

Integrated Domestic Water Management (IDWM) in Semi-Arid Areas of Bundelkhand Region

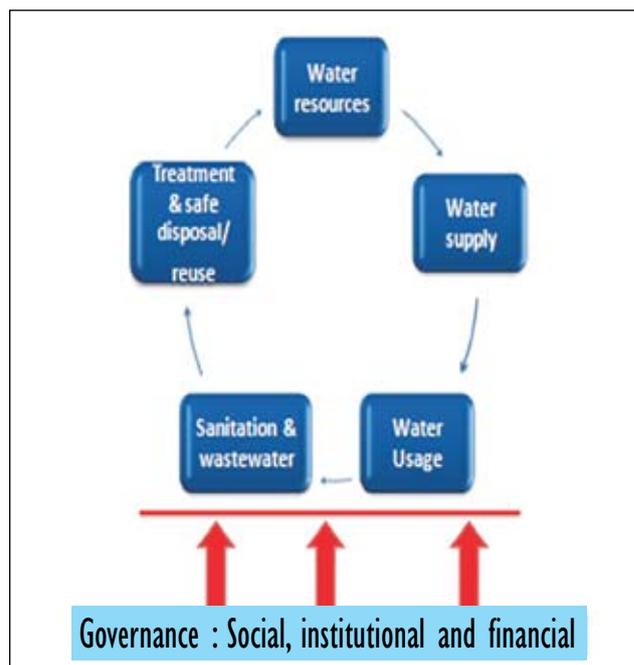
Background

Agro-climatic regions such as those of semi-arid areas (Bundelkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra) are considered particularly vulnerable to water stress due to their almost complete dependence on rainwater and other natural resources for livelihood and survival. In such regions, the approach needs to be built around community based water management in terms of resource creation; resource management, of both in terms of quantity and quality augmentation measures.

In Bundelkhand region, access to safe potable water and sanitation is quite abysmal. The consecutively irregular rain fall and drought in this region has led in drying up of ponds, wells and the lowering the level of ground water table. Lack of access to safe drinking water is an important factor affecting the larger section of the poor, forcing them to live in inhuman condition.

Integrated Domestic Water Management (IDWM)

Integrated Domestic Water Management (IDWM) aims at providing safe and sustainable water for all. It lays emphasis on community owned, managed systems with appropriate institutional mechanisms to ensure inclusion and equity. The idea is to manage water locally, by closing the water loop between sources, supply systems and infrastructure, access & usage, and treatment; thereby reducing vulnerability. Key principles are integration and convergence. Such a system will be driven by strong Panchayati Raj or village level institutions which will ensure that programme is 'socially', 'economically', 'technically', 'institutionally' and 'environmentally' sustainable.



India Water Partnership (IWP) Approach on IDWM

Keeping in mind Strategic Goal 1 and 3 of Global Water Partnership, IWP supported Development Alternatives (DA), New Delhi in early 2010 to take a two pronged approach which emphasized on community based water management, institutional mechanism by preparing IDWM status paper and collecting best successful case studies about domestic water practices adopted in other regions through a Project called Integrated Domestic Water Management (IDWM) in Semi Arid Areas of Bundelkhand comprising of 12 districts of northern Madhya Pradesh (M.P) and 5 districts of southern Uttar Pradesh (U.P).

Activities undertaken by DA

The various processes and activities covered under this project include (a) Desk review of

materials on domestic water practices; (b) Field visits for collection of material/information and data for preparing case studies of leading NGOs in India on the good practices in water sector on the projects implemented by them; and (c) organizing workshops at different locations for the local communities, NGOs, farmers with due participation of PRI members, State Government officials, etc. to share their experiences on domestic water management through innovative institutional systems, appropriate finance mechanism and alternate water sustainable technologies. While undertaking the above activities, it was felt that there is a need to learn from successful pilot projects and upscale them so that larger populations can be benefited. Discovering solutions to localized problems is essential to ensure sustainability and positive impacts of interventions undertaken. This project is a step in that direction.



Banner at the Workshop on 5th June, 2010 at Orcha, Madhya Pradesh

Learning from these case studies and interactions with diverse stakeholders in



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workshops has helped in developing a policy note on IDWM. The case studies have been compiled in form of compendium to disseminate the good practices. The compendium would be soon uploaded on the website of IWP and GWP-South Asia

The project was started with an objective to influence National Water Policy which governs the management of water resources in India with a view to incorporate aspects of IDWM. These findings were also shared during various consultations with the stakeholders on National Water Policy organized by Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India.

Key Message

IWP and DA strongly feel that networks and partnerships form the crux of IDWM. They are instrumental in implementing the principles of integration and convergence. Partnerships between communities, PRIs, and CSOs need to be strengthened to ensure that programs benefit all stakeholders.

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India Water Partnership (IWP) is a non-profit organization with a goal of promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). It is also accredited by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) headquartered at Stockholm, Sweden as GWP Country Water Partnership known as GWP-India. The mission of IWP is to support action of sustainable and integrated development and management of water resources at national, regional river basin/sub-basin and local levels in India through promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management. Addressing adaptation to climate change with the support of zonal water partners across the country; encouraging use of innovative low cost water saving technologies by the farming communities; sustainable natural resource management; integrated domestic water management; promoting Area Water Partnership (AWP) for river basin management; conflict resolution on water sharing; inter-state trans-boundary water sharing issues, gender mainstreaming, etc. are some of the core priority areas of IWP.

IWP acknowledges the contribution of Development Alternatives (DA), New Delhi in providing valuable information for this issue.