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April 3rd is the anniversary of Arghyam's entry into the water sector. We are the only Indian foundation, as far as we know, to focus exclusively on water. The third year of Arghyam's engagement with water was quite different from the first two. We were less tentative; we had found our feet better as an organization.

We were clearer about what needs to be done, and this reflects in our many new initiatives, as you will see in this report. More good people joined the team last year, bringing in new perspectives and experience. Our brainstorming continued. We kept asking ourselves, when the water sector spans so many things, from ecology and the environment to industry and agriculture, what can a small foundation like Arghyam do best to focus on? Since 80% of the country's water goes into the agriculture sector, and there is much inefficiency of use along with inequity, should we work with farmer groups and rural NGOs? Since India's economy is booming, with rapid urbanization and its attendant water management challenges, is that where we should be? What about industry and its water footprint? Is there not much work to be done?

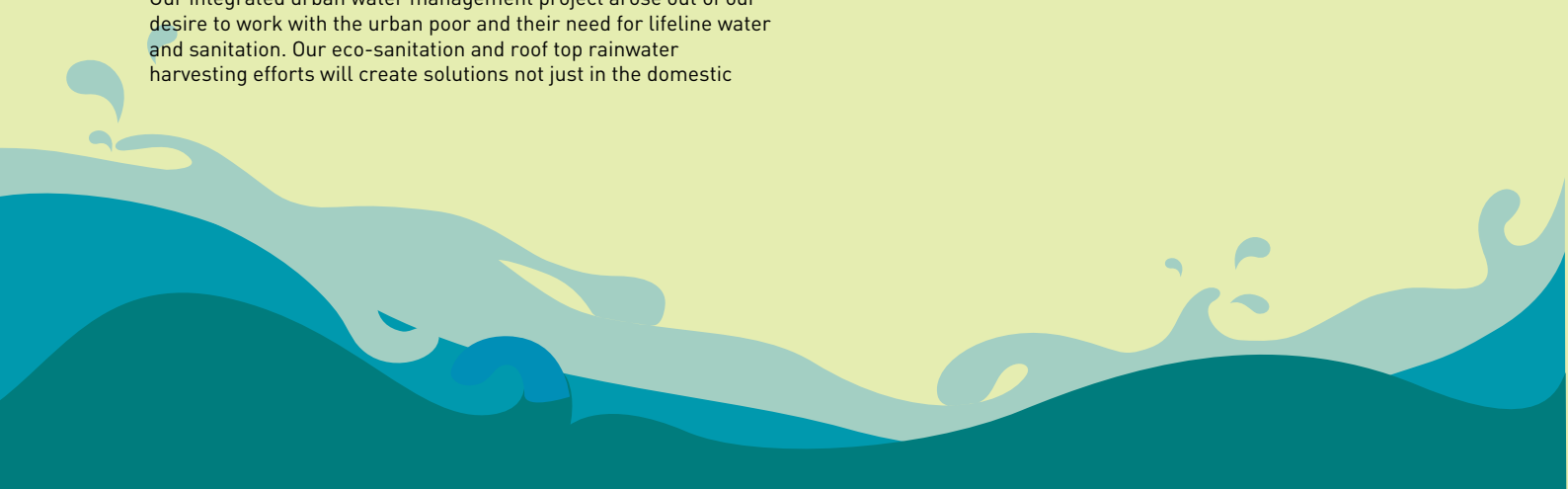
When we began three years ago, Arghyam trustees, Renuka Raja Rao, Nandita Chandavarkar, and I, together with Sunita, our highly committed CEO, walked right into the opportunities that we found, knowing there was a chance we might think differently as we moved on. It worked out rather well, in hindsight. Our early partners were much ahead of us in experience and helped us to develop our world view, as did the in-house advisors we signed on. Now I know that the earlier work we supported was very good and important work, and we are continuing to support a few of our first projects, which require long term relationships and funding for any meaningful impact. Yet, we have chosen to remain rooted in the domestic water sector, pursuing equity and sustainability for citizens in and around their homes. This is because safe, sufficient water for the basic things in life – drinking, cooking, cleaning and washing is at the heart of all water use, at least for humans. And safe sanitation together with it. But the way water is used in agriculture and industry, and in towns and cities impacts deeply upon the quantity and quality of water for people's daily lives. In a sense, this understanding has broadened the scope of our work. Our integrated urban water management project arose out of our desire to work with the urban poor and their need for lifeline water and sanitation. Our eco-sanitation and roof top rainwater harvesting efforts will create solutions not just in the domestic

sector, but have implications for farmers as well. When we support a state government initiative to provide fluoride free water to villages, or help with the rehabilitation of traditional water storing structures, it creates more models for citizen participation in public projects, and opportunities to extend the scope of public spending in schemes like the NREG. Our efforts to use sound technology platforms that allow transparent decision making based on good data, across all our work can help embed these practices in any water activity.

We hope to be constantly making and nurturing these connections and leveraging our small strengths best as we can. We have a secure source of funding, which will go up by more than 35% from this financial year ('08-'09). We have a young team with a lot of energy, hope and skill. And best of all, we have the goodwill of many people, including many thought leaders from the water and allied sectors, who have been sharing their thoughts so freely with us. We are grateful, and we renew our commitment to the vision of safe, sustainable water for all.

Trustees:

An Annual Report is a time for reflection, a time to think back, a time to revisit the mission and values (of an organization), and then to gather one's strength to forge ahead. Arghyam holds dear the 4 Cs that are essential for an NGO: Compassion, Conviction, Commitment, and Clarity. From a small, modest beginning in 2001, we have grown, become more sure footed, confident of our role in the critical water sector, and able to leverage the strengths and knowledge of the committed team. As we look ahead, the path to universal water equity seems long and daunting. But every democratizing movement has started similarly, with a group of individuals united by a common vision, and we hope our mission will be accomplished, our dreams realized, in the years to come.



Sunita's message

At a recent interaction with our partners from Himalaya Seva Sangh, Himla Unyal a passionate community worker told us that women in her area spend a few hours daily to collect 4 bantas (traditional pot equivalent to a 15 litre bucket) of water for the household. She continued on however to say that 3 of the bantas of water were for their livestock, which is their primary source of livelihood and lifeline. So the family of 5 manages with the remaining 15 litres of water every day for drinking, cooking and washing, while bathing is a once-a-month luxury! For us, this yet again highlights the urgent need for Government schemes which uniformly follow the national standard of 40 litres per capita per day for rural citizens across the country to begin to incorporate these nuances into their design.

Continuing on this thread, in order to develop an evidence-based understanding of the rural water and sanitation situation, last year we embarked on the ASHWAS survey – A Survey on Household Water and Sanitation. Our effort was inspired by Pratham's use of ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) to mobilize people through simple, eye-opening facts. This year-long effort with 20 partners covered more than 17000 households from 800 villages across Karnataka to gather data and raise awareness on a range of issues including water quality, quantity, storage, access, open defecation and menstrual hygiene. By putting the survey reports back in the hands of the citizens in the Gram Panchayat(GP), we hope to further grassroots advocacy and reduce the gap between citizens, service providers and policy-makers.

We've kept our focus on the integrated approach to managing water last year – advocating integration between all water resources in an area, and between institutions responsible for managing water-related activities. We have three ongoing rural integrated domestic water management projects, and an Integrated Urban Water Management initiative that we are driving in Mulbagal. In all cases, the project is embedded in the local government, seeks the active participation of the community, and looks at water holistically from source to sink, with a special emphasis on services for the poor and environmental sustainability.

As an independent and flexible funding organization, we recognize the opportunity available to us to absorb risk. We actively seek emerging issues, geographic areas or technical approaches that otherwise tend to be sidelined. In this context, past year, we initiated work in the North-east and continued our support in Bihar, we strengthened research on ecological sanitation, nurtured interested non-governmental organizations(NGO) through ecological sanitation (ecosan) pilots and we added crucial groundwater components to several existing projects.

Our strategy for leveraging and scaling up continues to be through partnerships with Government and institutional networks. We've initiated support for a sanitation scheme funded by Water and Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO) in Gujarat which facilitates GPs (Gram Panchayats) to access Government funds and a comprehensive recharge programme for 4.5 lakh dug wells in Thrissur district in Kerala. We are signing MoUs(Memorandum of Understanding) to help partners in Bihar and Gujarat access NREGA (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) funds and we worked with the RDPR (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) department in Delhi to highlight their flagship program, Total Sanitation Campaign through the Sanitation Portal.

Our primary advocacy channel has been the India Water Portal, now in its third year of operations. Last year, we focussed on reaching out to our target audience by creating two new regional language Portals – Hindi and Kannada. We also launched the Schools Water Portal to provide multimedia resources for teachers to enliven and stimulate discussions on water in the classroom.

As we move into our fifth year, we will increase our attention on a few focus areas. One such example is action research in areas like wastewater treatment, water quality testing, treatment and efficient toilets. In fact, some of these beg a fundamental rethink – like the current urban paradigm of using treated, expensive, potable drinking water to flush away our waste which then goes into our lakes, rivers and the ground- polluting them.

Secondly, we're going to explore the opportunities and challenges provided by today's changing context –where Internet in India, while still at a penetration of 7 percent is increasingly the tool for advocacy, campaigns and communications in the development sector, where computers are now widely prevalent down to the Taluk level, and where mobile phones are ubiquitous. Technology has been used effectively in several initiatives of Arghyam in the past, and will continue to play a key role this year.

Organizationally, we've grown and moved to a new office. We're putting in the processes and structures to manage the growth without losing the flexibility and energy for innovation. Our Annual Conference last year gave us valuable inputs from donors and grantees alike on pitfalls to watch out for and the best practices to adopt as a relatively young funding organization.

We look forward to another interesting year of learning, growing and innovation in this sector.

Sunita Nadhamuni
CEO, Arghyam

Thanks to all of our partners who have worked with us, guided and encouraged us and taken our suggestions and ideas openly. We look forward to another exciting year ahead with you.

April 3, 2008
Arghyam Foundation Day

Organization Profile

Arghyam is a charitable trust setup with a personal endowment from Rohini Nilekani and has been working in the water sector since 2005.

Arghyam is a Sanskrit word meaning "Offering".



Arghyam's focus is on domestic water –that amount of water needed by every individual, every day to meet his/her basic needs.

Our objectives are threefold. First, increase the number of people with access to safe water and sanitation facilities, especially (from) the vulnerable communities. Secondly, compile and create a set of tools, processes and practices for sustainable water management. And finally, enable sharing of more information and knowledge amongst more groups of people -from grassroots practitioners to decision-makers.

Water Stress arises out of lack of local empowerment and equity, ineffective people and state institutional structures, insufficient investments in infrastructure and R&D, inappropriate technology, poor governance, little attention paid to ecological impact of projects, and non-inclusive financial models

Our work and the work we support looks at the problem in the above context. Arghyam has three core initiatives –Rural Grants, Urban Water Initiative and the India Water Portal. Supporting these, are the Research, Advocacy and Technology groups.

Arghyam works in the areas of drinking water supply, water quality, water body revival, sanitation, groundwater management, rainwater harvesting all with community participation, awareness, and local institutional strengthening for better governance.

"Arghyam's vision is "Safe, sustainable water for all".

Arghyam's vision is :
Safe, sustainable water for all

April, 2008
Kannada Water Portal Launched

April 26, 2008
CSP commences K2K Trip:
In Search of Water

May 28, 2008
Mr. Michael from Harvard University visits Arghyam

In the year 2008-2009 Arghyam has supported 11 new organizations, across 9 states of India. The total amount disbursed during the year was XX.



Grants

Over the last four years, the Rural Grants Team has taken on the challenge of reaching out to water stressed populations across the country. Our 57 projects span from the Arid Thar Desert in Rajasthan to the rain rich and conflict prone state of Manipur in the Eastern Himalayas.

In the year 2008-2009 Arghyam has supported 11 new organizations, across 9 states of India. The total amount disbursed during the year was XX. The thematic focus areas for 2008-2009 were Integrated Domestic Water Management (IDWM), Sanitation, and Participatory Groundwater Management.

PROJECTS

Below are short descriptions of projects which were initiated/ launched in the fiscal year 2008-2009.

ACT Internship on Sustainable Groundwater Management

Arid Communities & Technologies (ACT), Bhuj, Gujarat has set up an internship programme for graduate and post graduate students and local youth to develop expertise in groundwater management. The programme will enable 18 students to study water management issues in the semi arid district of Kachchh, Gujarat. The learnings would ideally become inputs to State and Civil Society actors in natural resource management programmes.

Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India with SOPPECOM

The Society for Participatory Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) has set up a "Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India". While the earlier phase, financed by WWF led to the documentation of 63 cases of water conflicts across India, the second phase, supported by Arghyam is aimed at evolving a long term perspective and strategy for its work of reducing water conflicts in India as a result of better understanding, dialogue and policy intervention.

Capacity Building for Gendered and Decentralized Water and Sanitation Program in rural Gujarat with PLC-Utthan

This project aims at sustainable capacity building and the development of an institutional mechanism at the state level for safe water and sanitation across 21 villages in the state of

Gujarat. Support is being leveraged through the State Institution-Water & Sanitation Management Organization (WASMO). This public-private model is geared to strengthen institutions at all levels through capacity building and to promote and enable community based equitable drinking water systems. nity wells, at the rate of one hectare irrigation per family.

Empowering Gram Panchayats for improved planning and delivery of WATSAN services in Orissa with Intercooperation Social Development

This two-year project aims to build capacities of NGOs and Gram Panchayat functionaries in villages in Gajapati District, Orissa in systematic local planning using the Water Use Master Plan (WUMP) approach. It would create community awareness on environmental sanitation, provisions under various Government programs and lead to the implementation of water and sanitation interventions in a transparent manner.

Integrated drinking water, health and sanitation scheme in Rural Maharashtra with WOTR (Watershed Organization Trust)

This project aims at developing a replicable model of drinking water and sanitation project and to create awareness among community and school children on waste disposal, judicious use of water, health and hygiene practices. The project will be implemented in ten villages in the area. The project would mainly involve participatory planning, social mobilization, water budgeting, community led total sanitation and bore-well recharge measures.

Tank Rehabilitation, Introduction of Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting, Water Treatment & Eco-Sanitation with Dhan Vayalagam Foundation

Dhan foundation has set up a project to revive water tanks in the drought prone region of Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh. The overall objective is to build community consensus for rain water harvesting through conservation, development and management of natural resources. The project also aims to introduce Rooftop rainwater harvesting, Bio-sand water filters and ecosan toilets at a later stage.

Evolving Water Self Reliance through Surface & Groundwater Sharing & Management with Gram Gourav Prathistan (GGP)

June 21, 2008
Architecture competition on RWH

June 25, 2008
Mr. Narayan Murthy visits Arghyam

June 2008
Groundwater Research Initiated by IISc in Mulbagal, under the Integrated Urban Water Management Project

GGP is launching the second phase of its Pani Panchayat Program, which will provide support to villagers in enhancing supply and access to ground water. The project will promote community decision making systems based on Pani Panchayat principles to ensure equitable distribution of water and its usage. It also aims to form water user groups that manage community wells, at the rate of one hectare irrigation per family.

Improving Agricultural Livelihoods of Marginalized Tribal Households of Bajna & Sailana Blocks of Ratlam District, M.P through Sustainable Groundwater Management in Partnership with Action for Social Advancement

This project promotes participatory management of groundwater through construction and renovation of dug wells for marginalized tribal households in Bajna and Sailana Block, Ratlam District, Madhya Pradesh. The interventions will be based on the application of cutting edge geo-hydrological studies and setting up of norms and practices on the same for sustainable groundwater management.

Research on Utilization of Anthropogenic wastes for Agricultural Purposes in Collaboration with University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), GKVK

UAS, Bangalore has taken up a research and development project titled "Utilization of Anthropogenic wastes for Agricultural purposes". The key objectives of the project are to establish a 'UAS-ARGHYAM Center of Excellence' for studying anthropogenic waste management and conduct feasibility studies related to its agricultural application, productivity and yield.

Revival of Traditional Water Harvesting Structures and River Revival in Rajasthan partnering with Sambhaav

Sambhaav has launched an effort to revive traditional water harvesting structures in villages of the Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. Revival of Sakhatwali Nadi (i.e; river) in Alwar district is also envisaged as part of the programme. The project relies exclusively on community based planning and implementation.

Facilitating Panchayats and Community in Achieving Complete Village Sanitation in partnership with Gandhigram Trust in Dindigul district

Gandhigram Trust has initiated the promotion of complete sanitation in 4 Panchayats focusing on demand generation for toilets based on awareness campaigns. The project also envisages easy availability of credit facilities to Self Help Groups (SHGs) for constructing household toilets.

EVENTS

The Grants team also supported the following events in the year 2008-2009.

Annual Forum of the Water Community of Solution Exchange July,23, 2008

The Water Community of Solution Exchange is an initiative of the United Nations Country Team in India. Arghyam co-sponsored the Annual Forum of its water community which brought together lead practitioners on water and sanitation issues. This meet is one of the most important water events on the national calendar and assists the water community in setting goals and priorities for the future.

"Voices from the Waters" Film Festival by Bangalore Film Society – September 13 -19, 2008

The Bangalore Film Society organized their third international film festival on water, "Voices from the Waters" which was held for seven days and screened 60 films leading to increased awareness among the public on issues surrounding water. As part of the festival there was also be some conferences to discuss water related issues. Some of the issues dealt with by the film makers are problems of drought, floods, scarcity of potable water, big dams and displacements, use of contaminated water and health issues, river valley civilizations, water struggles, water conservation and water management. Given that half on India's population is illiterate, films represent a strong medium for transmission of thoughts and ideas.

Varanashi Foundation – Katta Workshop, September, 2008

Varanashi Foundation organized a one-day workshop with the goal of sensitizing various agencies including Government about the low-cost, simple, water harvesting technology, locally called Kattas. As a dissemination strategy, a book with information on different low cost temporary Katta/barrage designs was released during the workshop.

Metaculture – Film Festival on Conflict and Resolution – October 13 to 19 2009

Metaculture Dialogics, a Bangalore based NGO that works in the area of conflict management, held a week long international film festival on Conflict Resolution titled, "Peace and Conflict Resolution: Reflections through Cinema". Through viewing these films and engaging in facilitated discussions about the themes they present, the audience developed a more complex understanding of conflicts that affect their lives.

Conservation of Umiam Lake, Shillong- Stakeholder Dialogue, March 09,2009

A multi-stakeholder dialogue was hosted in collaboration with People's Learning Centre (PLC) in Shillong on the Conservation of Umiam Lake in March 2009. The Lake and its catchments are experiencing severe degradation and the shared learning dialogue brought forward issues in management and regulation across a range of institutions managing the catchments. A Plan of Action was also developed involving Government, Civil Society, Media, and Educational Institutes,

July 23, 2008
Annual Forum of the Water
Community of
Solution Exchange

July 26, 2008
Water Conflicts Portal
Launched
in Bhubaneswar

Below are short descriptions of projects which were initiated/ launched in the fiscal year 2007-2008, and have continued in the fiscal year 2007-2008.

Name of Project	Name of Partner(s)	Area of work	Amount of Funding (in Rs Lakhs)
Integrated Domestic Water Management	MYRADA	Kolar and Mysore Districts, Karnataka	175.25
Megh Pyne Abhiyaan, Phase II	Kosi Seva Sadan, Samta, GPSVS, Gramyashree 1, Savera	Supaul, Khagaria, West Chmaparan, Madhuba	68.00
Sachetana	BIRD-K	Kolar District, Karnataka	48.2
Integrated services for enhancing health and hygiene through Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	WWAGS (Wangjing Women and Girls Society)	Thoubal District, Manipur	9.52
Integrated water & Sanitation project	Youth Volunteer's Union (YVU)	Thoubal & Senapati District, Manipur	6.23
Decentralized Drinking Water Management and Supply	Sahjeevan	Kachchh District, Gujarat	142.38
Salinity Reduction in Domestic Water Supply in Coastal Gujarat	Samerth	Rapar District, Gujarat	21.34
Improving Understanding of Groundwater Resources Through Field Research	ACWADAM	Pune District, Maharashtra	33.48
Sustainable Water Resource Management	Himalaya Seva Sangh (HSS)	Uttarkashi & Pauri Districts, Uttarakhand	9.9
Revival of Traditional Water Harvesting Systems	Sambhaav	Barmer District, Rajasthan	34.50
Integrated Domestic Water Management	Development Alternatives	Jhansi (UP) & Tikamgarh (MP)	200.89
Sustainable Management of Drinking Water Resources	Gandhigram	Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu	14.18

July 30, 2008
CSP arrives from K2K Trip

July 19-23, 2008
Arghyam stall at the Public Information Campaign in Mulbagal Kolar



PaniThiyePanjo -

A case study

Kachchh district, Gujarat, is geo climatically one of the harshest regions in India. It experiences peak summer temperatures of 40°C-45°C and receives an average annual rainfall of 312 mm (coupled with 2-3 droughts in every five years). Abdasa taluka, at the Eastern end of Kachchh comprises of 8 small towns and 165 villages is a water starved zone. 49% of the taluka population doesn't have access to adequate and safe drinking water. Overall, 58 villages are consuming saline water, way above the permissible limits of 1500 parts per million.

Wells and lakes have been the only mechanisms to harvest good quality water. "Virda" or shallow dug wells tap potable water at upper reaches of an aquifer (1-4 metres) as deeper down (<4m) one finds saline/brackish water. Communities possess excellent traditional knowledge on marking out sweet potable water spots. However, such knowledge systems are under threat as over the years salinity ingress has increased, putting otherwise vulnerable communities at a greater risk.

The scarcity and quality challenge in Abdasa is being addressed from two paradigms. The dominant one is that of a centralized approach in the form of transporting Narmada waters through large scale engineering projects. The other paradigm is that of decentralized community led water management. The latter was attempted through a unique partnership of local NGO's, non profit foundations, private sector and the State Government. Known as the Pani Thiye Panjo (in Kachchhi it means "let this water be ours") programme, its aim is to influence the State by demonstrating that source development and the governance of safe drinking water can be technically and administratively devolved to the village/town level. Arghyam is supporting this programme to ensure adequate, safe drinking water access to 80% of the population of the Taluka through development of sustainable water resources at village level over a period of 5 years. Pani Samiti's (Water Committees) are institutions that are driving this programme at the village level.

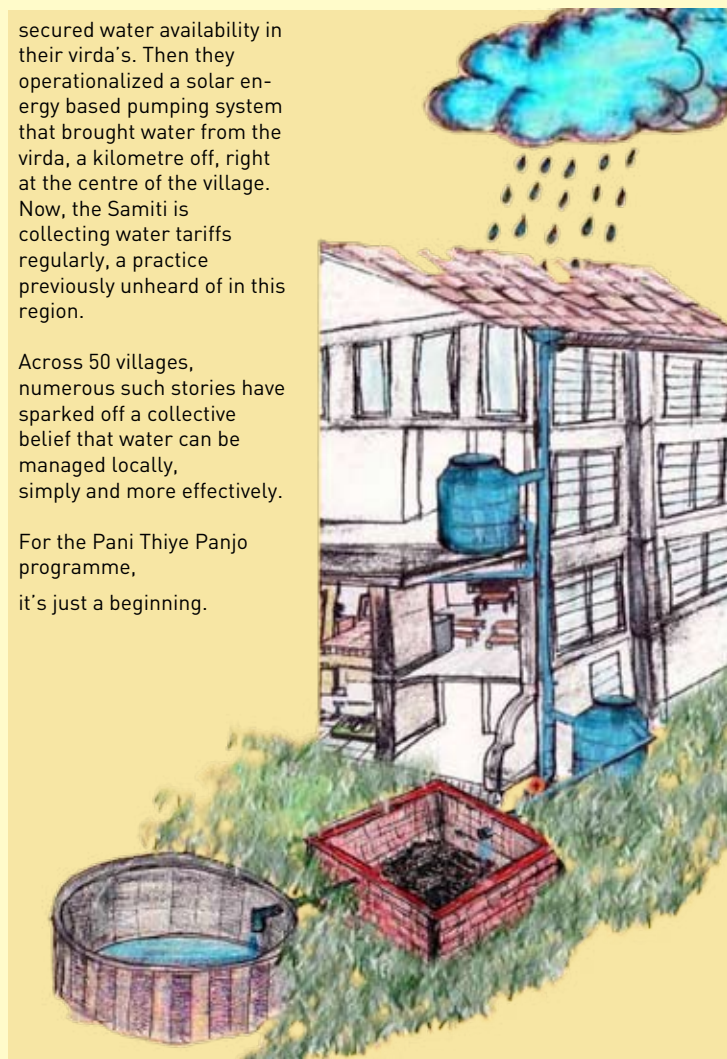
At the end of 2 years, Pani Thiye Panjo programme has reached 50 villages. By marrying traditional water harvesting with cutting edge geo hydrology, the programme has ensured safe and sustainable water for 31,000 people.

Hansabai, from the village of Karamta, in Abdasa Taluka, is now 50 years old. She remembers that life for fellow Rabari (a nomadic community) women meant collecting water all day in summers. Once the Pani Thiye Panjo programme kicked in, life has become simpler. In her own words, "... after the completion of this scheme our the next generation will find it easier to collect water and can use their time for other important things." Her village is now a model of community based drinking water management. The Pani Samiti in her village has gone from strength to strength. First they

secured water availability in their virda's. Then they operationalized a solar energy based pumping system that brought water from the virda, a kilometre off, right at the centre of the village. Now, the Samiti is collecting water tariffs regularly, a practice previously unheard of in this region.

Across 50 villages, numerous such stories have sparked off a collective belief that water can be managed locally, simply and more effectively.

For the Pani Thiye Panjo programme, it's just a beginning.



August 10, 2008
Public talk by
Dr. Dhruvajyoti Ghosh:
Menstrual Health
and Hygiene Management,
Issues and Ways Forward

Indiawaterportal

On the recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission of the Government of India, Arghyam decided to take ownership for creating a platform for information on the water and sanitation sector in India.

Started in February 2007, the India Water Portal (www.indiawaterportal.org) is an open-source, open-to-all, rich on-line resource base and a virtual community on water.

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The portal contains more than 1200 knowledge levers in the forms of case studies, slide shows, movies, courses, interviews, talks, policy documents, etc. covering a wide range of water related topics - rainwater harvesting, agriculture, drinking water, water body restoration, urban water, ground water, watershed development, sanitation, wastewater, water quality, and water for industry. Our multimedia courses on ground water management, fluoride mitigation, earthen dams, etc. allow off-line access to content.

The Water Portal is a collaborative effort with participation from innumerable NGOs, Government institutions, Corporates, universities and individuals. For a list of partners visit: <http://www.indiawaterportal.org/about/partners/>.

"The past one year has been very exciting for the portal. We launched 5 new sub-portals, conducted 3 user group interactions, starting blogging, won the Manthan Award, released 2 new applications, and entered into new media like Slideshare, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr."

Meteorological Data

Our Meteorological Data tool is an innovative use of IT and GIS, that enables access to 100 years of India's past meteorological data at no cost and in an easy-to-use format.

"I'm very impressed with the gridded climate data available. It's a great site!"

Claire, Sydney University, Australia

Ask-A-Question

Citizens are always in need of free, unbiased advice from water-experts. Our Ask-A-Question serves exactly this purpose - our partner, 'Wes-Net' India with its panel of experts answer these questions raised by common citizens.

A total of 638 questions and 2670 answers have been posted on this service.

Off-line Community Interaction

In order to understand the needs of the water community, and our users, we held a series of Off-line User Meetings at New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar.

Manthan Award

In the fiscal year 2008 - 2009 the portal won the Manthan Award for Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) and Digital Content in Development, in the E-Science and Environment Category.

The citation reads "The launch of the India Water Portal has come as a timely resource center in providing holistic information and content base on water and various issues. E-Science and Environment category"

Indian Language Portals

To really be a Water Portal for India, we must be able to reach people in the language they are most comfortable with. Currently, our Kannada (<http://kannada.indiawaterportal.org/>) and Hindi Portals (<http://hindi.indiawaterportal.org/>) offer both translations as well as documentation collected from field organizations.

To send content or for more information, please send a mail to contact@indiawaterportal.org.

"The Kannada Water Portal is very unique and needed effort in Kannada. It's very informative and looks very nice."
Mallikharjun Hospalya, Journalist, Tumkur

Sector-Specific Portals

Certain perspectives on water entail a separate focus - water conflicts, sanitation, and education & water.

The Water Conflicts Portal (<http://conflicts.indiawaterportal.org>) launched in July 08, in partnership with SOPPECOM, Pune, the Schools Water Portal (<http://schools.indiawaterportal.org>) launched in Jan-08, and the Sanitation Portal (<http://indiasanitationportal.org>) launched with Wesnet in Nov -08 are attempts to create focused content and discussion spaces.

August 28, 2008

World Water Week Stockholm: Arghyam participates. Presentation of IUWM concept, and the India Water Portal Case Study

August- September, 2008

10 Focussed Group Discussions across Karnataka for the ASHWAS Survey

New Media

Last year, sensing the growing popularity of the emerging social media, India Water Portal created channels on You Tube (videos), Flickr (Photographs) and Slideshare (Presentations). From early 2009, we are on Twitter as well.

Looking Forward

The primary focus of The India Water Portal remains on deepening the community of users by increasing the number of visitors and participants on the portal. We would also like to track the money being spent in the water and sanitation sector on the portal.

Also, we would like to pave the way for public accounting of Government projects being undertaken across India. Obtaining accurate data on such projects and publishing on the water portal for easy access is something we hope to undertake in the upcoming year.

Our Addresses:

- <http://indiawaterportal.org>
- <http://indiasanitationportal.org>
- <http://kannada.indiawaterportal.org>
- <http://hindi.indiawaterportal.org>
- Twitter Profile: indiawater
- YouTube: indiawaterportal
- Flickr: indiawaterportal.org
- Blog: <http://www.indiawaterportal.org/blog>
- Email: portal@arghyam.org



I was quite happy when I discovered this site and thought that I should share it with other teachers here on educators log.in – Pushpa

September 26, 2008

Rohini speaks at the Clinton Foundation

September 13-19, 2008

"Voices from the Water" Film Festival

September, 2008

Katta Workshop organized with the aid of Varanashi Foundation to highlight the importance of low-cost, simple, water harvesting technology, locally called Kattas



Urbanwaterinitiative

It has been quoted that India's rapid urbanisation will add another 115 million people by 2015, and 300 million by 2030. Even as the already weak infrastructure crumbles under this strain, urban policy-makers and service providers are faced with the daunting task of meeting higher service standards demanded by citizens.

Arghyam's urban water initiative started in 2007 with an aim to explore an alternative, sustainable model for urban water management which led to our work on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM).

WHAT is IUWM?

In a purely physical sense, IUWM is about integration between several aspects; the water resources of the town, the water supply and distribution systems, water usage at the domestic, commercial and industrial levels, sanitation systems, waste-water treatment, reuse, and finally the safe disposal back into the source. The objective is to try and meet the water demand with local water resources through efficient management instead of shipping water through pipelines from far away sources.

The approach also needs to factor in the unique social, institutional and financial aspects for the outcomes to be truly equitable and sustainable.

With close to 30% of urban India living in slums, equity in water service delivery is a high priority. Platforms for citizen participation, genuinely pro-poor water policies and services, local institutional capacity-building, data-based design and planning are a central part of the IUWM approach.

Arghyam with its partners has been supporting the town of Mulbagal to undertake IUWM in a structured and planned pilot.

The pilot began with conducting a series of baseline studies to assess the situation in the town. Simultaneously, our partner NGO, MYRADA has been working to organize the community, forming ward sanghas and raising awareness. The data from these studies will be analysed and will be used to develop an IUWM plan through a participatory visioning exercise with the local Council, and the community. The initial focus of the programme is on water resources, water supplies and sanitation.

"Mulbagal is a small town, 100 kms from Bangalore, and has a population of around 70,000 with 27% living in slums. It is totally dependent on ground water, septic tank based sanitation systems, poor drainage coverage, and few water management systems in place."

Arghyam's Partners

This initiative hinges on collaborative effort, with participation from varied groups driving the different IUWM activities.

In order to map out the type, nature and behaviour of the existing water resources, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been conducting hydro-geological studies last year. Till March 2009, approximately 275 wells have been mapped out and a monthly post-monsoon water level status has been calculated. Going forward, they will play a role in creating a groundwater model, and designing and monitoring interventions.

E-Governments Foundation is Developing the Water Management Tool (WMT) over the next 18 months. This tool will aid the municipality in improving its water governance with tools for asset management, financials and grievance redressal. E-Governments Foundation has already developed a preliminary base map of Mulbagal; discussions relating to finalisation and collection of datasets are underway.

The entire IUWM approach is embedded in civic participation at a town level; **MYRADA** has initiated this process through community mapping and awareness building exercises. Currently the MYRADA field team has formed Ward Sanghas in 24 wards, designed and conducted the baseline household water and sanitation study and taken up several activities to raise awareness.

A model rainwater harvesting and sanitation system is being developed in one of the municipal schools. The goal is to enthuse the community and trigger similar initiatives in other educational institutions in Mulbagal through this demonstration project.

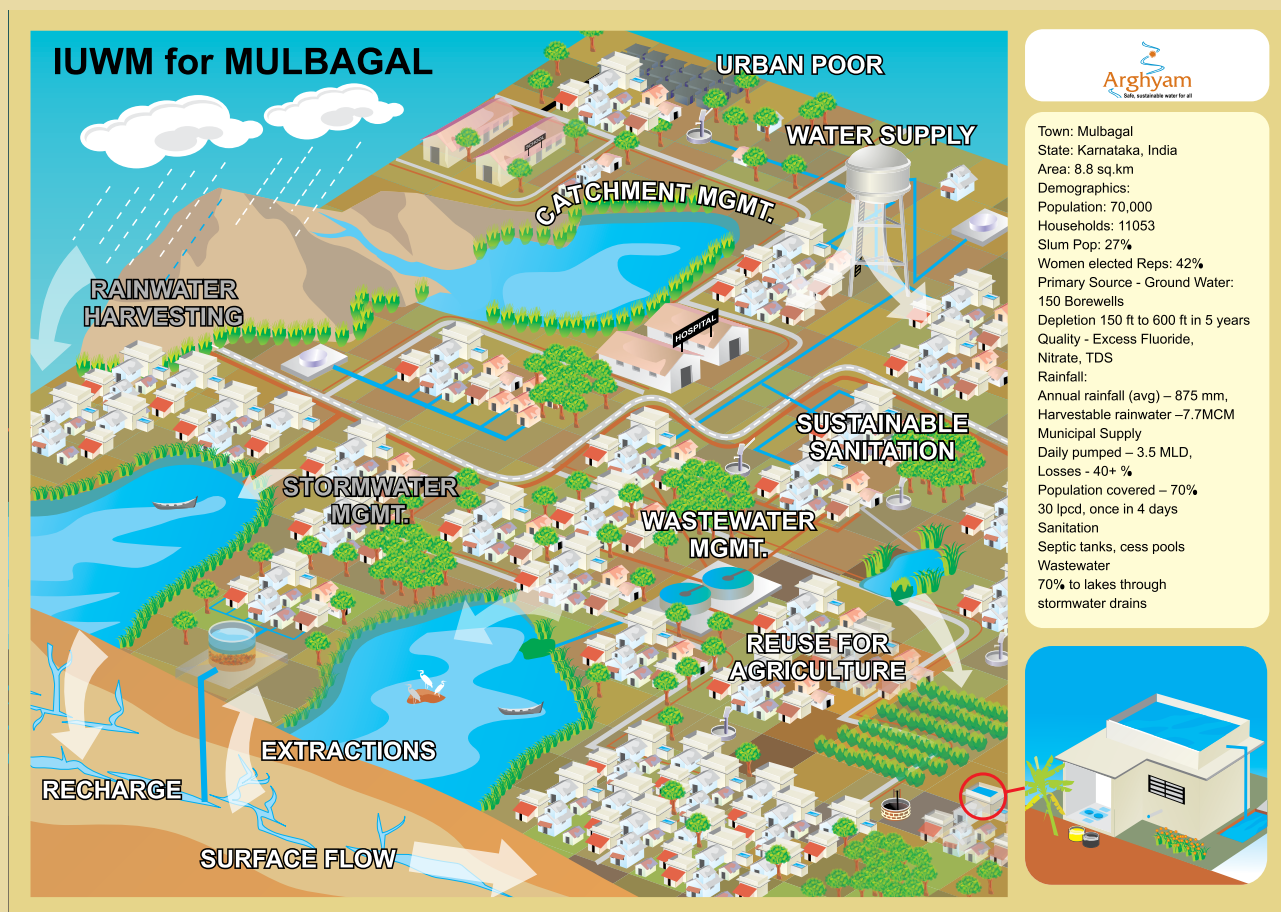
Institute for Resource Analysis and Policy (IRAP), Hyderabad

IRAP's role is to create an IUWM Toolkit for small towns, which will serve as a practical reference guide for planning, monitoring and designing IUWM. Detailed studies of the typology of 30 cities, documentation of some best practices and development of tools like Sustainability Index at the town and household level have been completed.

October 13-19, 2008
Metaculture Film Festival

October 18, 2008
India Water Portal receives
Manthan Award

November 18, 2008
Hindi Water Portal Launched
(hindi.indiawaterportal.org)



Town: Mulbagal
 State: Karnataka, India
 Area: 8.8 sq.km
 Demographics:
 Population: 70,000
 Households: 11053
 Slum Pop: 27%
 Women elected Reps: 42%
 Primary Source - Ground Water:
 150 Borewells
 Depletion 150 ft to 600 ft in 5 years
 Quality - Excess Fluoride,
 Nitrate, TDS
 Rainfall:
 Annual rainfall (avg) – 875 mm,
 Harvestable rainwater – 7.7MCM
 Municipal Supply
 Daily pumped – 3.5 MLD,
 Losses - 40+ %
 Population covered – 70%
 30 lpcd, once in 4 days
 Sanitation
 Septic tanks, cess pools
 Wastewater
 70% to lakes through
 stormwater drains



The learnings from the IUWM design and process could be put to practice in other towns. Eventually, we expect that these shared experiences would enable to positively impact public policy on planning and implementation of water and sanitation services in small towns.

Urban Research Grants

Following are three projects which have been giving grants in the fiscal year 2008-2009.

Bringing Water to a City – A film on urban water supply

To encourage introspection on what water means to all of us, how we use it, and start a meaningful public discourse on how we can begin to protect it, manage it, and share it with everybody, film maker, Swati Dandekar is making a film on urban water supply, which captures varied points of view.

Rainbow Drive Layout Plot Owners Association (POA) – An exercise in Integrated Urban Water Management

Rainbow Drive is a community in Bangalore with about 200 households facing acute scarcity of water. The Resident’s Association has decided to address the problem through the IUWM approach and have introduced rainwater harvesting at a household as well as common level in association with Biome Environmental Solutions.

Svaraj – Integrated Urban Water Resources Management Program

Svaraj is launching a project with residents of Doddaballapur, to enable increased access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation services to citizens. Specifically, Svaraj will monitor trends of water use and disposal within the community to better understand the problem and then develop models with participation of stakeholder groups to present workable solutions

November 20, 21
 India Sanitation Portal with RDPR and several partners launched during SACOSAN

November 24-27, 2008
 Training of Trainers for the ASHWAS survey from 15 different NGOs

December 01-10, 2008
 8 Regional Trainings for the 300 Field Surveyors and Supervisors from 15 NGOs



Survey-research & advocacy

In March 2008, Arghyam initiated a participatory survey on the water and sanitation situation in rural Karnataka called ASHWAS (A Survey for Household Water and Sanitation). The survey was designed to capture the concern about water and sanitation as seen from the perspective of citizens.

This effort was adopted by Arghyam to strengthen our support to rural projects with an evidence-based understanding of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation on the ground. Inspired by Pratham's use of Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) to mobilize people through simple, eye-opening facts, ASHWAS was designed to be an advocacy tool for citizens and Government. By making data, information and knowledge available for citizens, communities, service providers and policy makers, it aims to facilitate debate and discussion at different levels in order to lead to proactive action.

Tools and Techniques

As the planning for the survey progressed, it morphed into a fairly unique exercise. We drew from our partner, the Public Affairs Center's (PAC) decade-long experiences in Citizen Report cards to bring rigour into sampling, monitoring and organizing. The on-field experiences of our partner-NGOs provided real-time feedback on fine-tuning the operational details. Some of the unique features include the use of simple, visual water-quality testing kits, community-created village maps and digital cameras to capture thousands of pictures. The questionnaire was refined through multiple iterations, drawing from our experiences in more than 50 projects across the country.

The survey aims to answer questions such as "How much water is used by a family? What role does home based storage play in water security?"

"ASHWAS covered 28 districts in Karnataka sampling 17,200 households in 172 Gram Panchayats. "

Our Survey Team

A cadre of WATSAN literate personnel were trained to conduct the survey and water quality tests was developed. The surveyors came from among the people and included students, women members of self help groups, and local NGO partners among others.

This collaborative effort saw around 20 organizations come together for a period of 1 year with over 250 individuals participating in the field activities.

A team of 5 (with one or two women in the group) spent 4 or 5 days in each Gram Panchayat gathering responses to questionnaires at the household, Gram Panchayat & village level for water, sanitation and health issues. There were 8 regional training sessions held across the State based on comprehensive WATSAN training manuals created for this purpose.

We will share the report cards with the sampled Gram Panchayats, the district authorities, State Government and policy makers. Arghyam plans to take the survey results back to the respondents in a form that enhances a shared understanding of the problem. The output of the survey will include a report card for each Gram Panchayat, a combined state and districts report card as well as an advocacy document. Through these instruments, we hope a process of consultation will begin from individual citizens upwards to the Panchayats and to the district and state level administration on what needs to change and how. This will help to bridge the existing gap in WATSAN services between people and policy makers.

Thanks to efforts like ASER and PAC's Report Cards, policy makers are also beginning to understand the positive impacts of citizens' audits and assessment. The ASHWAS survey is expected to take the idea forward, and increase levels of accountability through a transparent process and open access to information. Also, the experiences and the lessons learned could help in influencing similar exercises in other states.

December 26-31, 2008

India Water Portal participates in the Children Science Congress, Dimapur, Nagaland

December, 2008

Training Programme for Mulbagal TMC Staff & Councillors on Water & Wastewater Management in small towns

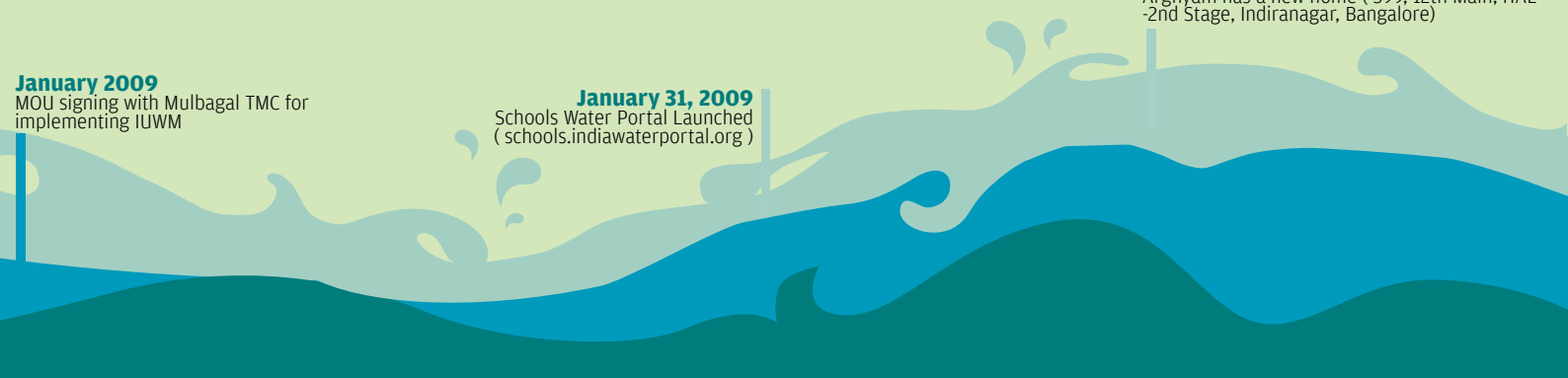
December 6, 2008

AKVO team arrives in India

Finance

December 10, 2008- 20 January, 2009
Field Survey across 172 Gram Panchayats,
17200 Households, 28 Districts.

December 13, 2008
Jimmy Wales, Wikipedia founder
and Sue Gardner visit Arghyam



January 2009
MOU signing with Mulbagal TMC for
implementing IUWM

January 31, 2009
Schools Water Portal Launched
(schools.indiawaterportal.org)

February 15, 2009
Arghyam has a new home (599, 12th Main, HAL
-2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore)

**ADDITIONAL PAGE FOR
CLOSING ARTICLE**

