

Success Story – DM, Vadodara

Panch Jal Setu Project transforms Vadodara District into a pioneer in Rain Water Harvesting

Panch Jal Setu Project was started in Vadodara District in the year 2018 for integrated management of water in the district. The project has five components **Varsha Jal Nidhi** (Rain Water Harvesting), **Jal Setu** (Reuse and Recycle of Waste water in rural areas), **Nal Se Jal** (Integrated drinking water management), **Sujlam Suflam** (Rejuvenation of water bodies, deepening of canals), **Surya Jal Prakalp**.

The District Administration under the leadership of the District Magistrate of Vadodara, Ms. Shalini Aggarwal, is taking forward the much needed water conservation project. A special committee had been formed in the district for convergence of various departments working for irrigation, water conservation, women & child development, etc. to look after all the aspects of Water Management. Various experts and professionals had been pooled up from various departments like IOCL, ONGC, GACL and other fields to bring in new innovations in technology for rain water harvesting, reuse and recycle of waste water in rural areas. Funds like District Mineral funds have been used innovatively for new innovations in the area. CSR funds are also being directed towards the same. The special Committee has a three tiered structure– district level, block level and village level.

Rain water harvesting in Government schools in rural areas has shown a remarkable improvement due to the efforts of the administration. There is an increased from 30 schools to almost all (1000 schools) by May, 2020 resulting in each school collecting 1 lakh litres of water. This was done in a decentralised way through school management committees. Technology was made use of as online workshops were conducted for teachers, Principal's, BRC's, CRC's. An additional advantage was that the parents, teachers, students all became aware about the benefits of RWH. Even the students in rural areas are now aware about the methods, structures, benefits of RWH structures which have inculcated values of water conservation in the young generation. This has resulted in a **Bal Aandolan**. The result is that even private people are now interested in setting up RWH structures at their premises.

Jal Setu aims to resolve the issue of waste water in rural areas with the use of technology like "Trans Bio Filter" which converts waste water into bio

nutritional water, useful for irrigation. The use of this water has led to crop diversification due to the nutrients it carries with it.

Integrated drinking water management project is associated with Nal Se Jal and has resulted in 96 percent tap connectivity in the district, and the administration is striving hard to achieve 100 percent tap connectivity by 31st October, 2020.

Sujlam Suflam Jal Abhiyan has led to around 2000 works mainly in deepening of ponds, canals, check dam desilting, excavation of new ponds and similar other works. The results have led to increase in water carrying capacity of these bodies, soil being excavated is used by farmers resulting in improvement in soil quality and crop productivity.

Surya Jal Prkalp aims to develop models for solar panels on water supply structures, such that water supply schemes is converted into generators of solar energy rather than consumers of energy.

The administration has focused on mass awareness and community engagement, IEC materials in local languages and in pictorial forms have been developed for the general public which are the major stakeholders in water conservations.

All these efforts have been taken well by the public and duly recognised by the State Government, while making Vadodara the first district in the country where all schools in rural areas have Rain Water Harvesting Structures.
