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Point for discussion this month Local To Global Lake Management

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Shrishti Eco-Research Institute, Pune

Eternal Words

With laissez-faire and price atomic, Ecology's uneconomic, but with another kind of logic economy's Unecology.

-Kenneth E. Boulding

Human destiny is bound to remain a gamble, because at some unpredictable time and in some unforeseeable manner nature will strike back. -

-Rene Dubos

Dear Readers,

'Upstream' and 'downstream' are two important words for any waterbody. Pollution status of any water body indicates the ethnicity, civility, ecological maturity of the human settlement upstream and downstream of that water body.

Every river has its own self purification capacity. So while reaching from one human settlement to other it can reduce the pollution load and give fresh water to next village or city. When the pollution load increases due to rapid modernisation, urbanisation, industrialization, increasing population and unethical approach of the people residing upstream of the water body then the self purification capacity dwindles over a period of time. As a result of this the down stream people are compelled to suffer a lot.

It has been seen that in many villages, down stream to the metros or big cities, the water treatment plant are actually sewage / effluent treatment plants as they have to use seven to ten times chemicals that the normal plant of the same capacity to make the water potable.

Agra City on Yamuna river downstream of National Capital Delhi, Ujjani reservoir down stream of Pune, India are good examples of upstream - downstream conflicts. Since 2007 SERI is working with different NGOs, Schools, and local groups in Ujjani catchment to resolve the issues of water quality.

In this issue you will get the glimpses of one of the programmes organized by SERI in association with ILEC, Japan. This was African Sanitation and Sustainable Lake Management (AFSAN: SLM) programme.

People leaving upstream should always think of their responsibility towards downstream population and those leaving downstream should remember that they are also upstream to somebody. And when this concern is reflected in our actions then we will see love, affection and humanity flowing through our rivers and not pollution!

Thank you,
Chief Editor

AFSAN: SLM PROGRAM IN PUNE

- SERI Team

African sanitation (AFSAN) and Integrated Lentic and Lotic Management (IL²BM) program was organized by International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) Foundation Kusatsu and Shrishti Eco- Research Institute (SERI) together to create awareness amongst African delegates, state holders regarding the Sustainable Lake Management by sharing Indian experiences and Japanese acquaintances. Dr. Masahisa Nakamura an authority on Lake Management, chairman of ILEC scientific committee, Dr. Madavrao Chitale, water laureate of India, Mr. Sandeep Joshi internationally acclaimed eco- technologist, Er. Vidyand Ranade, Irrigation department, Mr. Vinod Bhodhankar, social reformer for water management, delivered scholarly lectures for the participants from Kenya, Zimbabwe, India and Japan. The purpose of selecting Pune as the convention centre was to enable, to showcase eco-technological innovations of river restoration, peoples actions and movements and deterioration of Ujjani reservoir due to least concern of upstream urban growth. Amongst the participants there were delegates from Kenya, Zimbabwe who were concerned about the deteriorating quality of Lake Victoria, Indian delegates were concerned about deteriorating quality of Ujjani, Powai Lake and other water bodies in India

All the participants were actively involved in discussion to evolve policies and strategic action plans based on six pillars theme of IL²BM viz policy Institution Information Participation, Technology and Finance for Suitable Lake Management. Dr. Nakamura authority on sustainable development, expressed concern about Ujjani reservoirs, deteriorated ecological health in press conference, organized during site visit. Site visit and press conference was organized by Mr. Anil Patil convener of pollution control awareness committee and resident of Madha Taluka of Solapur district. During the visit Dr. Nakamura inaugurated library in Dahigaon Taluka Karmala and addressed school children - Wafegaon in Taluka Madha. Press conference was organized at the end of study visit. In that meeting Dr. Nakamura cautioned victims and residents that of Ujjani Reservoir, that if the actions were not initiated then the restoration of Ujjani would take 40-50 yrs. He expressed that upstream urbanization needs to recon the woes of downstream victims and develop an interactive platform to reduce the impact of pollution on water quality of Ujjani reservoir.

Dr. Onganga of Kenya who worked on massive awareness program regarding Lake Victoria's pollution expressed that there was no need to check Ujjani's water in laboratory to tell that Ujjani is polluted. He further added that, the eco-technological solutions, people movements, interaction, forum in urban and rural Pune needs to be consulted, acknowledge by governance to restore, to save Ujjani reservoir. To provide safe and pure water to the large dependent population and for agricultural. Dr. Chitale in his speech desired to develop a common vision for the people who are dependent on lake and those who are polluting the lake. He emphasized that to develop Sarovar Samvardini for the fulfillment of sustained demands, innovative and collective efforts by community participation with governance support.

Er. Ranade gave a detailed account on present condition of Ujjani catchment and reservoir, he scholarly presented historical data of sharing of water amongst three sectors, namely- residential, industrial and agriculture. He observed that residential share of water consumption has gone up to 50%. Mr. Vinod Bhodhankar described the people movement in Pune city for the restoration geography, geology, quality and quantity of the streams and rivers in Pune. Mr. Sandeep Joshi spoke about the impact of urban-industrial-agriculture development in the basin, mitigation measure in detail. He presented various case studies of river and lake restoration and people's involvement in sustainable maintenance of the installed Eco-Technological treatment systems.

Mr. Daniel, Mr. Portia, Mr. Musererre, Mr. Moses and Mr. Victor, all delegates have expressed to visit India and Ujjani to learn ILBM work detail in future.



Dr. M.A Chitale sharing his experience with the delegates



Mr. Vinod Bhodhankar talking about people's participation an important pillar of ILBM



Dr. Masahisa Nakamura interacting with Delegates



Dr. Nakamura & Mr. Sandeep Joshi interacting with children in village



Dr. Pramood Salaskar testing Ujjani water



Dr. Nakamura inaugurated school Library at Wafegaon



Delegates were welcomed in traditional way.



School children, villagers with foreign & Indian delegates



Indian and foreign delegates were welcomed in Dahigaon Taluka Karmala



Dr. Nakamura, Dr. Sandeep Joshi along with other Delegates and villagers checking the water quality of Ujjani Reservoir.