

May, 2019 Issue.

Contents

Activities taken-up by IWP in May, 2019 are as follows:

- I. *Youth Fellowship for Water Champions Program.*
- II. *Increasing finance access to women social entrepreneur for small water enterprise to improve public health.*
- III. *Capacity Building of Local Urban Bodies in Rajasthan on Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.*
- IV. *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.*

India Water Partnership Activities

In continuation to our April, 2019 Issue, the following sub-activities were undertaken by IWP in the month of May 2019. Details of the activities are given below:

1. Youth Fellowship for Water Champions Program

a) Selection of Fellows

Through peer review process based on the applications of 53 students, out of this IWP and C4Y shortlisted 21 students for second and final round. The first round of selection was done on the rating scale of 1-10 and 1 being the least and 10 being the highest rating. The selection criteria included understanding of water issues; innovative solution (understanding | uniqueness | feasibility | sustainable); motivation (interest | enthusiasm | objective); application assessment (writing capability | clarity | expressiveness) and overall assessment. Their CVs and applicants were thoroughly reviewed.

The final shortlisted applicants were interviewed by a panel consisting of Shri D. S. Pahwa, Advisor, IWP; Shri A C Tyagi, Vice-President, IWP; Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP; Alka Tomar, Chairperson, C4Y and Priya Talwar, Director – Programmes, C4Y on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 and Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at IWP office for final selection. Majority of the shortlisted students were postgraduate in environmental studies, environmental management, natural resource management and B.Tech in environmental engineering.

The students were interviewed rated on the scale of 1-10 (1 being the least and 10 being the highest rating) on following criteria:

- Clarity of Thoughts
- Interest in Working with the Development Sector
- Communication Skills
- Future Career Goals
- Overall Assessment

A waiting list was also prepared. The students were accordingly intimated to give their consent for the fellowship. **The final selected fellows of IWP-C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship are:**

1. Anjali Yadav, MSc in Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi.
2. Kiran Khokhar, MSc in Natural Resource Management, University School of Environmental Management, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.
3. Nidhi Dahiya, B.Tech, Environmental Engineering, Delhi Technological University.
4. Prashant Kumar, B.Tech, Environmental Engineering, Delhi Technological University.
5. Shaivya, MA, Environmental Studies, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Delhi.



1st cohort of Fellows of IWP-C4Y Youth Fellowship for Water Champions

b) Partnership with Non-profit Partners

Invitations for partnership with fellowship details and brochures were sent by IWP and C4Y to all potential non-profit organizations. With consistent follow up and personal visits, following non-profits agreed to take the above fellows for internship.

1. Development Alternative (DA)
2. ICLEI South Asia
3. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)
4. Pragya Foundation

c) Work status till May 2019

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

Table 1: Completion Status for different activities of the project

Scope of Work	Status	Months (2019)
Creating the Fellowship Criteria Formats and Inviting Applications		
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
NGOs Partnership		
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)	Completed	April – May
Fellow's Selection and Intimation to Fellows		
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	Completed	May
Finally 5 final applicants by IWP-C4Y will be selected for the Fellowship with 5 others as stand-by candidates, to deal with any dropouts	Completed	May
<u>Orientation Workshop and Fellow Management</u>		
Orientation Workshop on June 03, 2019	Completed	May - July
Non-Profit Partner Meetings (one-to-one) in the first fortnight to share the project/ ideas that fellows will be working on	On-going	June
Workshops by C4Y-IWP with Non-Profit Partner and Fellows for mapping the project's progress. Once in a month i.e. two meetings during the entire course of the fellowship program	To be initiated	July – August
Final Report by Fellows to highlight the innovative solutions developed & implemented during Fellowship and its impact highlighting the fellow's contribution in it. To be submitted to in C4Y-IWP format.	To be initiated	August – September
<u>Concluding Ceremony</u>		
After successfully completing the project, the fellows will be presenting their 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

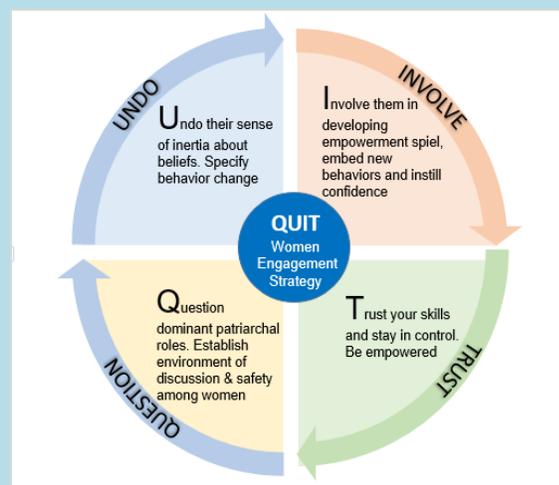
d) Activities scheduled for June 2019

- **Orientation Workshop** on June 03, 2019
- **Non-Profit Partner Meetings (one-to-one)** in the first fortnight to share the project/ ideas that fellows will be working on during the fellowship period.
- **Communication** with fellow's bio-sketches to partners, other NGOs, respective colleges/ universities and IWP Network Partners.

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

a) Safe water network India women engagement strategy:

Safe Water Network has developed and follows a 'QUIT' model to mentor and motivate women to actively participate in the Small Women Entrepreneurs (SWE) program and take up the roles as an entrepreneur, operator or mobilizer. 'QUIT' is a four-step intervention conducted locally to mobilize women by bringing them out of their comfort zones, shed inhibitions, acquire new behaviour, get trained in the management of SWEs and thus be in control of their business and lives. It has active participation of the state law makers, district administration, local governance who exhorts the laws, strategies, policies and programmes to enhance women empowerment. This women engagement strategy has proved to be effective in promoting rapid growth and enhanced enrolment and participation of women in managing the iJal stations.



b) Monthly progress:

In the month of May, the list of iJal stations were finalized which are operated and managed by the SHG women for the study enlisted in Table 1. Additionally, in order to draw an effective comparison, interview will be conducted in June, 2019 for other women entrepreneurs in Medak district.

Table 2: List of stations selected for the study

iJal Station name	Block	District	State	Market Model
Suraram	Shanakarampet	Medak	Telangana	SHG Group
Chandampet	Shanakarampet			SHG Group
Sangaipet	Kulcharam			SHG Group
Rajpally	Medak			SHG Group
Podchenpalle	Papannapet			SHG Group
Shankarampet-A	Shankarampet			Community



iJal Station at Chandampet, in Medak district of



iJal station at Rajpally, in Medak district of Telangana

c) Study design:

The requisite information areas to be captured using a survey methodology, amongst the following target respondents:

- SHGs managing iJal stations/any other SWEs
- SHGs not associated with the SWE business
- Sarpanch and VWSC (Village Water and Sanitation Committee) members, KOLs

d) Research tools developed for the study:

➤ Structured questionnaires:

A. For conducting interviews with SHGs:

- ❖ **Section 1:** Demographics and General Information.
- ❖ **Section 2:** Perception about importance of women, motivation/s behind joining SWE business, challenges/hurdles in the SWE business, benefits realized from the SWE business, impact of iJal program on the overall confidence.
- ❖ **Section 3:** Awareness and benefits availed by women from the existing Government schemes related to microfinance and other resources (*being developed*).

B. For Sarpanch, VWSC members (*being developed*):

- ❖ **Aspect 1:** Opinion about need for safe water in the community
- ❖ **Aspect 2:** Engagement of women/SHG for managing SWEs
- ❖ **Aspect 3:** Efficacy of SHG in managing the SWEs

3. Capacity building of local urban bodies in Rajasthan on integrated urban water management (IUWM) to achieve sustainable development goals

a) Training module on IUWM:

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

b) Supporting training material:

Supporting training material like case studies to support the training module is being finalized which will be attached in next month's report.

c) Success stories:

The pilot interventions implemented under the Integrated Urban Water management planning and implementation project in Ajmer and Kishangarh cities are being developed as success stories to be disseminated at the workshop. The same will be provided in the next month report.

d) Activities scheduled for June 2019:

- ❖ Final training Module
- ❖ Final training material and success stories
- ❖ Training agenda
- ❖ Communication and approval from state departments for conducting the training

4. 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.

a) River based livelihoods

People of the Salmora area belong mainly to the potter (Kumhar) community and making traditional hand-made pottery is their main livelihood. The second main source of livelihood is boat making. They use these boats to carry the earthen pots to various riverine areas of the Brahmaputra Valley spanning a riverine route of more than 300 kilometres. They also earn money by transporting passengers and goods in boats. Fishing in the Brahmaputra and many off-shoot smaller rivers as well as in wetlands is another source of earning for them. For all these livelihoods they have to depend mainly on the mercy of the river Brahmaputra because they derive the ingredients for both these crafts viz. driftwood and wet soil, from the river.

b) Traditional pottery making

The potters of Salmora make a variety of utility items but the main products that they make profit from are the earthen pots that are used by many people in Assam for storing water, crop, food grains and traditional wine. The earthenware prepared by the artisans of Salmora area is specially preferred for making and storing *Apong*, a local rice beer made by the *Mising* community. They also make a variety of decorative items which are sold in local markets and are also bought by tourists visiting the island as souvenirs. The unique feature of this craft of Salmora is that the artisans make these materials without using any potters' wheel. The women folk of the potter community make use of only hands, with simple tools to make the products. Another hallmark of this traditional pottery practice is that only the women of the community makes the pots out of the soil while the transportation and trading is carried out by the menfolk. They use a special type of soil, called the *Kumhar mati* (potters' soil), a type of glutinous (sticky) clay which they collect from the riverside very close to the bank of the river Brahmaputra by digging the earth to about 30 to 40 feet deep. Both men and women participate in collection of soil from the riverbank. This is a good example of using ecosystem services of the river and riverine natural resources for eking out one's livelihood. However, this soil is available only in few stretches of the Brahmaputra River. Availability of this soil is central to the survival of this traditional livelihood, which is a source of vulnerability for these people.

c) Traditional boat making and riverine transport

Communities of Salmora have a reputation all over Assam for their skill in boat making. Primarily they make boats to fulfil their own needs as they need them to transport the earthen products to sell them at places along the river. They also run boats commercially to transport passengers and goods. Earlier they could get the wood required for making boats from plantations and forest around Majuli and nearby areas. However, now there is a restriction on harvesting wood from forests and privately owned plantations. Thus, availability of timber has become a problem. However, they have found an alternative source in the form of driftwood that is carried by the Brahmaputra River around the year, mostly during flood time. This is also a good example of how they have used another riverine resource and have put to application their physical skill of being good swimmers and their traditional knowledge about the mood and behaviour of the river during floods.

d) Adaptation in housing

For some ethnic communities in Assam, housing is a cultural trait. The type of houses they make and their inner structure is different for different communities. For example, the Mising people of Assam, one of the most water adapted communities of India, live on riversides in stilted houses, locally called 'chang Ghar' (Chang means elevated shelf and Ghar means house). Because of this housing practice, they remain safe and comparatively less affected during the inundation of flooding than other communities who live in

traditional grounded houses. Some of the communities are reluctant to live in stilted houses due to cultural norms and taboos.

The villagers of Salmora area used to live in normal grounded houses for ages in spite of being located on the riverbank because that was the tradition of their community. But gradually as flood waters began soaring high into the village downing houses to the top, the riverside dwellers were compelled to change their housing style and habits. They started making and living in the 'chang Ghar' to make them more secure and comfortable during floods. At present, almost all houses are stilted houses about 4 to 5 feet high in general. Almost all the materials required to build such houses are derived from locally available resources like bamboo, cane, timbre, thatch and riverine grasses. By staying in such tall houses, they avoid the possibility of the drowning of the house during normal flooding. However, during high floods, sometimes the stilted house also gets drowned to the floor. In such situations, they make a platform inside the house and keep their valuables there. When even the stilted houses are not safe and protective enough people temporarily leave their houses and take shelter on nearby roads, high platforms, the boulders spurs or other safe places.

e) Ecosystem based adaptation (EBA)

The water-centric livelihood practices viz. pottery making, boat making, transportation through boats, fishing, stilted housing, etc. mentioned above are also examples of ecosystem-based adaptation since in all these activities ecosystems products and services are amply used. Majuli has different types of ecosystems and habitats that are repositories of rich floral and faunal biodiversity. Myriads of wetlands, grassland, woodland and small patches of forest, household and kitchen gardens, riverine islands and croplands which harbour varieties of species and sub-species of crops (paddy, potato, lentil, citrus fruit, sugarcane, mustard, watermelon, cucumber), vegetables, fruits, fish, edible plants, medicinal plants and grasses (mainly in sandy areas), birds, wild animals (reptiles, mammals, insects) and micro-organisms. These biological resources help people in survival and sustenance by providing them with food, nutrition, health care products, and medicines, housing materials, and many products and services for earning money and making livelihoods from such resources.

f) Awareness meeting on biodiversity conservation and disaster and climate change resilience

To explore the question of how biodiversity and ecosystem services helped people cope with disasters and climate change, an awareness building meeting was organized on the occasion of the 'International Day for Biological Diversity' on May 22, 2019, at the Chamuguri Satra Raonapar Model Higher Secondary School in Raonapar, Majuli. It was attended by more than 250 students and 25 teachers. The meeting was presided over by Sri Dilip Mahanta, the Principal of the school.

Dr. Partha Jyoti Das (Coordinator of IWP-Aaranyak activity) spoke to the students, explaining the importance of conserving nature, natural resources and biodiversity of the day in the global, regional and local context. He discussed about how ecosystem services are important for human survival and development. He elaborated with examples from around the world and India that people who live in areas rich in flora, fauna and biological diversity, have more options to resort for livelihood, improvement of health nutrition, food security mental recreation than people who live in resources scarce areas. Dr. Das informed the students about the biodiversity richness of India, the NE region and Assam and cautioned them about the anthropogenic threats faced by flora, fauna, and biodiversity in the island. He emphasized that the rich diversity of crops, fish, plants and other biological species found in Majuli must be preserved at the initiative of the students and local people. Existence of thick plant and forest cover would help in arresting river erosion while sound agricultural practices with adequate production and having food and nutritional security could help people in recovering for shocks and damages from floods relatively early. The students were also addressed by several teachers and prominent citizens of Majuli viz. Mr. Muhin Gayan, (retired teacher and social worker), Sri Radhakrishna Nath(teacher of Raonapar HS School), Sri Manik Barua(teacher of Raonapar HS School), Mr. Jugal Hazarika(Fishery Department, Government of Assam), and Mr. Jayanta Dutta(teacher of Namani Majuli Junior College). They made the students aware of various dimensions of biodiversity and the need to protect and conserve the same citing examples from various countries from around the world. They highlighted the challenges faced by Majuli, the largest freshwater island in India at present, especially those that have posed threats to biodiversity because of wrong development planning and unwise structural interventions. Speakers talked about some of the good and bad practices prevalent in Majuli that have had a bearing on the island's biological resources, both positive and negative. All speakers encouraged the students to take an active part in protecting the natural ecosystems and biological diversity of the island and thereby help in achieving ecological well-being and socioeconomic progress of the island and its people which is the precondition of making people resilient to disasters, climate change and any other adverse impact of an anthropogenic intervention.

A competition was organized among students to promote the importance of knowing about local biodiversity. Students were asked to write about the meaning and significance of biodiversity and furnish information about various aspects of the local biodiversity of Majuli such as varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants, fruits, vegetables, birds, animals, wetlands, rice, etc. Twenty-five students from Classes IX, X and XI took part in the competition and received books (published by Aaranyak) as prizes.

The Principal, Sri Mahanta appreciated Aaranyak for its efforts to sensitize people of the island including teachers and students about how conserving nature and biodiversity is vital for popularizing awareness about nature conservation and biodiversity and its importance among the students and thanked Aaranyak for conducting this program in his school. Other officials and staff of Aaranyak who took part in the function as part of the organizing team were Mr. Arup Kr. Das (Manager, Geospatial Technology

Application Division), Pranab Goswami (Organizing Officer) and Dipmoni Nath (Vehicle Driver & Technical Assistant). The task carried out in this month (assessment of adaptation practices) can be linked to two the following policies, institutions and schemes: National Disaster Management Act, 2005; National Policy for Disaster Management, 2009; National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), 2008; National Water Policy, 2012; Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), 2015; Prime Minister's Awaas Yojana, Government of India; Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission, Brahmaputra Board.



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