kolar
Road	Kolar is well connected with almost all the major Towns and Cities in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

Source: http://kolar.nic.in/aboutkolar.htm

District Administration

Kolar District contains one revenue sub-divisions Kolar
The Kolar Sub-Division contains five Talukas

a) Kolar
b) Bangarpet
c) Malur
d) Mulbagal
e) Srinivaspur

INTRODUCTION

Government of India's (GOI) major intervention in the water sector started in 1972-73 through the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for assisting states/union territories to accelerate the coverage of drinking water supply. In 1986, the entire programme was given a mission approach with the launch of the Technology Mission on Drinking Water and Reated Water Management, later renamed the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991-92. In 1999, the Department of Drinking Water Supply (DDWS) was formed under the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) to give emphasis on rural water supply and sanitation.

Following the World Bank and GOI review mentioned earlier, GOI initiated the Sector Reform Pilot Projects (SRPP) in April 1999 with the implicit strategy of these reforms premised on the understanding that people will be willing to maintain and operate water supply schemes only if they owned the assets; had been involved in the projects throughout from choosing structures to installations and repairs; know that the government will not maintain the asset; had sufficient fund for maintenance and had to pay for operation and maintenance of the system. The GOI decided to move to a demand based approach where users get the service they want and are willing to pay for Apart from demand-responsiveness, this approach stressed financial viability and sustainability of the schemes, through full cost recovery of operation and maintenance and replacement costs. These sector reforms were to be implemented on a pilot scale in selected villages in 67 districts in states in the country, which probably represents the world's largest (Central) government supported yet demand-based rural drinking water programme. The Water and Sanitation Programme-South Asia (WSP-SA) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

(UNICEF) provided institutional support to the RGNDWM for the Sector Reform Pilot Projects. They also provided implementation support to selected states.

Table 2 Survey villages in district

Sl. No.	No. Villages	Total beorewells	Working borewells	Not working borewells	Water tap connection availability
1	Chekkondahalli	2	1	1	No
2	Madival Village	2	1	1	No
3	Hanumanayaka halli	2	2	--	No
4	Nalapalli	1	1	--	No
5	Hebbata	3	1	2	No
6	Panasamakanahalli	3	1	2	No
7	Chatrakodihalli	1	1	--	Available
8	Muduvati	4	1	3	Available
9	Beglihosahalli	3	2	1	Available
10	Marandahalli	3	2	1	Available
11	Daranahalli	1	1	--	No
12	Seeganahalli	2	1	1	No
13	Keelkoppa	4	2	2	No
14	Deshahalli	4	2	2	No
15	Kesanahalli	2	1	1	No

Source: Compiled from the surveys undertaken in 15 villages in district.

Water Sector Reforms in India

The Eighth Five-Year Plan in India (1992-97) introduced the concept of water as a commodity that should be supplied based on effective demand, the cost recovery principle and managed by private local organizations. Through the 1990s the World Bank already had a series of water supply and sanitation projects in various states of the country based on these principles. Of particular relevance is the World Bank initiated drinking water and sanitation pilot project with the government of Uttar Pradesh in 1996, Swajal. Having located its premise in the Eighth Plan, in its staff appraisal report for the subsequently named Swajal project in 1996 the World Bank stated: Policy reform is urgently required, in particular to:

a. Replace the current supply driven approach that result in inefficient service delivery and poor quality of construction with a demand-driven approach where decision-making responsibility is give to beneficiaries.
b. Integrate rural water supply, environmental sanitation, environmental management, catchment protection, and health and hygiene.
c. Introduce cost recovery to increase sector sustainability
d. Develop a state water resource management policy (World Bank 1996). All subsequent sector reform state and central schemes for drinking water and sanitation in the country are structure on remarkably similar principles and components as Swajala.

A joint World Bank and Government of India (GOI) review of water resources management in 1999 subsequently concluded that India faces an increasingly urgent situation with its finite and fragile water resources while different sectoral demands grow rapidly and that a major challenge for India's water sector was to find solutions for competing inter-sectoral demands. In further noted, "fundamental reforms are needed now in India in how water is captured, allocated between sectors, delivered to users and managed". The review advocated a comprehensive approach is needed, emphasizing four overarching factors:

a. A shift from supply-driven to demand-oriented approaches
b.
c. Division of sectoral responsibilities between the government and non-government stakeholders, recognizing that water is an economic good with public and private good characteristics.
d. Decentralizing decision-making to include non-government stakeholders in service delivery, while

reorienting the role of government to being facilitator and enabler

e. Achieving financial viability of service delivery to make the sector sustainable and make further development possible with private sector funding for investment activities

The prerequisites for this approach are crucial changes-of policy, legislative and regulatory framework; the institutional arrangements; and in setting up an economic and financial incentive framework. Subsequently, a number of water law reforms have been introduced in recent years, from new water policies to projects and schemes premised on these principles and new regulatory mechanisms like water regulatory authorities.

The new National Water Policy (NWP) (GOI 2002b) is a good example of the nature of reforms being envisaged and undertaken in the states. While allocation topmost priority to drinking water followed by irrigation, by irrigation, hydropower, ecology, agro-industries and non-agricultural industries and navigation and other uses, the NWP 2002 goes on to emphasise the physical and financial sustainability of existing facilities to ensure that the water charges for various uses should be fixed in a manner that they cover at least the operation and maintenance charges of providing the service initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently. Now these rates are to be linked directly to the quality of service provided, with the subsidy on water rates to the disadvantaged and poorer sections of the society well targeted and transparent. In a situation where the hitherto provision of drinking and domestic water as well as irrigation water has been substantially subsidized, this implies a significant policy reversal.

In terms of decentralization and participation NWP 2002 states

"Management of the water resources should incorporate a participatory approach; by involving not only the various governmental agencies but also the users and other stakeholders in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources schemes. Necessary legal and institutional changes should be made for the purpose Water Users' Associations (WUA) and the local bodies such as municipalities and gram panchayats (GPS) should particularly be involved in the operation, maintenance and management of water infrastructures/facilities at appropriate levels progressively, with a view to eventually transfer the management of such facilities to the user groups/local bodies". The policy thus legitimizes the "user" discourse in basic services and divests the government (progressively) of the responsibility for operations and management, or actual service provision. However, while participation is considered an umbrella term including the states of planning, design and implementation, in reality the focus is really on the tail-end of the process mainly operation and maintenance.

The legislative changes and regulatory and institutional mechanisms to support the sector reform process are reflected in several water related state acts enacted in recent years establishing

a. Control over water resources
b. Regulatory authorities, as well as
c. Local level institutions like the WUAS or in the case of Swajaldhara, user committees.

For a detailed analysis of these sector reform initiatives and their implications see Cullet 2006 who points out that is remarkable that while water is a state subject and hence each state has relative freedom to evolve its own policy and legislative frameworks with due regard to its context, in reality most of these recent initiatives are remarkably similar and concurrent to World Bank principles of sector reform.

Case of Kolar District

Availability of drinking water has been in a critical state in the district since various years. Mainly the stress is acute in the summer with water becoming a source of frequent conflicts in villages and privileges of access to water including the tankers supplied being only at the taluk level. Water supply to about 95 per cent household at the village level households is based on groundwater sources and the remaining households depend on the surface waters lakes (in the rainy season).

As evident from table 2 implemented borewells at village, but borewells don't have certain amount of water and did not satisfied to villagers due to natural water availability, so in this situation, village people demanding new borewells but village level gram panchayat president did not respond immediately in this time we depend on neighbor or private borewell for drinking water as well we would go other village for bring the water said by village householders. All most all village don't have tap connection, if tap connection available, if have any repair of tap connection, don't solve that problem as soon as possible. Some people the Mulbagil taluk at the Andhra boundry side, people went to other place for example, Hoskote, Bangalore etc. for job purpose due to water problem their native place.

Implications

a) The district should be effectively use various scheme (i e, at National Water Supply Plan, Water Supply plan for Rural Areas etc.).
b) Little was known to people about the specifics of the scheme and its implications. In this situation people did not know about what are the specialties available as well as the accounts of the plan in most villages.
c) Taluk and village level panchayat leaders should maintenance and management of the borewells system effectively.
d) The government's effort should be, wherever possible to link river to the district.
e) The strengthen rain water use efficiency and improvements in rain water using performance the agencies such as PWD and revenue authorities as well as NGOs should be involved to focus on use in an effective manner at village level.
f) When use the rain water effectively management and maintenance, automatically increase the ground water.
g) Panchayats should give more emphasis on implementing multi-village water supply scheme.

CONCLUSIONS

In recent years most Indian states are increasingly facing water scarcity not only during drought years but also in normal rainfall years. Due to this fact, the right way to resolve our ever expanding water problem is to provide adequate attention to watershed development to conserve rain water, revival of all types of smaller water bodies to recharge groundwater, optimal use of available supplies form the major and medium irrigation projects, involving the users at large through formation of water users associations to economic use of water and avoidance of waste. If all these practices are undertaken step by step by the states and encouragement as well as adequate resources are earmarked through Central Plan investments our future water problem will be solve. Finally, this survey has unearthed a set of fundamental questions that need to be dealt with on a priority basis if the right to drinking water for all is to be realized and this access is to be sustainable for those with access today, into the future.

Reference

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