

April, 2019 Issue.

Contents

Activities taken-up by IWP in April, 2019 are as follow:

1) Core Activity Report.

1.1 Youth Fellowship for Water Champions Program.

1.2 Increasing finance access to women social entrepreneur for small water enterprise to improve public health.

1.3 Capacity Building of Local Urban Bodies in Rajasthan on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

2) WACREP Activity Report.

2.1 Community resilience to water induced disasters and climate change: A study and documentation of good practices in selected river islands of Brahmaputra River Basin, Assam.

3) Meeting/ Workshops/ Conferences/ Visits.

3.1 Dr. Veena Khanduri, executive secretary-cum-country coordinator, India water partnership conferred with FLO women achievers award, 2019.

3.2 Dr. Veena Khanduri attended the meeting conveyed by PS, UD, and Govt. Of Uttar Pradesh for Hindon River rejuvenation.

3.3 Dr. Veena Khanduri attended the panel discussion during 4th Asia-Pacific forum on urban resilience and adaptation on climate adaptive water management at New Delhi.

3.4 Alliance for water stewardship training.

1. Core Activity Report

1.1 Youth Fellowship for Water Champions Program

This activity in Delhi-NCR is being undertaken by IWP in association with Centre for Youth (CY4). Main objectives of the program are to develop youth with a keen environmental awareness and consciousness on water concerns while focusing on developing water smart solutions. It aims to provide intensive engagement to youth as Fellows with India's premier environmental organizations working on water concerns on water smart solutions.

Launch of the Fellowship Program

The inaugural program was organized on Friday, April 05, 2019 in collaboration with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), School of Environment Management to mark the occasion of World Water Day 2019 on the theme 'Leaving no one behind'. Mr. A C Tyagi, Vice-President, IWP; former Commissioner (Policy & Planning), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India; former Secretary General, International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage and former Director – WMO was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr. N C Gupta, Dean and Professor of the School of Environment Management of GGSIPU welcomed the participants. The expert talk was delivered by Dr. Sumit Kumar Gautam, Senior Program Lead – Water Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) on 'Crises, Challenges and Conservation - Reflection on Water Issues in NCR of Delhi'.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership (IWP) delivered the Inaugural address and concluded the ceremony with Vote of Thanks. Ms. Alka Tomar, Chairperson of Centre for Youth (C4Y) briefed the audience on the Water Champions Youth Fellowship program and its application process. The launch was attended by post graduate students of environment management, natural resource management and biodiversity and conservation, senior faculty and non-profit organizations.

The Fellowship Poster and Brochure was also released by the guests of the ceremony.



Launch of the Brochure and Fellowship Poster by the Chief guests of the event



IWP & C4Y team with students and faculty of GGSIPU at the launch of Youth Water fellowship.

Call for Applications Launched

The call for application for “C4Y-IWP Water Champions Youth Fellowship Program 2019,” initiated in April 2019 from the launch date to Saturday, April 20, 2019. The students and faculty were approached strategically across from all the independent and government supported academic Colleges/institutions in Delhi-NCR specifically having environment related courses. To ensure the participation, the C4Y team visited and had interactions & briefings on fellowship application with faculty and students of various colleges/ universities.

The posters, brochures and call for application form were also emailed to more than 120 institutions in NCR of Delhi and followed up rigorously. Given below the final number of applications received.

Table 1: Applicants Details

Universities/ Colleges	No. of Applicants
Delhi Technological University	14
Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University	5
Jamia Millia Islamia University	6
JC Bose YMCA University of Science and Technology	3
Mata Sundri College	2
Noida International University	9
Shiv Nadar University	2
Shree Guru Govind Singh College of Commerce	1
TERI School of Advance Study	4
University of Delhi	7
Grand Total	53

Invite for Partner Organisation

Invitation letters to 27 nonprofit prominent organizations working on water concerns were sent for the partnership for this program. The partner NGO will have one Fellow engaged for three months from May – July 2019 as part of the collaborative program. Partner organizations will also helping fellows to develop and execute the water smart projects during the three month period. The confirmation process for on-boarding five partners is going on.

Scope of Work Status

The status on the scope of work till April 2019 is given below:

Table 2: Completion Status for different activities of the project

Scope of Work	Status	Months (2019)
<u>Creating the Fellowship Criteria Formats and Inviting Applications</u>		
Develop the eligibility criteria and application formats for inviting applications from youth	Completed	February – March
Develop the design formats and collaterals for inviting the applications	Completed	February – March
Create databases of the institutes/ colleges to reach out for call for applications. Students will be sought from environmental institutes, environmental department in academic institutions and from institutes specifically working on sustainability and water concerns	Completed	February – March
Call for Applications will be launched as the timeline	Completed	April
Launch ceremony	Completed	April

<u>NGOs Partnership</u>		
Creating a database of organisation working on water related issues in NCR of Delhi. NGOs working in the sector of environment with the focus on water concerns will be requested for hosting the Fellows and guide them on the execution of their water smart projects	Completed	February – March
Seeking partnership with organisations for the fellowship programme (one fellow will be placed in one organisation)	On-going	April – May
<u>Fellow's Selection and Intimation to Fellows</u>		
Developing the selection criteria	Completed	February – March
About 50 applications will be sought. Total 53 received	Completed	April
A shortlist of 20 will be prepared by an internal peer review by IWP-C4Y	On-going	May
Finally 5 final applicants by IWP-C4Y will be selected for the	On-going	May

Fellowship with 5 others as stand-by candidates, to deal with any dropouts		
<u>Orientation Workshop and Fellow Management</u>		
Once in a month orientation workshop/ session will be held with the NGO partners and the Fellows (2 meetings)	To be initiated	May - July
NGO Partners will share the project/ ideas the fellows will be working in the three month fellowship programme in the first fortnight	To be initiated	August – September
<u>Concluding Ceremony</u>		
After successfully completing the project, the fellows will be presenting their ideas/ projects and NGO partners will share their experiences and learnings. The institutes/ colleges represented by the Fellows will also be invited. Following the half day sessions, the fellows will be awarded the certificate of fellowship and the fellowship amount	To be initiated	August – September

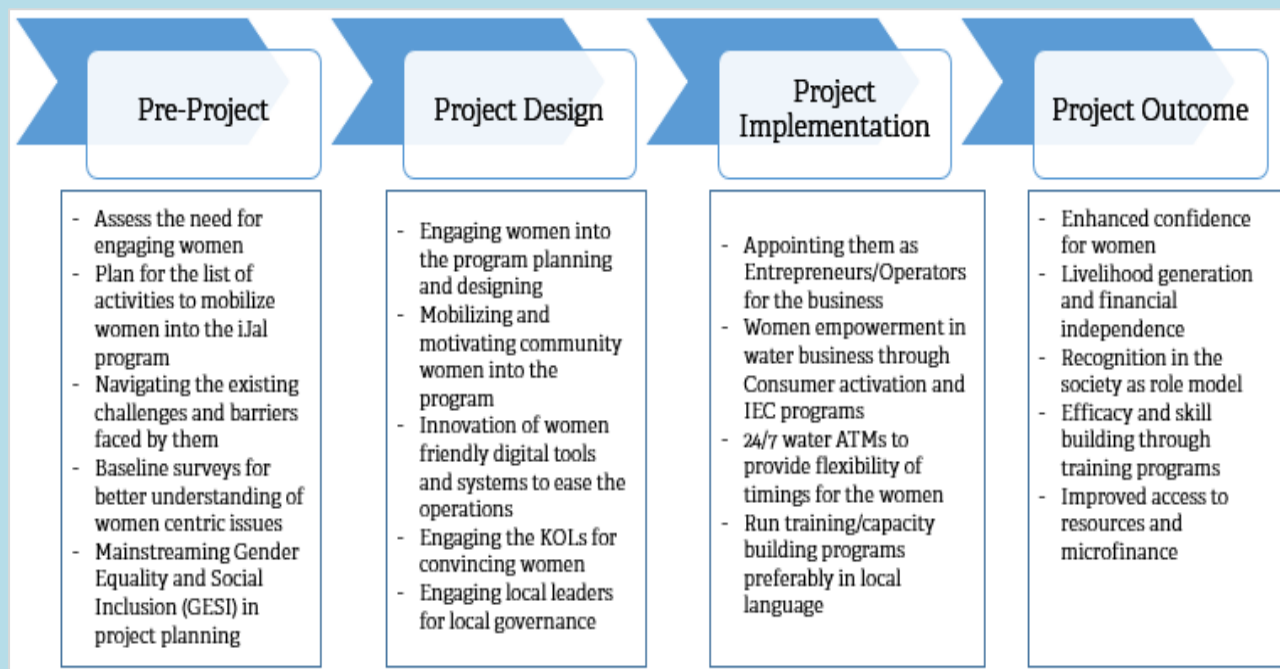
1.2 Increasing Finance Access to Women Social Entrepreneur for Small Water Enterprise to Improve Public Health

Women empowerment, a major goal of many countries forms a basis to foster growth, reduce poverty and promote better governance. As per Census 2011, the female population constitutes 48.53% of the total population of India but female workforce participation rate is just 25.51% as compared to 53.26% of males. While there is no rural-urban gap for males (53%), there is considerable rural – urban gap for females (rural: 30%, urban: 15.4%). Unlocking this large potential could work as catalyst in achieving goals set under Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 6: Gender Equality).

Water being critical to achieving gender equality and improving health, rights and well-being of girls and women, empowerment of women in managing water systems is important. Safe Water Network India acts to empower women and contribute towards reducing gender equality in the ecosystem. We provide community women with equal opportunity to come forward and own and operate an iJal Safe Water Station. While we have made gender equality central to our safe drinking water initiative, it also complements the efforts and initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Telangana to engage and empower women as equally as men.

Project Progress during the Reporting Month

In April 2019, as a part of this IWP-supported project analyses, we have charted the phases that the iJal model undergoes to engage women as iJal Station Entrepreneurs:



Success Stories:

During the reporting month, the iJal Project Team interacted with select women entrepreneurs engaged in managing and operating iJal Safe Water Stations. Following success stories were recorded:



Rani Barukaum: SHG, owner of iJal station, Ambedkar Nagar, Medak, Telangana



Padmaja: Owner of iJal station, Ranshaipet, Telangana



A trainer training women entrepreneur on tablet

Case Study 1: Rani Barukaum, the leader of a women-run "Self-Help Group" in the village of Ambedkar Nagar, Medak district, Telangana, India, interacts with the community women, pregnant women, anganwadis and schools to spread awareness on the benefits and correlation between good health and clean water. She cites the instance of improvement of health of her own family members after using iJal. Rani is respected and seen as role model for other women in the community and actively leads the consumer activation programs. Rani demonstrates the women empowerment through Small Water Enterprise business.

Case Study 2: Padmaja, the owner for the iJal business in Ranshaipet, a small village in Telangana opines that she has gained confidence and feel empowered after joining the safe water business. Safe Water Network training programs in local language and usage of digital technologies to train using tablets has enabled her to build her skill set and manage the plant effectively. Flexible working hours of the plant enables her to manage her household chores together with operating the plant. Further, the women friendly and innovative solutions like RMS, 24/7 water automated safe water dispensing units designed by the Safe Water Network has enabled her to easily execute the day to day tasks.

Expected Outcome

Under this study supported by India Water Partnerships (under the GWP ambit), Safe Water Network India envisions to put forth an evidence base that if women are empowered, they can effectively operate and manage a water station for sustainability. Women entrepreneurship and competency in technology should be encouraged or promoted and provided with appropriate funding and capacity-build support by the government and civil society organizations. This shall also contribute towards UN SDGs advocating for safe drinking water access for all to improve public health and reducing gender disparity. A policy change to this effect will benefit all the women SHGs in India and resonate globally.

1.3 Capacity Building of Local Urban Bodies in Rajasthan on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) to achieve Sustainable Development Goals

The monthly progress report includes the tasks performed under the project in the Month of April, 2019 which is given below:

- a) Data collection and R&D for the IUWM approach and case studies Compilation of the case studies after research work focusing towards different aspects of IUWM
- b) Data analysis and Documentation
- c) Designing the material and Printing under Process **Activities conducted**

Documentation of case Studies

Best practices/Case studies showcasing the principals of IUWM were documented in a structured format. These covered the seven case studies from different cities in India and five best case studies from Rajasthan.

Training Module on IUWM

A training module is being developed. The module is based on rapid IUWM process framework implemented in Kishangarh and Ajmer cities in Rajasthan. The objective is to build the capacity of the local authorities to understand the concepts and principles of integrated urban water management. The training module will also help municipalities to build strategies to lose the urban water cycle loop within the cities.

2. WACREP Activity Report

2.1 Community resilience to water induced disasters and climate change: A study and documentation of good practices in selected river islands of Brahmaputra river basin, Assam

This activity is being undertaken by IWP in association with its network partner, Aaryanak. The regions covered under the project are (i) Kobu Chapori, Dhemaji District, (ii) Majuli, Majuli District and (iii) Majher Char, Dhubri District of North-East State Assam, India. The main objective of this activity is to examine the existing practices that help the riparian communities living on Brahmaputra river islands and /or on Brahmaputra river banks in reducing risk, their adaption to increased intensity and frequency of water induced disasters and impact of climate change in terms of physical safety, livelihoods, health, hygiene, and overall wellbeing.

The task slated for the month of April 2019 was to examine community's perception about impact of water induced disasters and climate change on their lives, livelihoods and society on study site.

Aarayanak carried out the field studies in the Salmora area of the Majuli District, which is an island in the Brahmaputra River. The Majuli Island experiences the ravage of deluges and river erosion every year. As per Survey of India map, the area of Majuli Island was 733.79 sq. km. in the year 1914, which got reduced to about 708.91 sq. km. in 1949 and progressively to 510.79 sq. km in 1998; 502.21 sq. km. in 2004 and 522.73 sq. km. in 2013(BB, 2012; Sarma, 2014). Conventional measures adopted by the Central and State Governments such as construction of embankments, laying of spurs and porcupines have rarely helped the people in getting protection from the twin disasters of floods and erosion. Although people have undergone immense suffering from flooding and erosion, people belonging to different ethnicities have coped with the disasters following their own unique ways.

The Salmora area, situated in the south-eastern part of the river island Majuli. Salmora is a Mouza (Tehsil) of Majuli District consisting of mainly 3 revenue villages called *Kamjan Alengi, Bor Boka Pathar*

and Besamora and having about 600 families. Since Salmora is located on the bank of the mighty Brahmaputra River and suffers from regular bank erosion and flooding every year.

The Salmora area (mainly Salmora, *Chinatoli* and *Dakshinpat* villages, which are smaller villages within the revenue villages) is famous for its traditional craft of hand-made pottery and boat making. Making potteries and boats are the only sources of livelihoods for the people whose survival virtually depends on the mercy of the river Brahmaputra since the ingredients for both these crafts viz. drift wood and wet soil, are sourced from the river.



Boulder spurs erected to protect the Salmora area from erosion has failed to deliver results

There is hardly any agricultural practice in these villages because they have no land available for agriculture. Some people grow seasonal vegetables in their kitchen gardens. Only very recently some families have started farming the *boro* paddy.

Many families, who lost their homes and hearths to the river have already left the village and have now settled in a number of safe places in different parts of eastern Assam such as Dhemaji, Jorhat and Sivasagar districts. Some of them got rehabilitation with support from Government and NGOs and some resettled at their own initiatives. But the rest of the households are still there, because they have nowhere to go and many of them are not willing to leave the ancestral place. Ironically, they have no choice too to go away from the river since for pottery they need to stay close to the river. This makes the people and their livelihoods more vulnerable.



Women-led traditional pottery making as the main livelihood in the Salmora area, Majuli

Floods will inevitably wash the village at least 5 to 6 times every year in the rainy season, usually May to October. In the six-month long flood season, the village remains inundated for at least 30 days. During big floods the villagers remain inundated continuously for about 5 to 6 days. Aged people of the community reminisce that about 2 to 3 decades back the river was deeper and floods were not as devastating as they are now. They used to live in normal grounded houses in spite of being located on the riverbank. But gradually the river became shallow and floodwaters soared much higher inside the village. As a result, they changed their housing style and habits. They started making stilted houses, locally called the 'chang ghar' (a typical traditional housing practice of the Mising community).

Water-borne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery, fever etc. have become common in the community. They also lack basic medical facilities. Sanitation becomes a big issue during flood time, especially for women. In absence of latrines people have to defecate in open. People who live near the bank of the river use the river water for drinking purpose which is either boiled or filtered before use. The ground water is available at 70-80 feet depth. In some places it is 100 feet deep but contaminated with iron and has a foul smell.

The fact that the Brahmaputra is advancing menacingly in this area and is already biting away a large chunk of its landmass has made people lose their peace of mind and sleep of night. The river has already eaten up about one third of the present village of Salmora which is situated far to the east of the present location. The river has progressively eroded the village, at an alarming rate for last one decade. In last 20 years the Brahmaputra eroded about 3 km in the Northern side. Most of the families have shifted their houses at least 6 to 7 times in the last 3 decades. But what makes their struggle for survival and life notable is the fact that during this whole history of their struggle with the river they never forsook their traditional means of livelihood viz. pottery and boat building which are also the main reasons why they could not move away from the river because at the end of the day they all acknowledge the fact that it is the old river Brahmaputra that makes their livelihood possible by providing the raw materials required for them.



Weaving is an important livelihood for many families.

3. Meeting/ Workshops/ Conferences/ Visits.

3.1 Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country co-coordinator, India Water Partnership conferred with FLO women achievers award, 2019.



Dr. Veena Khanduri (standing 4th from left top)

The FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) - Uttarakhand, the women's wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), organized the **FLO Women Achiever's Award** on 24th April 2019 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand to felicitate women achievers who have had a great impact on skill development, business mentorship, entrepreneurship, education and legal areas in the state. This award is annually presented by FICCI to the women who have done exemplary and commendable works and play as a role model for women who seek to empower themselves to higher goals and aspirations in their chosen fields.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership was one of the 15 awardees conferred with this award for her distinguished work in water sector and women empowerment. The other awardees were Designer Anju Modi, Lt. Cmdr. P. Swathi, Wing Cmdr. Anupama Joshi, Lt. Cmdr. Vartika Joshi, acid attack survivor Laxmi Aggarwal, Arushi Nishak, Karishma Manga Bedi, Prerna Dangi, Devanshi Rana, Anukriti Gusain, Nupur Agarwal, Radhika Jha, Ridhi Mehra and Devanshi Rana.

The event highlighted the brilliance and grandiose of women participation in varied fields and walks of life. The stories of each and every awardee were worth taking a lesson from their live experience.

3.2 Dr. Veena Khanduri Attended the Meeting Conveyed by PS, UD, Govt. Of Uttar Pradesh for Hindon River Rejuvenation

A Ganga tributary management approach is being developed by Government of Uttar Pradesh with the Hindon sub-basin as demonstration area. For this purpose, a multi-stakeholder platform has been established vide Government Order (No-4912/9-5-2018-474sa/18) dated 18 February 2019. The secretariat is hosted under the state mission for clean Ganga, with support from 2030 WRG (Water Resource Group). India Water Partnership is working with 2030 water resource group on a large scale for the Hindon River Rejuvenation as a prime stakeholder has been selected as one of the members in steering board.

In this regard, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership participated in an interdepartmental roundtable workshop about Ganga tributary management & Hindon vision development on 8 April 2019 at Directorate, Urban Bodies and Training center, Lucknow. The main objective of this meeting was to collect inputs for a vision as starting point for integrated river basin management in the Hindon Basin.

3.3 Dr. Veena Khanduri Attended the Panel Discussion during 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation on Climate Adaptive Water Management at New Delhi

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-country Coordinator, IWP Participated in the panel discussion of 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation on 16th April 2019 at New Delhi in the session Climate Adaptive Water Management. This session focused on:-

1. Climate induced challenges to water resource management and collaborative approaches for integrated water management
2. Socio-economic, demand-led strategies for managing water withdrawals for various uses
3. Decision support tools and management framework for integrated water management
4. Role of climate modeling in water resource management
5. Models and framework for innovative financial opportunities in water sectors investment for future water utilities: Urban Water Finance

3.4 Alliances for Water Stewardship Training

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP participated in the three days training programs of alliance for water stewardship from 30th April to 2nd May 2019 at Gicia India Pvt. Ltd. Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201304. Participants from Gicia India Pvt. Ltd., DNV GL Business Assurance India Private Limited and some independent partners also attended the training Program.

The 3 day program began with Introduction given to the participants and managing water challenges. An introduction to AWS Standards and how to use these standards with other tools were a part of the Day 1 training session. The 2nd day of the training session emphasized on implementation of AWS standards at various steps. The final day's agenda included discussions on interim accreditation requirements & certificate requirements, execution of assessment, grading, major and minor non-conformities and self-verification, pre-assessment and group certification.

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