

REVIEW ARTICLE

Kolar District Zilla Panchayat's Drinking Water Management in Karnataka State - India

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ABSTRACT

The article lights on Zilla Panchayaty's (ZP) vital role the maintaining drinking water as well as management and implement the borewells under the National Village Water Supply Plan, Village Water Supply Plan in the district. Mainly the paper analysis based on secondary data was collected from Zilla Panchayat Executive Engineer Office Kolar division. The article highlights on the brief details of ZP's released and expenditure fund from Central and State Government for implementing the borewells at the various Talukas in 2005-2008 periods.

Key Words: Zilla Panchayat, Drinking Water Management, Borewells, Water Supply.

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to realize the demand of right to water, proper legislations are to be passed and implemented, declaring the right to water as one of the fundamental rights of every citizen. The existing water management rules should be implemented with the help of various stockholders. It is worth recalling the very famous quotation of John F. Kennedy at this juncture: "Next world war could be on water. Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel prizes. "One for Peace and one for Science".

Water is truly the essence of human life. Any living organism including human body is 90% water, thus if we call water as the "elixir of life" than in any way, it should not be considered an overstatement. Progressing on this concept, UN decided to celebrate March 22 as the World Water Day every year since 1993.

The objective of World Water Day 2011 is to focus international attention on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters of on urban water system. The year's theme, "Water of cities: responding to the urban challenge", and individuals to actively engage in addressing the challenges of urban water management ^[1].

Implications for State Policy

"The Constitution of India recognizes the essential tenet of equal access to water. Article 21 which speaks of the right to life has been liberally interpreted by the Indian Supreme Court to include all facts of life. The directive principles of state policy (DPSP), recognizes the principle of access to the material resources of the community ^[2]. Article 39 (b) mandates the 'the state shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to sub serve the common good'. Article 51-(g) casts a fundamental duty on every citizen of India 'to protect and improve the natural environment including forest, lakes, rivers, wild life and to have compassion for living creatures".

Water Storage: A Dismal Picture in India

Except India and other third world countries, the US, Australia, Brazil and China have invested heavily on water storage management in their countries. Water storage in these countries is nearly 10-13 times higher than India's capacity per person. The following table shows the details. In India, the storage capacity per person is 200 cubic meters only, which is significantly lower than of US, Australia etc., This decline was mainly because of the escalation in India's urban population. Simultaneously the government has also failed to improve the storage capacity of the governments keeping in mind the future demand

and current challenges in providing pure drinking water to its citizens^[3].

Table 1: Water Storage Created Per Persons

S. No	Countries	Water storage in cubic meter
1	United States	5961
2	Australia	4717
3	Brazil	3388
4	China	2486
5	India	200

Source: G. Krishna Reddy. *The Hindu* August 26, 2010

Exploitation of Water

Exploitation of ground water or over use of ground water by the industries and other commercial establishments pose great threats and challenges in achieving self-sufficiency in water management. Studies conducted by various agencies. NGOs and Civil Societies in and around Multi National Companies' (MNCs) establishments, especially the Pepsi and Coca cola soft drinks giants, present a dismal picture that ground water level in their areas has come down to nearly 30-40 feet.

In a preliminary survey conducted by Swadesh Science Movement of India (Delhi) in the Mehndiganj area where the Coca Cola plant is situated, the water level in the villages has decreased considerably because of the over use of ground water by this company. Further, in Nagpure, Bhikaripur and Mehndiganj villages the ground water level has decreased to 27, 43 and 32 feet respectively. The report states that, 78 per cent of the lakes in the areas have dried out (14 out of 18 lakes have dried).

Social activists have raised the issue of unethical ground water use the pollution by Coca Cola plants in Plachimada village in Palakkad district of Kerala. The company started its operation from 1999 and was forced to close down following what has come to be termed a historic struggle by the people of Plachimada in the year 2004. A nine-member panel was constituted to assess the socio-economic damage caused by the Coca Cola Company at Plachimada Village. The report

advised the Kerala government to take steps to realize Rs. 200 crore damages from this MNC. But the company, it seems, has not accepted the report and refused to pay the compensation. Similar situations prevail in other parts of India.

A survey of 71 cities across the country conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has shown that officially 82 per cent of all the water that municipalities of these cities supply comes from surface water resources, and the rest comes from groundwater resources. But of these 71 cities, 11 depend almost completely on groundwater for public water supply. In the remaining, agencies supply water from surface sources by digging public tube wells. "However, what is of particular concern is the connection between growing volumes of untreated sewage and contaminated groundwater. The circle of contamination is clearly what should worry city planner, as less and less sewage is treated even as more is generated. The groundwater comes under threat of contamination and public health is compromised." the survey "Excreta Matters" warns^[4].

The report itself claims that 85 per cent of rural population of the country uses groundwater for drinking and domestic purposes.

Case of Kolar District

The Kolar district is acclaimed as a pioneer in achieving significant progress in social sector development among all other district in Karnataka state. The district has unique popularity for successfully implements developments programmes. The district has been implemented the various drinking water schemes (National Village Water Supply Plan, Village Water Supply Plan etc.) from Central and State government through Zilla Panchayat (Z.P.), Taluk Panchayat (T.P.), Gram Panchayat (G.P).

(Tables 2 & 3) overview a brief number of implemented borewells as well as release and expenditure fund for the drinking water schemes.

Table 2: Allocation Drinking Water Plans

Year	Pipeline Water Supply Plans			Completed Small Water Supply Plans			Hand Pumps (Borewells) Plans		
	National Rural water Supply Plan	Water supply plan for rural areas	Total Plans	State Zone	Centre Zone	Total	State Zone	Centre Zone	Total
2005-06	20	42	62	20	30	50	30	33	63
2006-07	33	65	98	13	10	23	42	25	67
2007-08	37	109	146	12	9	21	20	5	25

Source: Annual Administrative Report

Table 3: Details of Released and Expenditure fund

Year	Explanation
2005-06	<p>Rs. 889.53 lakhs aided fund available from panchayat raj engineering section for drinking water plan. Rs. 813.79 lakhs have been utilized. Rs. 579.28 lakhs aided fund sanctioned against Rs. 523.99 lakhs fund have been utilized end of the 31-03-2006 periods.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total 65 pipeline water supply projects prepared by department, 62 plans have been implemented out of 65 water projects. 2. 50 small water supply projects has the intention by the department, 42 projects completed. 3. 55 hand borewells sanctioned and 50 hand borewells implemented out of 55.
2006-07	<p>Total Rs. 397.00 lakhs fund available in the panchayat raj engineering section Kolar and Rs. 391.11 lakhs sanctioned as well as Rs. 391.11 lakhs expenditure. Around Rs. 765.08 lakhs amount available for the central zone. Rs. 407.53 lakhs sanctioned and around Rs. 407.53 lakhs expenditure end of the March 31-03-07.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total 98 plans completed out of 186 water pipeline. 2. 23 plans works has been implemented out of 32 small supply plans 3. Total 87 borewells and 80 hand pumps have been implemented.
2007-08	<p>Rs. 318.21 lakhs aided amount available in panchayat raj engineering section for drinking water plan. Rs. 662.77 lakhs sanctioned and total amount have been utilized. Rs. 312.07 lakhs aided fund from Central Zonal, Rs. 800.01lakhs sanctioned whole fund have been utilized. About 164 water projects prepared by department,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 146 water projects have been implemented out of 164 projects. 2. Total 22 small water projects prepared by department, 21 plans have been implemented out of 22 small water projects. 3. Total 25 borewells sanctioned as well as all 25 borewells have been implemented.

Source: Annual Administrative Report

CONCLUSION

Mere existence of a scheme thus does not imply that access to water for all has been secured. While monetary reasons were cited most for lack of access, the local socio-political dynamic greatly influenced access. On paper, government records would only show the existence of a scheme and perhaps the number of households covered by it, clouding the reality of lack of access and reasons for it. The demand driven nature of the scheme prevents those worse off in the local socio-economic relationships from breaking the shackles

of their marginalization and also does not secure them the right to water.

In our country about 80 percentage people welfare programmes schemes or plannings failure in realize their principles and goals. So in this situation, people participation, involvement and need the increase knowledge, information, about government plannings. The government also should conduct the workshops regarding the welfare programmes for increase awareness about the schemes then will be change the village people life style.

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