

Water Wisdom

Or

Water Problem

Synopsis: Water is an essential ingredient of all kind of life. Earth is a unique living planet because eat has water. There is water and water and yet not enough to drink and May towns, cities and villages often face acute shortage of water. To alleviate the drinking water situation a mission was started in 1986 but man of the schemes under the project remain non-functional and thousands of localities use contaminated water. Maintenance and operation of water mission is a main problem to be solved. Another major problem to be tackled is water harvesting. India is one of the wettest counties of the world but the water harvesting is very poor. Experts say that traditional and local water harvesting is very purr. Experts say that traditional and local water harvesting system should be revived and encouraged as in that lays the water wisdom.

Water is one of the essential ingredients of life. Water is life and without water there cannot be life at all; The each is the only living planet because there is water The other planets like Mrs., Jupiter, etc., are dead, deserted and lifeless because there ins no life-supporting water. Presence of water-means also the presence of other ingredients of life. The total replenishes able, ground water resources in the country have been estimated at 45. 22m.ha. Per year.

There is often scarcity of drinking water. There are droughts and famines causing untold misery, death and destruction. Today there are thousands of villages and towns acing an acute drinking water-shortage. Even in cities item huge water-supply plants there is not sufficient water and their supply is often limited to a very short period of the day... With the rapidly increasing pressure of population on our water resources, more and more villages, towns and cities are facing the problem. The then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had to launch a dirking water mission and programmed in 1986 to meet the drinking water requirements. Then drinking water was available to only 30 per cent of the country's population and today theoretically it is available to 91 per cent. But the investigations have shown that a large percentage of drinking water schemes remain non-functional for a very long time of the year and so the safe and potable water in no available to the people.

A team of scientists and researchers of Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi has made detailed study of the problem, its dimensions and solution. They have emphasized the need to traditional wisdom of water harvesting. They have given many details and data and proved how useful it can be to make use of our time-tested, age-old and traditional water harvesting system. These traditional methods of water harvesting have been in constant practice from time immemorial in the country, among various communities and villages.

Heavy showers are not uncommon in the country. It receives rain for about 100 hours each year spread over about 50 days in a year. Cherapunji in India is the wettest place in the world which receives annual rainfall of about 15,000 mm and yet the village often faces drinking water shortage because of widespread deforestation resulting in drying up of water sources soon after torrential rainy season is over. On the other hand, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has just about 100 mm of annual rainfall and yet this desert town was able to collect enough water for its use. But it too has started facing the drinking water shortages of late since government water supply system has begun to rely on tapping of limited ground water neglecting traditional wisdom of water.

The problem of over-exploitation and pollution of our water resources is really grave. According to a UN report two-thirds of mankind will suffer moderate to severe water crisis within next 30 years if remedial steps are not taken. World Bank report estimates 5 million deaths from unsafe drinking water and investments to the tune of \$ 600 billion worldwide to repair and improve water delivery system.