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**Point for discussion this month**

**Human right: Access to Clean Water  
Sources**

(For private circulation only)

Dear Readers,

Water is life. The modern world requires good quality water for development and to maintain the health of the people. The awareness about the quality of water is accelerated due to declaration of International Water Decade starting from 2005.

An Indian documentary on water received second prize in an international wildlife VAASA festival in Finland in last month. The script of the film was written by our Sandeep Joshi and the producer was Jagdish Kulkarni of Yashwantrao Chawhan Open University Nashik.

It is nicely written and presented story of water – how water gets polluted and what are remedial actions required to purify our valuable freshwater resources. It's a good film for educating the youths on rivers and lakes.

A dedicated awareness of the school and college students is essential to promote the cause of maintaining our water resources pollution free. This has local as well global implications. For example, sewage from Pune mixes with Mutha river, reaches Ujni Dam 200 km downstream and citizens of Solapur further 100 km downstream are supplied with the same. Puneites being at the upstream of Bhima river basin enjoy clean water from Sahyadri ranges but leave ugly footprints for others downstream. This is common everywhere.

Understanding of water resources will change the attitude of everybody. Then water shall be wisely used and wastewater shall be properly treated. Getting clean water for use is the right of every citizen of the world.

Thanking you,  
Chief Editor

**NewsDigest****Water on Mars**

We are fascinated by the idea to find some inhabitable planet in our solar system or elsewhere. Some day or the other we will have to shift to another planet like Mars where there is possibility of water because all the resources on this earth will be exhausted and there will be piles of wastes, all the lifelines – rivers, dead, polluted, groundwater as soup of toxic substances, lands full of hazardous wastes. In such filthy conditions, at least man cannot survive. So, he needs another beautiful planet to stay and make it ugly over the period of time.

- Amit Naregalkar

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**Discussion****20 litres of Water: A Human Right**

Human Development Report 2006 is available on UNDP's website. It says 20 litres of clean water is to be accepted as a human right. It emphasises that the role of the quality of water is important as far as better world order is concerned.

It goes on explaining the WATER SECURITY which has three dimensions viz. quality, proximity and quantity. Access to water can be categorized into two – Improved and Unimproved. Improved access means 20 litres of clean water from a source less than 1 km from their home. In-house connections, standpipes, pumps and protected wells are all defined as improved while unimproved are water acquired from vendors and water trucks, along with water drawn from streams or unprotected wells.

The protection of water sources is an important task to maintain their quality. If Indians do not change their habit of releasing waste streams into the water bodies, it will deteriorate the quality of available water and it will lead to increased cost of water treatment to make it potable. The sustained negligence will lead to more losses due to detrimental effects on environment and health.

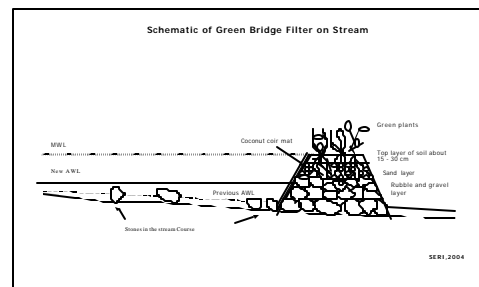
In short, it is high time to contain all the waste streams using suitably affordable and applicable technologies (SAAT) and protect our water resources.

- Sandeep Joshi

**SERI's Ecotechnology****4 Green Bridge**

Useful for domestic and industrial wastewaters flowing through the natural drains

- This technology uses filtration power of biologically originated cellulosic / fibrous material with growth of green plants. A simple but very good filter is developed from fibrous material like coconut coir to form a bridge / porous wall like structure strengthened by stones and sand.



- This has been developed on three nallas in Pune city and one in Palghar.
- This system is having range from 1 MLD to 120 MLD (practically tried).
- A group of students from Bal Shikshan Mandir with their teacher Geetanjali Bodhankar practically demonstrated on one small drain of 0.7 MLD in Pune that Green Bridge was easy to install and confirmed the results of pollution reduction in 2005.

- Sayali Joshi

**NewsCapsule**

- ✚ No NC was raised on ETP maintenance during the ISO14001 audit was conducted recently on one of the operation and maintenance sites where SERI provides services.
- ✚ The BOD of treated water from Navrachna School's Sewage Treatment Plant using Soil Scape filter system is 10.39 mg / L. It is confirmed by one of the reputed laboratory in Baroda.
- ✚ Treatment of textile wastewater is possible using Soil Scape filters in a series. It is confirmed by the Jaipur unit. The concentration of BOD and COD of treated wastewater is 42 mg / L and 138 mg / L respectively.
- ✚ SERI's microbial culture has given better efficiency, consistency in bioprocessing of sugar effluents in one of the co-operative sugar unit in Pune district. The users found it more efficient than the culture developed from cowdung.

Compiled by – Suhas Patil

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